



Ms. Cristiana Pasca Palmer
Executive Secretary for the Convention of
biological Diversity
secretariat@cbd.int

UMHVERFIS- OG
AUÐLINDARÁÐUNEYTIÐ
*Ministry for the Environment
and Natural Resources*

Skuggasundi 1 101 Reykjavík Iceland
tel.: + (354) 545 8600 postur@environment.is
environment.is

Reykjavík September 19, 2019
Reference: UMH19050024/816-0

Subject: Global Biodiversity Framework for the Conservation of Biological Diversity

Dear Cristiana Pasca Palmer,

At the meeting of the Nordic Council of Ministers for the Environment and Climate in Reykjavík earlier this year, the ministers discussed the importance of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Post 2020 process to prepare and adopt a Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) for the Conservation of Biological Diversity for the next decade.

In May 2019, the IPBES report on the Global Assessment on Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services came out. It is hardly possible to overstate the seriousness of the report. The alarming increased rate of extinctions through all species groups and the fact that the main drivers of change are land and sea use practices, exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species. All the major ecosystems have deteriorated drastically due to unsustainable use, urbanization and unsustainable consumption, threatening human health and well-being. Fulfilment of most of the Aichi targets will fail and about half of the Sustainable Development Goals are undermined due to the substantial negative trend. Something must be done differently.

At their meeting the Nordic Ministers for the Environment and Climate decided to contribute jointly to the Post 2020 process by sending you this letter emphasising a number of issues relevant and highly important for the Nordic region as well as the world as a whole. As Chair of the Nordic Council of Environment and Climate I am pleased to share our views with you.

The Ministers wish to emphasise the three objectives of the convention and note especially strong interest for the conservation of biological diversity in a network of protected areas and the importance of increased attention to improved implementation of sustainable use of biodiversity and linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the Ministers stress the importance of ecological restoration and in that context specifically the capturing of significant synergies between climate and biodiversity and managing potential trade-offs. The UN Secretary-General has identified Nature-based Solutions as one of nine action portfolios for his Climate Summit in this September.

In August 2019, the Nordic prime ministers together with Nordic CEOs for Sustainable Future signed a joint statement aiming at significantly heighten ambitions in mitigating climate change by strengthening cooperation between the public and private sectors. We, the Nordic Ministers of Environment and Climate encourage implementing similar goals for biodiversity, facilitating such cooperation and the needed paradigm shift in economic development.

The importance of strengthening the implementation of the Aichi targets on protected areas, ecosystem conservation and ecosystem based management, habitat restoration, the importance of nature-based solutions to climate change and synergies with relevant conventions as well as synergies through the circular economy is also highlighted.

Last but not least, the rapid changes in the Arctic region due to melting of the ice cover need special attention.

Thus, the Nordic Council of Ministers for the Environment and Climate consider mainstreaming and sector integration of biological diversity and sustainable use into all sectors and actions to be one of the most important issues for enhanced national implementation and the successful transformative change of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the strategic plan. An ambitious and holistic approach, recognizing synergies at all stages and across international conventions is needed for progress and should involve consultations with the general public, especially the youth, indigenous peoples and local communities.

With this letter, we the Nordic Ministers for Environment and Climate, would like to express our support for an ambitious post 2020 plan for the protection and sustainable use of the biological diversity in our world.

With best regards
on behalf of the Nordic Ministers for Environment and Climate



Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson
Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources

Copy: Basile Vanhavre - basile.vanhavre@canada.ca
Francis Ogwal - francis.ogwal@nema.go.ug