

Special Virtual Session for SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3 on Biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19,

15-16 December 2020

Points to Register - Canadian intervention

- Madame / Mister (co-)Chair, dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen
- Canada thanks the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat colleagues for their timely and collaborative work in supporting and highlighting the linkages between biodiversity and human health.
- Nature loss exacerbates disease emergence, and they share most of the same drivers. The best way to prevent future pandemics is to conserve biodiversity and use it sustainably.
- The current pandemic situation only reinforces the need for an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework. A framework that will catalyze global and national action to support ecosystem integrity, nature-based solutions, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
- We must all venture out of our silos. A integrated, interdisciplinary approach to human and environmental health is critical for protecting the health and safety of people and achieving positive health and environmental outcomes. In the context of COVID-19, an integrated approach is fundamental for global and domestic economic recovery, resilience and sustainability. In this regard, Parties to the CBD can work to strengthen the environmental pillar of such an integrated or “One Health” approach.
- The pandemic provides an opportunity to reshape the dialogue around economy; to understand and communicate the economic value and trade-offs implicit in conservation and sustainable use in terms of climate change impacts, biodiversity impacts, and disease impacts.

- Canada thanks the Secretariat for the discussion paper they provided, which addressed the highlights of the IPBES global assessment and report on biodiversity and pandemics, and much more.
- Canada welcomes the reference to various measures in paragraph 27 of the discussion document. We would propose that the CBD could contribute by increasing the flow of information on how those options are implemented to inspire others to adopt or adapt leading practices, scale up successes and identify and test alternatives.
- Canada is pleased to note that the discussion document also highlights the values of biodiversity associated with human psychological, emotional and spiritual health. The current global pandemic reminds us of the importance of nature, and in particular the opportunities for us to have safe contact with it, including in urban areas, for our mental, physical and spiritual health. These values should be more explicitly recognized and used as a lens for further CBD contributions to the development of a comprehensive One Health approach to 'Living in Harmony with Nature'.
- Thank you.