

**THE SECOND DIALOGUE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE FOR BIODIVERSITY
TOWARDS 2020 AND BEYOND
4-6 March 2018, Switzerland**

Toward a transformative change for biodiversity based on systems transitions

Purpose of this dialogue

At its fifteenth meeting in Beijing in 2020, the 196 Parties to the UN Biodiversity Convention are due to adopt the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity. Like the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the post-2020 global framework is expected to provide a framework for the entire international community to address the challenge of biodiversity and ecosystems loss and to ensure that nature-based solutions are fully employed in addressing the challenges of food security, climate change and other Sustainable Development Goals.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, and decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the Convention has recognized that leading to 2020 and beyond opportunities for safeguarding and investing in biodiversity require urgent transformational change. This urgency includes on the one hand, changes in behaviour at the levels of producers and consumers, governments and businesses, and on the other, a deeper understanding of the motivations and levers to facilitate such transformational change.

At the 21st Session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA21), held in December 2017, in Montreal, Canada, Parties further noted that societal and disruptive technological developments can lead to transitions that may contribute to, or counter, sustainability and the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention. SBSTTA21 also noted that governments and international institutions can play leading roles in establishing an enabling environment to foster positive change. To this end, further work is required, not only to identify the ways and means to facilitate transformational change for the biodiversity regime at different levels, but to examine what the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework requires to leverage such change.

Through an inclusive and participatory roadmap for the post-2020 framework, consisting of a broad and transparent consultative process, the Convention is collating inputs from all stakeholders across government, civil society and business. The road to 2020 will require biodiversity champions to inspire new narratives and leverage the niches and levers that can accelerate change within the next three years, profiling the urgency to act and to invest in biodiversity at all levels.

Building on the momentum and outputs of the first dialogue on Transformative Change for Biodiversity, held 14-16 November 2017 in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland¹, and the participatory roadmap for the post-2020 framework, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is convening the second Dialogue from 4-6 March 2018, with the generous support of Switzerland. The second Dialogue will provide Parties to the Convention a platform to engage in an iterative process to discuss motivations, opportunities, and elements required to facilitate transformative perspectives for the biodiversity regime at different levels of governance. Through facilitated break-out sessions, participants will have the opportunity to creatively examine and problem-solve different issues relating to the objectives of the Convention. They will also exchange views on what sustainability transition entails, including support requirements from the secretariat, among other related organizations.

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-21> (SBSTTA/21/INF/19)

Objectives and Expected Outputs from the Dialogue

The operational objective is to set out a process involving Parties to the Convention, and a limited number of non-State experts, to exchange views on key motivations, opportunities, and elements required to facilitate transformative perspectives for the biodiversity regime at different levels of governance.

The Dialogue aims to support Parties in taking further ownership in framing and engaging in sustainability transitions that are feasible, desirable and possible in their national contexts. The Dialogue will provide Parties with tools and guidance to explore how narratives can promote change in their biodiversity regimes, taking into account the broader connections with other sustainable development priorities.

Research on transition perspectives applied in other sectors, such as urban and energy transitions, will be provided as case study examples. Such experiences and lessons will help explore the ways and means to accelerate and increase societal impact on biodiversity, as well as to support growth and innovation within the Convention.

The expected outputs from the Dialogue, include:

- 1) A summary report, with co-designed narratives and identified levers and niches to accelerate change, within the next three years, to advance the profiling and investment potential for the biodiversity regime.
- 2) Enablers, including motivations and opportunities, for Parties to leverage such changes in the lead up to COP 14 and COP 15.
- 3) An outline of key areas of transformational change for the Convention in the short-term (2020), mid-term (2030) and long-term (2050), to help advance pathways for the acceleration of sustainability transitions in the biodiversity regime.
- 4) Orientations for further analyses of what transition and transformation mean in the biodiversity regime to complement consultations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The summary report of the meeting will be made available as an information note for the 22nd Session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-22) and the second Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI2).

Target audience

The second Dialogue will involve members of the bureau to the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention, representatives of CBD Presidencies and from other Parties to the Convention, as well as a limited number of experts from other biodiversity related conventions, relevant UN organizations, major groups and other stakeholder representatives, involved in the work of the Convention. The three day event may also offer the possibility for a touch point meeting, on the margins of the Dialogue, among the members of the Bureau to the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention.