



Press Brief

Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration

Why is this important?

Biodiversity and ecosystems underpin economic growth, sustainable development and human well-being. Yet the loss of biodiversity continues, resulting in serious reductions in ecosystem goods and services, negatively impacting human well-being, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. Earth's ecosystems are degrading as a result of damage, unsustainable development and a failure to invest and reinvest in their productivity, health and sustainability. The well-being of the world population in the coming decades will in large part depend on conservation and restoration of ecosystems to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, thereby contributing to sustainable development while reducing environment-related risks.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 includes three Aichi Biodiversity Targets that establish quantitative global targets for land-use change: to halve the rate of loss of natural habitats (Target 5); to protect at least 17 per cent of terrestrial areas and inland waters and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas as part of improved protected area networks with connectivity across the landscape (Target 11) and to restore at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems and enhance ecosystem resilience (Target 15).



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The Conference of Parties may adopt a decision, based on a recommendation from the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, that highlights the need to avoid activities that will lead to ecosystem loss and degradation. The COP decision may also encourage Parties to promote comprehensive land-use planning approaches, and to utilize native species and genetic diversity in ecosystem restoration programmes.

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