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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS IN THE PROCESSES TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited Parties, all partners and stakeholder to integrate the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity into sustainable development and poverty eradication programmes, plans, policies and priority actions, taking into account the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) in paragraph 1 of decision XI/22. The Conference of the Parties also encouraged Parties and all partners, institutions, organizations and processes concerned to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in developing the post-2015 development agenda and in the process of establishing Sustainable Development Goals under the United Nations General Assembly in paragraph 7 of decision XI/22.

2. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate, taking into account the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, in the process of developing sustainable development goals, as appropriate, with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the secretariats of the two other Rio conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, and international organizations, and specialized agencies involved in poverty eradication, human health, food security and gender issues¹ in paragraph 11(c) of decision XI/22. Furthermore, in paragraph 11(d) of decision XI/22, the Executive Secretary was also requested to provide information on ways and means for Convention national focal points to engage in processes to develop sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda at national, subregional, regional and global level; monitor the integration of biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into this process, and report on the progress to the Working Group on Review of Implementation at its fifth meeting.

* UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/1.

¹ Such as the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

3. The present document provides an overview of the processes and activities being undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations towards developing a post-2015 United Nations development agenda and sustainable development goals (SDGs), and highlights efforts of the Secretariat to encourage the integration of biodiversity and ecosystems considerations into these processes.

II. THE PROCESSES UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOWARDS A POST-2015 UN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

4. Authoritative information on the processes towards the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and sustainable development goals (SDGs) is provided on the website of the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform maintained by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) (<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>). The work streams are substantively independent but it is expected that they will lead to a single definition and converge into a single coherent, comprehensive post-2015 development agenda and SDGs.

1. Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda

5. In a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2010, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (General Assembly resolution 65/1). The meeting also requested the president of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session to organize a special event in 2013 to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (paragraph 79 of A/RES/65/1).²

6. The Secretary-General presented initial recommendations to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 in his report on accelerating progress towards the MDGs of August 2011, with special reference to the need for an open and inclusive process of consultations on the agenda. With this in mind, the Secretary-General established the United Nations System Task Team (UNTT) on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, launched in January 2012, to coordinate system-wide preparations, in consultation with all stakeholders. Information on the work of the UNTT is provided in section 3.1 below.

7. The General Assembly's special event to follow up efforts made towards the Millennium Development Goals was held on 25 September 2013. The event resulted in the adoption of an outcome document in which Heads of State and Government and heads of delegation renewed their commitment to meet the MDGs' targets. They also expressed their determination to craft a strong post-2015 development agenda to build on the foundations laid by the MDGs, complete unfinished business and respond to new challenges. To accomplish this task, they decided:

(a) To launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly that will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to synthesize the full range of inputs then available and to present a synthesis report before the end of 2014;

(c) That the final phase of the intergovernmental work will culminate in a summit at the level of Heads of State and Government in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. The President of the General Assembly is requested to convene, in a timely manner, intergovernmental consultations to achieve agreement on organizational modalities for the Summit.

8. In July 2012, the Secretary-General appointed a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to reflect on the new development challenges, drawing on the experiences gained in implementing the MDGs, and to advise on the global development framework. The panel comprised 27 eminent persons drawn from all sectors, co-chaired by the Presidents of Liberia and

² http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/65/1

Indonesia and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The Secretary General's special adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning represented him as an ex-officio member of Panel. The report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, entitled '*A new global partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development*', was submitted to the Secretary-General on 30 May 2013. This served as a key input to the Secretary-General's report to the special event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the MDGs and to discuss the possible contours of the post-2015 development agenda that was organized by the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in September 2013.

9. The Secretary-General established the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)³ in August 2012, tasked to prepare background papers for the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons. The SDSN is a global network of research centres, universities and technical institutions to mobilize scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable development problem-solving at local, national and global scales.

2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

10. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, Member States resolved "to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly" (paragraph 248, "*The future we want*"). Member States further resolved that for this purpose "an open working group shall be constituted no later than at the opening of the sixty seventh session of the Assembly and shall comprise 30 representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups". They further resolved that "the process needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda" (paragraph 249).

2.1. Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals

11. The Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs was established by the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly⁴ in January 2013. The OWG was tasked by the General Assembly to present a report containing a proposal for SDGs to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly for its consideration and appropriate action⁵. The Rio+20 outcome document specifies that the process leading to the SDGs needed to be coordinated and coherent with the processes considering the post-2015 development agenda and that the initial input to the work of the OWG would be provided by the Secretary-General in consultation with national Governments⁶.

12. The Open Working Group commenced its work in March 2013. The schedule of the OWG, including the various areas of focus of its sessions, is presented in annex 1 to this document. The OWG was supported in its work by a Technical Support Team (TST) comprising 40 United Nations entities, including the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which provided analytic and technical inputs to inform the discussions.

13. The OWG took up the issue of biodiversity, together with the issues of oceans and forests, on 3 and 4 February 2014, during its eighth session that was held from 3 to 7 February 2014. The Executive Secretary served as a panelist to introduce the issue of biodiversity at the start of the session. As with each of the sessions, video coverage of the eighth session of the OWG, including the presentations by panelists, was webcast and remains available for on-demand viewing.⁷ The session provided an important

³ Further information on the SDSN is available on the website, <http://unsdsn.org>

⁴ See decision 67/555 (A/67/L.48/rev.1): http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/L.48/Rev.1&Lang=E

⁵ Paragraph 248 of the outcome document from the United Nations Sustainability Conference (Rio+20) "*The future we want*"

⁶ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300>

⁷ <http://www.cbd.int/development/>

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&nr=872&type=12&menu=1807&template=1042&play=407>

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&nr=872&type=12&menu=1807&template=1042&play=457>

opportunity for the CBD Secretariat and other United Nations entities to highlight the importance of biodiversity to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

14. An important outcome of the eighth session of the OWG was that ‘Biodiversity and Ecosystems’ was recognized as one of nineteen potential focus areas for the SDGs in the initial document that was prepared by the Co-chairs based on the work of the OWG between March 2013 and February 2014.

15. The ninth session of the OWG was held from 3 to 5 March 2014 to consider the focus areas document. Among issues raised during discussion, were the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, inclusion of means of implementation, and the need, *inter alia*, to address other issues as a focus area. Based on the discussions, it was agreed that the Co-chairs would issue a revised draft prior to the tenth session of the OWG. On the final day of the session, delegates participated in a joint meeting with the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) and in a consultation with Major Groups and stakeholders.

16. The revised focus area document was circulated on 19 March 2014, together with a paper on inter-linkages among the focus areas that grouped them into 8 clusters⁸ to guide the discussions at the next session. ‘Biodiversity and ecosystems’ was included in cluster 6, along with conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas.

17. The tenth session of the OWG was held from 31 March to 4 April 2014 and focused debate on these clusters. The eleventh session of the OWG was held from 5 to 9 May 2014 and focused consultations on the revised focus area document. The purpose was to exchange views on the potential goals and targets and to consider the possibility of combining different goals. Following the outcome of the discussions, the marine goal and the biodiversity goal were retained as separate goals.

18. On 2 June 2014, the Co-chairs of the OWG shared the “zero draft” of goals and targets, in preparation for the twelfth session of the OWG. The zero draft outlines seventeen potential sustainable development goals⁹ to be attained by 2030, each with a number of specific targets. Biodiversity is addressed in a proposed goal to “protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss”. Another goal to “attain conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas”, includes targets directly related to marine biodiversity. Biodiversity is also addressed directly in targets of goals related to ending poverty, food security and sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation, and sustainable cities and settlements. In addition, goals pertaining to gender equality, access to energy, economic growth and decent work, reduction of inequality, sustainable production and consumption, climate change, and peaceful and inclusive societies, include targets that are indirectly related to biodiversity. Another goal to strengthen and enhance the means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development would address the needs of each of the goals. The OWG will have informal consultations from 9 to 11 June 2014, in order to consult on the proposed goals, their targets and means of implementation, and take an initial sounding of delegations’ views.

