

SBSTTA special virtual meeting
points re: Biodiversity, one health and the response to COVID 19

Thank you to the CBD secretariat, to SBSTTA, SBI, and the chairs for this opportunity to comment. This intervention is provided on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity a U.S. based NGO.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to all those experiencing loss as a result of the on-going pandemic.

Sadly, the current pandemic is a symptom of our unhealthy relationship with nature. As IPBES and many other scientists have recognized, to avoid future pandemics and the on-going loss of biodiversity, we must transform our relationship with nature.

Ensuring a green response to the current pandemic — that also accounts for the biodiversity and climate crises — is a key first step in repairing our relationship with nature

We believe CBD could and should positively influence stimulus and recovery efforts by recommending only the precautionary use of nature:

- Precaution includes reducing the exploitation of nature, including:
 - ceasing human-induced extinction of species and recovering threatened species;
 - eliminating commercial wildlife trade and commercial wildlife farming as much as possible and as quickly as possible taking accounting for the need for just transitions
- Precaution includes not just curtailing exploitation but also fully and highly protecting natural ecosystems
 - and improving the integrity and increasing the connectivity of protected areas
 - while assuring Indigenous Peoples' needs and uses and recognizing Indigenous People's long history of conservation and accounting for community conserved areas

This pandemic has been devastating, but our response cannot be to simply return to business as usual,

To this end, we recommend that CBD work with interested Parties, stakeholders, and observers to craft a suite of precautionary measures based on the Discussion Note for use in stimulus and recovery efforts that will ensure a green recovery from COVID-19.