



Press Brief

The Strategic Plan for the CBD

Why is this important?

The global community acknowledged earlier this year that it had failed to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target agreed in 2002, to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 provided evidence that despite the efforts made, pressures on biodiversity have increased overall.

The failure to stop biodiversity loss has serious consequences for the future of humanity, including the loss of ecosystem services that enhance our well-being and the resources we will need to combat the impacts of climate change.

A new Strategic Plan will provide a framework for national governments to combat biodiversity loss. It will address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, such as patterns of consumption and the impacts of increased trade and demographic change. Ending harmful subsidies would also be an important step.

A new Strategic Plan would require governments to mainstream biodiversity considerations into national planning. The continued loss of biodiversity would no longer be seen as an issue separate from the core concerns of society. Realizing objectives such as tackling poverty and improving the health, wealth and security of present and future generations will be greatly strengthened if we finally give biodiversity the priority it deserves.



Convention on
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What news to expect in Nagoya?

At COP10, Parties will adopt a new Strategic Plan for 2011 to 2020, which will also provide a vision to guide actions that will extend to the middle of the 21st century.

Building on the lessons of the previous Strategic Plan, and following extensive regional consultations and discussions by Parties, the new Strategic Plan creates a framework for governments to create their own national biodiversity targets.

- Through efforts to mainstream biodiversity across decision making, the Strategic Plan will address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss.
- The Strategic Plan's focus on promoting sustainable use of biodiversity will reduce direct pressures on biodiversity.
- Additional protected areas on land and at sea will provide safeguards for ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. Governments will decide the target level of protection, which could be as great as 20% of terrestrial areas.
- The benefits of ecosystem services to all populations will be enhanced through programmes of restoration, with an emphasis on those areas that provide crucial ecosystem services to people, such as the poor. A new protocol on access and benefit sharing will also provide for conservation, sustainable use and development.

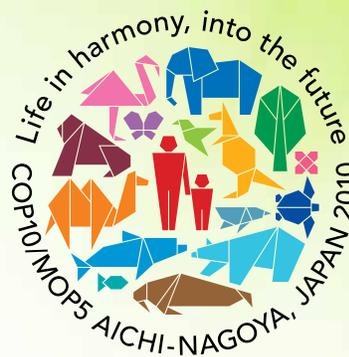
The Strategic Plan will have a series of interim goals and milestones, as well as capacity-development elements, including resource mobilization to ensure that the global community achieves the target.

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Press Brief

Resource Mobilization

Why is this important?

The lack of adequate financial resources and the under-development of relevant financial mechanisms contributed to the failure to achieve the 2010 Target. But where financial resources were available, true differences were made.

Financing for biodiversity is facing new realities.

The severe global financial crisis of the past two years led to a considerable reduction of financing available for biodiversity at national and international levels. Major international conservation organizations have been forced to cut their spending on biodiversity programmes.

Globally, official development assistance has grown in recent years. But figures from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development show that development assistance for climate change has increased much faster than for actions that address both climate change and biodiversity, while the assistance marked for biodiversity alone has sharply declined.

As demonstrated by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2007) and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) (2010), the benefits of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services far outstrip the cost of proactive action.

Nevertheless, new thinking and wisdom is required to translate the economic benefits and costs into financial terms, such as through innovative financial mechanisms including payments for ecosystem services and biodiversity offsetting mechanisms.



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

COP10 will be critical in terms of its ability to mobilize financial resources for implementing the Convention's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and achieving its three objectives. Six major ideas are being circulated for the Conference:

1. Whether or not to establish measurable funding targets? The proposed targets on the table include: a doubling of international flows destined to biodiversity objectives; a tenfold increase in financial capacity; or a 100 fold increase in financial resources. A realistic level of ambition will require objective assessments by all stakeholders and balanced consideration by the Conference of the Parties.
2. To what extent will the Convention make use of the catalytic role of the Global Environment Facility in mobilizing resources? Several new trust funds are being proposed and their feasibility will be demonstrated by the willingness of donors to announce that they will commit resources to them.
3. To what extent Governments are willing to take up the Convention's strategy for resource mobilization at the country level? This suggests that Governments elaborate national strategies for resource mobilization, perhaps as part of their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
4. Many ideas for innovative financial mechanisms have been developed in the past few years, but more research and debate are still needed. Governments already agreed to a global discussion on payments for ecosystem services and other innovative financial mechanisms but should provide more clarity on basic parameters of such a global discussion, including required voluntary contributions for funding.
5. Whether or not Governments will agree to undertake rapid national economic assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services? The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study has assessed the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services to support decision-making at the international level. But economics of ecosystems and biodiversity has been much less developed at the national level, and national decision-makers are much less informed.
6. How will Governments finance the list of concrete activities that they recently agreed to support in the Convention's Strategy for Resource Mobilization? – Enhanced support capacity of the global secretariat is an example of such activities.

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Press Brief

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Why is this important?

The third objective of the Convention provides for “the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources...” The Convention, in its article 15, sets out principles and obligations of Parties related to this objective, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms.

The Convention establishes that a person or institution seeking access to the genetic material of a biological resource in a foreign country should seek the prior informed consent of the country in which the resource is located. Moreover, the person or institution must also negotiate and agree on the terms and conditions of access and use of this resource. This includes the sharing of benefits arising from the use of this resource, with relevant authorities in the provider country, in order to obtain permission to access the genetic resource and to use it.

Conversely, countries, when acting as providers of genetic resources, should try to create conditions to facilitate access to their genetic resources for environmentally sound uses and not to impose restrictions that run counter to the objectives of the Convention. Genetic resources, whether from plant, animal or micro-organisms, are used for a variety of purposes ranging from basic research to the development of products. Users of genetic resources may include research institutes, universities and private companies operating in various sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, horticulture, cosmetics and biotechnology.

Benefits derived from genetic resources may include the results of research and development carried out on genetic resources, the transfer of technologies which makes use of those resources, participation in biotechnological research activities, or monetary benefits arising from the commercialisation of products based on genetic resources.



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

The negotiation of a new International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) — which will take the form of a Protocol to the Convention — is entering its final stage and will be submitted for adoption at COP10.

