

Co-organized by the Republic of Korea, Japan and IUCN



In collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, FAO, UNESCO and ICLEI

Why Biodiversity is Essential for Social and Economic Aspects of Sustainable Development: Perspectives and Country Experiences from Developing and Developed Countries

**Monday, 3 February 2014, 1:15pm-2:30pm
UNHQ, New York, Conference Room 7, North Lawn Building**

Background

In the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, governments at the highest-level reaffirmed the “intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being.” Governments also recognized the severity of the global loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems, and emphasized that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, the provision of and access to water and the health of the rural poor, as well as the overall well-being of people worldwide, including present and future generations. They indicated that this highlights the importance of the conservation of biodiversity, enhancing habitat connectivity and building ecosystem resilience. They also recognized that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods.

The Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in decision XI/22 emphasized the crucial role of biodiversity in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication through ecosystem services such as water, food provision and disaster risk reduction. In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution encouraging member countries to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in developing the Post-2015 Development Agenda and in the process of establishing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the United Nations General Assembly.

Objectives

At this Event, countries from various regions of the world will discuss how biodiversity contributes to combating poverty, supporting livelihoods and promoting human well-being and socio-economic development, and how it can be effectively addressed in potential sustainable development goal(s). The Side Event is also expected to lay the groundwork for meaningful discussion on the theme of “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development” at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in October 2014 in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea.

Programme

- Opening remarks: Mr. **Katsuhiko Takahashi**, Minister, Permanent Mission of **Japan** to the United Nations
- Short welcome message by Mr. **Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias**, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
- Country experiences: (Facilitator: Ms. **Cyriaque Sendashonga**, Global Director, Policy and Programme Group of IUCN)
 - **Seychelles**: H.E. Mr. **Ronald Jean Jumeau**, Seychelles Ambassador for Climate Change and SIDS Issues
 - **Benin**: H.E. Mr. **Jean-Francis R. Zinsou**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Benin to the United Nations
 - **Germany**: H.E. Mr. **Heiko Thoms**, Ambassador, Chargé d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations
 - **India**: Mr **Ajay Tyagi**, Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests
 - **Brazil**: Mr. **Sergio Rodrigues dos Santos**, Minister-Counsellor, Brazilian Mission to the United Nations
- General discussion with representatives of Governments, UN agencies, Private sector, indigenous and local communities, NGOs, local and subnational governments
- Concluding remarks: Mr. **Jechul Yoo**, Director General, Ministry of Environment, **Republic of Korea**

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