

Responses to the questions raised during the special session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice related to GBO-5 on September 15, 2020

During the Special Virtual Session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice, held on 15 September 2020, a number of questions were raised by participants related to the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. Because of the limited time available, it was not possible to address these questions during the session. For the benefits of participants, these questions have been summarized below and answers to them are provided.

1. Why is the term “nature-based solutions” used in GBO-5 given that it is not universally accepted?

The term “Nature-based solutions” is used in GBO-5 alongside other terms such as “ecosystem-based approaches” and “ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation”. It is used as a popular shorthand to refer to the various ways in which societies can work with biodiversity to address multiple challenges. This includes issues related to carbon sequestration but also broader issues, such as promoting the use of natural pollinators and the use of biological enemies of agricultural pests in agricultural systems. It also includes ensuring genetic diversity in managed systems to ensure resiliency to threats and pressures. It may also include the restoration of degraded areas, such as of wetlands and mangrove forests or the protection of forested watersheds, to protect and guard against the impacts of climate change. For further examples see box 22.5 on page 175. Specifically, with regards to climate change, GBO-5 also notes, on page 174, that there are a number of caveats for nature-based solution in relation to carbon sequestration.

2. Since the draft of GBO-5 was made available for peer review have additional reports and materials been considered?

Yes, GBO-5 takes into account recent publications and reports, some which were only published a few days before GBO-5 was released. It also takes into account all of the additional national reports provided since the Outlook was made available for peer review in November 2019.

3. How can the results of GBO-5 be communicated, and would it be possible to prepare additional communication materials such as short videos?

Initial information indicates that GBO-5 has had a large reach with the media and its messages have been discussed in numerous news outlets. Plans are also in place to highlight the messages from GBO-5 for the United Nations High Level Political Forum later in September. Additional opportunities to prepare further communication materials and to present the results at additional meetings and events are being explored.

4. Why does the report not address issues related to rights?

Rights, including those related human rights, gender rights, equity, intergenerational equity and land-use rights among others, are clearly important aspects of meaningfully and effectively addressing the decline of biodiversity. In GBO-5, the relevance of the SDGs that focus on the strengthening of equality and rights are noted (p.27) and the importance of rights is identified in relation to the leverage point addressing justice and inclusion (see table 21.1 on page 181).The importance of rights, as well as the risks of not respecting them, are further highlighted on pages 8, 45, 98, 150, 178, and 179. In addition, Box 6.1 provides examples related to fisheries management in some countries which take rights-based approaches. Further in Box 18.2, related to the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlook*, reference to the importance of rights is also made.

5. What reasons have been identified for the limited progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?

The challenges to reaching specific Aichi Biodiversity Targets are identified in section II of GBO-5. These are identified for each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Further additional lessons are identified on pages 132 to 138 under the heading of taking stock of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.