The Protocol aims to provide a legal framework to ensure that biodiversity-rich developing countries get a fair and equitable share of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources from their territories — and that biodiversity-poor developed nations can readily access those resources with the agreement of the host country.

The successful adoption and subsequent entry into force of the Protocol will therefore benefit both users and providers of genetic resources.

Indeed, fair and equitable benefit-sharing with providers will take various forms, ranging from royalties to joint ventures, technology transfer, capacity-building, etc. It will thus contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries.

In return for these benefits, the providers of biodiversity will enable access to their genetic resources for research or other purposes. This can contribute to the advancement of science and to human well-being through the use of genetic resources in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture and other sectors.

The International Regime will also include measures to ensure that the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is subject to the prior informed consent of, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits with, the indigenous and local communities which are the holders of such knowledge

The International Regime will thus effectively prevent the unauthorized use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, often referred to as “biopiracy”.

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Press Brief

Article 8 (j): Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices

Why is this important?

The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities can make significant contributions to sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity. But such knowledge is at risk of disappearing or being unfairly exploited. Most indigenous and local communities are situated in areas where the vast majority of the world's genetic resources are found. They have cultivated and used biodiversity in a sustainable way for hundreds or thousands of years, and transmitted their collectively-owned knowledge of the natural world orally from generation to generation.

Traditional knowledge is valuable not only to those who depend on it in their daily lives, but to modern industry and agriculture, fisheries and environmental management as well. Many widely used products, such as plant-based medicines, health products and cosmetics, are derived from traditional knowledge. Other valuable products based on traditional knowledge include agricultural and non-wood forest products as well as handicrafts. Some traditional practices of indigenous and local communities — such as customary laws, cultural values, agricultural practices and use of natural medicines — have been proven to enhance biodiversity and promote healthy ecosystems.

However, the contribution of such communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity goes far beyond their role as natural resource managers. Their skills and techniques provide valuable information to the global community and a useful model for biodiversity policies. Furthermore, as on-site communities with extensive knowledge of local environments, indigenous and local communities are most directly involved with conservation and sustainable use.



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

At COP 10, as well as focusing on issues of customary sustainable use of biodiversity, Parties are expected to adopt a code of ethical conduct to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities; as well as two additional indicators for the status of traditional knowledge relating to land use-change in traditional territories of indigenous and local communities and in the practice of traditional occupations.

COP 10 will also address the more effective engagement of local communities in the work of the Convention. The programme of work for article 8(j) will also consider tasks related to the implementation of the International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing which include: guidelines for benefit sharing, and prior and informed consent; identification of obligations of providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge; guidelines for reporting and preventing the unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge; guidelines to assist Parties in developing legislation to implement 8(j) which requires that TK is respected, preserved and promoted with the approval of the knowledge holders.

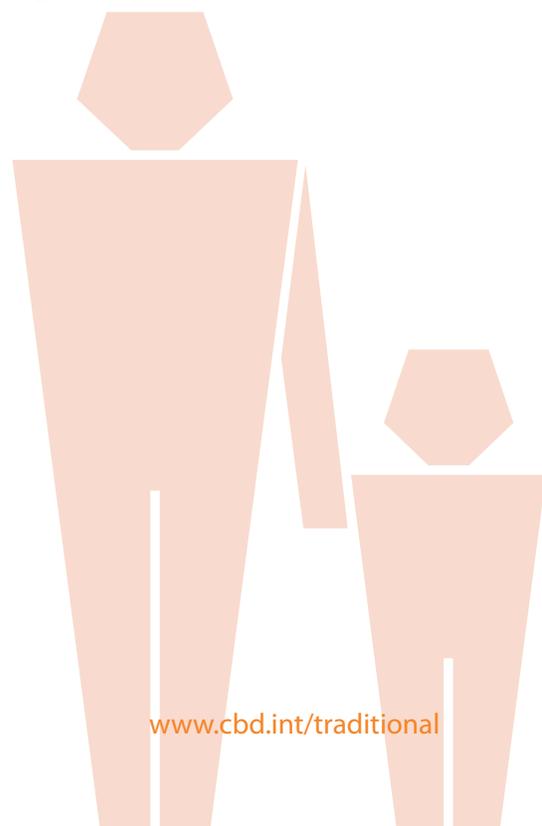
Finally, future meetings of the Working Group on Article 8(j) will include a new agenda item, an in depth dialogue, and Parties will consider at COP 10 whether the first in depth dialogue should be on Climate Change, Protected Areas or on the modalities of benefit sharing (arising from ABS).

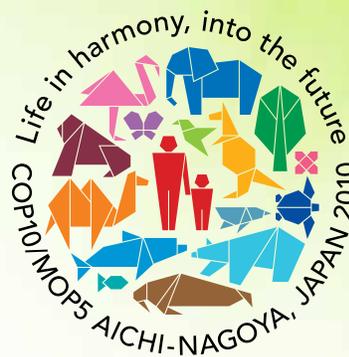
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Press Brief

Protected Areas

Why is this important?

Protected areas are the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation; they maintain key habitats, provide refugia, allow for species migration and movement, and ensure the maintenance of natural processes across the landscape.

Not only do protected areas secure biodiversity conservation, they also secure the well-being of humanity itself. Protected areas provide livelihoods for nearly 1.1 billion people, are the primary source of drinking water for over a third of the world's largest cities and are a major factor in ensuring global food security. by protecting fisheries, wild crop relatives, and the ecosystems services upon which agriculture depends.

Well managed protected areas harbouring participatory and equitable governance mechanisms yield significant benefits far beyond their boundaries, which can be translated into cumulative advantages across a national economy and contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

As the detrimental impact of climate change threatens the planet, protected areas provide a convenient solution to an inconvenient truth. Better managed, better connected, better governed and better financed protected areas are recognized as the key to both mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change.

In February 2004, the CBD Parties made the most comprehensive and specific protected area commitments ever made by the international community by adopting the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). The PoWPA enshrines development of participatory, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional systems of protected areas, where necessary stretching across national boundaries.

