



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

on the occasion of

SBSTA 34 – Cooperation with other International Organizations

Distinguished delegates, it is my pleasure to provide an update of the relevant activities undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD held in Nagoya, Japan, Parties adopted the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Strategic Plan addresses biodiversity loss, actions to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and benefits derived from biodiversity and associated ecosystem services. As such, the plan is relevant to all agreements, organizations and stakeholders, who impact and use biodiversity, including the climate change community.

Relevant targets within the Strategic Plan include:

- Target 10, committing to, by 2015, minimizing the multiple anthropogenic pressures on vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification; and
- Target 15, committing to, by 2020, enhancing ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including through the restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems.

In support of the Strategic Plan, the Secretariat is convening a series of subregional capacity-building workshops on national biodiversity strategies and action plans. We have invited the UNFCCC Secretariat to use these workshops to support closer coordination with national adaptation planning processes and take this opportunity to extend a similar invitation to the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.

Turning to the particular issue of cooperation between our two conventions and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): the COP in Nagoya, recognizing the opportunities arising from the Earth Summit Rio+20, extended an invitation to the UNFCCC COP to consider developing joint activities targeting enhanced synergies between the Rio conventions at the national level. The same invitation suggests the convening of joint meetings including a meeting prior to Rio+20 (1) to identify areas for Party-driven collaboration and (2) to enhance collaboration between focal points. The full invitation as adopted by the CBD COP is contained in the annex to this statement.

We look forward to the UNFCCC taking up this invitation at the earliest opportunity so that a mutually-agreed set of activities can be identified and pursued.

Annex: Decision X/33, paragraph 13 (b)

¹13. *Bearing in mind* the respective independent legal status and mandates of the three Rio conventions and the different composition of Parties, and the need to avoid duplication and promote resource efficiency and, based upon this, for the purpose of enhancing the capacity of countries, particularly developing countries, to implement the Conference of the Parties' decisions related to biodiversity, climate change and desertification / land degradation and to promote cooperation, noting the actions in decision IX/16 and the current serious knowledge and information gap in evaluating biological vulnerability as a result of climate change:

(b) *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity, through the Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio conventions, as appropriate, with a view to:

- (i) Including the development of joint activities in the agenda of the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio conventions, and to consider, as appropriate, the proposed elements on joint activities regarding climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation, contained in decision IX/16;
- (ii) Exploring the possibility of convening, subject to the availability of financial resources and prior to Rio+20, a joint preparatory meeting between the three Rio conventions, including, if appropriate, the participation of indigenous and local communities, to consider possible joint activities while respecting existing provisions and mandates, and to identify areas for Party-driven collaboration and submit these to the next Conferences of the Parties to each of the three conventions for their consideration;
- (iii) Consulting the Bureau of the Preparatory Process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio +20) and, exploring, together with the Bureau, how to make use of this preparatory work in connection with Rio+20; and
- (iv) Exploring the possibility of convening meetings of national and/or subsidiary body focal points, bearing in mind the need to avoid additional resource burdens, to contribute to the process of cooperation;

¹ Also contained in the CBD decision X/20 on Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives.