United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

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with nature

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

Convention on
Biological Diversity

Introduction to the High-Level Panel

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In 2012, **the first High-Level Panel** reported on 'Resourcing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets' to COP-11.

In Decision XI/4, COP-11 welcomed the initial findings, and invited the Panel, in collaboration with other relevant initiatives that could **provide a more bottom-up approach**, to continue its work with a broadened composition and to report back on the results of its work to COP-12.

The High-Level Panel has been **expanded to create a regionally-balanced Panel of fifteen members**.

Results of the High-Level Panel (Phase I)

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Through simple addition of the resource requirements identified for each Target, the costs for implementing the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets were estimated at **between US$ 150 billion and US$ 440 billion per year**.

However, it is expected that these resource requirements neither should nor could be met by biodiversity finance alone, and there is potential for considerable synergies among the Targets, so that **coordinated action could substantially reduce the total estimate**.

Results of the High-Level Panel (Phase I)

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Strategic Goal	Target	Investment needs (US$ million)	Recurrent expenditure per annum (US$ million)	Average annual expenditure (2013 – 2020) (US$ million)
A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society	1: Awareness raising	54	440 – 1,400	280 – 890
	2: Biodiversity values	450 – 610	70 – 130	100 – 160
	3: Incentives	1,300 – 2,000	8 – 15	170 – 270
	4: Sustainable consumption & production	55 – 107	8 – 15	12 – 23
B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use	5: Reducing habitat loss (forests and wetlands)	152,300 – 288,800	13,300 – 13,700	39,200 – 52,100
	6: Fisheries	129,900 – 292,200	800 – 3,200	16,900 – 40,000
	7: Sustainable Agriculture, Aquaculture and Forestry	20,800 – 21,700	10,700 – 11,000	13,200 – 13,600
	8: Pollution	77,600 – 772,700	24,400 – 42,700	35,400 – 139,200
	9: Invasive alien species	34,100 – 43,900	21,005 – 50,100	23,300 – 52,900
	10: Coral reefs	600 – 960	6 – 10	80 – 130
C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	11: Protected areas (terrestrial and marine)	66,100 – 626,400	970 – 6,700	9,200 – 85,000
	12: Species conservation	–	3,400 – 4,800	3,400 – 4,800
	13: Genetic diversity	550 – 1,400	15 – 17	80 – 190
D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services	14: Ecosystem restoration	30,000 – 299,900	–	3,750 – 37,500
	15: Restoration of forests	100	6,400	6,400
	16: Nagoya Protocol	55 – 313	–	7 – 39
E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building	17: NBSAPs	114 – 1,100	110 – 560	50 – 170
	18: Traditional knowledge	210 – 340	210 – 340	210 – 340
	19: Science base	1,800 – 4,200	1,400 – 1,600	1,600 – 2,100
	20: Mobilisation of financial resources	10 – 79	3 – 20	4 – 30

Mandate of the High-Level Panel

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Develop an assessment of the benefits of meeting the Aichi targets, examining both direct biodiversity benefits and wider benefits to society that result from the investments and policy developments required.

Assess the range of the costs of implementing the activities needed to achieve the targets, taking into account the further work proposed in the High Level Panel report to COP-11.

Identify opportunities to secure the benefits most cost effectively through actions in both the biodiversity sector and across economies as a whole that can mobilize / make better use of resources, to deliver greatest progress towards meeting the Aichi targets.

Emerging Key Findings of the High-Level Panel (Phase 2)

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1. Meeting the Aichi Targets **will deliver substantial benefits to peoples and the economies** across the world

There is strong evidence of the benefits of biodiversity action for society across a wide range of Aichi targets, for all types of ecosystems and for all regions of the world.

2. Biodiversity **contributes to sustainable development**

Investments in biodiversity and in the implementation of the Aichi Targets will deliver significant co-benefits for sustainable development.

Achieving the Aichi targets will help to create jobs and revenue flows and support new economic and business opportunities.