From designation to management, the PoWPA can be considered as a defining framework or "blueprint" for protected areas for the coming decades. It is a framework for cooperation between Governments, donors, NGOs and local communities. Without such collaboration, programmes cannot be successful and sustainable over the long-term.

To date, there are many signs of progress and there is much to celebrate. Political will and commitments are clearly being catalyzed. A recent summary of global implementation found that since 2004, nearly 6,000 new protected areas have been established, covering more than 60 million hectares. There are now about 130,000 protected areas, covering nearly 13% of the world's terrestrial surface, and over 6% of territorial marine areas.

However, there are still some areas that are lagging behind. The social costs and benefits of protected areas, the effective participation of indigenous and local communities and the diversification of various governance types need more commitment and resolute actions. The evaluation and improvement of management effectiveness, and the development and implementation of sustainable finance plans with diversified portfolios of traditional and innovative financial mechanisms need enhanced measures. Climate change considerations for both mitigation and adaptation responses need to be incorporated.

Strengthening implementation of PoWPA will require concerted efforts and the combined strength of all sectors of society, as well as alliances at national, regional and international levels between policy makers, civil society, indigenous and local communities and business and the private sector.



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

The COP decided in 2004 to review implementation of the PoWPA at each COP until 2010. This year the review has generated recommendations from SBSTTA 14 that can create a landmark decision at COP 10. The recommendations are tailored to directly address barriers to implementation in a practical manner.

Examples of decisions that could be adopted would lead to practical actions such as:

- Completion of national action plans for implementing the PoWPA involving all relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, integrating these plans into NBSAPs, using them to access funding from the Global Environmental Facility and others so that actions and funding are not done piecemeal, and reporting back on them to COP 11;
- Building on many successes at regional level, formation of regional initiatives and regional action plans including creation of transboundary protected areas;
- On sustainable financing – completion of national sustainable financing plans by 2012 and implementation of these plans;
- To better face climate change, integration of protected areas into wider landscapes and seascapes and sectors (i.e. target 1.2 of the PoWPA) by 2015, and restoration of degraded areas in order to improve the resilience of ecosystems;
- National assessments of management effectiveness of 60% of the total area of protected areas by 2015, incorporating governance, social impacts and benefits of protected areas, and climate change, and then the implementation of these assessments;
- Improvement in the design and extent of marine protected area networks in order to achieve the 2012 marine protected area target and the improvement of coverage of inland water protected areas
- Increased attention to governance, participation and equity including recognition and support for community conserved areas
- Building on the The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, improved measuring of the values, costs and benefits of protected areas,
- A simple reporting framework which is user friendly and facilitates periodic online updates by the Parties

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Press Brief

Climate Change and Biodiversity

Why is this important?

Biodiversity is both highly vulnerable to climate change and a key means for humanity to address this global challenge. The climate is changing because concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are rapidly increasing. This is leading to rising temperatures, glacial melt, changes in precipitation patterns and increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

Impacts of these changes include rising sea levels, flooding and drought, the potential spread of vector-borne diseases and habitat change. Some areas may benefit from climate change while others, including least developed countries and small island developing states, may suffer greatly.

Climate change is already forcing organisms to change their habitats or life cycles, or develop new traits. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment said climate change would become the main direct driver of biodiversity loss by the end of the century.

This will affect vital ecosystem services for all humans, such as air and water purification, pollination, food production, decomposition, and global nutrient and carbon cycles.

Biodiversity can, however, also help reduce the effects of climate change. The diversity of crops and their wild relatives can help farmers to adapt to climate change by switching to drought or flood resistant varieties. The conservation of habitats such as forests can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere.

If we act now to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and identify ecosystems-based adaptation priorities, we can reduce the risk of species extinctions and limit damage to ecosystems. We can preserve intact habitats, especially those sensitive to climate change; improve our understanding of the climate change-biodiversity relationship; and view biodiversity as a solution to climate change.



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

At COP 10, Parties will discuss proposals on ways to implement 'win-win' activities that have benefits for both biodiversity and efforts to address climate change. Target 15 of the new Strategic Plan will require Parties to enhance the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks, through a mix of conservation and restoration (of forests for instance) by 2020.

It also states that Parties should restore at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate-change mitigation and adaptation, by that same year. Target 13 calls on parties to halt the loss of genetic diversity of cultivated plants, livestock and their wild relatives by 2020. This too will be a key step in ensuring that agriculture can adapt to a changing climate.

Under Target 10 of the Strategic Plan, by 2020 at the latest, Parties should minimize pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems that are impacted by climate change or ocean acidification.

Parties will also consider proposals that aim to better integrate biodiversity and traditional or local knowledge within actions for climate-change adaptation and mitigation.

Finally, COP10 will consider a proposal for a joint work programme between it and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

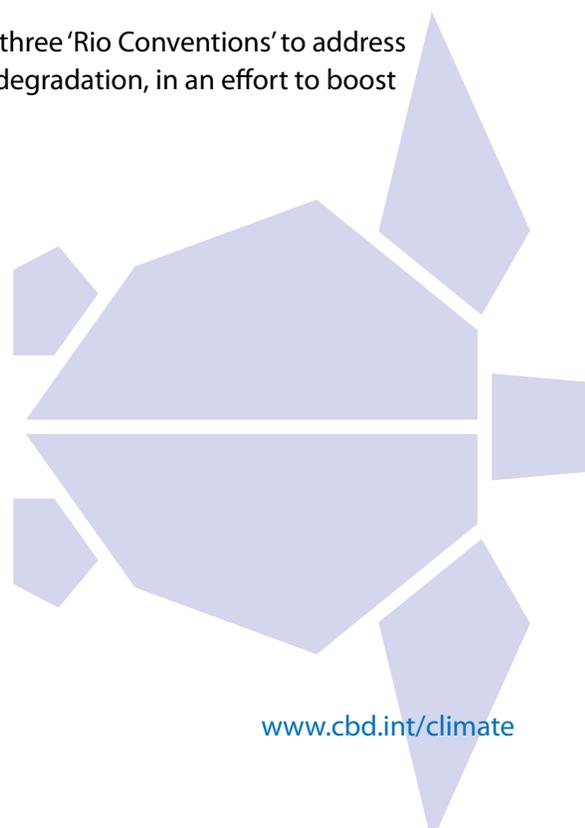
Such a work programme would increase the effectiveness of the three 'Rio Conventions' to address common issues related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, in an effort to boost sustainable development ahead of the Earth Summit in 2012.

