



Press Brief

Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

Why is this important?

Unless we use biodiversity in a sustainable way that prevents its long-term decline, we will deprive ourselves and future generations of many benefits that are essential to our wellbeing and security.

As well as providing people food and other resources for immediate subsistence needs, biological resources either directly or indirectly form the basis of 40% of the world's economy, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

For these reasons, the sustainable use of biodiversity is one of the CBD's three objectives and is an essential contributor to the broader goals of poverty reduction and sustainable development.

However, many biological resources are being used unsustainably. For instance, the unsustainable hunting of wild animals (bushmeat) in tropical and sub-tropical forests for food and for non-food purposes (including for medicinal use) represents an especially alarming threat to forest biodiversity.

Sustainable use is one of the strongest guarantees for the protection of biological resources. It implies that healthy ecosystems will result in economic and other benefits to people, helping to secure their long-term survival. Lessons from efforts to promote sustainable use can be applied to all economic activities, including agriculture and livestock management, forestry, fisheries, biofuels production or bioprospecting.

In light of this, in 2004, the parties to the CBD adopted the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. This is a framework for advising stakeholders on how they can ensure that their use of biodiversity will not lead to its long-term decline, but will instead promote conservation and alleviate poverty.



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

Sustainable use is central to the new strategy that Parties will be asked to adopt at COP10 – with specific targets (6 and 7) and measurable indicators for sustainable forestry, fisheries (including overfishing) and agriculture.

The strategic plan would also require parties to integrate the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into their national policies and plans (Target 2) — which would enable them to promote sustainable instead of unsustainable use.

Target 4 of the strategy will demand that governments, businesses and other stakeholders have achieved or implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption by 2020, and have kept the impacts of their use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Parties might also agree on text that will commit them to developing and applying positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under Target 3, though this is still up for negotiation in Nagoya.

At COP10, Parties are also expected to implement the recommendations of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat.

The Liaison Group recommends that national policies and plans take account of bushmeat harvests and consumption, and that forest certification schemes consider the conservation and sustainable use of bushmeat.

The group also recommends that extractive industries should regard wildlife management as essential in business planning; and that local stakeholders receive rights to sustainably manage these resources.

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