



## High-Level Segment

2020 United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Kunming, People's Republic of China  
“Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”

### Roundtable A: Putting biodiversity on a Path of Recovery

Investing in conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, and addressing the main drivers of biodiversity loss, across landscapes and seascapes, and engaging all people.

#### Context

In 2010 the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. This Vision provides an agreed long-term direction for biodiversity, one where “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”. While there has been some progress towards the 2050 Vision over the last ten years, the world is not currently on track to reach it. The main pressures on biodiversity – habitat change, climate change, unsustainable consumption, invasive alien species and pollution – continue to erode the web of life. Each of these pressures is underpinned by a set of underlying drivers, often embedded deep within our systems of decision-making, including the lack of awareness of biodiversity and its values and the limited incorporation of these values into accounting and economic systems and patterns of consumption and production.

While we are not currently on track to reach the 2050 Vision, available evidence shows that it is not too late to slow, halt and eventually reverse current trends in the decline of biodiversity. Moreover, the actions required to achieve this turnaround (to ‘bend the curve of biodiversity loss’) are fully consistent with, and indeed crucial components of, the goals and targets set out under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

#### A Portfolio of actions needed

Multiple lines of evidence suggest that realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity depends on a portfolio of actions in the following areas, each of which is necessary but none on its own sufficient:

- Efforts to conserve and restore biodiversity need to be scaled up at all levels using approaches that will depend on local context. These need to combine major increases in the extent and effectiveness of well-connected protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, large-scale restoration of degraded habitats, and improvements in the condition of nature across farmed and urban landscapes as well as inland water bodies, coasts and oceans;
- Efforts to keep climate change well below 2 degrees C and close to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels to prevent climate impacts from overwhelming all other actions in support of biodiversity;
- Effective steps to address all remaining pressures driving biodiversity loss;

- Transformations in the production of goods and services, especially food. This will include adopting agricultural and fishery methods that can meet growing global demand while imposing fewer negative impacts on the environment, and reducing the pressure to convert more land to production;
- Transformations to limit the demand for increased food production by adopting healthier diets and reducing food waste, and also to limit the consumption of other material goods and services affecting biodiversity.

Each of these areas of action relies on substantial changes and innovations, involving a wide range of actors at all scales and in all sectors of society. However, even the most intensive efforts in each of these areas will not succeed in ‘bending the curve’ of biodiversity loss, and meet global objectives on food security, unless part of wider transitions in societies’ management of land and forests, fisheries and oceans, freshwater, agriculture, food, climate action, cities and infrastructure and health. Each of these transition areas involves recognizing the value of biodiversity and enhancing or restoring the functionality of the ecosystems on which all aspects of human activity depend, and at the same time recognizing and reducing the negative impacts of human activity on biodiversity; thus, enabling a virtuous cycle – reducing the loss and degradation of biodiversity and enhancing human well-being.

There is no single, ‘ideal’ pathway towards the 2050 Vision on Biodiversity that applies equally to all regions and all circumstances. Within the essential areas of change outlined above, there are many alternative approaches which may reflect local conditions and priorities.

Finding solutions that address all the varying values we attach to nature is challenging, but the potential rewards are great. As nations evaluate options on how to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a unique opportunity to initiate the transformative changes needed to achieve the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature. Such actions would put biodiversity on a path to recovery, reduce the risk of future pandemics, and produce multiple additional benefits for people.

#### Guiding questions:

1. *What changes or transitions consistent with achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity are already ongoing in your country and how will these be further supported?*
2. *What action will your government take to ensure that biodiversity in your country is recovering by 2030?*
3. *What concrete measures will your government put in place to reduce the direct and underlying drivers of biodiversity loss?*
4. *What support will your government provide to the global community’s efforts to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 and to reaching the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity?*
5. *What is the role of non-state actors in your country in reaching the 2050 Vision for biodiversity and what will your government do to facilitate and support the engagement of all sectors of society to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030?*