**SUBMISSION BY THE INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION**

**Views on possible targets and indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to the interlinkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change**

**About ITTO**

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an intergovernmental organization promoting the sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests and the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests. ITTO:

* Develops internationally agreed policy guidelines and norms to encourage sustainable forest management (SFM) and sustainable tropical timber industries and trade.
* Assists tropical member countries to adapt such guidelines and norms to local circumstances and to implement them in the field through projects and other activities.
* Collects, analyzes and disseminates data on the production and trade of tropical timber.
* Promotes sustainable tropical timber supply chains.
* Helps develop capacity in tropical forestry.

ITTO policy guidelines relevant to biodiversity conservation and climate change include:

* ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests
* Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics – a joint initiative of ITTO, CIFOR, FAO, IUCN, IUFRO, UN-Environment, WeForest and WRI
* Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests
* Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests
* ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests.
* ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests

Based on the provisions of the memorandum of understanding signed by the CBD and ITTO Secretariats, ITTO has been implementing the Joint ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity since 2010, which helps fund field projects in tropical timber producer countries. The initiative aims to achieve the following key outputs:

* Enhanced local capacity for biodiversity conservation and use in tropical timber production forests and for the rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests.
* Improved conservation and management of protected areas, especially in association with buffering protected areas, and transboundary conservation in the tropics.
* Safeguarded tropical forest biodiversity in forestry interventions, including in REDD+ related projects.
* Improved welfare of local communities and indigenous peoples.

Based on the above activities and experiences, ITTO provides the following views on the targets and indicators related to the interlinkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change.

**I. Views on the overall direction of setting targets**

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets provided essential targets to arrest the loss of biodiversity in the global context. They did not, however, focus sufficiently on the contributions of biodiversity—including through the management and sustainable use of natural resources—to sustainable development. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework, therefore, should pay greater attention to the contributions of biodiversity to addressing climate change and related challenges through nature-based solutions and the provision of economic, social and environmental benefits to human societies through the management and sustainable use of natural resources.

It is clear that forests, and therefore the biodiversity they contain, are crucial for addressing climate change. The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems, released in August 2019, reports the following contributions of forestry to climate-change mitigation:

Sustainable forest management can maintain or enhance forest carbon stocks, and can maintain forest carbon sinks, including by transferring carbon to wood products, thus addressing the issue of sink saturation (high confidence). Where wood carbon is transferred to harvested wood products, these can store carbon over the long-term and can substitute for emissions-intensive materials reducing emissions in other sectors (high confidence). Where biomass is used for energy, e.g., as a mitigation strategy, the carbon is released back into the atmosphere more quickly (high confidence).

Importantly, those Aichi Biodiversity Targets that have not been achieved should be incorporated into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, if still considered relevant by CBD members.

Given that the drivers of biodiversity loss are largely related to economic activities and livelihoods, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should include targets to bring about transformative change towards sustainable development that alleviates poverty, provides decent employment and conserves biodiversity. Forest-related employment, if based on the sustainable management of the forest resource, can help achieve sustainable development outcomes while contributing to climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

Adequate capacity development should be provided for planning and implementing forest biodiversity conservation strategies across a range of habitats, tenures and land uses. Various international, regional and national guidelines and tools have been developed to improve the conservation of biodiversity in forests but their implementation has been limited, especially in the tropics. Parties and other stakeholders should be encouraged to provide capacity and institutional development opportunities for the effective use of existing guidelines.

Taking into account the above, we suggest that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should propose targets that are simple and which provide strong messages for communicating a sense of urgency and hope to the global public, and the crucial role of forests.

**II. Views on targets and indicators on forest management and the forestry and wood industry**

In this section, we provide views on specific targets and indicators (i.e. those relevant to ITTO’s mission) for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to the interlinkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change.

1. **Reduce forest loss and promote forest landscape restoration**

Tropical forest landscapes provide multiple services and products, including biodiversity conservation, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, and food and water security, and they supply wood, fibre and energy to rapidly growing populations in tropical countries.

Targets have been set at a global scale for the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest land relevant to addressing climate change. These include the Bonn Challenge (created in 2011) and the New York Declaration on Forests (created in 2014). Efforts to achieve these targets and thereby expand the area of restored forest landscapes should integrate biodiversity conservation and the improvement of people’s livelihoods. Given the importance of restoring degraded tropical forest ecosystems, we recommend that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework includes:

* A target on reducing deforestation and forest degradation—which pose the greatest threats to forest biodiversity—taking into account the lessons learned from efforts to achieve Aichi Target 5. Indicators should include: reduction in the area of forest loss; reduction in the area of habitat loss; and reduction in the area of degraded forest.
* A scalable forest landscape restoration target with provision for periodic assessments of progress towards agreed targets. Indicators should include: increase in the area of degraded forest land restored; increase in the area of forest featuring indigenous tree species; increase in the area of habitat for indigenous fauna and flora.
* An emphasis on landscape planning to increase connectivity between restored forests, protected forests and productive forests, and to provide other benefits. Indicators should include: increased landscape-scale connectivity of natural and restored forests,
* A specific (e.g. percentage-based) target on the contribution of nature-based solutions to climate-change mitigation and achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement. Indicators should include: the volume of carbon sequestrated in forests and forest lands; the volume of greenhouse-gas emissions avoided through the substitution of wood products for emission-intensive materials in production, such as steel, aluminium, plastics and concrete.

The framework should leverage the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for increasing integrated landscape approaches for ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

**2. Promote sustainable forest management approaches**

Sustainable forest management (SFM) makes multiple contributions to sustainable development, including by providing materials, income, jobs, biodiversity conservation, water and soil conservation, and climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

Forests designated for the production of timber and non-timber products and managed according to the principles of SFM constitute an important resource for biodiversity conservation. We recommend that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

* Recognizes the contributions of SFM in productive forests to biodiversity conservation, especially in the tropics.
* Includes a target to increase the area of sustainably managed forests, including for productive purposes, taking into account the lessons learned from the implementation of Aichi Target 7. Indicators should include: the area of forests with management plans; the area of forests under SFM.
* Encourages biodiversity surveys/inventories to establish baselines for assessing the role of productive tropical forests in biodiversity conservation.

**3. Promote sustainable production and consumption**

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should highlight the positive impacts of promoting sustainable production and consumption in forest industries. As noted above, the increased use of sustainably produced timber and non-timber forest products can contribute to the mitigation of climate change while assisting in the conservation of biodiversity. The development of sustainable timber supply chains will encourage the efficient use of natural resources and increase the economic value of products, which will encourage more investment in SFM. Targets on sustainable production and consumption are needed to bring about transformative change in businesses and people’s lifestyles in ways that promote biodiversity conservation. In developing targets for nature-based solutions to climate change, it is important to include the role of wood products as substitutes for emission-intensive materials in production. A target on the elimination of the illegal production and trade of wood products is also needed. We recommend that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

* Includes a target to promote the use of wood products and increase the production and trade of legally and sustainably produced tropical wood products through enabling government policies and incentive mechanisms aimed at building legal and sustainable supply chains. Indicators should include: the volume of production, consumption and trade of certified wood products.
* Promotes capacity building in legal and sustainable wood production to ensure biodiversity conservation, including through voluntary legality verification and independent certification, which would also encourage private-sector investment in SFM.