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ACTORS OTHER THAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK – CATALYZING AMBITION AND ACTION 2020-2030

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, through decision 14/34,1 encouraged indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant organizations and stakeholders including the private sector to consider developing, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, biodiversity commitments² that may contribute to an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to make such information available as a contribution to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.³ In the annex of that same decision, Parties acknowledged high-level political engagement among relevant groups and stakeholders as important to raise awareness of the post-2020 process, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and biodiversity more broadly..

2. At the first part of the UN Biodiversity Conference, held from 11 to 15 October 2021, Ministers and other heads of delegation at the high-level segment adopted the Kunming Declaration.⁴ The need for urgent and integrated actions for transformative change across all sectors of the economy and society was stressed. Ministers committed to enable the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, local governments and authorities, academia, the business and financial sectors, and other relevant stakeholders,⁵ and to encourage them to make voluntary commitments in the context of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People and continue to build the momentum for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

3. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further develop, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting, options to enhance review mechanisms, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention. The Executive Secretary responded to this request in CBD/SBI/3/11, which includes a proposal for inclusion of

¹ CBD/COP/DEC/14/34, para. 12.

² The term commitment means a pledge to take action and to inspire others to improve the state of biodiversity, through different approaches and measures, based on science, and aligned to one or more of the CBD objectives.

³ <https://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-14/announcement/nature-action-agenda-egypt-to-china-en.pdf>
<https://www.cbd.int/portals/action-agenda/>

⁴ Kunming Declaration: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/c2db/972a/fb32e0a277bf1ccfff742be5/cop-15-05-add1-en.pdf>

⁵ For the purpose of this document the list of actors: “indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, local governments and authorities, academia, the business and financial sectors, and other relevant stakeholders”, are referred to as “actors other than national governments” or “non-state actors”.

actors beyond national governments in the review mechanism.⁶ This note compliments CBD/SBI/3/11 and its addendum (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.6) and presents options to strengthen the engagement of actors other than national governments (also referred to as non-State actors) through the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People (Action Agenda), as a mechanism to catalyse commitments and measurable actions from such actors to account towards the implementation of the goals and targets under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Section two sets the context for multi-actor commitments and engagement in support of the post-2020 framework. Section three presents the Action Agenda, including its objectives and results to date, explaining the work undertaken by the CBD Secretariat, with support of the COP Presidencies and the Friends of Action. Commitments received and profiled on the Action Agenda show a variety of action categories, groups of actors, and methodologies to track progress. This section also presents the criteria and process to submit commitments. Section four presents a synthesis of experiences in other processes. Section five presents opportunities and options to account for commitments from actors other than national governments in potential global stocktakes and gap reports under the post-2020 framework's proposed review mechanism. Section six summarizes the main considerations on the role of actors other than national governments, as part of the post-2020 framework and its further implementation to 2030.

II. BUILDING ACTIONS FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

4. Biodiversity has been recognized as a major threat to the world economy, to social development and to planetary sustainability. Actions to limit climate change and protect biodiversity are recognized as mutually supporting goals. Achieving both is necessary to provide sustainable and equitable benefits to people.⁷ While the role that biodiversity plays in climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, food, health, and water security, poverty eradication and sustainable development is better understood in most global policy domains, biodiversity loss⁸ continues to threaten food security, human livelihoods and public health, with negative impacts disproportionately felt by the most marginalized and vulnerable communities.

5. During the past 50 years the drivers of biodiversity loss⁹ have accelerated to levels unprecedented in human history, leading to an alarming and ongoing state of biodiversity decline. Severe strains on the health of the planet and natural systems are also visible in the fractured societal relations and rising inequalities which have been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. A collapse of ecosystem services would put at risk many countries' prospects to shift out of poverty and equally jeopardize hundreds of millions of people that rely on nature for food, jobs and protection, and more.¹⁰

6. Unless action is upscaled, a continuing decline in biodiversity can be expected based on the pressures currently faced by the world's ecosystems, risking irreversible losses with far-reaching

⁶ Further information is included in CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.6, Commitments from actors other than national governments in the context of an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting mechanism.

⁷ Scientific Outcome of the IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change. 24 June 2021.

⁸ About one million animal and plant species out of 8.1 million are threatened with extinction -- more than ever before in human history. Humanity has depleted 83 percent of wild mammals and half of all plants, and severely altered three-quarters of ice-free land and two-thirds of marine environments.

⁹ The major pressures driving biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, include: 1) Loss, degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats, including forests, grasslands, wetlands, river systems and coral reefs and their associated ecosystems. 2) Overexploitation of biological resources and unsustainable production practices in key activities, such as agriculture, fishery, aquaculture and forestry. 3) Pollution, especially from the excess build-up of nutrients. 4) Introduction and spread of invasive alien species. 5) Impacts of climate change, associated to the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, on vulnerable ecosystems.

¹⁰ World Bank 2021. The Economic Case for Biodiversity.

implications for human well-being and the economy.¹¹ Increasing pressures are mainly linked to unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, population growth and technological developments.

7. Lessons learned from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and findings in other scientific reports¹² show trends towards collective and integrated actions and responsibility to address the drivers of biodiversity loss and to strengthen measures to safeguard and sustainably use biodiversity. Attention has also been directed to the synergies between climate and biodiversity, and the allocation of resources for real implementation in line with the Paris Agreement and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The scientific analysis of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5)* points to eight necessary transitions¹³ that recognize the value of biodiversity, the need to restore the ecosystems on which all human activity depends, and the urgency of reducing negative impacts. Enabling such transitions requires a combination of policy measures, actions, and incentives to confront the biodiversity crisis and ensure equitable and sustainable benefits for all people.

8. Over the past years, multi-partner coalitions have inspired inclusive, integrated and urgent actions, resulting in ambitious commitments for people and the planet. In 2020, the One Planet Summit, organized by the President of France, announced the 30x30 High Ambition Coalition comprising public, private and community engagement to protect at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and marine areas by 2030. That same year, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) convened the UN Biodiversity Summit under the theme “*Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development*” mobilizing political impetus behind the post-2020 framework. Additional initiatives led to the endorsement of the Leader’s Pledge for Nature and the 2020 Global Ocean Alliance. In 2021, these coalitions issued a joint statement reaffirming the urgency of reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, addressing the interdependent crises of biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, climate change and achieving sustainable development. At the 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress, the 2021 UNGA and the high-level segment of the 2021 UN Biodiversity Conference, additional commitments were announced by actors other than national governments.

9. Multi-actor coalitions at all levels are proving important in mobilizing society to support the necessary transitions, as mentioned in GBO-5. Further reports by multi-stakeholder Action Agendas¹⁴ show how these serve as policy instruments in the context of sustainable development, ocean and climate actions, enabling non-State actors to be part of sector specific systems transformations. Analyses of subnational and non-State actor agendas show that successful multilateral processes are based on the principles of inclusiveness and openness.

10. Enabling a whole-of society approach will be essential to achieve the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Collective efforts among actors other than national governments at all levels will be needed to help raise ambition, inspire change, and facilitate long-term approaches to tackle biodiversity loss and other global challenges. Governments alone cannot undertake the magnitude of the challenge, but they can develop guidelines and other measures to create an enabling environment and steer policy change in the right direction. By building on the work of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, actors other than national governments could inform governments and other partners of their ambition and actions in support of the implementation of the post-2020

¹¹ Current models of global consumption and production are outpacing the gains achieved on conservation and subsidizing the destruction of nature, encouraging unsustainable and risk-prone development pathways.