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Press Brief

Forest Biodiversity

Why is this important?

Forests contain an immense variety of life forms, which provide many vital services to human beings. They play significant economic, social, and cultural roles in the lives of about 1.6 billion people, especially those of indigenous and local communities. These benefits are under great pressure as humans are destroying forest biodiversity at an alarming rate. Each year 13 million hectares of forest are converted to other uses or lost through natural causes.

Forests offer much more than just timber. Along with food, fibre and other natural products, they provide the plants that are the basis of many traditional medicines and Western pharmaceuticals. They help to limit climate change by preventing vast amounts of carbon from reaching the atmosphere. Forests also regulate local temperatures, protect drinking water supplies and alleviate land degradation and desertification.

Over two thirds of all known terrestrial species live in forests. This great diversity of trees, plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms, and the complex interactions among them, are what makes forests so valuable to humanity.

Yet many human activities greatly weaken forests and reduce the services they provide to us. They include: the conversion of forests to agricultural land, overgrazing, unsustainable management, introduction of invasive alien species, infrastructure development, mining and oil exploitation, man-made fires, pollution and climate change.

Biodiversity plays an important role for effective and long-term carbon storage in forests. Therefore, it is crucial that biodiversity be appropriately considered in the forthcoming efforts for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.¹ The potential to simultaneously address the biodiversity crisis and climate change is unprecedented. At the same time, poorly designed REDD-plus efforts could damage forest biodiversity and in the process threaten the continued provision of ecosystem services for human well-being.



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

COP10 should adopt a new Strategic Plan with revised targets for forest biodiversity to be achieved by 2020. These may include targets to:

- halve [or bring close to zero] the rate of loss, degradation, and fragmentation of forests
- manage all areas under forestry sustainably
- protect at least 15% of terrestrial areas, including forests, through comprehensive, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of effectively managed protected areas
- enhance the resilience of forests and other ecosystems, and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems.

To achieve such targets the collaboration of the forest sector will be critical.

At COP 10, governments and other relevant organizations will discuss ways to ensure that any actions for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus) support the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity. To this end, Parties will discuss the role of the CBD in developing REDD-plus biodiversity safeguards and mechanisms to monitor the impacts of REDD-plus on biodiversity.

Parties will furthermore discuss how REDD-plus efforts could best provide benefits not only for forest biodiversity, but also to indigenous and local communities while respecting their rights.

During COP 10, on 26 October, a high level meeting on Forest Conservation and Climate Change will be held. The outputs of this meeting are expected to have a significant impact on the forest-related COP decisions.

¹ With reference to decision 5/CP.15 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), REDD-plus refers to “policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”. The acronyms REDD and REDD-plus are used for convenience only, without any intention to pre-empt ongoing or future negotiations under the UNFCCC.

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Press Brief

Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity

Why is this important?

More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and it is estimated that this will rise to 70% by 2030. For biodiversity, this trend can bring both threats and solutions, and this means local authorities have a vital role to play. Urbanization can have major impacts on biodiversity, as when natural habitats are cleared to make way for housing and infrastructure or are polluted by urban industry or households. At the same time, cities are the source of many policies, processes and technologies that can serve as solutions to biodiversity-related problems in urban settings.

Sustainable urbanization, through the creation of compact and ecologically-friendly cities, could promote the more efficient use of natural resources, and reduce consumption of water, energy and — ultimately — impacts on biodiversity.

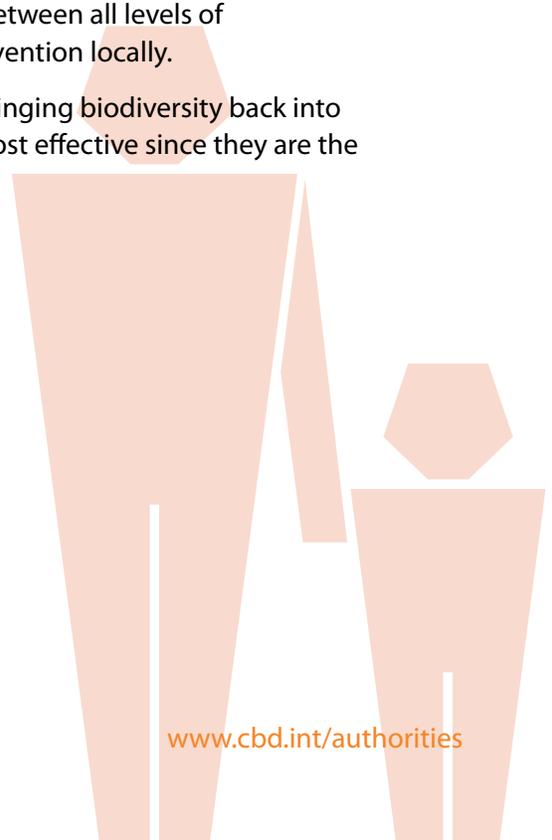
To help achieve this, Parties to the CBD can facilitate collaboration between all levels of government and support local authorities in implementing the Convention locally.

Indeed, local authorities can play a crucial – and growing – role in bringing biodiversity back into the urban agenda. Their awareness raising activities are generally most effective since they are the closest public authority to citizens and interact with them daily.



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

At COP10 Parties will discuss and negotiate a new Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity. If adopted, it would significantly enable different levels of government to collaborate in the successful implementation of the CBD.

Supportive CBD Parties are collaborating with the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity to submit and adopt the Plan.

The City Biodiversity Summit 2010, to be held as an associated event to COP10, will contribute to this plan, as it brings together hundreds of local and international authorities and organizations worldwide.