⁸ Cluster 1 (poverty eradication, promote equality); Cluster 2 (Gender equality and women’s empowerment, education, employment and decent work for all, health and population dynamics); Cluster 3 (water and sanitation, sustainable agriculture, food security, and nutrition); Cluster 4 (economic growth, industrialization, infrastructure, energy); Cluster 5 (sustainable cities and human settlements, promote sustainable consumption and production, climate); Cluster 6 (conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas, ecosystems and biodiversity); Cluster 7 (Means of implementation/Global partnership for sustainable development); and Cluster 8 (Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions).

⁹ 1) end poverty in all its forms everywhere; 2) end hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, and promote sustainable agriculture; 3) attain healthy life for all at all ages; 4) provide equitable and inclusive quality education and life-long learning; 5) attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere; 6) secure water and sanitation for all for a sustainable world; 7) ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and reliable modern energy services for all; 8) promote strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all; 9) promote sustainable industrialization; 10) reduce inequality within and among countries; 11) build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements; 12) promote sustainable consumption and production patterns; 13) promote actions at all levels to address climate change; 14) attain conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas; 15) protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss; 16) achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, effective and capable institutions; and 17) strengthen and enhance the means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development.

19. The twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the OWG are planned to take place from 16 to 20 June 2014 and 14 to 18 July 2014 respectively. The twelfth session will involve consultations on SDGs and targets and produce refined SDGs and targets. The thirteenth session will take up consultations on SDGs and targets and proceed to agreement and adoption of a report on SDGs and targets that will go forward to the General Assembly. This SDGs report that will be delivered to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General is planned to be made available in August 2014.

20. Among other relevant meetings of the United Nations, the meeting of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on the theme *Achieving the MDGs and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda*, including the SDGs, will be held from 7-9 July 2014.

2.2. *The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)*

21. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing was established by UN General Assembly decision 67/559, effective 21 June 2013, as another response to the outcome document of Rio+20. The Committee is responsible for implementing a process to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives. The Committee held its third session from 3 to 7 March 2014.

3. United Nations Secretariat Support to the Processes

22. The Secretary-General is providing leadership to coordination and support of the process. The delivery of a new framework for post-2015, including SDGs, is the prerogative of the Member States, building on agreed norms and principles. The United Nations System's responsibility is to support Member States in accomplishing this task with evidence-based analysis and field experiences. Measures taken by the Secretary-General to provide advice and support the processes include the following.

3.1. *The United Nations System Task Team*

23. Technical support to the post 2015 development agenda and SDG processes is provided by the UN System Task Team (UNTT). In September 2011, the United Nations Secretary-General requested the Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA and the Under-Secretary-General and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "to establish a core group of dedicated senior technical experts to coordinate system-wide preparations on ongoing efforts and propose a unified vision and road map for the definition of a United Nations development agenda post-2015, in consultation with all stakeholders". Accordingly, the UNTT was established in January 2012.

24. The terms of reference of the Task Team include: assessing ongoing efforts within the United Nations system; consulting external stakeholders, such as civil society, academia and the private sector; and defining a system-wide vision and road map on the post-2015 UN development agenda.¹⁰ The UNTT is co-chaired by the UNDESA and UNDP and brings together over 60 UN entities, including the Secretariat of the CBD.

25. The UNTT supports the multi-stakeholder consultations being led by Member States on the post-2015 development agenda, through the provision of expertise, analytical inputs, and outreach.¹¹ UNTT

¹⁰ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300>

¹¹ Work to develop the post-2015 development agenda is ongoing in several processes and activities within the UN system Task Team (UNTT, 2013)¹¹. In addition to providing support to the OWG in the preparation of a report on SDGs to be submitted to the 68th GA, UNTT, also provides analytical inputs and recommendations that will be used to shape the Post -2015 UN Development Agenda, including those regarding monitoring and accountability, reconfiguration of the global partnership for development in the Post-2015 period for use as inputs to the annual SG reports on the progress of MDGs as well as the vision for the post-2015, as mandated by the 2010 MDG Summit.

submitted a report '*Realizing the Future We Want for All*' to the Secretary-General in June 2012, as well as a set of 18 think pieces that explore how different themes could potentially be reflected in a new framework. The UNTT also published *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development* that provides recommendations on key dimensions and a potential format for a global partnership in the post-2015 era, in March 2013. The Task Team's focus has been global partnership for development, monitoring and indicators and financing for sustainable development. To support the post-2015 United Nations development agenda process, the UNTT has constituted working groups for different activities:

(a) *UNTT Working Group on Monitoring and Indicators*. Its mandate is to focus on lessons learned from MDGs, options for designing targets and indicators, national data and statistical capabilities, cross-cutting issues and prepare think pieces;

(b) *UNTT Working Group on Global Partnerships*. Its mandate is to further elaborate on the characteristics of the global partnership for development and broaden understanding of the means of implementation;

(c) *UNTT Working Group on Sustainable Development Financing*. At the Rio+20 conference, Member States called for, *inter alia*, the effective allocation of resources for sustainable development in accordance with national priorities and needs while launching efforts towards significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing for sustainable development. The CBD Secretariat has provided results of assessments of funding needs for biodiversity and the achievement of the Strategic Plan (see paragraph 41).

26. Technical support, including analytical input, background material and expert panelists, to the OWG is provided by an inter-agency Technical Support Team (TST), consisting of 40 UN entities and functioning under the aegis of the UN System Task Team (UNTT)¹² on the post-2015 UN development

3.2. Facilitating civil society contribution to the processes

27. Throughout the process, commencing in the lead up to the Rio+20 Conference, the United Nations Secretariat has been enabling numerous mechanisms to engage civil society in the post-2015 and SDG processes. This includes extensive use of online submissions through a website maintained by UNDESA¹³.

III. WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY IN THE PROCESSES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2015 UN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

28. To respond to the requests of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting in decision XI/22 paragraphs 1, 7 and 11(c), the Secretariat developed an internal strategy in February 2013, subsequently updated, to ensure, among other things, the contribution of the Secretariat in the processes and the discussions taking place in the United Nations headquarters in New York; to develop and/or strengthen partnerships, and mobilize and facilitate the contribution of the biodiversity community; and to prepare concrete guidance on options for the SDGs with regards to biodiversity, as well as effectively promote these in order to carry out these goals, a number of measures and actions have been taken by the Secretariat, outlined in this section.

A. Arrangements within the CBD Secretariat

29. The Executive Secretary took the following measures to strengthen the Secretariat's ability towards mainstreaming, working in partnerships and enhancing its outreach activities.

¹² http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/

¹³ <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/>

(a) CBD Secretariat Division for Mainstreaming, Partnerships and Outreach

30. Effective 1 April 2013, the Executive Secretary established a new Division for Mainstreaming, Partnerships and Outreach. An important element of the Division's responsibility is to promote the inclusion of biodiversity in the post-2015 UN development agenda and SDGs.

(b) CBD Secretariat Task Force on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda and SDGs

31. On 15 March 2013, the Executive Secretary established a Secretariat Task Force on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda and SDGs, to support efforts to mainstream biodiversity in the on-going processes and to help facilitate the implementation of the relevant decisions of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(c) Joint Liaison Arrangements at United Nations Headquarters, New York

32. The Executive Secretary continued to maintain and to strongly utilize the Secretariat's joint liaison office at the United Nations Headquarters in New York shared with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Effective 1 April 2013, the liaison office was placed within the structure and responsibility of the Division for MPO. An important function of the liaison office has been to represent the Secretariat in the relevant UN interagency forums, including the UN System Task Team (UNTT) on the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Technical Support Team (TST) to the OWG.