¹² Reports like the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the UK Government’s Dasgupta Review of the Economics of Biodiversity, the World Bank’s The Economic Case for Nature and the World Economic Forums’ The future of Nature and Business Policy Companion.

¹³ The fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* indicates that immediate, transformative, and holistic changes are required, encompassing economic, social, political, and technological factors in eight areas: land and forest transformation; sustainable fisheries and oceans transformation; sustainable freshwater transformation; sustainable agriculture transformation; sustainable food systems transformation; sustainable climate action transformation; urban and infrastructure transformation; and the “One Health Approach”.

¹⁴ <https://www.pbl.nl/sites/default/files/downloads/pbl-2019-opportunities-for-the-action-agenda-for-nature-and-people-3630.pdf>

framework, following guidance and opportunities in the context of an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting mechanism.

III. DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE SHARM EL-SHEIKH TO KUNMING ACTION AGENDA FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

A. Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People

11. In 2018 the Governments of Egypt and China, respectively COP-14 and COP-15 Presidents, together with the Secretariat, launched the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People to raise public and policy awareness about the urgent need to stem biodiversity loss and restore biodiversity health for the sake of humanity and the planet. The aim also included inspiring actions within the biodiversity community and across sectors to show integrated solutions to meet global challenges and catalyse initiatives across sectors and stakeholders in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

12. The Action Agenda is structured along four pillars: 1) promoting multi-actor commitments in support of the policy process; 2) strengthening engagement across different sectors; 3) identifying high impact sectors and their commitments; and 4) showcasing commitments on an online interoperable platform¹⁵. The Action Agenda’s interactive online portal under the Convention’s webpage profiles each commitment, disaggregating information by group of actors; action categories; types of actions, scale and location. Media materials, information graphs, videos, press releases and other digital media content is available for communication and outreach purposes. By connecting to the COP-15 host official website,¹⁶ the Action Agenda has also generated broader awareness and collaboration among domestic stakeholders in China. In general, the main benefits attributed to the Action Agenda are presented in table 1.

Table 1. How the Action Agenda benefits the post-2020 framework

<p>Main benefits include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showcasing commitments and actions to reverse nature loss by actors other than national governments (aligned to the GBO-5 transition pathways); 2. Demonstrating, through individual and cooperative commitments, that a significant number of actors other than national governments are already committed to the necessary transition pathways recommended by GBO-5; 3. Supporting further implementation at the global, domestic and local levels, through cooperative initiatives across sectors and stakeholders in support of the goals and targets of the post-2020 framework, as part of the review mechanism; 4. Encouraging others to follow the same essential path because it is in their best interest; 5. Raising public awareness about the risks of nature loss for people, the planet and the economy; 6. Explaining the urgency needed to transform our societies, and inspiring actions and collaboration between all stakeholders; 7. Connecting climate and nature actions, as well as broader economic, social and ecological considerations; 8. Strengthening engagement with key economic sectors to help addresses drivers of biodiversity loss identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) ; 9. Informing the development of policy frameworks to transform economic and financial systems to accelerate action aligned to the post-2020 framework.

¹⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/portals/action-agenda/>

¹⁶ <https://news.cop15-china.com.cn/api-content/cms/homepageen>

13. The Action Agenda is growing in number of commitments, partnership engagements and interest on the use of the Convention's interoperable web components. As of February 2022, the Action Agenda profiles 342 commitments¹⁷ and 130 partnership initiatives, including participation of over 700 organizations on 11 action categories, closely aligned to the GBO-5 transition pathways and two Protocols of the Convention: food systems and health; freshwater, coastal and ocean ecosystems; conservation and restoration of land ecosystem; climate change mitigation and adaptation; conservation and sustainable use of species; sustainable consumption and production; stewardship/ good governance; urban sustainability; green finance; biosafety; and access to benefit-sharing.

14. Since 2020, working in collaboration with programmatic areas of work under the Convention and its Protocols, a combination of high-level virtual events, technical webinars,¹⁸ social media and outreach have helped stimulate the increase of commitments pledged through the Action Agenda. Virtual events and dialogues have focused on the opportunities, challenges as well as motivations, for actors other than national governments, to make individual and collective commitments. The Action Agenda's revamped website in August 2021 also contributed to greater visibility, while providing an inclusive space to promote user interactions.

15. The Action Agenda's open-source digital components have also facilitated interoperable connections with emerging platforms, including the Cities with Nature¹⁹ platform hosted by ICLEI and the area-based registry under development by UNEP-WCMC.²⁰ Further platform interoperability at global and regional levels could enhance the coordination and collaboration between commitments under the Action Agenda portal and other platforms, including those managed by youth and IPLC networks, business initiatives and non-governmental coalitions. Opportunities will be explored with the biodiversity related conventions, the Rio conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), as well as at the regional level, including with the United Nations regional economic and social commissions.

16. Building on the vision and guidance of the COP-14 and COP-15 Presidency, an informal Friends of Action group was created in 2021 to reinforce key pillars of the Action Agenda in the lead up to COP-15. In the absence of the high-level panel,²¹ the group has advised the COP Presidencies of opportunities to raise attention of sectoral specific commitments, from non-State actors, and to keep the Action Agenda's momentum high from COP-15 to COP-16 and beyond. Regular dialogues with the COP Presidencies have helped to build rapport of the support available and needed from actors other than national governments to champion biodiversity commitments across different sectors of the economy and society, at different levels, building on scientific evidence and good practices to enable the necessary 2030 transition pathways.

17. The strategic focus towards commitments has led to further collaborative work with other platforms, including the Dutch Action Agenda,²² the IUCN Nature 2030 portal and the Business for Nature platform²³ to identify levers of change, collaboration and compatible guidance to enable collective progress. Analytical reports prepared in 2020 and 2021 by governments and non-State actors have also provided information on the economic rationale for valuing nature in key productive sectors. These reports have strengthened the Action Agenda's narrative to drive systems transformation in sectors tackling land-use

¹⁷ Additional commitments received from high-level events in September, October and November 2021 will be added.

¹⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/events.shtml>

¹⁹ See <https://citieswithnature.org/>

²⁰ The UNEP-WCMC area-based commitments platform provides options for commitment makers to report periodically on progress made and to highlight actors who would be responsible for actions to advance their commitment.

²¹ CBD/COP/DEC/14/34, annex, para. 16.

²² 152 pledges from Dutch companies, civil society organizations, knowledge institutions, local authorities (provinces, municipalities, water boards) and citizens regarding their contributions to global biodiversity targets. The mobilization of quantitative ambition from the Dutch Action Agenda, for example, has led to a 2030 target of biodiversity restoration of 400,000 hectares in the Netherlands and one million hectares outside of the Netherlands, along with species recovery amounting to 50 species in the Netherlands and 500 outside the Netherlands.

²³ See <https://www.businessfornature.org/>

change, including sustainable food production and consumption; sustainable infrastructure and sustainable finance.²⁴

B. Commitments registered on the Action Agenda

18. Commitments registered through the Action Agenda, range from the establishment of multi-million-dollar global funds to the development of stewardship guidelines and training for farmers, as well as guidelines, tools and knowledge products for oil, gas and mining industries and techniques to apply responsible business models across value chains, to name a few. Annex I presents examples of commitments profiled on the Action Agenda. All commitments are publicly accessible and fully searchable on the online Action Agenda portal.