Encouragingly, some CBD Parties have already started mobilizing their local authorities. For example, a local government network in Spain (La Red de Gobiernos Locales + Biodiversidad 2010), in cooperation with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities, promotes local policies aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

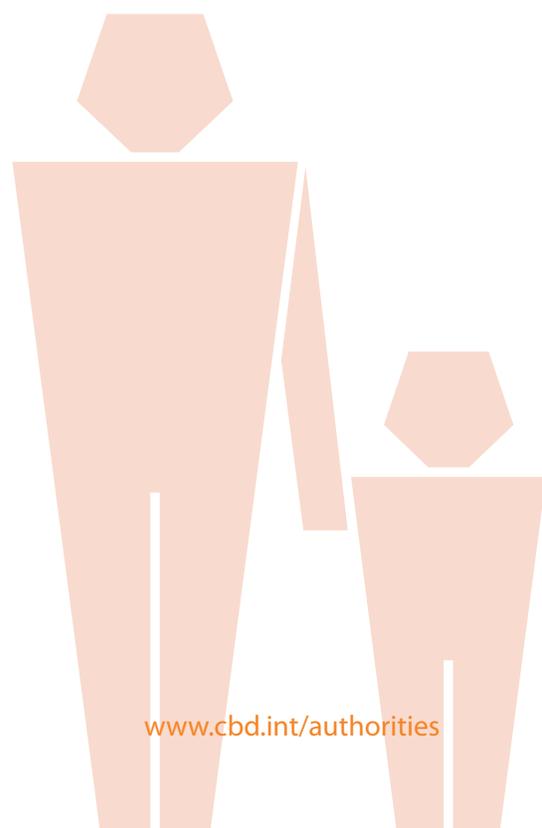
Meanwhile, the European Union has financed the European Capitals of Biodiversity award, whose winners will be announced at COP10.

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Press Brief

Incentive Measures

Why is this important?

Economic incentives can play a key role in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, but they can also have the opposite effect. Biodiversity provides natural goods and services that are essential for human well-being and economic development. Agriculture, for example, would be impossible without the contribution biodiversity makes to the development of seed and livestock varieties, as well as through the species that interact with agriculture, such as pollinators or organisms that maintain soil quality. The tremendous economic value of biodiversity is not reflected in existing market prices. This means markets will provide insufficient, if any, incentives to individuals, companies and governments to use biodiversity and the services it provides in a sustainable way.

To make matters worse, many policies in other sectors are unintentionally harmful to biodiversity. Examples include public subsidies that promote unsustainable farming, forestry or fishery. Under the CBD, parties should identify and remove or mitigate the effects of these perverse incentives, and develop other incentive measures that 'internalize' the value of biodiversity into market prices.

Positive incentives encourage activities that benefit biodiversity. Examples include the certification and labelling of goods that are produced in a sustainable way, or payments to landowners who set aside agricultural land as natural habitat or manage watersheds in ways that benefit downstream users and biodiversity. Disincentives aim to discourage harmful or unsustainable activities through measures such as user fees or pollution taxes.



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www.cbd.int/incentives



What news to expect in Nagoya?

At COP10, Parties will be asked to adopt a new Strategic Plan, which includes a target of eliminating, phasing out or reforming incentives that harm biodiversity by 2020. The target could go further with an explicit reference to subsidies and could also promote positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity — but these additions are still up for negotiation in Nagoya.

Another of the new strategy's targets would require Parties to integrate the values of biodiversity into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and plans — and, if Parties agree, into national accounts too. COP10 will also review the work on the CBD's work programme on incentive measures, which, since COP9, has compiled case studies of good practices and lessons learnt about both the removal and mitigation of perverse incentives, and the promotion of positive ones.

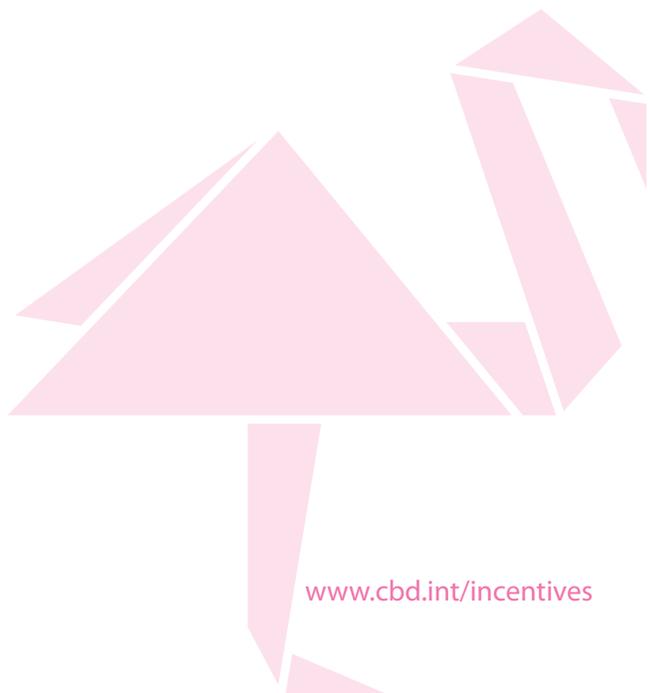
In this context, COP will also consider, and take note of, the work undertaken by partner organizations in supporting the implementation of incentive measures, such as the important study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), prepared under the aegis of UNEP's Green Economy Initiative. As the new Strategic Plan will require Parties to revise their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, the COP will plan regional capacity-building activities on incentives.

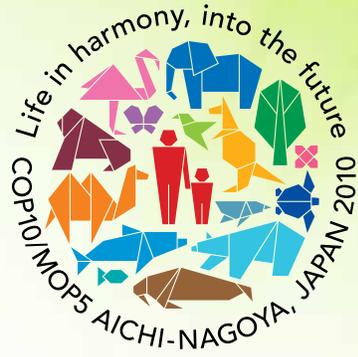
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Press Brief

Invasive Alien Species

Why is this important?

Invasive alien species are among the top threats to biodiversity worldwide as, outside their natural habitats, they can cause local extinctions of native species and disturb the natural balance of wild or cultivated ecosystems. They cause billions of dollars worth of damage annually and can have serious impacts on food security and the health of people, plants and animals — all of which can have major consequences for people's wellbeing and may hinder the development of countries.