33. Numerous activities to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystems into the post-2015 UN development agenda and the SDGs have been undertaken since the establishment of the Secretariat's Post-2015 Task Force and its Division for MPO. The most important ones are described in the following sections.

B. CBD Secretariat contributions to the UN System Task Team (UNTT) and Technical Support Team (TST)

34. The Technical Support Team (TST) *Issues Brief on Biodiversity*¹⁴, produced to inform the OWG at its eighth session, was prepared by the TST during the second half of 2013. The preparation of the brief was co-led by the CBD Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Organization (UNEP), UNDP and the World Bank, with contributions from other United Nations entities and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions.¹⁵

35. The Issues Brief stresses, among other things, the benefits of preserving biodiversity for indigenous and local communities; the poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups; the dependence of many economic sectors on biodiversity and ecosystems; as well as the solutions that conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems can offer to a range of objectives, including poverty eradication. The brief advocates the integration of biodiversity into the broader development objectives in the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs. The brief recommends that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a globally agreed framework for action and that biodiversity be integrated into overarching SDGs on poverty eradication, the green economy and sustainable development, that biodiversity-related targets and indicators be integrated into SDGs on food security, nutrition, water and health; and that biodiversity be included in goals on protecting land, forests, oceans and other ecosystems. The Issues Brief is reproduced in annex II to this document.

¹⁴ http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2401TST_Issues_Brief_Biodiversity_FINAL.pdf

¹⁵ The other United Nations entities and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions that contributed to the preparation of the TST Issues Brief on Biodiversity were UNESCAP, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN-Women, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

36. The CBD Secretariat had the Biodiversity Issues Brief translated into each of the six United Nations languages and distributed it widely, through its website, clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and other means.

37. The Secretariat and the other co-leads of the Issues Brief on Biodiversity also prepared for the TST a document entitled *UN General Assembly and Member State Resolutions: Commitments on Biodiversity*. The document presented a summary of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions related to biodiversity starting from the targets in the MDGs to April 2013; the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; the key instruments of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the commitments under other international organizations; relevant paragraphs in the Rio+20 outcome document; and main objectives of the other biodiversity-related conventions. This document was intended to provide additional background to the discussion by the OWG during its eighth session. This document can be accessed on the CBD website¹⁶.

38. Among other actions in the framework of the UNTT, the Secretariat also reviewed and provided inputs for Issues Briefs led by other United Nations entities on a number of themes¹⁷ taken up by the OWG. The Secretariat contributed inputs to the Issues Briefs on the themes that were taken up in the second session of the OWG, a) conceptual issues, MDGs and way forward towards SDGs and b) poverty eradication to the preparation of the Issues Briefs for the third session of the OWG on the themes of (a) food security and nutrition (b) sustainable agriculture (c) desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to the fourth session of the OWG on the subjects of (a) health and population dynamics and (b) employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth and education. The Secretariat also contributed inputs to the preparation of the Issues Brief on Forests coordinated by the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

39. The Secretariat also responded to a request made to members of the TST by the Co-chairs of the OWG at the conclusion of its ninth session, by preparing a list of potential goals and targets, which it submitted to the TST on 4 April 2014 before the eleventh session of the OWG. The Secretariat was also involved within the TST in a ranking exercise on action areas identified by the OWG Co-chairs for the focus area on “Biodiversity and Ecosystems”. This consisted of ranking the potential targets by order of importance and preparation of options for a potential goal and five targets for TST. The Secretariat proposed the reformulation of some targets in the biodiversity focus area and contributed to the incorporation of biodiversity issues in other goals including poverty eradication; agriculture, food security and nutrition; water and sanitation; industrialization, promoting equality among nations; sustainable cities and human settlements; sustainable production and consumption; and climate change.

40. In so doing, the Secretariat has provided timely inputs to the TST following the ninth session of the OWG and will continue to do so during the rest of the process.

41. The Secretariat also provided results of assessments of funding needs for biodiversity and the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 for the paper, *Financing for Sustainable Development Background Paper #1: Financing needs for sustainable development*, and other papers during the second half of 2013. The inputs that were provided were based on the results from the report of the High-Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020¹⁸, and the Full Assessment of the Amount of Funds Needed for the Implementation of the Convention for the Sixth Replenishment Period of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility: An Assessment by the CBD Expert Team Members, submitted to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention¹⁹.

¹⁶ <http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/unga-resolutions-commitments-biodiversity-en.pdf>

¹⁷ The Issues Briefs involve often stocktaking and brief discussions of the main issues regarding a particular subject of relevance to sustainable development. The main limitation with these studies is that they have no much room to fully cover various inter-linkages and subjects by the very nature of their size. Hence, it is important for CBD to ensure that biodiversity is mainstreamed where it needs to.

¹⁸ UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/20 - <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/information/cop-11-inf-20-en.pdf>

¹⁹ UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/35 - <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/information/cop-11-inf-35-en.pdf>

42. The Secretariat also contributed comments or inputs to other documents and reports relevant to the processes. These included: *Embedding the environment in sustainable development goals*, UNEP Post-2015 Discussion Paper 1, Version 2 of 19 July 2013²⁰; *A life of dignity for all: Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, July 2013*²¹, Annual report of the Secretary-General on progress toward the Millennium Development Goals for presentation to the sixty eighth session of the UN General Assembly; *A Global Initiative for the United Nations: An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development – Report for the UN Secretary-General*, by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) published in 6 June 2013²²; and the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2013: Building the Common future we want*, the preparation of which was led by UNDESA for the first session of the High-level Political Forum that was held from 24-26 September 2013²³.

C. Communications and Outreach

(a) Communications to CBD Parties

43. A notification was sent to CBD National Focal Points on 22 February 2013 (Ref: SCBD/ITS/NP/DB/LZ/81424 (2013-017)) to encourage the participation of Parties in the various thematic, national and regional consultations processes. Some experts in the field of environment were also invited and encouraged to participate in the e-discussions on *Environment Sustainability and Equality* that started in April 2013.

44. A briefing on *Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals processes* was prepared for the report submitted to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that met in Trondheim, Norway, on 1 June 2013. The briefing aimed to inform the Bureau members about the different ongoing processes and the efforts that the Secretariat had made to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystems services and to gain their advice.

45. A notification (SCBD/MPO/AF/NP/82985 (2013-112)) on *Engagement in the processes to develop the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals* was sent to all CBD National Focal Points and relevant organizations on 11 December 2013.

46. Another notification (SCBD/MPO/AF/Jhed/83126 (2014-015)) regarding participation of the Secretariat in the eighth session of the OWG from 3-7 February 2014 was sent to National Focal Points and all relevant organizations on 30 January 2014.

(b) Outreach materials

47. Information materials in the form of newsletters on relevant themes were prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with other UN organizations providing facts about biodiversity and ecosystem services in relation to these themes. These included food security, water, and women. The newsletters were distributed at relevant events at the United Nations headquarters and to permanent missions to the UN in New York, and widely disseminated through other means, including posting on the CBD website, and distribution to various organizations and stakeholders. Their aim is to raise awareness of the importance of the various aspects and contributions of biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development and the well-being of current societies as well as future generations. The “*CBD-Get ready for 2015*” newsletters prepared and distributed in 2013 are as follows:

- *Biodiversity for Sustainable Development (March 2013);*
- *Biodiversity for Cities and Slums (with UN Habitat and ICLEI Local Governments and United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), (April 2013);*
- *Biodiversity: Natural Solutions for Water Security (May 2013);*

²⁰ <http://www.unep.org/pdf/embedding-environments-in-SDGs-v2.pdf>

²¹ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A%2F68%2F202

²² <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/broaderprogress/pdf/130613-SDSN-An-Action-Agenda-for-Sustainable-Development-FINAL.pdf>

²³ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/975GSDR%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

- *Biodiversity for Human Health* produced jointly with the Department of Public Health and Environment, World Health Organization (WHO) (June, 2013);
- *Biodiversity for Food Security and Nutrition* produced jointly with the FAO (July, 2013); and
- *Biodiversity for the Well-being of Women* (August, 2013).

