



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



INTERNATIONAL  
DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY  
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BIODIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURE

## PREPARATION OF A SCOPING STUDY OF FUTURE BIODIVERSITY CHANGE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK 3 AND INPUT TO THE DISCUSSION OF POST-2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

### Background and mandate

In accordance with CBD decision IX/10 on the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3), GBO-3 will serve as a basis for discussions on post-2010 biodiversity targets and the next Strategic Plan for the Convention. In addition to a better understanding of current biodiversity trends and how these have changed over the past decades policy decisions would be facilitated if uncertainties about future trends in business-as-usual as well as other scenarios could be clarified, and, where possible, reduced.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is therefore commissioning a meta-analysis of existing scenarios and projections at all geographical scales and, where possible, expert assessments of future trajectories of components of biodiversity and ecosystem services, thresholds of dangerous change to selected ecosystems and biomes or functional species groups. This research study will provide the basis for the outlook part of GBO-3 (Chapter 5: Future for people — future for biodiversity). It will provide the technical rationale for qualitative and quantitative changes that need to be avoided in order to prevent significant adverse impacts for the sustained provision of critical ecosystem services and, as a consequence, to human well-being. The assessment of scenarios should also assist countries in identifying options for policies that would prevent the system from reaching these thresholds of dangerous change. In providing quantitative information at different geographic scales, though certainly with incomplete coverage, the study is expected to represent a major contribution to the scientific underpinning of the identification of any post 2010 targets at global and sub-global levels.

### Terms of reference

Under the supervision of the CBD Programme Officer in charge of the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook and under the guidance of the GBO-3 Advisory group the consultant(s) will prepare a report in which available scenarios and projections of future biodiversity change are analysed. In line with decision IX/10 the report will provide an overall assessment of the likely future status and trends of biodiversity over relevant time horizons, including an appraisal of the degree of certainty for the results. In particular the assessment will:

- (1) Explore the implications of future biodiversity change for the provision of ecosystem services;
- (2) Determine how the main direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss may change in the future and the implication of these changes for biodiversity and fulfilling the targets and sub-targets established under the 2010 Biodiversity Target,



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- (3) Assess the likelihood that rapid irreversible declines in biodiversity (tipping points) will be reached as a result of the direct and indirect pressures on biodiversity,
- (4) Determine what assumptions are commonly used in existing assessment of future biodiversity change,
- (5) Determine how the assumptions used in existing assessment limits the usefulness of the results, and
- (6) Suggest ways in which the assumptions and methods used in these assessments could be refined to improve future assessments of potential biodiversity change. When possible, findings should be presented graphically, such as with the use of graphs, flow charts and diagrams.

Several methodologies could be used in this scoping study including but not limited to meta-analysis and other quantitative techniques as well as more qualitative expert appraisals. Comparisons could cover a wide range of model types including the GLOBIO model, DGVMs, niche-based models, etc. The contractor(s) will therefore need to work closely with partners involved in work on biodiversity indicators, targets and scenarios, including in particular through regular interaction with the CBD Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, and the partners involved in the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, as well as Diversitas and other programmes of the Earth Systems Science Partnership.

The study will be overseen by a group of scientists from different regions who guide a small team that will compile information from a range of models, scenarios and forecasts. A meeting of a small group is envisaged before the draft report is finalized. The draft report will serve as the basis of inputs for GBO-3 and an envisaged publication in a scientific journal and undergo peer-review in both these processes. Throughout the process, but particularly in the initial phase close links will be maintained with related processes that are underway, e.g. under The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB, Scenarios and Models for exploring future trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services changes), the European Ecosystem Assessment (EURECA, Story-line based assessment) and United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS, [Assessment of assessments](#) under the Global Marine Assessment), to maximize synergies and minimize duplication of efforts.

## **Timeframe**

The contractor(s) will initiate work immediately upon signature of the contract. The contractor will prepare and submit an annotated work plan for the research study to be submitted no later than 31 January 2009. The contractor(s) will submit a comprehensive report of the literature research and status of analysis no later than 31 March 2009. The completed draft study, following review by a group of experts and subsequent revision, will be submitted no later than 15 July 2009. Funds will be made available for a meeting to review initial results and guide the completion of a coherent study. Where necessary, funds will also be made available to ensure appropriate linkages with other relevant processes and activities.

## **Application**

Applicants are invited to submit applications by 5 January 2009 to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int).

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