

UN General Assembly and Member State Resolutions: Commitments on Biodiversity

1. UN General Assembly Resolutions

- [Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability](#)
Target 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
- [Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development \(9 February 2004\)](#)
The outcome document includes commitments to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, including a biodiversity target.
- [Outcome Document of 2010 MDG Summit, "Keeping the promise: United to achieve the Millennium Development Goals" \(10 October 2010\)](#)
The outcome document includes commitments to accelerate progress to achieve MDG1 and MDG7, taking into account biodiversity considerations.
- [Outcome Document of Rio+20, "The Future We Want" \(11 September 2012\)](#)
The Rio+20 outcome document reaffirms the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development.
- [Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development \(6 December 2012\)](#)
The General Assembly encourages all stakeholders concerned, to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.
- [Oceans and the law of the sea \(18 April 2013\)](#)
The resolution highlights the important contribution of the sustainable development and management of the ocean and seas to the achievement of international development goals.

2. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: "Living in harmony with nature" (October 2010)

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 represents a universally agreed framework for action on biodiversity and a foundation for sustainable development for all stakeholders, including agencies across the United Nations system. The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan is for biodiversity to be valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people. The 20 internationally agreed time bound targets of the Strategic Plan, mainly for 2020, are organized under five goals to meet the 2050 vision.

3. Conventions and Key Instruments¹

- [Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols](#)
- [Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species \(CMS or Bonn Convention\)](#)
- [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#)
- [International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#)
- [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#)
- [World Heritage Convention](#)
- [UN Convention on the Law of the Seas](#)
- [Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks](#)

4. Commitments under other International Organizations²

- FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

¹ Other conventions and instruments addressing different ecosystems have provisions that also relate to the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

² Other international organizations have commitments related to the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

1. UN General Assembly Resolutions

1.A. Document Name: Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the **loss of environmental resources**

Target 7B: Reduce **biodiversity loss**, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss³

The “Biodiversity Target” under the MDG framework originates from the Convention on Biological Diversity. This Target stimulated action to safeguard biodiversity, for example by establishing more protected areas (both on land and in coastal waters), increasing conservation measures for particular species, and developing initiatives to tackle some of the direct causes of ecosystem damage, such as pollution and alien species invasions.

(<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/enviro.html>)

1.B. Document Name: Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Document Date: 9 February 2004

Decision: GA Resolution 58/218

(http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/58/218&Lang=E)

(http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf)

Commitment to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration.

- Biodiversity considerations are reflected throughout the Plan of Implementation, including within a separate section (para 44a-t) containing a target for achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity. Other targets, including on oceans, were also adopted reinforcing commitments to the MDG on poverty eradication.

1.C. Document Name: Outcome Document of 2010 MDG Summit, “Keeping the promise: United to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”

Document Date: 10 October 2010

Decision: GA Resolution 65/1

(http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/outcome_documentN1051260.pdf)

Commitment to accelerate progress to achieve MDG1, including by:

- *Addressing environmental challenges to sustainable agricultural development such as loss of **biodiversity**, and promoting the development and dissemination of sustainable agricultural technologies and the transfer of such technologies;(Para 70t)*

Commitment to accelerate progress to achieve MDG7, including by:

- *Continuing to pursue implementation of the three objectives of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** to reduce the rate of loss of **biodiversity**, including by preserving and maintaining knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities;*

³ The “Biodiversity Target” under the MDG framework originates from the CBD. This Target stimulated action to safeguard biodiversity, for example by establishing more protected areas (both on land and in coastal waters), increasing conservation measures for particular species, and developing initiatives to tackle some of the direct causes of ecosystem damage, such as pollution and alien species invasions.

and continuing ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access and benefit sharing; (Para77e)

- *Taking measures to ensure the sustainable management of **marine biodiversity and ecosystems**, including fish stocks, which contribute to food security and hunger and poverty eradication efforts; (Para77l)*
- *Supporting the efforts of countries to preserve fragile mountain ecosystems as an important source of fresh water and as repositories of rich **biological diversity**, with a view to achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty; (Para77m)*

1.D. Document Name: Outcome Document of Rio+20, “The Future We Want”

Document Date: 11 September 2012

Decision: GA Resolution 66/288

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

The Rio+20 outcome document, in 2012, reaffirmed the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development, emphasizing the role that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 plays for the United Nations system, the international community and civil society to achieve the “World we want”. Paragraphs 197-204:

- Reaffirming the **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.
- Recognizing global **loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems**, and emphasizing that these **undermine global development**, including present and future generations.
- Highlighting the importance of the **conservation of biodiversity, enhancing habitat connectivity** and building **ecosystem resilience**.
- Recognizing the **contribution of traditional knowledge**, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to social well-being and sustainable livelihoods.
- Reiterating commitments to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, calling for **actions that reduce and reverse the loss of biodiversity**, and **affirming implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets** adopted by the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention.
- Noting the adoption of the **Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization** to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and acknowledging the role of access and benefit-sharing in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.
- Welcoming the **strategy for resource mobilization** in support of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including increasing resources from all sources.
- Supportive of **mainstreaming the socio-economic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity** and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into programmes and policies at all levels.
- **Encouraging investments**, through appropriate incentives and policies, which support the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems.
- Agreeing to **promote international cooperation and partnerships**, and **information exchange**, and welcoming the **United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011–2020**.
- Recognize the important role of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**.

- Recognizing the economic, social and environmental **impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife**, and emphasizing international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations.
- Taking note of the establishment of the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**.