Emerging Key Findings of the High-Level Panel (Phase 2)

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3. Biodiversity **contributes to climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience**

The potential for enhancing synergies between the Aichi Targets and policies to address climate change is still not fully utilised and there is significant scope for improvements in this regard.

4. **Investments in biodiversity can strengthen the provision of ecosystem services** on which vulnerable communities depend

Biodiversity action needs to take account of distributional impacts, to ensure that benefits for poor and vulnerable communities are secured.

Emerging Key Findings of the High-Level Panel (Phase 2)

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5. **Biodiversity provides insurance value**

Investments in biodiversity can provide insurance against uncertain and accelerating future environmental change, and maintain and enhance future development options.

The World Economic Forum Global Risks report found that five of the eight worst global risks are ecosystem-based. Taking insufficient action to address biodiversity loss will risk losing current and future benefits that could become vital in the future.

6. **Enhancing synergies, addressing trade-offs and promoting alignments across sectoral policies** are prerequisites for effective implementation of the Aichi Targets and of major importance for resource mobilization

Mainstreaming of biodiversity into wider policy agendas, plans and budgets, offers significant opportunities for more efficient policy-making processes and co-funding. Efforts to capture the broad range of biodiversity values in accounting and reporting systems can advance the implementation of the Aichi Targets.

Emerging Key Findings of the High-Level Panel (Phase 2)

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7. All countries need to **invest in institutions and policy frameworks**, direct conservation and sustainable use actions, incentives and economic instruments

Developing and operationalising cohesive, well-designed institutions, and effective policy frameworks that are a prerequisite for effective and efficient biodiversity financing systems.

8. Design and implementation of **appropriate policy and financial instruments** is essential to halt the loss of biodiversity

Much can be gained by phasing-out perverse incentives and unsustainable practices, good land-use and marine planning and the development of green fiscal policies.

Emerging Key Findings of the High-Level Panel (Phase 2)

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9. The monetary and non-monetary benefits of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use **far outweigh the costs**

The top-down estimates of resource needs in the High-Level Panel's first report are broadly consistent with available assessments at the national, regional and global levels. **This translates to investment requirements ranging from 0.08 to 0.25% of global GDP.**

10. There is a **need to increase investments substantially** to bridge financing gaps

Closing the financial gap can only be achieved through realigning existing expenditures with biodiversity objectives, particularly those which currently lead to biodiversity loss, and improved sectoral integration

Recommended actions

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1. **Assess financing baselines, needs and gaps**, and the full range of potential financing sources (using the BIOFIN initiative approach)

2. Identify opportunities for **improving cost-effectiveness in national biodiversity expenditure**

3. Develop strategies and policies to bridge the biodiversity finance gap with **a broadened base of sustained and predictable sources of finance** including more ambitious and scaled-up policy tools such as:
   - Payments for Ecosystem Services
   - Offsets
   - tradable permits
   - other instruments such as spatial planning, quotas and restrictions
   - policies for the elimination of environmentally harmful subsidies.

Recommended actions

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4. Biodiversity investments should be **presented as solutions to wider problems and challenges**
   - for example, climate change food security, water security, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and poverty reduction, and national security, as well as to national revenue
   - tailored advice for relevant stakeholders including national governmental agencies, multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, development banks, and planning and finance agencies.

5. Integrate the economic rationale for conservation action into **training, education and capacity building programmes**, and encourage its inclusion into secondary and tertiary education curricula, and civil society and private sector training programmes.

6. Human and institutional capacity development programmes should **include increased focus on the sharing of practical knowledge and experience** in developing effective policies and instruments for mainstreaming that support increased investment; and seek to **enhance the role of regional and south-south cooperation and support**.

Recommended actions

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7. Countries should include **robust and verifiable baselines and indicators** on the status and trends of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services within their local and national sustainable development plans and NBSAPs.

8. **Improved knowledge generation regarding the insurance value of biodiversity** and better learning processes for adaptive governance of ecosystems and the use of appropriate financial measures. They could be guided by methodologies such as:
   - Ecosystem Assessments
   - Resilience Assessments
   - Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), including associated risk assessments with scenario analysis
   - Application of the precautionary approach.

The Costa Rica example

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