Non-native species are especially problematic if they reproduce rapidly, compete strongly with native species for food and habitat, or directly feed upon or parasitize local species. The negative effects of invasive alien species on biodiversity can be intensified by climate change, habitat destruction and pollution. Isolated ecosystems such as islands are particularly affected.

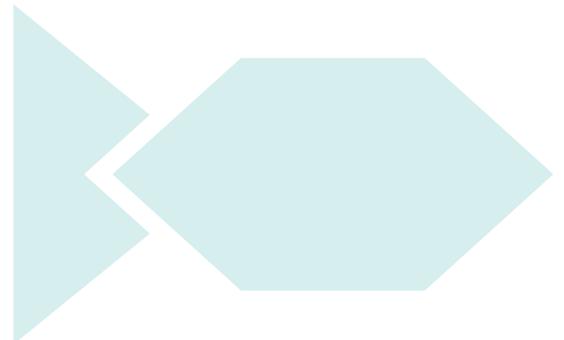
Human actions can spread non-native plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms to over long distances and beyond natural boundaries both deliberately (e.g. fish farming) and unintentionally (through transport, travel, trade, biological pest control, etc.)

However, in many parts of the world, border controls on alien species are not in place.

Once invasive species are established, eradication is the most desirable solution, but it can be very expensive, so prevention remains the best answer.



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

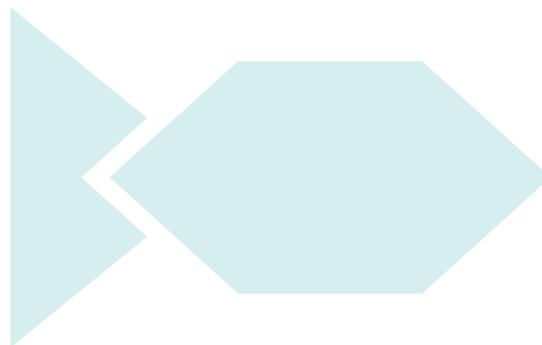
Target 9 of the new Strategic Plan that Parties to the CBD will be asked to adopt at COP10 focuses on invasive alien species. It states that by 2020 such species will be identified, prioritised and controlled or eradicated — and that there will be measures in place to control their introduction and establishment.

COP10 will also address gaps in the international regulatory framework that relate to the risks invasive species pose — such as when they are introduced intentionally as pets, aquarium species, live bait and live food.

This will require the development of practical guidelines that countries (especially developing nations) can use to control and manage the pathways by which invasive species can be introduced to new areas.

An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, set up by the CBD in 2010, will develop these guidelines in collaboration with different governmental sectors, the private sector, international organizations, and standard-setting organizations.

To implement such guidelines, some Parties will need greater capacity and appropriate legislation. This includes early warning systems to prevent invasions and capacity to conduct risk and impact assessments before allowing alien species to be introduced.

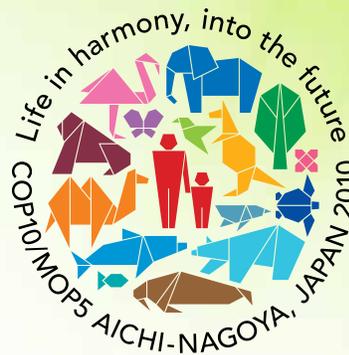


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Press Brief

South-South Cooperation

Why is this important?

International transfers of knowledge and technology can help control and halt the loss of biodiversity, but the urgency of this challenge demands new ways to transfer these resources — and a greater role for biodiverse developing nations.

Most transfers of technology, knowledge and funds related to biodiversity have been from developed countries (also known as “the North”) to developing countries (“the South”) — with agendas, to a large extent, defined by the North.

This traditional North-South cooperation model, although essential, is not sufficient to achieve the objectives of the CBD. Now, like never before, developing nations increasingly have the experience and capacity to use biodiversity in a sustainable way.

This means that North-South cooperation can be complemented with South-South and triangular cooperation, in which technologies are transferred from South to South with combined funds and agendas set equitably by the North and the South. A platform through which countries are empowered to exchange knowledge, technology and lessons learned on biodiversity and its potential for development, will create incentives for developing countries to protect it, while contributing to poverty alleviation.

This is critical because most biodiversity is located in developing countries, in which poverty is still a major concern. This could be put to better service in eradicating poverty, contributing to national development and improving the quality of life of lower-income populations.



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www.cbd.int/cooperation/SouthSouthcooperation.shtml



What news to expect in Nagoya?

At COP10, Yemen (chair of the G77 group of 130 developing nations) will submit a Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation for the consideration of the Parties.

The Plan adopted by COP10 will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly, ultimately to provide a framework for cooperation among developing countries at regional, national and international levels, and to promote triangular cooperation, which also involves and benefits Parties from the North. Regional agencies and commissions will also be involved in this process since their role is significant in taking the plan to regional and sub-regional levels.

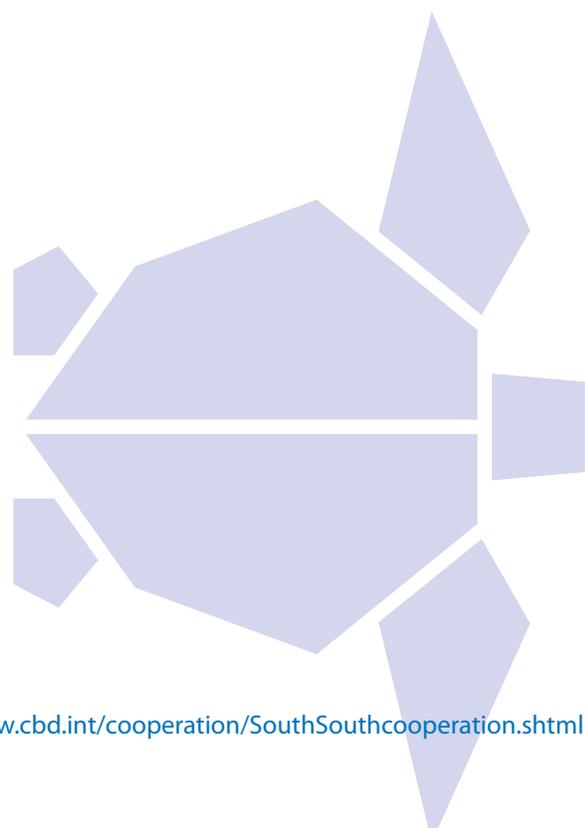
The plan aims to ensure that greater cooperation will benefit both the environment and development. In particular, it seeks to enhance the implementation of CBD and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and contribute to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (especially Goals 1 and 7).