48. Two special fact sheets were prepared to coincide with the occasion of the eighth session of the OWG. These are presented in annex III to the current note.²⁴ They were made available in the margins of the eighth session of the OWG and distributed widely by other means, including the CBD website and CHM, with a view to raising awareness of the vital importance of biodiversity to sustainable development. The two documents were:

- *Biodiversity Supporting Development* (February 2014); and
- *Biodiversity: The Foundation for Sustainable Development* (February 2014).

(c) Side-events and other activities held in the margins of the Open Working Group

49. The Secretariat supported the organization of a high-level side-event at the United Nations Headquarters to coincide with the eighth session of the OWG. The side-event was entitled “*Why Biodiversity is Essential for Social and Economic aspects of Sustainable Development: Perspectives and Country Experiences from Developing and Developed countries*” and was held on 3 February 2014 to coincide with the consideration of the issue of biodiversity by the OWG. The event was co-organized by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Government of Japan and by IUCN, in collaboration with Secretariat of the CBD, UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank, FAO, UNESCO and ICLEI. In addition to his participation as a panellist at the eighth session of the OWG, the Executive Secretary also made a presentation at this event.

50. The Executive Secretary also spoke at a side-event on *Sustainability at the Intersection of Trade, Environment and Development* held at the United Nations Headquarters in the margins of the eighth session of the OWG on 5 February 2014, co-organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

51. In addition, the Executive Secretary participated in a high-level lunch dialogue on “*Linking biodiversity and ecosystem services to sustainable development - essential contributions to poverty eradication and human well-being*”, organized by Sweden on 4 February 2014.

52. The Executive Secretary was interviewed by UN Radio on 5 February 2014. In addition, he had meetings with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and with senior officials of UNDP and UNCTAD and others during the week of the eighth session of the OWG to discuss various issues related to the sustainable development goals.

53. The Secretariat also contributed to side-events organized in the margins of other intergovernmental meetings at the United Nations Headquarters. It collaborated in the organization of a side-event on *Sustainable Development Goals: Putting nature at the heart of sustainable socio-economic future*, led by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Governments of Angola, Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Switzerland, held on 26 September 2013 in the margins of the general debate of the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Executive Secretary made a presentation on *Building on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the SDGs formulation and implementation*. The briefing highlighted the dangers of a ‘silo’ approach where issues related to biodiversity and ecosystems are confined to a single goal.

²⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/sdg-feb2014-info-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/sdg-feb2014-factsheet-en.pdf>

D. Contributions to conferences and meetings convened to support the integration of biodiversity in the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda

54. The Government of Norway organized the Seventh Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity held in Trondheim, Norway from 27 to 31 May 2013. The Conference, held on the theme, Ecology and Economy for a Sustainable Society, aimed to provide input to the Convention and preparations for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The Conference intended to advance a scientifically informed dialogue on critical issues on the agenda of the Convention after the Rio+20 Conference. It addressed, in particular, the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society, Goal A of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The key themes included the role of social sciences in achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and the importance of biodiversity for the development and achievement of the sustainable development goals.

55. The Executive Secretary and other staff of the Secretariat participated at the Trondheim Conference and, in contribution, prepared and presented the report “*Biodiversity in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Ecosystem goods and services for human well-being*”. The report illustrates how biodiversity is cross-cutting to the themes being discussed in the context of the post-2015 UN development agenda, and how a focus on biodiversity can provide added values to economic development, environmental sustainability, and poverty reduction. Examples are provided that reflect the inter-linkages and illustrate the win-win outcomes and solutions for sustainable development.²⁵ A presentation on *Biodiversity and Sustainable Development* highlighting the relevance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the sustainable development goals was also presented by the Secretariat. Among other things, the presentation highlights why sustainable development is important for biodiversity and how biodiversity can play a significant role in achieving the SDGs. The *Biodiversity and Sustainable Development – the relevance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets for the Post 2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals* was the result of the update of this document.²⁶

56. The Secretariat was also actively involved in the preparation of the *Global Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Integrating Social-Ecological Resilience into the New Development Agenda* that took place in Medellin, Colombia from 2 to 4 December 2013, in order to help ensure complementarity of the messages that would arise from the Dialogue with those of the Issues Brief on Biodiversity. The Dialogue was organised jointly by the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Research on Biological Resources, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, and the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University, with the support of the Governments of Colombia and Sweden, and in consultation with the Secretariat. The Secretariat participated at the Dialogue and presented the Issues Brief on Biodiversity in order to introduce this to the participants and to highlight the importance of biodiversity to the issues addressed by the Dialogue, namely integrating social-ecological resilience into the “New Development Agenda”. The organizers of the Dialogue also held a side-event at the United Nations headquarters in the margins of the eighth session of the OWG in order to share the outcomes and conclusions of the meeting.

57. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a workshop on biodiversity and the SDGs, with support from the Secretariat and hosted by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in Washington, D.C. from 16 to 19 December 2013. The

²⁵ <http://www.cbd.int/sbstta/doc/trondheim-key-messages-paper-2-sdgs-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/sbstta/doc/trondheim-full-paper-2-sdgs-en.pdf>;

²⁶ The document has served as the basis for the preparation of the *Biodiversity Issues Brief* and presented to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in October 2013 – UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/INF/2:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-17/information/sbstta-17-inf-02-en.pdf>

objective of the workshop was to refine knowledge and messages regarding the scientific basis for addressing biodiversity in the SDGs. This involved exchange of information among scientific experts on the scientific basis and arguments for including biodiversity in global sustainable development and discussion of strategic considerations about how best to bridge the science-policy gap, and concrete steps that could be taken to elevate biodiversity in the SDGs discussion. The participants were a mix of international environmental and development policy experts, scientists and other stakeholders. The meeting yielded action-oriented recommendations related to the SDGs process. Among other things, it was also agreed that the work undertaken to prepare the Issues Brief on Biodiversity should be taken one step further, with specific arguments for how biodiversity relates to expected issues/goals in the SDGs discussions mapped out.

58. The Secretariat also participated in a consultative meeting on *Integrating Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into the Sustainable Development Goals/Post-2015 Agenda*, organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at its headquarters from 16-17 January 2014. The meeting took place in the run up to the eighth session of the OWG, and was geared to exchange of ideas and views and exploring options to ensure the integration of biodiversity into the SDGs. The meeting was attended by government representatives, civil society organizations and academia, including members of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and international organizations including UNEP, the African Development Bank and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

E. Meetings of the Executive Secretary at United Nations Headquarters, New York

59. Another important aspect of the Secretariat's strategy to ensure adequate attention to biodiversity has been the participation by the Executive Secretary in key meetings held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and meetings he has held with government representatives and senior officials, in order to convey the message of the importance of biodiversity to sustainable development, the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.

60. In this regard, the Executive Secretary participated on behalf of the Convention in numerous relevant meetings and events held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, including: the twentieth and final session of the Commission on Sustainable Development held on 20 September 2013; the inaugural meeting of the High level Political Forum on sustainable development held on 24 September 2013; a Joint Briefing on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) issues to the second committee of the General Assembly, co-organized with UNDP, UNEP, ITPGRFA, UNESCO, WIPO and UNDESA held on 30 October 2013. The briefing was organized to follow up on the General Assembly resolution A/Res67/212²⁷ on the theme of "*implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development*", The Executive Secretary made a presentation highlighting the close interrelationship between the three objectives of the Convention; presentation to the second committee of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly when it considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Convention under its item on sustainable development on 4 November 2013. The Executive Secretary spoke on the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention; and the special event on the MDGs convened by the President of the General Assembly on 19 September 2013.

