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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

SAFEGUARDING SPACE FOR NATURE AND SECURING OUR FUTURE: DEVELOPING A POST-2020 STRATEGY

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a proposal for a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting (decision XIII/1, para. 34). At its twenty-first meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Technical, Technological and Scientific Advice requested the Executive Secretary, when preparing proposals for the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to make provisions for sound analytical work in order to ensure that this framework is based on the best available evidence (recommendation XX/1, para. 8).
2. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith for the information of participants in the twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice an information document with the outcomes of the international symposium on ‘Safeguarding space for nature and securing our future: developing a post-2020 strategy’, held in London on 27 and 28 February 2018. The symposium was hosted by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the National Geographic Society (NGS), in partnership with BirdLife International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. The different issues covered by the discussions and, especially, the resulting key messages are of relevance to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular with regard to decision XIII/30 requesting the development of options to accelerate progress towards the achievement of those Aichi Biodiversity Targets which have been identified as the least advanced. The report is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* CBD/SBSTTA/22/1.

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM:**SAFEGUARDING SPACE FOR NATURE AND SECURING OUR FUTURE: DEVELOPING A POST-2020 STRATEGY**

1. With an ever-expanding human population and demand for natural resources, Earth's wild species and wild spaces are rapidly being lost. Global vertebrate populations have declined by 58% in the past 40 years and are predicted to reduce by two-thirds by 2020, with 75% of the planet's surface now experiencing measurable human pressures. The adoption of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provided an ambitious benchmark for the future and clearly articulated the essential role of biodiversity in sustainable development.
2. Under Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, governments have agreed that "By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas 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 landscape and seascape". But is this target adequate, and, if not, what space needs to be conserved and how in order to sustain humans and the rest of life on Earth?
3. Over the next two years, governments will be reviewing implementation of the current Strategic Plan and considering the elements of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework to meet the Convention's 2050 Vision.
4. As part of the process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and in support of IUCN Resolution WCC-2016-Res-096-EN¹ on 'Safeguarding space for nature and securing our future: developing a post-2020 strategy', the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and National Geographic Society (NGS), in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), BirdLife International, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), hosted a two day public symposium from 27 to 28 February 2018 in London, UK².
5. The Symposium brought together 250 participants from 22 different countries, including the Executive Secretary and senior staff from the CBD Secretariat, scientists, conservation practitioners, policy-makers, business leaders, civil society and donors. The key objectives of the meeting were to: (i) review the science informing future area-based conservation targets; (ii) evaluate the implications of various policy options for delivering area-based conservation; (iii) provide balanced, evidence-based recommendations to Parties to the CBD and other intergovernmental policy processes; and (iv) raise awareness of the need for a more ambitious, holistic and effective strategy to safeguard space for nature, incorporating protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
6. This information document includes a summary of the key messages that resulted from the Symposium and the papers presented (see Annex 1), for consideration by Parties to the CBD as well as by partner organisations.
7. The key messages that resulted from the meeting are:

¹ See IUCN Resolution [WCC-2016-Res-096-EN](#)

² See Symposium webpage <https://www.zsl.org/science/whats-on/safeguarding-space-for-nature-and-securing-our-future-developing-a-post-2020>

- (a) A focus on quality as well as quantity is key. While there has been extensive and rapid expansion of protected areas reported by Parties to the CBD, evidence suggests that Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 is unlikely to be achieved comprehensively by 2020³, especially when considering the essential qualitative elements. When considering the approaches needed to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, it will be essential to recognise and report on all protected and conserved areas, including those conserved privately⁴, or by indigenous peoples and local communities⁵.
- (b) A particular focus could be placed on ‘other effective area-based conservation measures’ (OECMs) to ensure that *de facto* conservation beyond protected areas is appropriately identified and included⁶.
- (c) Recognition of areas that are of particular importance for the conservation of biodiversity can be addressed through inclusion of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)⁷, equivalent national priorities, Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and other priority areas determined through systematic conservation planning methods.
- (d) Including all areas of importance for ecosystem services, including provisioning, regulating and supporting functions, must complement points (a-c). Some of these areas overlap with those of importance for biodiversity, but these also require further space. There is a need to use landscape-scale and marine spatial planning to safeguard, buffer, connect and maintain biodiversity and the essential ecosystem functions and services that sustain human livelihoods and planetary health.
- (e) The analyses of different dimensions of space for nature converged on the understanding that the spatial requirements to achieve conservation of the most important areas for biodiversity as well as essential ecosystem services would be much greater than the current minimum targets under Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, but require a more integrated strategy on space for nature. A healthy planet requires that the most important areas are conserved, restored and connected through ecologically functional landscapes under a range of management approaches. This must also incorporate Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 (to at least halve, and where possible bring close to zero, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, and significantly reduce degradation and fragmentation), 7 (to sustainably manage areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, ensuring conservation of biodiversity) and 15 (to enhance ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks by conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems), and recognise that the achievement of a range of other targets focused on sustainable consumption and production – including those under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other conventions and policy processes – is key to reducing the threats to and impacts on space for nature.
- (f) It is important to focus on and track outcomes. International standards⁸ provide a benchmark for measuring effectiveness, including protected and conserved area governance, effective management, site planning and design, and conservation and social outcomes.
- (g) There are a wide range of perspectives arising from the scientific literature, as well as public opinion surveys⁹ and campaigns¹⁰, which are relevant to the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity

³ See Butchart *et al* 2015 (<https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12158>)

⁴ See Bingham *et al* 2016 (http://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/PARKS-23.1-Bingham-et-al-10.2305IUCN.CH_2017.PARKS-23-1HB.en.pdf)

⁵ See Corrigan *et al* 2016 (<https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12397>)

⁶ See [OECM Guidelines](#)

⁷ See [A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas](#)

⁸ See for example the [IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas](#)

framework. While some favour anthropocentric rationales for conservation, including market-based approaches to conservation¹¹, others focus more on strict protection of nature for its own sake, but despite some of these apparently diverging perspectives a common ground emerged upon which to start to build an optimal framework and a transformative plan that can be implemented from global to local scales.

- (h) The successful mobilisation of financial and other resources is essential to implementation of a post-2020 biodiversity framework and may be enhanced with innovative and international sourcing of financing for biodiversity across all sectors, as well as a focus on removing harmful subsidies and financial disincentives.
- (i) Safeguarding space for nature has to be inclusive, equitable and needs to consider civil society as a whole. Key to this will be the consideration of the human dimension in nature conservation and empowering communities to conserve their environment whilst supporting human rights.
- (j) Positive and common messaging about the status and trends of biodiversity, supported by science, public and political communication strategies may be beneficial to the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and if developed in parallel, may enhance implementation of a future framework.

⁹ See for example [ZSL's space for nature public opinion survey](#)

¹⁰ See for example the [Nature Needs Half](#) campaign

¹¹ See Holmes *et al* 2017 (<https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12811>)