



Terms of Reference

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

BACKGROUND

In 2010, the Conference of the Parties (CBD COP-10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the associated Strategy for Resource Mobilization. In 2012, the United Kingdom-India sponsored High-Level Panel (HLP) on the Global Assessment of the Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 reported on 'Resourcing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets', including acknowledgement of uncertainties, time and data constraints to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-11), held in Hyderabad, India on 8-19 October, 2012.

COP-11 invited the HLP to continue its work in Decision XI/4 on Review of Implementation of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization: "Roadmap-24. Welcomes the initial findings of the high-level panel on global assessment of resources for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and invites the High-Level Panel, in collaboration with other relevant initiatives that could provide a more bottom-up approach, to continue its work with a broadened composition and to report back on the results of its work to COP-12".

ABOUT THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, is one of the key agreements on a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development. The Convention has 193 Parties and three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. The overarching implementation framework is the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) held in October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan. Further decisions and guidance are also provided at COP-11 meeting recently held in Hyderabad India in October 2012. Additional information on the Convention, COP decisions and documents can be found on the CBD website at: www.cbd.int.



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ABOUT THE CBD SECRETARIAT

The CBD Secretariat, administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is located in Montreal, Canada. Its main tasks are to arrange for and service meetings of the Conference of the Parties, including preparation of pertinent documentation, operation of the central node of the clearing-house mechanism, and liaison and coordination with other international bodies and processes for the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The HLP will be administered by the CBD Secretariat, as this will facilitate broader support for the work programme, ensure the linkages to relevant CBD decisions and work to provide continuity to the Phase I of the assessment accomplished in 2012. As with Phase 1, the new HLP members will be appointed by the CBD Executive Secretary and its work programme would consist mainly of providing strategic guidance to the research required to support the HLP in developing the findings.

In line with decision X1/4, para.24, the original HLP will be expanded to create a regionally balanced Panel of around 15 members. Parties are invited to re-appoint and/or nominate new HLP members.

Aims and Objectives

These are based on the proposed Terms of Reference for research to support the High-Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

The aims of the High-Level Panel (HLP) are to:

- Develop an assessment of the benefits of meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, examining both direct biodiversity benefits and wider benefits to society that result from the investments and policy developments required.
- Assess the range of the costs of implementing the activities needed to achieve the targets, taking into account the further work proposed in High-Level Panel report to COP-11.
- Identify opportunities to secure the benefits most cost effectively through actions in both the biodiversity sector and across economies as a whole that can mobilize / make better use of resources, to deliver greatest progress towards meeting the Aichi targets.

The HLP is also expected to ensure the alignment of its work with the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The HLP will be supported by a Research Team who will work with the Panel and CBD Project Manager to compile the evidence and analysis required to meet these aims, and to report its findings and recommendations. The Research Team will take responsibility for ensuring the timely execution of the agreed programme of work and delivery of the reports, ensuring that the HLP is able to report as anticipated in the timeframe set out below. The research and drafting will be steered and reviewed by the HLP.

Approach

The HLP will:

- provide strategic leadership and guidance to the research and identify the priorities within it;
- work directly with the Research Team and CBD Secretariat to draw key messages, conclusions and recommendations from the research;
- engage with other relevant institutions and initiatives to secure the cooperation and provision of evidence for analysis;
- engage with CBD Parties to raise awareness of the study and its findings; and
- oversee delivery of a draft report for WGRI-5 consideration and feedback, and a final report for COP-12.

The HLP will operate through numerous on-line discussions and teleconferences as need be, and three face-to-face meetings. In line with decision X1/4, paragraph 24, the research of the HLP will be further scoped and delivered through multi-national involvement from the UK, EC, Norway, India, Brazil, Sweden, and other countries who express their interest. Parties offering financial or in-kind support will have an oversight of the project as a whole, and will therefore need to be kept updated on the project's progress, most likely through monthly project coordination calls to be arranged by the CBD Project Manager.

Recognising that the benefits of investments vary from place to place, the research underpinning HLP should draw and build upon a broader range of evidence from initiatives taking place at smaller geographic scales. The research will incorporate desk-based analysis of secondary data and analysis of qualitative and quantitative primary data. It will also include country consultations, and a wide range of consultations with bottom-up initiatives.

To achieve this, international agencies such as the World Bank, UNEP, UNDP and the GEF Secretariat, among others who fund and work with relevant initiatives, will be invited to sit as official observers on the HLP. The need to work with "bottom-up" initiatives where possible will be embedded in the research work programme.

The research will further the recommendations regarding research needs identified by the HLP's report to COP-11, including refining the cost estimates and filling gaps in coverage, providing a more comprehensive global assessment based on wider stakeholder engagement, examining the policy framework, assessing linkages and co-dependencies between targets and with wider policy agendas, and examining national needs and priorities.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

1. Input to draft GBO-4 by the March 31, 2014 in time for SBSTTA;
2. The revised draft of the report for submission to WGRI-5 at the latest by April 30, 2014 with earlier drafts circulated for comments before that allowing sufficient time to receive comments and revise; a maximum of 15 pages Executive Summary of the findings should also be presented to the CBD for translation and presentation to WGRI-5;
3. Final input to GBO-4 so that this document gets also finalized for COP-12; and

4. The Final Report and an Executive Summary of about 15 pages with the main findings, key messages and recommendations should be submitted for presentation to COP-12 with earlier final draft circulated for comments and feedbacks and the necessary adjustments made. The report and summary have to be submitted at the latest by the end of July, 2014.

The HLP will be responsible for the results and interpretation of the results.

QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

The HLP have been nominated by their relevant Governments or International Agencies for their expertise and ability to contribute to this project. They have a wide network of connections with other organizations, governments, academia and bottom-up initiatives / other work in this field. The Panel possesses knowledge and experiences that are complementary and cover many fields of research areas related to biodiversity and funding for biodiversity projects among other. The Panel is composed of members coming from different geographic regions.

TIMEFRAME

<i>Dates</i>	<i>HLP Milestones</i>
30-31 May 2013	HLP 1 st meeting (Trondheim, Norway)
15 July 2013	Agree research plan and report outline
22 July 2013	Initiate research
22 Nov 2013	First draft report from Research Team to HLP
2-4 Dec 2013	HLP 2 nd meeting (probably Bangalore, India) to review 1st draft
14 March 2014	Delivery of 1 st draft of 15-page summary from Research Team
17 March 2014	Revised draft report from Research Team available for peer review
31 March 2014	Input to draft GBO-4
15 April 2014	Comments received from peer review by Research Team
Mid-April 2014	HLP 3 rd meeting (possibly Quito, Ecuador)
23 May 2014	Delivery of draft report for WGRI-5 from Research Team to CBD Secretariat
23-27 June 2014	WGRI-5 (Montreal, Canada)
30 June 2014	Comments received from HLP on draft GBO-4
4 July 2014	Revised draft report from Research Team circulated to HLP
14-17 July 2014	HLP 4 th meeting (Cambridge, UK) to review the final draft
31 July 2014	Delivery of final report for COP12 to CBD Secretariat from Research Team
6-17 October 2014	COP12 (Pyeongchang, Korea)

MODALITIES

There is no remuneration to the HLP experts. However, their travel and other agreed project-related expenses will be covered.