61. The Executive Secretary also held numerous bilateral meetings with senior officials and government representatives at the United Nations Headquarters in order to brief them on the Convention and its Protocols, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and integrating biodiversity into the SDG and post-2015 processes. These included meetings with senior officials of the United Nations, with whom he also discussed enhanced cooperation between the Convention and the UN Funds and Programmes. They also included meetings with ministers, permanent representatives to the United Nations and other representatives of member States, including those co-Chairing the processes for the SDGs, post-2015

²⁷ Resolution: A/RES/67/212 accessible at http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/212 or through <http://www.un.org/en/ga/67/resolutions.shtml>

development agenda, and financing for sustainable development. In addition, they included meetings with representatives of regional and political groupings, including members of the Group of 77 and China, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, and Pacific Small Island Developing States.

F. Participation in and contribution to other relevant meetings and events

62. The Executive Secretary participated in the World Water Day celebrations and the High-level Forum organized by the United Nations and the Government of the Netherlands in The Hague on 22 March 2013 to address water cooperation and the outcomes from the Thematic Consultation on Water in the Post-2015 Agenda.

63. The Secretariat participated in the UNDP-UNEP Leadership Meeting on Post-2015 Thematic Consultation on Environmental Sustainability, held in San Jose, Costa Rica from 18 to 19 March 2013. The objective of the meeting was to contribute to the process of the preparation of the Environmental Sustainability report entitled *Breaking down the Silos: Integrating Environmental Sustainability in the Post-2015 Agenda*. The Report is the result of the thematic consultations on environment sustainability in the post-2015 agenda²⁸. The document presents the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as means of breaking out of the “silo” approach of the past. It advocates the need for urgent action and transformational change to put the world on a sustainable development trajectory that fully integrates environmental sustainability and human development, and the importance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the achievement of this objective.

64. The Secretariat participated in the Association Francophone pour le savoir (ACFAS) Conference on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as foundations of sustainable development that was held in Québec City from 8 to 9 May 2013.

65. The Secretariat participated in the 18th Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP) meeting hosted by GIZ/GMZ in Berlin, Germany from 14 to 16 May 2013. The Secretariat co-led, with IIED and the European Commission, a workshop on biodiversity that addressed the Convention’s role in mainstreaming biodiversity, a state of knowledge review, activities and experiences in mainstreaming, and a stepwise approach for systematic assessment and valuation and integrating ecosystems services into the design and review of development plans.

66. The Executive Secretary participated in the UNEP Global Environmental Governance (GEG) / SDGs Expert Discussions on Embedding Environmental Sustainability in the SDGs that was held in Chavannes-de-Bogis, Switzerland from 1 to 2 July 2013. The meeting considered how existing global environmental goals and targets can contribute to an integrated framework of sustainable development goals in the post-2015 future.

67. Through an informal dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio conventions held by video-conference on 5 December 2013, the Executive Secretary made a presentation on resource mobilization and financing needs for biodiversity to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The meeting was convened by the Co-Chairs of the Committee to assess funding needs to fulfill the goals and targets of the Rio conventions in the context SDGs.

68. The Secretariat participated in the Second *High-Level Symposium on Development Cooperation in a Post-2015 Era: Sustainable Development for All* organized by the Development Cooperation Policy Branch of UN DESA, in Montoux, Switzerland from 24 to 25 October 2013. This was the second of three symposia that will culminate in the Fourth Development Cooperation Forum, to be held in New York in July 2014. The meeting was held to stimulate a critical rethinking of the role of development cooperation in the post-2015 era. It provided an opportunity for the Secretariat to raise the profile of biodiversity for the post-2015 agenda and to identify issues of concern to the development and sustainability agendas relevant to mainstreaming biodiversity and identify future opportunities for engagement with the

²⁸ <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sustainability2015report>

development community. The meeting was attended by approximately 150 high-level participants from ministries, parliaments, international institutions and NGOs.

69. The Executive Secretary participated by video-conference in a side-event on the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)²⁹ held on 3 March 2014 in the margins of the annual session of the United Nations Statistical Commission that convened in New York from 4 to 7 March 2014. The Session included discussions on measuring and monitoring goals in the post-2015 development framework and on environmental accounting. The Executive Secretary urged a revised system of environmental accounting for sustainable development to reflect the fact that biodiversity and healthy ecosystems constitute natural capital for food production, human health and ecological infrastructure.

G. Future engagement in the processes

70. The Secretariat is continuing its contributions to the on-going processes on post-2015 United Nations development agenda and SDGs and will do so through the culmination of results in 2015. The theme of the Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting, will further highlight biodiversity for sustainable development. This will provide an opportunity to discuss collaboration to ensure good results for the promotion of biodiversity in sustainable development.

²⁹ [System of Environmental Economic Accounting](#)

Annex I

**THE WORK OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS SINCE MARCH 2013 AND MAIN FOCUS OF THE SESSIONS**

First Session of OWG on SDGs – 14-15 March 2013 – 2 DAYS

Election of officers, adoption of agenda
General discussion (2 days)

Second Session of OWG on SDGs – 17-19 April 2013 – 3 DAYS

Conceptualizing the SDGs (1.5 days)
Poverty eradication (1.5 days)

Third Session of OWG on SDGs – 22-24 May 2013 – 3 DAYS

Food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought (1.5 days)
Water and Sanitation (1.5 days)

Fourth Session of OWG on SDGs – 17-19 June 2013 – 3 DAYS

Employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture (1.5 days)
Health, population dynamics (1.5 days)

Fifth session; 25-27 November, 2013 – 3 DAYS

Sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability), infrastructure development and industrialization (1.5 days)
Energy (1.5 days)

Sixth session; 9-13 December, 2013 – 5 DAYS

Means of implementation (science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building); Global partnership for achieving sustainable development (2 days)
Needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries (2 days)
Human rights, the right to development, global governance (1 day)

Seventh session; 6-10 January, 2014 – 5 DAYS

Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport (2 days)
Sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste) (1.5 days)
Climate change and disaster risk reduction (1.5 days)

Eighth session; 3-7 February, 2014 – 5 DAYS

Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity (2 days)
Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment (1.5 days)
Conflict prevention, post-conflict peace building and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance (1.5 days)

Ninth Session of OWG on SDGs – 3-5 March 2014: Focus Area document adopted and reviewed/amendments suggested.

Tenth Session of OWG on SDGs – 31 March- 4 April 2014: Indicative debate based on clusters related to focus area document.

Eleventh Session of OWG on SDGs – 5-9 May 2014: Consultations based on revised Focus Area Document.

Twelfth Session of OWG on SDGs – 16-20 June 2014: Consultations on SDGs and targets and produce refined SDGs and targets.

Thirteenth Session of OWG on SDGs – 14-18 July 2014: Consultations on SDGs and targets; agreement and adoption of report on SDGs and targets.

*Annex II***TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM (TST) ISSUES BRIEF: BIODIVERSITY¹****1. STOCK-TAKING**

The critical role of biodiversity in sustainable development was recognized in the Rio+20 outcome document, “The Future we want”. While biodiversity will be addressed explicitly at the 8th session of the Open Working Group (OWG) on sustainable development goals (SDGs), it has also been discussed in every session of the OWG to date in relation to many issues critical to development, such as: poverty and hunger eradication; water; food security and nutrition; health; disaster risk reduction; employment; equity and governance.

Why Biodiversity is crucial for Sustainable Development

Biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, contributes directly to human well-being in many ways, and is also a critical foundation of the Earth’s life support system on which the welfare of current and future generations depend. Biodiversity (i) provides basic goods such as food, fiber, fuel, and medicine; (ii) underpins ecosystem functions and the provision of benefits to people (services), such as water purification and supply, pollination, regulation of pests and diseases, soil nutrient cycling and fertility; (iii) provides ecosystem resilience and contributes to the ability to respond to unpredictable global changes and natural disasters; (iv) includes genetic diversity essential for the adaptation of species and ecosystems to meet current and future challenges; and (v) finally, biodiversity is valued for cultural, spiritual, and religious reasons, and provides opportunities for research and education. Some of these benefits can be realized in the short term but others can take longer periods spanning multiple human generations.