19. A majority of the commitments received cover issues relating to area-based conservation and restoration; reducing threats to biodiversity; promoting sustainable use; developing capacities and sharing knowledge; promoting outreach and awareness; and mobilizing finance for biodiversity linked to sustainable development.²⁵ Most commitments address more than one of the globally agreed biodiversity objectives and more than two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targeting terrestrial and marine ecosystems, climate mitigation and adaptation, food security and genetic diversity, water quality, and other socioeconomic priorities.

20. Overall commitments include a combination of analytical, aspirational, cross-sectoral, and time-bound actions contributing to policy, planning, capacity development, management and outreach. Locations and scales of the interventions (local, subnational, national, or multiple countries) are specified in most commitments. They may also indicate if actions undertaken are in collaboration with national governments and/or with other actors that do not represent national governments. For example, the commitment from the Dutch Action Agenda provides an overview of 152 committed activities in the Netherlands and identifies new partnership commitments among nature organizations, civil society, NGOs, youth, academic and knowledge institutions, local governments, and business and industry.

21. Actors representing the agricultural and financial sectors have submitted the largest portion of commitments. Over 500 business representatives and more than 100 finance institutions are associated to pledges profiled on the Action Agenda. Corporate commitments have focused on internal business strategies, goals and targets to reverse biodiversity loss; methodologies to report on progress; responsible business models across value chains, including eliminating deforestation; and sustainable sourcing and use of sustainable natural resources for food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.²⁶ Other types of business commitments have focused on advocacy, for example, calling on governments to eliminate and redirect all harmful subsidies and for production and consumption footprints to be within planetary boundaries.²⁷ The economic rationale for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use has shown that the costs of inaction greatly outweigh the opportunity costs. Awareness and information on environmental footprints, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity is growing, especially within the private sector, leading to further work on nature related disclosures and reporting.

22. Civil society groups and academic institutions have also provided a large share of commitments, promoting local and regional stakeholder and rightsholders engagement, through dialogue events focusing on advocacy, capacity development and other trainings. For example, during the 2021 NGO Action

²⁴ New Nature Economy Report II: The Future of Nature and Business. 2020
https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Future_Of_Nature_And_Business_2020.pdf

²⁵ 2022 Action Agenda Information Brief. <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/statistics/>

²⁶ UEBT 56 company commitment. Act4Nature commitment.

²⁷ Business for Nature. Commitment from [CEO's of major companies](#).

Forum,²⁸ on the margins of COP-15, eight biodiversity alliances²⁹ representing dozens of NGOs and private-public organizations, publicly announced a joint call for action: “*Towards Kunming: My Commitments for Nature*” to: 1) increase participation of non-State actors in the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; 2) support national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national implementation; 3) support strategies for biodiversity mainstreaming, with engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth; 4) further promote education and public awareness; 5) invest in biodiversity practices in China and abroad; and 6) mobilize non-State actors to catalyze further action in the context of COP15, the post-2020 framework, and the Action Agenda.

C. Criteria and process to submit commitments

23. Commitments by actors other than national governments can be submitted through the Action Agenda on a rolling basis following the criteria³⁰ presented in this section and four pledge forms noted in paragraph 27. A commitment can apply to any ecosystem, sector, scale, and level. It should include a clear explanation of the intended biodiversity relevant action(s), and how such contributes to at least one of the three objectives of the Convention. The action(s) should be scientifically based, tangible, timebound and measurable. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets and draft goals and targets of the post 2020 framework could serve as a guide to formulate commitments.

24. Commitments should inspire transformational changes, with a long-term direction, to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and realize the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature.³¹ Action(s) to implement the commitments could depict ways and means to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity across productive sectors covered in decisions of COP-13 and COP-14. This could entail targeted measures addressing direct or indirect causes of biodiversity loss or actions to advance measurable conservation and sustainable use objectives. For the business sector it is encouraged that their commitments include plans for addressing value chains, if possible, as this is the most concrete way of scaling up success and fundamentally engaging small and medium companies in the long run.

25. In parallel, commitments should raise awareness of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystem-based solutions, including approaches to restore biodiversity health, and inspire others to act. An indication of how progress will be measured and reported, including baselines and metrics used in the process is highly encouraged. To foster coherence and integration across other policy objectives, commitments could demonstrate linkages to the SDGs, as well as to the goals of other Rio conventions and MEAs. An indication of whether the commitment includes national governments, or partnerships with actors other than national governments, is also requested information.

26. The broad heterogeneity amongst the various types of actors and commitments, makes it difficult to use one common pledge form and yardstick to assess progress.³² For this reason, four digital Action Agenda pledge forms³³ and guidelines were developed, with respective sector representatives, to encourage and facilitate commitments from: 1) local and subnational governments; 2) private sector (e.g. businesses/industry and finance); 3) other organizations (e.g. NGOs, academia, youth groups, women groups, indigenous peoples and local communities); and 4) individual (e.g. the general public).

²⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/action-forum>

²⁹ The following eight biodiversity alliances: 1. Shan Shui Conservation Centre; 2. Friends of Nature; 3. Paradise Foundation; 4. China Environmental Protection Foundation; 5. Global Environmental Institute; 6. Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology Foundation; 7. Greenovation Hub; 8. One Planet Foundation.

³⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/criteria.shtml>

³¹ 2050 Vision: By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

³² PBL. October 2021. Accountability of commitments by non-State actors in the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework. <https://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/accountability-of-commitments-by-non-state-actors-in-the-cbd-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework>

³³ The pledge forms are available at <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/contribute/>

27. Each pledge form has mandatory and optional fields, digitally designed to allow each pledge to appear in the search functions of the Action Agenda portal, in a manner compatible with the broader CBD IT and knowledge management system. The software web design allows information to be reviewed and grouped according to: actors³⁴; individual or collective commitments; action category; location; scale; and contribution to other processes. Despite this, manual analyses, revisions, and categorization of commitments are still necessary and undertaken to ensure data accuracy and relevance. Aside from enhancing efficiencies and data compatibility, the Action Agenda's open-source web components and guidelines are being tested to facilitate increased platform connections, while avoiding duplication of efforts.

D. Monitoring and progress tracking

28. After the adoption of the post-2020 framework, existing commitments registered in the Action Agenda will be further reviewed for users to update commitments in line with COP-15 decisions. For future performance and progress tracking against the post-2020 framework, the Action Agenda will propose that all commitments include reports, aligned to the global goals and targets under the framework.

29. Building on the experience of the Action Agenda, additional guidelines will be needed to facilitate an analysis and accounting of commitments by actors other than national governments, especially if such commitments, and their associate actions, are not visible in the national reports of Parties.³⁵ This will, however, require a continued mandate for the Action Agenda to serve as a platform to 2030 to engage and account for the commitments of non-State actors, as a contribution to the implementation of the framework and to the proposed global stock-take, as part of the review mechanism of the Convention. Opportunities and options are explored in Section V.

30. The challenge will be to offer guidance on what and how to track progress at different levels and among different actors. Most commitments, to date, do not state performance indicators and progress tracking methodologies and those that do, show methodological differences when it comes to indicators, monitoring and tracking progress. There is a lack of tools and coordination to facilitate data flows, and to monitor, verify and aggregate data, among different actors. This will be necessary to avoid weakening performance, impact and implementation.³⁶

31. Steps to examine methodologies and performance indicators and develop coherent guidance to assess commitments against the draft post-2020 goals and targets are growing. For example, in view of target 15 of the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which calls on businesses to assess, monitor and report on impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, several partners have been working to review sector specific contributions to the post-2020 biodiversity goals and targets. Understanding direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity could complement information on environmental related performance standards and impacts and, also help to connect post-2020 progress indicators into other review processes. As noted in paragraph 39, the CBD business and biodiversity community is examining suitable biodiversity indicators to align data to the post 2020 review mechanism. In addition, IPBES is expected to deliver a methodological assessment on business and biodiversity, in 2024, with a view to analyze existing metrics, approaches and tools, which can complement existing work. The Business for Nature coalition is also working with business initiatives and organizations to simplify the landscape for business action and to provide aligned guidance on how to set science-based targets, working closely with the science-based targets initiative (SBTI) for nature.

³⁴ Eight groups are currently identified.

³⁵ <https://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/accountability-of-commitments-by-non-state-actors-in-the-cbd-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework>

³⁶ PBL. October 2021. Accountability of commitments by non-state actors in the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework. <https://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/accountability-of-commitments-by-non-state-actors-in-the-cbd-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework>

IV. EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS FROM OTHER PROCESSES

32. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) there is a process in place for actors other than national governments to make commitments towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. While the mandates and functions of UNFCCC differ from those of CBD, both conventions tackle inter-related global environmental challenges and there is significant scope to learn of the experience with the engagement of actors other than national governments under the climate regime.

33. The Climate Action Agenda for actors other than national governments has advanced since 2014 under UNFCCC through a variety of processes and mechanisms, some mandated by the Parties to the Climate Convention, while others launched outside of the formal negotiations through the Presidencies of the COPs though acknowledged by COP. Among them, the role of the Climate Champions in facilitating the scaling-up and introduction of new and robust commitments by actors other than national governments has been well recognized. Actors other than national governments have also been involved in a range of voluntary initiatives driving global climate mitigation and adaptation ambition, such as the Global Covenant of Mayors,³⁷ the Climate Action Summits,³⁸ and the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure.³⁹ A similar approach, through voluntary biodiversity initiatives, has been building impetus towards the post-2020 global biodiversity agenda, albeit only for the past few years.

34. The Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) launched by the Peruvian and French Presidencies at COP20 in Lima in 2014, served to both generate momentum ahead of COP21 which adopted the Paris Agreement and to demonstrate the contribution of commitments from non-State actors to closing the ambition gap by 2020. In parallel to the LPAA, commitments by actors other than national governments are registered under the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) platform, launched by UNFCCC Secretariat in 2014.

35. At COP22 in 2016, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action formalized the process of systematically engaging with non-State actors, leading to COP26, in 2021, with recognized improvements on the NAZCA in relation to accountability and tracking progress of voluntary initiatives. After nearly eight years, dedicated resources, and the support of an analytical community called the *Climate Action Methodology Data and Analysis* (CAMDA)⁴⁰, the climate portal has reached over 18,000 actors representing over 27,000 initiatives.⁴¹ With the support of the CAMDA, the portal provides independent assessments, coordinated data-gathering and analytical approaches, as well as, releases an annual global aggregation report that quantifies the (potential) impacts of the commitments made by actors other than national government.⁴² Additional support and analyses have been provided by CAMDA for UNEP's Gap Reports, with special chapters and reports focusing on non-State climate action.

36. The Climate Action portal demonstrates that accountability and credibility does not necessarily need to be the first point of attention when building momentum towards issues under intergovernmental processes, whereas making commitments and transparent reporting are. Accountability measures are developed over time, with a network of people and organizations engaging in aggregating, monitoring,

³⁷ The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy was established in 2016 as a coalition of over 10,000 cities and local governments and over 80 global partners. The Global Covenant includes ambitious quantifiable mitigation and adaptation commitments accounting for an estimated 2.3 billion tonnes CO₂e of annual emissions reductions and utilizes a rigorous accounting and reporting methodology which is adapted to different regional contexts.

³⁸ Non-State actors hosted the first Global Climate Action Summit in 2014 as a supporting event outside UNFCCC. The Summit in San Francisco in 2018 generated over 500 new and additional commitments under the Global Climate Action portal.

³⁹ The TCFD was created after COP21 in 2015 as a financial disclosure system for climate change risks.

⁴⁰ CAMDA consisting of experts from academics, think tanks, foundations and institutes and is independent of the UNFCCC Secretariat.

⁴¹ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action>.

⁴²PBL, October 2021. Accountability of commitments by non-state actors in the CBD- post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

analysing and reporting to determine if commitments can deliver on their promises.⁴³ Additionally, under UNFCCC many of the non-State actions registered are from Europe and North America and focus on particular sectors.⁴⁴ Notwithstanding the asymmetries in global non-State actor engagement and commitments, this may also reflect limited outreach, access and capacity gaps. Further lessons from the Climate Action Agenda may help to inform options to build the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People and other coordinated processes under CBD.

V. OPPORTUNITIES AND OPTIONS: COMMITMENTS FROM ACTORS OTHER THAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

37. Tackling biodiversity loss will require an unprecedented degree of collaboration and engagement, at all levels of society. As stated in the first draft of the post-2020 framework, a whole of society approach includes all actors, including stakeholder, rightsholders and the public. An inclusive approach means extending engagement beyond the environmental sector, to connect biodiversity benefits and losses to society and to economic activities, in order, to assess trends, enable the necessary long-term transitions and incentivize implementation in the right direction. Continued political support for the Action Agenda is a necessary pre-condition for the opportunities and options outlined below.

38. As noted in section III, the Action Agenda contributes to the post-2020 framework in numerous ways. By engaging actors other than national governments and mobilizing different sectors of society to understand and support the post-2020 framework, the intergovernmental process could benefit from good practices, including success stories from actors in different sectors, different regions and at different levels, to demonstrate what is working well and what could work elsewhere. Broader engagement could also facilitate the creation of new multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration, test innovative approaches, mobilize private finance, offer new knowledge, and raise interest among sectors traditionally impacting biodiversity loss, in order, to account for their dependencies and impacts, and ultimately to shift practices. In facilitating the aggregation of data into the proposed global stock-take process, the Action Agenda could help to identify relevant sector coalitions, distill best practices and inform non-State actors of available resources and knowledge tools to advance the post-2020 goals and targets on biodiversity. For example, as agreed sets of indicators currently do not exist for businesses, the CBD business and biodiversity community has been working to identify suitable biodiversity indicators to align data to the post-2020 review mechanism and monitoring framework and provide a space for dialogue and exchange on collaborative initiatives, challenges and developments.

39. At the same time, there could be risks that emerge from greenwashing, and negatively influencing the intergovernmental processes. To strengthen the opportunities and avoid the risks of counter-productive commitments, governments could create an enabling environment for actors other than national governments, inviting coordinated inputs from sector coalitions in the preparation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and the review process, following agreed guidelines aligned to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This could be a means for enhanced dissemination of the post-2020 framework through a whole of society approach, without undermining the role of government or shifting responsibility onto other actors. Practical guidelines could be developed, after adoption of the post-2020 framework, taking into account the draft recommendations contained in CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5,⁴⁵ and the proposed core elements for reporting presented in CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.6.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Alongside the uneven geographic spread, the lack of data and lack of visibility of non-State climate action in the Global South was identified as a key issue in a consultation on the future of Global Climate Action in UNFCCC. UNFCCC (March 2019) 'Summary of responses to consultation on the future of Global Climate Action in the UNFCCC' https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA_2019_03_21_GGCA.pdf

⁴⁵ Paragraph 14 of CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5 contains a proposal to invite indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, other multilateral environmental agreements, non-

40. The flexibility to engage with new actors and to demonstrate the actors already committing to the goals and targets of the post-2020 framework, offer opportunities to garner new ideas and solutions to boost implementation. This could, for example, also provide inputs to the review and learning sessions at future sessions of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and be complementary to the review process for the Parties. At the same rate, actors other than national governments could publicly announce their commitments and submit it to the Secretariat, describing how they plan to track progress, including methodologies and indicators to be used to measure performance and impact, or on the other hand indicating support needed in this regard.

41. Specific to the monitoring, review and reporting mechanism, consideration of a data and analytics community for biodiversity could facilitate the alignment of commitments from actors other than national governments, into a global analytical review of ambition by aggregating data in periodic gap analysis reports to show how commitments support and impact the post-2020 framework. To avoid heavy monitoring and reporting requirements, measures could build on existing data gathers and providers, using agreed indicators to measure progress on the post-2020 framework. The creation of a data and analytics community, similar to the CAMDA under the climate community, could be an option to also test the use of specific indicators and facilitate the coordination of data sources to streamline sector-related information from actors other than national governments. Such a community could also facilitate the coordination of data flows into different processes to avoid the duplication of commitments, and specifically contribute to future stock-take analyses and ‘biodiversity gap’ analyses, akin to the Climate Gap reports of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

42. Several of these actions are already being implemented or developed, in close cooperation with the Action Agenda, building on the experience of the Secretariat in collating commitments and managing stakeholder relationships (see annex II). This includes working with partners to map commitments against the draft post-2020 framework, to better understand the actions taken or to be taken, as well as the tools used and information gaps.

43. In developing guidance to analyze and account for biodiversity commitments from actors other than national governments, and demonstrate how commitments could contribute to the post-2020 framework in the context of an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting framework, the following options could be considered:

(a) Standardized guidelines and templates for reporting and verifying commitments which can be used to improve global level analysis and data aggregation into coalition stocktakes and gap reports from actors other than national governments. This could also be used to help facilitate access to information for national and regional analyses;

(b) Developing and promoting the use of metrics, as per the methodology under the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and other methodologies, for corporate and subnational and local authorities. This may include the identification and monitoring of dependencies and impacts on biodiversity by corporate and other entities;

(c) Encouraging those actors who have yet to submit commitments,⁴⁶ to do so underscoring actions that address one or more specific post-2020 target(s), within one-year after the adoption of the

governmental organizations, women’s groups, youth groups, research organizations, the business and finance community and representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, to develop commitments in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, using a template. A footnote indicates that these are to be prepared in the light of further discussions, including at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁴⁶ For actors who have already submitted their commitments as per decision 14/34, the Secretariat will facilitate measures to update their commitments on the online Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and people.

global biodiversity framework, to align with the cycles of national commitments and prior to the proposed global gap report to facilitate the analysis of these commitments;

(d) Continuing to collate standardized commitments from actors other than national Governments, and refining and enhancing interoperable web components, as needed, to expand the integrated search function under the Action Agenda and to take measures to stimulate collaboration and avoid double counting;

(e) Enhancing collaboration with related multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental sustainability processes working with actors other than national Governments and multi-stakeholder initiatives, *inter alia*, to benefit from cross-thematic stocktakes and dialogues; identify and promote sector specific reporting; among other pilot project activities associated with non-State actors (such as TNFD, Science-based Targets Network (SBTN), the pledge by multilateral development banks on biodiversity and climate, the Protecting Our Planet Challenge, the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance, the Clydebank Initiative for Green Shipping Corridors, and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forest and Land Use, etc)

VI. SUMMARY POINTS

44. There is an urgent and immediate need to stabilize the rate of loss and trigger recovery on terrestrial and marine ecosystems by the end of the decade, and, at the same time, to ensure continued benefits from natural and working ecosystems in an economy that values biodiversity as a core component of sustainability. Policy trends indicate growing support for collective and integrated actions and responsibility to safeguard and sustainably use biodiversity, while reducing negative impacts and incentivizing measures to foster synergies and mobilize resources, for biodiversity to regenerate so that ecosystem goods and services may be sustained or enhanced over time. The analysis of GBO-5 points to eight transitions, all necessary to bend the curve of biodiversity loss by 2030. This will require a combination of policy measures, actions, and incentives to enable the changes required to confront biodiversity loss and ensure equitable and sustainable benefits for all people.

45. An unprecedented degree of collaboration and engagement, among all actors and sectors⁴⁷, at all levels of society, will be needed to help raise ambition, inspire change, and facilitate long-term approaches to tackle the biodiversity crisis, together with other global emergencies. Governments alone cannot undertake the magnitude of the challenge. Creating an enabling environment for actors other than national governments to announce their commitments to biodiversity and set their targets and action plans, with the adequate resources and monitoring and reporting components, can stimulate engagement, implementation and accountability.

46. Connections to the intergovernmental biodiversity policy process show the importance of including long-term goals, an enabling environment, and a mechanism to strengthen multi-actor collaboration under the post-2020 framework, to tackle the root causes of biodiversity loss, promote multi-sector transition strategies and incentivize long-term pathways for action. The experience of UNFCCC, with its Marrakesh Partnership and its review mechanism, could help to inform processes under CBD.

47. Looking ahead to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, governments could build and strengthen the work of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, to promote commitments and actions from actors other than national governments, providing a space for dialogue and exchange to showcase best practices from different sectors, actors and regions, in support of an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting mechanism.

48. Consideration could also be given to liaise with partners in the preparation of guidelines and metrics to facilitate the aggregation, monitoring, and tracking of progress, building on existing indicators and

⁴⁷ This includes sectors like forestry, fisheries, energy, tourism, health, and agriculture, which are also critical for mitigation and adaptation of climate change, securing water, fuel, timber and food supply, and preventing risks from future pandemics.

methodologies and working with data providers through the Action Agenda and other appropriate platforms. Modalities to account for commitments of non-state actors could be developed as additional and complementary contributions to the implementation of the post-2020 framework, drawing on the options suggested in Section V. Guidelines and templates for reporting and tracking progress on commitments from actors other than national governments, in the context of an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting mechanism, have been developed by the Secretariat, in CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.6 to facilitate commitments to be standardized as per the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and make aggregated data available to the global stocktake process.

*Annex I***EXAMPLES OF COMMITMENTS ON THE ACTION AGENDA**

- **The Union for Ethical Biobased Trade (UEBT)**, a non-profit association, coordinated 56 companies from different sectors and industries, including Guerlain Paris, Christian Dior Parfums, Yves Rocher and Martin Bauer Group, to commit to cultivate, collect and procure ingredients from biodiversity sustainably. The pledge sets time-bound targets and takes measures towards gradually improving company policies and practices concerning biodiversity - from on-the-ground action in farms and wild plant collection sites, to processing, research and development, manufacturing and procurement practices.
- **The Global Fund to Mobilize USD \$500 Million On Projects Offering Solution For Coral Reef Protection**, was launched in 2020 by 5 organizations, including UNDP, UNEP and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, to mobilize public and private resources to support developing countries to meet their commitments under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The plan includes mobilizing capital and grant funding for projects to protect coral reefs and the people who rely on them for food, livelihoods, and coastal protection. The commitment aims to mobilize at least USD \$ 500 million by 2030.
- **The City of Montreal, Canada, with ICLEI-Cities Biodiversity Center, CitiesWithNature and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**, developed six briefing sheets on concrete biodiversity initiatives specifying 2030 action targets from the draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Among the topics are ecosystems management in large parks; conservation of wildlife trees; renewed and improved wildlife observatories; urban wildlife passages; environmental action days and coexistence with coyotes. The commitment aims to replicate similar initiatives in other cities and inspire urban communities to take action and accelerate an international movement to create green cities all over the world.
- **The International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA)**, a global association with over 80 members and associate members, including Chevron and Total, committed to the development of good-practice guidance for the oil and gas industry to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The guidance includes approaches to mainstream biodiversity into productive sectors and addresses nature-based solutions.
- **The Rights of Mother Earth**, initiated a petition for the United Nations to adopt a Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth. The commitment aims to collect 1 million signatures for the Declaration by 2022 to complement the Human Rights Declaration. The commitment has also led to input into the draft post-2020 framework, stressing that a transformation of the human-nature relationship is required to reach the targets and vision of living in harmony with nature.
- **The China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation's (CBCFDF) Anti Electrofishing Network** pledged to safeguard freshwater ecosystems. With more than 15,000 volunteers, the commitment aims to encourage people to participate in combatting illegal fishing. Activities include raising awareness and promoting technical assistance.
- **Act4nature** is an initiative by the French Association of Enterprises for the Environment (EpE) with 40 French and international large companies representing different sectors. The commitment was one of the first registered to the Action Agenda. At the time, it set the target of working with 20 partners to mobilize an additional 75 companies to protect, promote and restore biodiversity. The commitment included a strategy with 10 commitments to be used by all the companies. This commitment has been reached in 2021 and EpE has started to address its methodology for tracking collective and individual progress among its members.

- **Total**, a global energy company, committed to renew its Biodiversity Ambition and Commitments until 2030 as part of the Act4Nature. Total's commitment includes: 1) No oil and gas exploration and extraction (e.g. in UNESCO world heritage sites and the arctic sea ice area); 2) establishing its biodiversity action plans and; 3) mobilizing youth and staff engagement around biodiversity.
- **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)**, a governmental entity part of the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, committed funding for five-years of global research to explore how trade affects biodiversity from a biophysical, social, political and economic viewpoint. The aim is to make trade a driver of positive change, to halt biodiversity loss and lift people out of poverty. (Focus areas include Brazil, Cameroon, China, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Indonesia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United Republic of Tanzania.)
- **Magház Community Network for Agricultural Diversity in Hungary**, is committed to expand local plant varieties and safeguard endangered crops by distributing at least 2000 packages of seeds of more than 60 cultivars on seed-swaps in Hungary in 2021 through six public "seed-hubs".
- **Fundación Biodiversidad**, is a public-private partnership of the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge which initiated the Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative, an initiative with 24 large companies and 5 partners such as UNILEVER and Yves Rocher. The commitment is to publish a compilation of best practices from the business sector every three years. The aim is to promote transformative changes for business in an economy that is sustainable and compatible with biodiversity.
- **Suez Spain**, is a private sector water treatment plant, which committed to (a) eliminate 100% of the use of phytosanitary in their water treatment plants by end of 2021 and (b) have diagnostic biodiversity assessments and action plans for all of their water treatment plants located close to protected areas by the end of 2021.
- **Anglo American**, a UK private-sector mining company of metals and minerals with mines in South Africa, committed to base their Sustainable Mining Plan, to deliver net positive impacts in their operations by 2030. The aim is to offset any impact on biodiversity, as a result of their activities, by biodiversity gains achieved through their conservation projects in the same region, as well as investments in biodiversity stewardship programmes, aligned with relevant local, regional and/or national initiatives.
- **Kering**, the private French company that owns Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent and other luxury clothing brands, committed to net positive impact on biodiversity by 2025. Their commitment includes regenerating and protecting 1 million hectares of farms and rangelands in their supply chain landscapes through a Nature Fund for materials they produce (e.g. leather, cotton, cashmere and wool).
- **Society for Nature and Parks (SNAP Quebec)**, in collaboration with Québec Fauna Foundation, launched a programme to support protected areas in Canada. The programme aims to mobilize municipalities to take action for protected areas and wildlife management. The programme is for three years with \$ 3 million in funding.
- **Brazilian Business Commitment for Biodiversity**, comprises 12 large companies including Bayer and Shell, underscoring the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for companies, as well as the fundamental role that business can play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including for sustainable consumption and production. The commitment is premised on the alignment to national and global strategic plans on biodiversity, seeking to contribute to national and global objectives and goals.
- **Rainforest Biodiversity of Phalee "Documenting flora and fauna,"** an Indian non-governmental organization, pledged to document all the flora and fauna in the Ukhrul district of Indo-Burma, a biodiversity hot spot region. The documentation will focus on the roles various flora and fauna play in the environment, and also the traditional knowledge associated with each

documented flora or fauna. To date, more than 2,700 flora and fauna were documented and more than 700 species were identified. The project aims to widely share, transfer, and apply knowledge relating to biodiversity.

- **WildAid**, an American non-governmental organization working with Asian and Western celebrities and business leaders, made commitments: 1) to start a campaign to motivate consumers in Asia to adopt sustainable diets, sustainable transport, and assess consumption habits; 2) to work on advocacy to reduce the demand for wildlife products (e.g. ivory, rhino horn, pangolin meat and scales, tiger parts, and sea turtle carapace).
- **WildAid Marine** pledged by 2025 to enroll 250 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in a blueprint that supports the design of strategies to address five key elements that discourage illegal activities and ensure meaningful protection for MPAs (e.g. through surveillance and enforcement, policies, funding, training and community engagement).
- **Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)**, a Finish government agency, in partnership with the Karelian Research Center, and the Russian Academy of Sciences, committed to the BARIMS project to produce information to mitigate the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region from 2020-2023. The project will use statistical modelling to predict current and future distribution of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity in a changing climate.
- **Tealaves**, a private tea company, committed to launch *Nature X Design* to contribute to the global movement on biodiversity, generating greater awareness of the immense value of biodiversity. *Nature X Design* commitment is a pro-bono initiative that includes, among others, open-source platforms, and design-led initiatives focused on the future wellbeing of the planet. The commitment aims to promote documentaries and information for businesses to promote zero waste supply chain efforts.
- **The Shan Shui Conservation Centre**, a non-governmental organization in China, in collaboration with Peking University, the China Green Foundation, the China Environmental Protection Foundation and GAC Toyota, commits to collect biodiversity data into a China Nature Watch database, and provide a toolkit for users to assess biodiversity impacts. The Conservation Centre works closely with 42 community-based conservation areas and 5 cities to empower more people in conservation, including on endangered species (e.g. snow leopard, giant panda, and the snub-nosed monkey) in western China, and urban ecosystems.
- **Himalayan Folklore, Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples Networks, Federation of Kirant Indigenous Associations, Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation, Nepal**, commits to undertaking trainings for indigenous peoples and local communities on risk assessment of living modified organisms (LMOs) and advocating the importance of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The pledge will be implemented in line with the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- **CropLife International**, a global federation representing the plant science industry (e.g. BASF, Bayer CropScience), commits to promoting stewardship guidelines and training for farmers by 2025 to, among others, train 20 million farmers in stewardship best practices, forging partnerships to increase scale of training; and working to safeguard the environment and public health through responsible use of technologies, including living modified organisms from modern biotechnology.

