



Press Brief

Biodiversity for Development

Why is this important?

Biodiversity is crucial to development and poverty reduction. The natural goods and services it provides are a key source of food, water, shelter, incomes and livelihoods for billions of people, especially the rural poor who depend on biological resources for up to 90 per cent of their daily needs.

Biodiversity also provides broader benefits beyond providing for people's immediate needs. These include flood and disease control; spiritual and recreational benefits; and supporting services such as nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

Biodiversity also generates income and helps sustain the economy, both locally and globally, and with it our security. For example, when agricultural ecosystems are degraded, extreme poverty and hunger are more difficult to address and to overcome.

In the long term, the loss of crop and livestock genetic diversity and decreased availability of wild biological resources can threaten food security for large populations.

The threats to biodiversity are therefore threats to development, just as unsustainable development is a threat to biodiversity. The CBD invites countries to "integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies".

This is often referred to as 'biodiversity mainstreaming' and should be implemented through the National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans. Both are essential to the successful implementation of the Convention and to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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What news to expect in Nagoya?

At COP10, Parties to the CBD will be presented with a new ten year strategy, which – if adopted – would have far-reaching and fundamental impacts on the development of nations worldwide.

Target 14 of the Strategic Plan would require Parties to protect and/or restore by 2020 ecosystems that provide essential services and contribute to health, livelihoods and wellbeing.

The new strategy calls on Parties to ‘mainstream’ biodiversity into every aspect of policy, planning and public life by 2020 (Target 2).

This means that all government departments, strategies and decisions should take full account of the importance of biodiversity to society and should minimise any harmful impacts on biodiversity.

This would allow countries to make use of their biodiversity in a sustainable way so that it can contribute to national development and poverty alleviation.

As well as having a target for governments to mainstream biodiversity by 2020, the new strategy calls on Parties to ensure that all people are aware of the values of biodiversity and how to conserve it by that year at the latest (Target 1).

COP10 could also see the creation of a new legally binding set of rules on how countries can access each other’s biological resources, and share the benefits of this with fairly.

Most biodiversity is in developing nations, and equitable benefit-sharing could include payments, technology transfer and capacity-building. This means the new ‘protocol’ would contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries.

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