The benefits provided by biodiversity are important to all people. Some benefits of biodiversity are especially important to indigenous peoples, the poor and vulnerable groups. These groups, including the rural poor, are in many cases most directly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems. To them, the goods and services provided by ecosystems underpinned by biodiversity often constitute social safety nets. Women and men may utilize ecosystem goods and services in different ways. Examples of the benefits of biodiversity include:²

- Almost one billion people in developing countries depend on fish for their primary source of animal protein.³
- As many as 80 per cent of people living in rural areas in developing countries rely on traditional plant-based medicines for basic healthcare.⁴
- Large populations in South and East Asia are dependent on complex rice-fish agro-ecosystems, where fish and other aquatic animals, serve as a source of nutrition to local communities, and provide essential services for rice productivity in the flooded fields.
- A range of ecosystems act as buffers against natural hazards, providing valuable yet under-utilized approaches for climate change adaptation, enhancing natural resilience and reducing the vulnerability of people, for example to floods and the effects of land degradation. These ecosystem services improve the sustainability and economic efficiency of built infrastructure, and are critical for sustainable and resilient urban areas.

¹ The Technical Support Team (TST) is co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme. Preparation of the brief has been co-led by the CBD Secretariat, FAO, UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank, with contributions from ESCAP, UNFF, UNESCO, UN Women and WMO, and other biodiversity-related conventions (CITES, CMS, ITPGR and Ramsar).

² Some references to examples provided here and in subsequent paragraphs can be found in the Global Biodiversity Outlook-3 and The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB) report.

³ FAO (2000) *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2000*. FAO, Rome, Italy.

⁴ Bannerman, RB, Buton J and Wen Chich C (1983). Traditional medicine and health care coverage. World Health Organization, 9-13.

- Access to green space is an important determinant of physical and mental health for many urban dwellers.

Many economic sectors depend on biodiversity and ecosystems services, including water supply, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, health, nutrition, energy, transport and tourism. For example,

- Three-quarters of the top ranking global prescription drugs (on a commercial scale), contain components derived from plant extracts.
- Genetic diversity is central to the seed industry. Its 10 top companies had commercial seed sales of US\$ 15 billion in 2006.
- Insects and other animals that carry pollen between crops, especially fruit and vegetables, are estimated to be worth more than US\$ 200 billion per year to the global food economy.
- The world's fisheries employ approximately 200 million people, provide about 16 per cent of the protein consumed worldwide and have a value estimated at US\$ 80 billion.
- Ecotourism generates significant employment and is now worth around US\$ 100 billion/year.

Ultimately, the loss and degradation of biodiversity impact negatively on all people. However, the impacts are particularly severe, and more immediate on the poor and vulnerable, women, children and indigenous peoples. Biodiversity is threatened by land use change and land degradation, overexploitation, pollution, invasive alien species, climate change and ocean acidification. As biodiversity is lost, ecosystem services are compromised, and, in some cases, there is a risk that some thresholds will be passed, undermining the functioning of the Earth's support system.

The conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity can provide solutions to a range of societal challenges. For example, protecting ecosystems and ensuring access to ecosystem services by poor and vulnerable groups are an essential part of poverty eradication. Reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing carbon stocks in forests, drylands, rangelands and croplands, is not only a cost effective way to mitigate climate change but it also generates other social and economic benefits. There are major opportunities for many sectors to invest in the restoration of degraded ecosystems. The Working for Water Programme in South Africa, for instance, illustrates how public works programs can achieve a range of conservation and restoration goals, while generating sustainable, inclusive and decent jobs that help to alleviate poverty. Other examples include the Socio Bosques Programme of Ecuador and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance for the reforestation of degraded lands in India.

Biodiversity is an essential element of Earth's life support system. A truly *sustainable* development framework must not only acknowledge the role of biodiversity for development, it must also provide the enabling conditions for its conservation and sustainable use, for more equitable sharing of benefits, and for the drivers of biodiversity loss to be reduced. To do this, the post-2015 development agenda needs to promote transformational change in economies and societies.

Existing Globally Agreed Goals and Targets related to Biodiversity

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) framework includes the biodiversity target to reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss⁵, under Goal 7 ensuring environmental sustainability. The target originates from the "2010 biodiversity target". It was adopted, in 2002, by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and also by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Thus biodiversity and environmental sustainability more generally, was included in the MDG framework, but in the implementation of the framework, the importance of biodiversity for the achievement of the other MDGs (including the high-profile goals on poverty, food, and health) has not been sufficiently recognized and promoted. Despite many actions in support of biodiversity, the 2010 biodiversity target was not fully met because the actions were not taken on sufficient scale and because the underlying drivers of loss were not addressed significantly. In the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, biodiversity needs to be more integrated into broader development objectives.

⁵ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/envIRON.shtml>

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Targets provide an agreed overarching framework for action on biodiversity and a foundation for sustainable development for all stakeholders, including agencies across the United Nations system. The Strategic Plan was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and has been recognized or supported by the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the World Heritage Convention, as well as the United Nations General Assembly.⁶ Governments at Rio+20 affirmed the importance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, emphasizing the role that the Strategic Plan plays for the United Nations system, the international community and civil society worldwide to achieve the world we want. It is primarily implemented by countries through national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with Parties encouraged to set their own national targets within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The United Nations General Assembly has encouraged Parties and all stakeholders, institutions and organizations concerned to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development.⁷

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 includes a vision for 2050, five strategic goals⁸ and twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets, mostly to be achieved by 2020. These are measurable, have already been agreed by the international community, and comprise potential elements for future Goals, targets and indicators for the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. The 2050 Vision stresses the role of biodiversity for human wellbeing: *“biodiversity to be valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy Planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”*. The Strategic Plan also includes means of implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation as well as support mechanisms (strategy for resource mobilization, capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation).

2. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSALS

The importance of biodiversity for sustainable development has featured prominently in the national and international consultation processes for the post-2015 UN development agenda. At the MDG Summit in 2010 and at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, UN Member States set out the process for preparing for the post-2015 UN development agenda and the new SDGs. Environmental issues have featured strongly throughout this process, including issues related to biodiversity. National consultations identified food security and sustainable agriculture, followed by water and sanitation, energy, education and poverty eradication, as priority issues for SDGs. Biodiversity was also explicitly included in the top twenty priorities and sustainable use of natural resource assets as one of twelve proposed SDGs by the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons.

The Sustainable Development Goals will address various aspects of human well-being and be accompanied by targets and indicators. The process for the development of the SDGs is at an early stage, and the outcome of this process cannot be prejudged. However, a number of potential goals have been discussed in the various sessions of the Open Working Group on SDGs. In addition, the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP), in follow up to the 2015 MDGs and The Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network have made proposals.⁹

⁶ CMS Resolution 10.18; CITES Resolution 16.4; Ramsar Resolution XI.6; ITPGRFA Resolution 8/2011; WHC Decision: 37 COM 5A; General Assembly Resolution 65/161 of 11 March 2011.

⁷ General Assembly Resolution 67/212 (A/RES/67/212).

⁸ The five goals include: to protect nature (Goal C), to maximize the benefits for all people (Goal D), to reduce pressures on biodiversity (Goal B), to address the underlying causes of loss (Goal A), and Goal E provides for enabling activities.

⁹ Reports by the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013) “A New Global Partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development” (HLP); Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) “An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2013).

On the basis of these proposals and for the purposes of considering how biodiversity may be integrated into the SDGs, the following “types” of SDGs may be identified:

- A first type are overarching goals that encompass multiple dimensions of sustainable development such as poverty eradication.
- A second type of goals relates to issues such as food security and nutrition (“nutritious food for all”), “a water secure world”, universal clean energy and access to medicines. These are constituents and determinants of human well-being that both directly depend on, and directly impact biodiversity and ecosystems, or have a direct and two-way link to biodiversity.
- A third type of goals may relate to the underlying global “life support systems” such as protection of ecosystems, including land, forests and oceans.
- Finally some goals may relate to less tangible, but no less important aspects, which refer to those “enabling factors” that do not have a “biophysical” relation with biodiversity but impact (both positively and negatively) the utilization and conservation of biodiversity to achieve sustainable development. Examples include education, equality, gender equity, governance, participation and human rights.

These types of goals are closely interrelated as biodiversity intersects in many sectors, and for each goal, the link to biodiversity can be realized at the appropriate level within the SDG process. The HLP report, for example, includes a biodiversity-related target, namely to “adopt sustainable agricultural, ocean, and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild designated fish stocks to sustainable levels” in an indicative goal on “Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition”. The HLP report also suggested an indicative goal -to “Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably” with targets to “a) Publish and use economic, social and environmental accounts in all governments and major companies; b) Increase consideration of sustainability in x% of government procurements; c) Safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; d) Reduce deforestation by x% and increase reforestation by y%; e) Improve soil quality, reduce soil erosion by x tonnes and combat desertification.” The report prepared by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the UN Secretary General “An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development”, includes Goal 9 “Secure ecosystem services and biodiversity, and ensure good management of water and other natural resources.” The results of the Global Thematic Consultation on Environmental Sustainability presented in the report “Breaking Down the Silos” also depicts examples of integrated development solutions, drawing on the contributions that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets can provide. Many of the goals and targets proposed and emerging out of the consultation processes can be aligned and further supported by existing targets and indicators adopted at UN conferences. Suggestions for how to integrate biodiversity into the various types of goals are outlined below.

3. WAY FORWARD

The key challenge at the global level is to set goals and targets which can be measured, easily communicated and help guide the transformative actions required by countries, individually and collectively. Four complementary recommendations on how biodiversity could be fully integrated into these Goals are set out below. The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity can help shape a shared vision for action towards sustainable development, poverty eradication and universal human development, while the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and associated indicators can provide specific inputs for the SDGs, potential sub-targets and indicators. In addition, the Strategic Plan also contains elements for the means of implementation.

(1) Biodiversity should be integrated into overarching goals addressing broad concepts such as poverty eradication, an inclusive “green economy”, human well-being, and sustainable development. This could be achieved by the development and use of comprehensive indicators of progress towards sustainable development, as alternatives to GDP. It is increasingly recognized that GDP (or GNP) is too narrow an indicator of human progress. Broader indicators would focus on wealth (stocks), rather than income (a flow), and account not only for manufactured and financial assets (physical capital), but also natural, human and social capital. In most countries, assessments of natural capital are currently limited to mineral reserves, timber stocks and fish stocks. However, methods are

available to also measure the status of ecosystems, taking into account both the extent of healthy ecosystem assets and the extent of their degradation, such as pollution levels. The system for environmental-economic accounting normalized by the UN Statistical Commission and implemented by initiatives such as the World Bank-led Wealth Accounting and Valuation Ecosystem Services (WAVES) partnership can provide integrated measurement frameworks to inform the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs monitoring process. Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 calls for the biodiversity values to be integrated into such national accounting systems, as well as into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes. Strategic environmental assessment is a useful approach in this regard. Reform of incentives (Aichi Target 3) is another.

(2) Specific biodiversity related targets and indicators should be integrated into Goals on food security and nutrition, water and health. Such goals – dealing with the physical constituents and determinants of human well-being – directly depend on, and directly impact, biodiversity and ecosystems. Since biodiversity is essential to the continued provision of food and is an important determinant of its quality, targets and indicators under a Goal for food security and nutrition should relate not only to production, but also to its sustainability. This might include for example, targets and/or indicators on genetic diversity in crop systems, pollinators, soil biodiversity (or soil health and carbon content, a proxy that also reflects climate mitigation benefits), as well as indicators of the overall health of agricultural ecosystems such as farmland birds. It could also include targets and indicators on the efficiency of use of water and soil nutrients, particularly where these are underpinned by restoring ecosystem services, on land-use change, land degradation, and better practices for use of pesticides and fertilizer. For fisheries, targets and/or indicators might relate to the status of fish stocks and catch per unit effort. Targets and indicators should also relate to the contribution of biodiversity and dietary diversity to nutritional quality, as well as to access to wild biodiversity-based foods (such as non-timber forest products, bushmeat and fisheries), especially by indigenous peoples, the poor and vulnerable groups. Essential parameters for measuring progress on this type of Goal can draw from a combination of Aichi Biodiversity Targets; for example, on habitat loss (Target 5); fisheries (Target 6); sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry (Target 7); limiting pollution (Target 8) managing invasive alien species (Target 9); genetic resources for food and agriculture (Target 13); safeguarding essential ecosystems (Target 14); and restoring degraded ecosystems and addressing climate change (Target 15). On a Goal for “water secure world”, biodiversity related targets and/or indicators could address the impacts of water use on biodiversity and the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in underpinning sustainable water supply and its quality. For a “health” Goal, a biodiversity target could focus on the maintenance of diverse natural ecosystems to reduce the burden of vector-borne and parasitic diseases.

(3) Biodiversity should also be included as a central component of goals for global “life support systems” such as goals relating to the protection of ecosystems, including land, forests and oceans, and their natural resources. The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 could be the entry point for a goal such as “healthy and productive ecosystems”, building coherence among other proposals to the Open Working Group on SDGs related to various ecosystems (i.e. land, forests, water, and oceans). This Goal could include targets to ensure that globally or regionally-significant ecosystem tipping points are not breached. Among the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the following quantitative targets are particularly relevant: by 2020, at least halving deforestation and the loss of other natural habitats (Target 5), protecting at least 17% of land and 10% of oceans through protected areas (Target 11), and restoring at least 15% of degraded lands (Target 15). Target 14, which addresses the contributions from ecosystems to health, livelihoods and wellbeing is also particularly relevant. Possible indicators could include trends in the provision of ecosystem services, as well as trends in the extent of biomes or ecosystems such as forest and wetlands, trends in the quality of ecosystems such as coral reefs, and the extent of protected areas. Elements from other internationally agreed instruments could also be reflected, such as the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its Global Objectives.

(4) The SDG framework should provide the enabling conditions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and for the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss to be addressed. This implies Goals for improved governance, and institutions, at appropriate scales (from local to global), for the management of risks and the negotiation of trade-offs among stakeholder groups, where they exist, as well as for behavioural change, and for building human capabilities through access to education and health care. These goals do not depend directly on biodiversity, nor does their achievement directly involve the utilization of biodiversity. However, the achievement of SDGs of this type is necessary for the achievement of other SDGs. In addition, an understanding of the role of biodiversity and the ecosystems services it underpins may inform these goals and the targets and indicators under them (e.g. the role of biodiversity in food security and income generation for women). Aichi Target 1 on building awareness of the values of biodiversity and the actions needed to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity is relevant to this type of goal.

To develop a coherent post-2015 United Nations development agenda, each potential SDG should be examined for possible impacts on other dimensions of sustainable development. Does each proposed Goal contribute to sustainable development in a sustained way? Collectively, do the Goals provide for the transformative change needed? Does each proposed Goal enhance, or undermine, the other proposed Goals, including the Goals for “life support systems”? The potential Goals should be revised in light of the answers to these questions and alternative pathways for the achievement of the Goals considered. Specifically it should be considered how targets, sub-targets and/or indicators could be included under each proposed Goal to promote more sustainable pathways, *i.e.* to ensure that the pathway towards the Goal accentuates the positive impacts on biodiversity and on other Goals, and minimizes the negative impact.