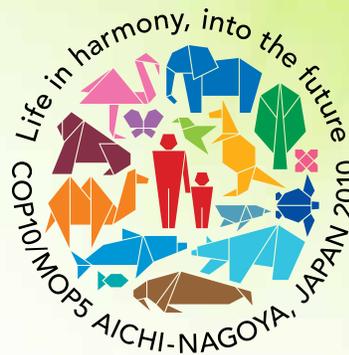
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Press Brief

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Why is this important?

Oceans include highly diverse habitats — such as coral reefs, mangrove forests, sea-grass beds, estuaries, open-ocean and deep-sea habitats — that are both ecologically and economically important.

Oceans cover 70% of our planet but their tremendous wealth of biodiversity and ecosystem services are not infinite. More than just a valuable source of food, oceans play a key role in regulating the global climate as they store over 15 times more carbon dioxide than the terrestrial biosphere and soils.

Meanwhile, the rich variety of life in deep-sea habitats, such as sea mounts, hydrothermal vents, coldwater corals, etc., plays a major role in global fishery production and provides a valuable source of marine genetic resources.

The oceans and coastal areas, however, face many threats from overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution and waste disposal, agricultural runoff, invasive alien species, and habitat destruction. Climate change will only make the situation worse.

Concerns are also being raised on the impacts of ocean acidification, as a direct consequence of increased carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere. Increasing acidity of sea water will reduce the availability of carbonate minerals in seawater, important building blocks for marine plants and animals, thereby potentially disrupting large components of the marine food web.

Yet, oceans are seriously under-protected, with still less than 1 per cent of the ocean surface designated as protected areas, compared to nearly 15 per cent of protected area coverage on land.



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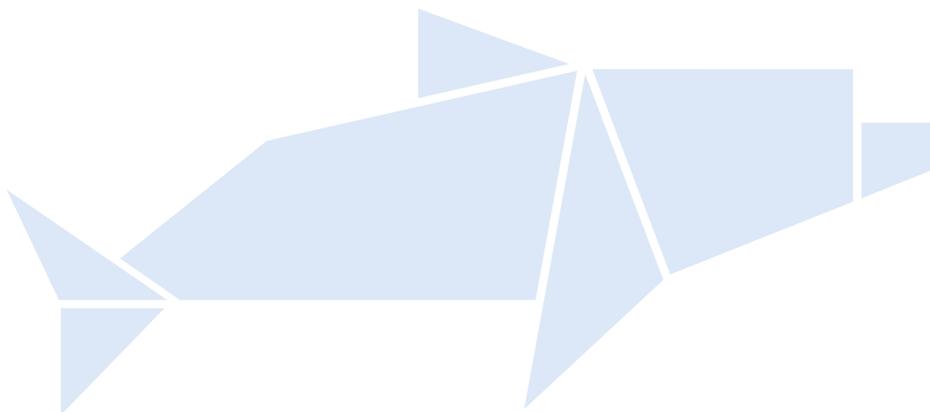
What news to expect in Nagoya?

COP10 will undertake an in-depth review of the progress made to implement the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity. Governments will note that efforts to date at all levels have not been able to prevent the serious decline in marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services. Governments will also discuss the slow progress towards achieving the 2012 target of establishing marine protected areas linked through representative networks.

The importance of marine and coastal biodiversity in the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change will be highlighted and governments will call for more research. The impacts of ocean acidification, a potential consequence of increased atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions, on marine and coastal biodiversity, discussed by the previous COP, will be reaffirmed. COP10 will also reaffirm its previous decision that recognized the impacts of ocean fertilization on marine and coastal biodiversity.

Building on the decisions at the last meeting of the COP, governments will seek to advance efforts on identifying ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in need of protection in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Likewise, COP10 will emphasize the need for a joint expert meeting to address the impacts of destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing, as well as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

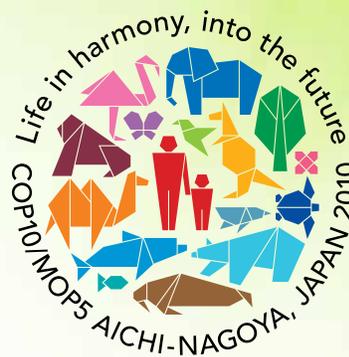


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Press Brief

Biofuels and Biodiversity

Why is this important?

Biofuels are being promoted as part of the global response to climate change but there are concerns that their production and use could have significant impacts on biodiversity that could affect livelihoods, food supplies and energy security.

Biofuels include substitutes for fossil fuels that are derived from biomass — such as alcohols, biogas, fuel wood, vegetable oil and animal fats. For instance, ethanol is produced from sugar cane and maize while rapeseed and palm oil are used to make biodiesel. Many other crops are also used.

Liquid transport fuels like ethanol and biodiesel have been heavily promoted in recent years as a means of increasing energy security, supporting domestic agricultural producers, generating income and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Yet the energy yield, greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts of biofuels vary greatly depending on the type of crop, and where and how it is produced, processed and used. As many current biofuels are based on agricultural products, there are additional concerns about the use of fertilizers, pesticides and water, and the possible invasiveness of some biofuel crops.

Concerns over increased deforestation and the drainage of wetlands for the expansion of agricultural land are also emerging.

In terms of socio-economic impacts, the demand for biofuel could potentially increase rural incomes and create employment opportunities. On the negative side, increased commodity prices resulting from the diversion of agricultural products from the food to the energy sector, as well as trade distorting subsidies and import tariffs, can pose serious consequences for developing countries with implications for agricultural production and food security.



