Title of the side-event: Biodiversity Indicators Partnership – Progress at the global and national level

Time: 13.15-14.45

Summary: The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership is the principal vehicle for coordinating indicators at global, regional and national scales for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. During the side event, an update of global and national progress made by the BIP since CBD COP11 was presented. At the global level, activities include bringing nine new indicators into the Partnership to fill the existing gaps to track progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Currently, 16 out of 20 Targets are covered by at least one global indicator. One of these new indicators, the Wildlife Picture Index (WPI) was launched at the side event by the Tropical Ecology Assessment and Monitoring (TEAM) Network, a partner of the BIP. The WPI applies a novel approach, using camera trap data to assess species trends and extinctions risks, contributing mainly to Aichi Target 12.

At the national level, progress includes assisting countries to develop indicators through a series of regional workshops and the training of ‘Biodiversity Indicator Development facilitators’ to extend the reach of the support provided by the BIP. A new national indicator development toolkit (accessed via the BIP website – www.bipindicators.net) provides access to a range of supporting resources developed by the BIP, including an upcoming E-learning module on indicator development and online Forum for developers.

The side event also saw the launch of the anticipated 2014 edition of the Aichi Targets Passport, the flagship publication of the BIP. It constitutes a step beyond the first edition launched at CBD COP 11 as a proof of concept for annual indicator reporting, which included only one or two indicators per target. The new edition contains updates for 31 indicators offering more comprehensive storylines of progress. It is available in hard copy and as a smartphone application (www.bipindicators.net/resource/aichipassport), and it was very well received among participants to the side event.

During discussion, the work of the BIP to engage with sectors beyond the environmental arena was highlighted in order to fill gaps around Aichi Targets related to human well-being, mainstreaming and harmful incentives. The need to engage with the SDG process was also highlighted.