The integration of biodiversity into the SDG framework would be facilitated by improved data, and the identification of suitable metrics, indicators and targets that link biodiversity to the various Goals of the framework. Three improvements are required in this regard: First, greater investment is needed to gather and analyse robust and regular data on the status and trends of ecosystems, associated ecosystem services, and underlying biodiversity. Second, further work is required to develop practical indicators to link biodiversity and the other dimensions of sustainable development (for example for biodiversity-related aspects of food security as explored under recommendation 2, above). Thirdly, to promote mainstreaming, targets and indicators for the integration of natural capital and biodiversity related data in decision-making on policies and investments for sustainable development as called for in Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 could be adopted.

The post-2015 United Nations development agenda should be applicable at the national level and must include robust and adequate means for implementation, including technical and scientific cooperation among countries, the mobilization of financial resources and support for capacity building. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 includes such means for implementation which could provide useful lessons-learned for the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. Initiatives on the mobilization of resources carried out by other United Nations entities, and across the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing could also provide solid means to generate additional resources for biodiversity.

Annex III

**CBD – GET READY FOR 2015 –
BIODIVERSITY: THE FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
BIODIVERSITY SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT, FEBRUARY 2014**

Biodiversity: The foundation for sustainable development



directly constitute social safety nets and can mean the difference between misery and well-being.

- **Traditional knowledge** associated with biodiversity is also important and has value not only to those who depend on it in their daily lives but to modern industry and agriculture as well.

- Biodiversity is the cornerstone of the work, belief systems and basic survival of many **women**. Accounting for women's knowledge and role in biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use can ensure their full participation and thus substantially contribute to sustainable development.

- Biodiversity plays a major role in **mitigating climate change** by contributing to long-term sequestration of carbon in a number of biomes. Biodiversity also underpins ecosystem resilience and plays a critical role as part of **disaster risk reduction** and peace-building strategies. Forests, wetlands and mangroves play a critical role in reducing the impacts of extreme events such as droughts, floods and tsunamis.

- Even the built environments of our **cities** are linked to and affected by biodiversity. Ecosystem-based solutions to water provisioning and to urban water run-off, climate control and other

Humanity's fate is tightly linked with biological diversity – the variety of life on earth. Biodiversity is essential for sustainable development and human well-being. The examples are plenty.

- Biodiversity is a vital asset in global and local **economies**. Biodiversity directly supports major economic activity and jobs in such diverse sectors as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, pharmaceuticals, pulp and paper, cosmetics, horticulture, construction and biotechnology.

- **Food production** depends on biodiversity and the services provided by ecosystems. The thousands of different crop varieties and animal breeds are founded in the rich genetic pool of species. Biodiversity is also the basis for soil fertility, pollination, pest control and all aspects important for producing the world's food.

- Clean and secure supplies of **water** also depend on biodiversity. Ecosystems function as natural water infrastructure, costing less than technological solutions. Forests protect water supplies, wetlands regulate floods, and healthy soils increase water and nutrient

availability for crops and help reduce off-farm impacts.

- Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning provide goods and services essential for **human health** – including nutrients, clean air and water and regulation of pests and vector-based diseases. Biodiversity is essential for the regulation of the immune response. Biodiversity is the basis of traditional medicine, and a large number of top-ranking global prescription drugs contain components derived from plant extracts.

- Biodiversity is the basis for **sustainable livelihoods**. Benefits of biodiversity are especially important to poor and vulnerable groups. To many, the goods and services derived from biodiversity

People are an integral part of nature. The future we want needs to be based on living in harmony with nature so that it can sustain present and future generations.

- Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary



STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

THE 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.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

more information:

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challenges can both protect biodiversity and be cost-effective. Green areas in cities reduce the incidence of violence, enhance human health and well-being, and strengthen communities.

Despite these facts, biodiversity is being lost at a greatly accelerated rate, largely due to human activities.

The **good news** is that governments have already made a number of commitments to protect biodiversity. A key achievement was the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. But **to ensure that the Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets are achieved, biodiversity must be effectively addressed in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.**

The need to address biodiversity as a key element of sustainable development in the post-2015 period has been widely recognised in a variety of ways.

The importance of the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets was reaffirmed by governments at Rio+20, and the United Nations General Assembly encouraged Parties to consider it in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda. The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda proposed a post-2015 goal on managing natural resource assets sustainably. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network proposed a goal on securing ecosystem services and biodiversity, and ensuring good management of water and other natural resources.

Biodiversity is essential for achieving sustainable development and global priorities including poverty eradication. It is important that any future post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals not erode, but embrace and build upon the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

FAST
FACTSBiodiversity
supporting developmentPoverty Eradication,
Sustainable Livelihoods
and Equitable Growth

- More than 180 million people are directly or indirectly employed in fisheries and aquaculture, providing income to households totaling about 540 million people (8% of the world population) of whom more than 90% live in developing countries.

- The value of the ecosystem services provided by coral reefs ranges from more than US\$ 18 million per square kilometer per year for natural hazard management, up to US\$ 100 million for tourism, more than US\$ 5 million for genetic material and bioprospecting and up to US\$ 331,800 for fisheries.

- 25-50% of the pharmaceutical sector's revenue (about US\$ 650 billion/year) is derived from genetic resources.

- Ecotourism is a fast-growing sector which generates significant employment and is now worth around US\$ 100 billion/year.

Agriculture and
Food Security

- Genetic diversity is central to the seed industry. Its top 10 companies had commercial seed sales of US\$ 15 billion in 2006.

- Approximately 33% of the food consumed by humans is dependent, either directly or indirectly, on honey bee pollination. The worldwide economic value of the pollination service provided by insects in 2005 was estimated to be US\$ 190 billion for the main crops that feed the world.

- Fisheries account for at least 15% of animal protein directly consumed by humans. Fisheries indirectly support additional food production by providing inputs to the aquaculture and livestock industries.

- Large populations in South and East Asia are dependent on complex rice-fish agro-ecosystems, where fish and other aquatic animals serve as a source of nutrition to local communities, and provide essential services for rice productivity in the flooded fields.

Health

- The World Health Organization suggests that as many as 80% of people in Africa rely on traditional medicines as the main source for their health care needs.

- A large number of top-ranking global prescription drugs contain components derived from biodiversity.

- The chemical taxol, derived from the Pacific yew, has been found to kill cancer cells.

- ACE inhibitors, which are among the most effective medicines known for treating high blood pressure, are derived from the Pit Viper (*Bothrops jararaca*).

- Microbes have given us nearly all of our antibiotics such as penicillin, as well as the cholesterol lowering statins.



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Gender and Women

- Women provide almost 80% of the total wild vegetable food collected in 135 different subsistence-based societies.

- Women produce, select and save up to 90% of seeds and germplasm used in smallholder agriculture and also play key roles in the multiplication, improvement and storage of seeds.



Water and Sanitation

- A survey in North America indicated that for every 10% increase in forest cover in a water supply catchment water treatment costs decreased by approximately 20%. Forest cover both increased security of supply and led to reduced pollutants in the water.

- In the Austrian Alps it has been estimated that runoff generated during extreme rainfall events may be up to 80% lower in mountain forests than for areas which have been deforested and converted to pasture.

- Trees in the Amazon forest are able to extract water from up to 10 meters below the Earth's surface and return it to the atmosphere. It is estimated that 25% to 50% of the rainfall in the Amazon is derived from water recycled from forests.

- If treated as an economic asset, the minimum asset value of the natural infrastructure provided by the Mississippi delta would be US\$ 330 billion to US\$ 1.3 trillion (at 2007 values) in terms of hurricane and flood protection, water supply, water quality, recreation and fisheries.

- In East Calcutta Wetland, a Ramsar Site in India, the city's waste water is treated and used for pond-fish cultivation and agriculture. The wetland provides about 150 tons of fresh vegetables daily, as well as some 10,500 tons of table fish per year.

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