Annex II

NON-STATE ACTOR ENGAGEMENT: BUILDING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2011-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY AND AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Actors other than national governments, representing national and global NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, public and private foundations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and youth groups, have been involved in environmental issues long before the adoption of the Convention at

the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Their work has contributed to the design, coordination and implementation of initiatives and projects relating to the objectives of the Convention, including the Protocols, and often connects to other intergovernmental processes.

At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2010, broader representation of non-State actors was recognized and encouraged to support the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Since then, initiatives among state and non-State actors have reinforced measures to implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including through the establishment of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity; the 2012 Hyderabad Biodiversity Champions; the 2014 PyeongChang Roadmap for Action; 2016 Cancun Call for Action to business leaders with 141 commitments;⁴⁸ and other cross-sector related initiatives. This broad engagement is reflected in the parallel events that take place during meetings of the Conference of the Parties such as the Business and Biodiversity Forum, the Nature and Culture Summit, Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments, Rio Conventions Pavilion, among others.

At COP-14 in 2018, the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People (referred to as Action Agenda) was launched by the Governments of China and Egypt, respectively COP-14 and COP-15 Presidents, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, to raise public and policy awareness, urgent action and inspire non-state actor commitments in support of the post-2020 framework. Table 2 provides examples of engagement in response to decision 14/34.

Table 2. Areas of engagement with actors other than national governments in response to decision 14/34

Business

For over a decade the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has intensified its engagement with the business sector. As a result of decision X/21 the Secretariat launched the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity⁴⁹ – a network of networks comprised by national and regional initiatives that currently has representation in over 60 countries and thousands of businesses from all sizes and sectors across the globe. Through the Global Partnership the Secretariat facilitates knowledge and information sharing, dissemination of best practices and promotion of tools and mechanisms that can leverage business engagement and support a much-needed transformation in existing business models. By connecting and partnering with different actors, the Global Partnership brings together voices from business and industry associations, the conservation community, international organizations, research institutions, development agencies, and civil society closer creating an enabling environment for collaboration and innovation. The Business Engagement Programme also led the inception of the Business and Biodiversity Forum – a flagship event organized in parallel with the COPs since 2012 – to strengthen the engagement of the business community, develop capacity and showcase successful initiatives that illustrate how to mainstream biodiversity across sectors and establish partnerships that can support the transition to greener operations, sustainable value chains and improved consumption patterns.

Since the start of the Action Agenda, there has been active mobilization of business groups. Currently the action agenda includes over 500 business commitments.

Financial sector

Since 2018, the financial community (consisting of central banks, assets managers, investors, etc) has progressively been increasing its attention within the purview of the Convention and its Protocols. At the Finance in Common Summit in November 2020 private investors and public development banks issued a joint statement for biodiversity. Ahead of COP26, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

⁴⁸ A list of signatories can be found at <https://www.cbd.int/business/signatories-and-supporters.shtml>

⁴⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/business/>

Ireland called for multilateral development banks (MDBs) to invest more in nature and launched an independent global review of the economics of biodiversity – *The Dasgupta Review*.⁵⁰ Given the sector's importance to develop and implement an ambitious post-2020 framework, mobilizing the necessary resources and ensuring a green post-COVID recovery, the Secretariat has been engaging the financial sector (and its related regulators, such as central banks and Finance Ministries) in discussions on the post-2020 framework. The Secretariat has been part of the Informal Working Group of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) and working to facilitate exchanges among the finance community, CBD Parties, and interested stakeholders to identify proposals for the post-2020 framework, as well as priority actions to be undertaken by the financial sector and by Parties to implement the framework. An Informal Working Group on Biodiversity has also been set up by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the Secretariat, supporting 453 public development banks to include biodiversity into their joint declarations, as a key tool signalling policy direction and priorities of the sector. A pledge on climate and biodiversity by the MDBs was announced in November 2021.

Announcements and commitments from the financial sector to address biodiversity risks and to finance biodiversity opportunities have also emerged. In September 2020 at the UN Biodiversity Summit, 37 financial institutions, with over 3 trillion euros in assets under management, collectively committed to collaborate, engage, assess their own biodiversity impact, set targets and report on biodiversity matters by 2024 at the latest. In 2021, during the UNGA an additional 75 financial institutions – representing over 12 trillion euros in assets and 17 countries - committed to protect and restore biodiversity through their finance activities and investments. The commitment consists of five steps financial institutions promise to take: 1. Collaborating and sharing knowledge; 2. Engaging with companies; 3. Assessing impact; 4. Setting targets; 5. Reporting publicly on the above before 2025. Further commitments from the financial community were made at the One Planet Summit convened in January 2021.

There has been growing engagement from this sector on the Action Agenda. Currently the action agenda includes over 100 financing related commitments.

Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations play an active role in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and regularly participate in meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity. These include civil society organizations, academia, faith-based organizations, other thematic organizations, and networks. The CBD Alliance performs a coordination function for the network of smaller, Southern-based non-governmental organizations who have a common interest in the Convention. The CBD Alliance draws and coordinates opinions and views from a wide range of civil society organizations including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other non-for-profit groups, and aims to bridge the gap between those who work on biodiversity on the ground and those involved in the CBD processes.

There has growing engagement from this sector on the Action Agenda. Currently the action agenda profiles 123 commitments from non-governmental organizations, and more are channelling into the Action Agenda via partners.

Subnational & Local Governments

The Secretariat regularly cooperates with cities and subnational governments, facilitating their liaison with focal points at national or federal levels, and promoting their engagement in the activities of the Convention. Local and subnational governments have officially been involved in the work of the Convention since 2007.⁵¹ In 2008, at COP-9 in Bonn, a decision was adopted on cities and local authorities and biodiversity.⁵² Since COP-9, the Secretariat of the Convention and ICLEI have

⁵⁰ *The Dasgupta Review*, February 2021: Transforming the global economy for a nature positive future.

⁵¹ In 2006, ICLEI and IUCN, launched the [Local Action for Biodiversity \(LAB\) program](#).

⁵² UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/IX/28.

collaborated to organize 6 Summits of Local and Subnational Governments, as official events in parallel to the COPs. In 2010, decision X/22 endorsed the 2011-2020 “*Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity*”, with guidelines outlining how national governments can assist local and subnational governments in implementing the COP decisions and prepare their action plans.⁵³ Successive COPs have adopted further decisions related to subnational and local governments.

Several important initiatives have been established under the Convention, including the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity,⁵⁴ and the Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the development of the post 2020 framework.⁵⁵ Other global partnership initiatives, such as CitiesWithNature, launched in 2018, provides a free online platform where cities can connect, share, learn together and inspire each other to take local action for biodiversity and reconnect urban communities with nature. CitiesWithNature is a collaboration between founding partners ICLEI, IUCN and The Nature Conservancy, along with supporting partners⁵⁶. Since its launch more than 200 cities in 58 countries have joined CitiesWithNature.⁵⁷ A key feature of the initiative is the Action Platform where cities can make commitments towards taking local actions that contribute to national and global biodiversity targets; and where they can monitor and report progress against their commitments. This Action Platform provides an exemplary example of working with the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People to test its open-source digital components and strengthen interoperable connections, aligning to the targets of the post-2020 framework, in order to allow cities to set targets to protect and restore nature, use nature sustainably and develop tools and solutions that are relevant to their local context and priorities. RegionsWithNature is another initiative, launched in October 2021 as sister platform to CitiesWithNature, to recognize and enhance the value of nature at the landscape level. Its founding partners are ICLEI, Regions4 and IUCN, as well as founding subnational governments, like Yucatan State in Mexico, São Paulo State and Pernambuco State in Brazil, Goa State in India, the Comunidad de Madrid in Spain and the Western Cape Province in South Africa. The platform was developed as a result of requests from subnational governments for a dedicated space where they could share their experiences and showcase their commitments towards achieving national and global biodiversity targets.

There has been growing engagement from this stakeholder group to build advocacy, outreach and interoperable IT web platform connections to the Action Agenda. Despite only profiling 12 commitments, the Action Agenda will be registering the commitments from local and sub-national governments thru the platforms mentioned above.

Youth

Over the past decade, youth have actively engaged in the processes of the Convention. In 2012, youth participants established the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) as an international platform to bring together youth and youth organizations in support of the objectives of the Convention. That same year, the Conference of the Parties acknowledged the importance of youth participation, and invited Parties to support youth initiatives, such as GYBN, to contribute to the objectives of the Convention

⁵³ UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/X/22.

⁵⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/subnational/partners-and-initiatives#:~:text=The%20Global%20Partnership%20on%20Local.Membership%20is%20open%20to%20all.>

⁵⁵ The Edinburgh Process was announced at the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments parallel to COP-14. The process is officially recognized by the Open-ended Working Group for the development of the post 2020 framework.

⁵⁶ World Wildlife Fund, United Nations Environment Programme, World Resources Institute’s Cities4Forests initiative, World Urban Parks, Regions4 Sustainable Development, the European Committee of the Regions, Biophilic Cities, among others.

⁵⁷ This includes New York City, Barcelona, Campinas, Rio de Janeiro, Medellin, Los Angeles, London, Manchester, Merida, Tirana, Edmonton, Malmo, Cape Town, Dar es Salaam, Kochi, Montreal, Aichi, Melbourne and many other cities worldwide.

(decision XI/8). Since 2012, GYBN has grown to represent 588 youth organizations from 172 countries. To date it has launched 46 regional and national chapters.

GYBN is the official Biodiversity/SDG9 focal point of the United Nations General Assembly mandated Major Group for Children and Youth. With the support from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the CBD Secretariat and other partners, GYBN developed global awareness raising campaigns related to biodiversity and the Convention, implemented 46 small scale projects/pilot initiatives, organized eight capacity-building workshops in Africa, Asia and Latin-America between 2017 and 2019, and a series of online trainings and consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity. In 2020 the Network published a toolkit providing guidance on how youth can contribute to the post-2020 process. In addition to participating in meetings under the Convention, GYBN representatives actively engage in meetings under other conventions and organizations and collaborate with youth groups at all levels to heighten attention and action for biodiversity.

Given the advocacy and networks established by the GYBN, opportunities exist to connect and engage youth groups to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People. Despite this, there has been limited engagement from this stakeholder on the Action Agenda. Currently the action agenda includes nine youth related commitments.

Women groups

Women have been formally recognized as key stakeholder in the work of the Convention and its Protocols through the establishment of the CBD Women's Caucus in 2010, as a platform to facilitate the integration of women's human rights and gender equality into the policy framework of CBD, including through strengthening the voices of women that are grounded in different local and national realities.

The Caucus is also engaged in building synergies with the other Rio conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, through its membership and networks. Its work is coordinated by Women4Biodiversity, which initiated in 2018, as a broader network of gender equality and human rights-related organizations on the post-2020 framework and on relevant thematic areas including food sovereignty and gender-based violence. The organization has also held shorter 'insta-dialogues' on Access and Benefit-Sharing, human rights and the Escazú agreement, and has carried out social media campaigns, providing targeted training. Women4Biodiversity also works in collaboration with other organizations representing major groups under CBD, including the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network, GYBN and the CBD Alliance.

Opportunities exist for the Caucus and Wone4Biodiversity to connect and engage women groups to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People. Currently there are 63 registered commitments addressing gender and biodiversity.

Scientific Community

In March 2006, leading national scientific institutions and agencies involved in biodiversity research, scientific discovery and conservation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Secretariat, establishing a Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP).⁵⁸ The CSP is a network of 26 mostly national-level technical and scientific agencies with globally relevant contributions to the Convention and its protocols. The Consortium works to leverage the expertise and experience of the member institutions to support developing countries to build scientific, technical and policy skills in the area of biodiversity. The CSP has actively contributed to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and is currently refining and renewing its engagements in support of the post-2020 framework. Among other activities, the Consortium, in collaboration with other interested organizations, is co-organizing a Science Policy Forum for Biodiversity, back-to-back with COP-15, to serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, success stories, good practices and lessons learned to help shape and implement the post-2020 framework. Finally, a "Biodiversity Technology and Innovations Expo" held during COP-15 will

⁵⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/csp/>

allow Parties and relevant stakeholders to showcase state-of-the-art technologies and innovations that can be leveraged to solve key biodiversity challenges and to inspire, facilitate access to, and promote the application of such technologies and innovations in support of the post-2020 framework.

Opportunities exist for the CSP to connect and engage academic and research groups to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People. Currently the action agenda includes 24 registered commitments on scientific and technical cooperation.

Biosafety Protocols

Contributions and collaboration with the CBD Protocols also grew in 2021 through webinars and online discussions inviting non-state actors to address issues relating to biosafety and to make their commitments through the Action Agenda. The outcomes⁵⁹ of the discussions contributed to the next phase of the draft Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol.

Further opportunities exist to integrate the Protocol's work in the action categories under Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People. Currently the action agenda includes 69 registered commitments on biosafety and 15 commitments on access and benefit-sharing.

⁵⁹ The moderators' summary is available at https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art23/actionagendaforum/

⁶⁰ See <https://www.leaderspledgefornature.org/>; supported by commitments from business, local & regional governments, civil society, faith groups, financial institutions, science, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and the United Nations.

⁶¹ Action agendas have been created for the Global Compact (2000), the Johannesburg Summit Type II Partnerships (2002), the Rio+20 Global Registry of Voluntary Commitments (2012) and, more recently, the Global Climate Action Agenda (2014), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), and the Ocean Commitment Registry for the implementation of SDG 14 (2017).