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24 May 2017

## NOTIFICATION

### **Input of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 10 to 19 July 2017, New York, United States of America**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to enclose herewith the input provided by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the 2017 meeting of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will take place in New York from 10 to 19 July 2017. Convened this year under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Political Forum is the central platform of the United Nations for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention requested the Executive Secretary *“to continue the collaboration, with key partners, to actively contribute to the discussions on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the sustainable development goals, to follow the relevant outcomes and to inform Parties of any major developments related to biodiversity”* (decision XII/4, paragraph 3 (b)). The input has been provided pursuant to this decision and in response to the invitation from the President of the Economic and Social Council. It follows the template provided, which is inspired by the report of the Secretary-General on global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda (A/70/684). The input is made available on the website of the High-level Political Forum at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/>, together with inputs of other intergovernmental bodies and forums.

Reflecting the theme of the High-level Political Forum in 2017 of *“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”*, the note highlights the close linkages between the 2030 Agenda, in particular its goals to end poverty and hunger, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Based on various work streams under the Convention, the note also provides analytical insights into gaps and areas requiring more attention and political guidance, lessons learned, and emerging issues.

Parties may wish to take this note into account in their national preparations for the meeting of the High-level Political Forum.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To : CBD National Focal Points, relevant organizations and stakeholders

## **Input to the 2017 High-Level Political Forum Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

### **I. Assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind”**

Biodiversity, at the level of ecosystems, species and genes, forms the foundation of the Earth’s life support systems and provides the services that underpin human lives and prosperity. Globally, some 2.6 billion people draw their livelihoods either partially or fully from agriculture, 1.6 billion from forests, and more than 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity. Of the global poor, 70% are said to live in rural areas, with as much as 50 to 90 per cent of livelihoods sourced from non-marketed goods and ecosystem services. They depend directly on biodiversity as source of food, income and insurance against various risks, such as external economic shocks, environmental disasters, impacts of climate change, food insecurity, and health risks arising from lack of access to drinking water supply and health-care services. For instance, bushmeat and other edible wild animals can account for up to 85% of the protein intake of people living in or near forests.<sup>1</sup> In some Asian and African countries, 80% of the population depends on traditional medicines for primary health care. The world’s estimated 370 million indigenous peoples, who constitute 15% of the poorest,<sup>2</sup> are custodians of up to 22 per cent of the world’s land surface, which holds 80 per cent of global biodiversity. Yet, biodiversity and ecosystem services supporting peoples’ lives and livelihoods continue to be at risk of loss and degradation.

Biodiversity and the natural resources it underpins are essential for sustainable development. It is therefore not surprising that biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are included not only in Sustainable Develop Goal 14 on oceans and coasts, and Goal 15 on terrestrial ecosystems, but also in many other goals and targets, including: Goal 1 (poverty eradication), Goals 2 (hunger and food security), Goal 6 (water and sanitation), Goal 11 (cities and human settlements), Goal 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and Goal 13 (climate change adaptation and mitigation). Because biodiversity is so important for sustainable development, making progress in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020<sup>3</sup> is critically important to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

### **II. Identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges**

#### **1. Overview of gaps and challenges**

The fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (2014), which provides a mid-term assessment of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention, highlights five principal pressures on biodiversity: climate change, habitat loss and degradation, excessive nutrient load and other forms of pollution, overexploitation and unsustainable use, and invasive alien species. The following elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) of the Strategic Plan are highlighted as those lagging behind in progress.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CBD-Get Ready for 2015. No.5 – June 2013. Biodiversity for Food Security and Nutrition.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Substantive inputs to the 2016 High-Level Political Forum.

<sup>3</sup> Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

<sup>4</sup> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014). *Global Biodiversity Outlook 4* — Summary and Conclusions.

Elements of ABTs	ABT	Major relevant SDGs and associated targets <sup>5</sup>
Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity, eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts	3	<p><b>SDG 2</b> on hunger and food security; <b>SDG 12</b> on sustainable consumption and production; <b>SDG 14</b> on oceans and coasts</p> <p><b>Target 2.b</b> Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies</p> <p><b>Target 12.c</b> Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption</p> <p><b>Target 14.6</b> Eliminating fisheries subsidies that lead to overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing</p>
Keep the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits	4	<p><b>SDG 8</b> on decent work and economic growth; <b>SDG 9</b> on industry, innovation and infrastructure; <b>SDG 12</b> on sustainable consumption and production</p> <p><b>Target 8.4</b> Improve global resource efficiency and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation</p> <p><b>Target 9.4</b> