

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BRAZIL  
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION I

Submission of views on possible targets and indicators for the post-2020 biodiversity framework related to the interlinkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change

Ref: SCBD/OES/DC/AC/88568

Brazil is often considered the most biologically diverse country in the world. Brazil's biodiversity is an essential resource for its people, not only directly because of the environmental services it provides, but also due to the development opportunities that these represent.

Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio 92), Brazil has actively participated in the debate on biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification. This strong involvement has resulted in various commitments reflecting on national legislation, such as the Law of Management of Public Forests (Law 11.284/2006), the National Policy on Climate Change (Law 12,187/2009), the Forest Code (Law 12.651/2012), the National Plan for the Recovery of Native Vegetation - PLANAVEG (Decree No. 8,972, of January 23, 2017), among others. In 2015, Brazil committed to one of the most ambitious GHG reduction targets. Under the Paris Agreement, Brazil has committed itself to promote a reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions by 37% below the levels of 2005, in 2025. In addition, it indicates a subsequent indicative contribution of a 43% reduction below 2005 emission levels in 2030 (Nationally Determined Contribution, NDC).

Regarding the interlinkages and interdependences between biodiversity and climate change, it is important that the Rio Conventions, that are intrinsically related can address these interdependent issues, while respecting each other competencies.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has the central mission to stabilize GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Recalling its objective (Article 2 of the Convention) "Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner". The commitments related to mitigation of GHG are negotiated in the UNFCCC by Parties, taking into account that the largest share of historical and current global emissions of GHG has originated in developed countries and the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions.

Concerned with its role to strengthen food security, Brazil considers adaptation to be a fundamental element of the global effort to tackle climate change and its effects. Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change go hand in hand. Climate change can increase epidemics of tropical diseases, increase sea level, bring about changes in agriculture, cause economic losses and have a great impact on human lives and

biodiversity in the world, and several further social and economic consequences, such as migrations and conflicts. The implementation of policies and measures to adapt to climate change contributes to build resilience of populations, ecosystems, production systems and infrastructure. By doing so, there is an increasing crossbenefit to the conservation of biodiversity.

A great emphasis has been placed on Nature Based Solutions (NBS) as the solution to the climate problem. Their role, however, is only complementary to the urgent required action. Nature based systems are extremely vulnerable to climate. The unbalanced debate on NBS deflects the focus from the main objective to address climate change. Further, the removal of GHG from the atmosphere by natural systems places great burden on these systems, and their potential to store GHG is limited and unstable.

The CBD has a key responsibility to support actions that address the adverse impacts of climate change on natural systems, considering its objectives related to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from commercial and other utilization of genetic resources. Actions to deal with these impacts are needed and should be supported by the CBD.

Considering the different roles performed by each convention, it is not suitable that commitments made in one convention be renegotiated in another. The climate change cannot be tackled without measures to reduce GHG emissions, especially those resulting from the burning of fossil fuels. The negotiation of this commitments and the implementation of this process has to be under the UNFCCC and away from CBD.