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www.cbd.int/agro/biofuels



What news to expect in Nagoya?

In May 2010, the CBDs' Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) recommended that COP10 take action to develop and implement policies to promote the positive and minimize, or avoid, the negative impacts of biofuels on biodiversity.

In particular, SBSTTA called for policies that would assess both direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity of the production and use of biofuels in their full life cycle, as compared to the effects of other types of fuels.

SBSTTA also recommended COP10 to examine impacts of biofuel production and use on biodiversity that would affect related socio economic conditions and food and energy security.

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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.



Convention on
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www.cbd.int/sustainable



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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Press Brief

Mountain Biodiversity

Why is this important?

Mountainous areas often host many more species than adjacent lowlands — including many that are found nowhere else on Earth. This diversity is important for many vulnerable human populations but it also faces special threats, especially from climate change.

Mountainous regions are particularly biodiverse because in a very small area they can include a range of different altitudes, habitats and climatic conditions, sheltering different groups of life-forms that thrive best in each of these. They also often provide islands of suitable habitat, isolated from unfavourable surrounding lowlands, competing species or environmental threats.

These ecosystems are found worldwide and cover some 27 per cent of the world's land surface, and directly support the 22 per cent of the world's people. The benefits of mountain environments also reach other people living in distant lowlands, and include: water, energy, timber, and opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal.

Mountains are also home to a significant number of distinct ethnic groups, with distinct cultural traditions, environmental knowledge and habitat adaptations. As a result, mountains host some of the world's most complex agricultural diversity and traditional management practices.

Mountain species with narrow habitat tolerance, particularly those that live at high elevations or cannot disperse far are at high risk from climate change. Changes in land-use can also drive biodiversity loss. Flower-rich alpine meadows are an important cultural heritage that is increasingly threatened as traditional grazing practices decline.

Therefore the challenge is to sustainably manage mountain regions to avoid degradation and avoid subsequent increases in poverty and hunger.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

www.cbd.int/mountain



What news to expect in Nagoya?

At COP10, Parties will be encouraged, among other things, to consider the new national and regional targets that address the direct drivers of biodiversity loss.

These targets will include moves to reduce pressures on — and to protect and restore — mountain biodiversity and related ecosystem services.

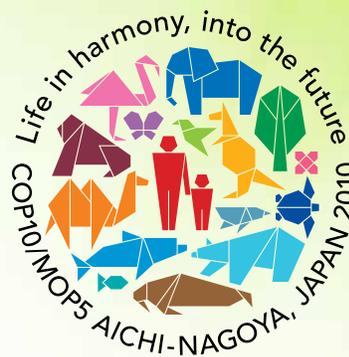
Parties will also be encouraged to consider the adoption of a long-term vision and ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity. This would entail developing specific actions, timetables and capacity-building needs for the implementation of the CBD's programme of work on mountain biodiversity. Where appropriate, these would need to be integrated into revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the CBD's new Strategic Plan.

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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
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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.

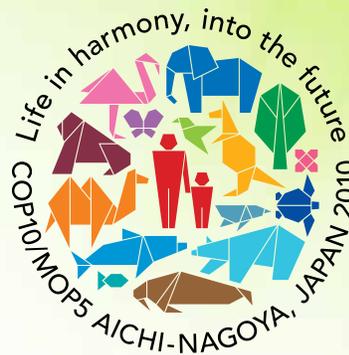
Most biodiversity is in developing nations, and equitable benefit-sharing could include payments, technology transfer and capacity-building. This means the new ‘protocol’ would contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries.

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Press Brief

Inland Waters

Why is this important?

Water supports all life on Earth. Fresh water is the most important natural resource on the planet and is essential for sustainable development, as well as supporting all terrestrial biodiversity. Inland water ecosystems include all kinds of inland water bodies, fresh or saline, as well as groundwater. They are also closely interconnected with terrestrial ecosystems.

The biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems is declining faster than that of any other biome. Half of wetlands worldwide have already been destroyed due to unsustainable practices, which lead to loss of habitat through construction, land conversion (mainly for agriculture) and pollution. Unsustainable use of water and invasive alien species also negatively impact biodiversity. Most alarmingly, by 2030, 47 per cent of the world population will be living in areas of high water stress.

Yet, inland water ecosystems provide services vital to human development and for reducing poverty. These services include food, fibre, medicine, climate regulation, flood and natural disaster mitigation, nutrient recycling, and purification of our drinking water. These ecosystems are also essential for production of energy, transport, recreation, tourism as well as providing habitats for animals and plants.

These services are taken for granted, though they can be expensive to replace. For instance, building and maintaining water treatment plants is often more costly than maintaining ecosystem infrastructure to provide clean water.



Convention on
Biological Diversity



www.cbd.int/waters



Inland water ecosystems are particularly important in the context of climate change. Many wetlands, in particular peatlands, are “carbon sinks”. They remove and store significant quantities of carbon from the atmosphere. Wetlands contain one-fifth of the world’s carbon and by some estimates twice the carbon stored in forests. The main impacts of climate change will be on fresh water: melting glaciers and ice-caps, which is raising sea-levels, and changes in rainfall (less of it in some areas, leading to drought, and more of it in others, leading to excessive flooding). One projection indicates that water availability will decrease in about a third of the world’s rivers. Inland water ecosystems provide essential services which help us to cope with the impacts of climate change, in particular through flood regulation.

In order to halt or reverse the decline in inland water biodiversity, we need to raise awareness of the importance of these ecosystems. It is urgent to act now, and apply the ecosystem approach when managing both land and water.

What news to expect in Nagoya?

The implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems was reviewed at SBSTTA-14. COP10 will consider SBSTTA’s recommendations which centre on increasing the attention to water across all activities of the CBD, including making it more explicit in the revised Strategic Plan of the Convention. Freshwater is also a key link between the interests of various global issues including biodiversity, desertification, climate change, poverty reduction and sustainable development. The role of biodiversity and ecosystems in underpinning water security requires improved attention as well as increased recognition of the centrality of freshwater in climate change adaptation.

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