1.E. Document Name: Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

Document Date: 6 December 2012

Decision: A/C.2/67/L.58⁴

(<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/67/proposalstatus.shtml>)

The General Assembly encourages Parties and all stakeholders, institutions and organizations concerned to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is recognized as crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and as a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

The importance of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and supporting efforts to mainstream these Targets, in the contributions of the United Nations system, to support the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is also recognized. The United Nations system is invited to continue facilitating cooperation among its members in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

1.F. Document Name: Oceans and the law of the sea

Document Date: 18 April 2013

Decision: Resolution A/RES/67/78

(http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/78)

The important contribution of the sustainable development and management of the ocean and seas to the achievement of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration is underscored in this resolution. Specific sections refer to marine environment, marine resources and marine biodiversity among others.

2. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

2.A. Document Name: Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: "Living in harmony with nature"

Document Date: October 2010

Decision: CBD COP 10 Decision X/2

(<http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12268>)

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Targets represents a universally agreed framework for action on biodiversity and a foundation for sustainable development for all

⁴ Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.27A

stakeholders, including agencies across the United Nations system. The Strategic Plan has been subsequently endorsed and/or supported by the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions.

- **2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan is for biodiversity to be valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.**
- **Its internationally agreed time bound targets, mainly for 2020, are organized under five goals to meet the 2050 vision:** to protect nature (Goal C), to maximize the benefits for all people (Goal D), to reduce pressures on biodiversity (Goal B), to address the underlying causes of loss (Goal A), and Goal E provides for enabling activities.
- **The Strategic Plan set new targets to stem biodiversity loss, emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming this work into national development.** Among these are quantitative targets, for example: “by 2020, at least halving deforestation and the loss of other natural habitats” (Target 5), “protecting at least 17% of land and 10% of oceans through protected areas” (Target 11), and “restoring at least 15% of degraded lands” (Target 15), as well as Target 14 that by 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- **The goals and targets comprise both aspirations for achievement at the global level, and a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets.** Parties are invited to set their own targets within this flexible framework, taking into account national needs and priorities, while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets. Parties are also invited to incorporate this information in their national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, 5 Strategic Goals and 20 Biodiversity Aichi Targets

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- **Target 1:** *By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.*
- **Target 2:** *By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.*
- **Target 3:** *By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.*
- **Target 4:** *By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.*

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- **Target 5:** *By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.*
- **Target 6:** *By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant*

adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

- **Target 7:** *By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.*
- **Target 8:** *By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.*
- **Target 9:** *By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.*
- **Target 10:** *By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.*

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- **Target 11:** *By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.*
- **Target 12:** *By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.*
- **Target 13:** *By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.*

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- **Target 14:** *By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.*
- **Target 15:** *By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.*
- **Target 16:** *By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.*

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- **Target 17:** *By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.*
- **Target 18:** *By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.*
- **Target 19:** *By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.*

- **Target 20:** *By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.*

3. Conventions and Key Instruments

3.A. International conventions focus on biodiversity issues:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Rio de Janeiro 1992;(entry into force: 1993)

- one of the three sustainable development conventions to emerge from the 1992 “Earth Summit” in Rio de Janeiro. The Conventions’ objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from commercial and other utilization of genetic resources. The agreement covers all ecosystems, species, and genetic resources. There have been 11 CBD Conference of the Parties. *All decisions can be found: <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/>*
- **Protocols under the Convention on Biological Diversity:**
 - Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Document Date: Nagoya, 29 October 2010 (<http://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2010/11/20101127%2002-08%20PM/XXVII-8-b-Corr-Original.pdf>)
 - Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Venue and Document Date: Montreal, 29 January 2000 (http://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2000/01/20000129%2008-44%20PM/Ch_XXVII_08_ap.pdf)
 - Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Venue and document Date: Nagoya, 15 October 2010 (http://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2010/12/20101215%2005-26%20PM/Ch_27_8_c.pdf)

Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS or Bonn Convention)

- aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. Parties to the CMS work together to conserve migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection for the most endangered migratory species, by concluding regional multilateral agreements for the conservation and management of specific species or categories of species, and by undertaking co-operative research and conservation activities.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1975)

- to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Through its three appendices, the Convention accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 plant and animal species

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2004)

- objectives are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security. The Treaty covers all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, while its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing covers a specific list of 64 crops and forages. The Treaty also includes provisions on Farmers' Rights.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971)

- covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities, and provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

World Heritage Convention (1972)

- to identify and conserve the world's cultural and natural heritage, by drawing up a list of sites whose outstanding values should be preserved for all humanity and to ensure their protection through a closer co-operation among nations.

Each of the biodiversity-related conventions works to implement actions at the national, regional and international level in order to reach shared goals of conservation and sustainable use. In meeting their objectives, the conventions have developed a number of complementary approaches (site, species, genetic resources and/or ecosystem-based) and operational tools (e.g., programmes of work, trade permits and certificates, multilateral system for access and benefit-sharing, regional agreements, site listings, funds).

(http://treaties.un.org/Pages/DB.aspx?path=DB%2fMTDSG%2fpage1_en.xml)

3.B. Document name: UN Convention on the Law of the Seas

Venue and Document Date: Montego Bay, 10 December 1982

(http://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1994/11/19941116%2005-26%20AM/Ch_XXI_06p.pdf)

3.C Document name: Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

Venue and Document Date: New York, 4 August 1995

(http://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1995/08/19950804%2008-25%20AM/Ch_XXI_07p.pdf)

4. Commitments under other International Organizations

4.A. [The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN](#) and its [Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#)

4.B. [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#)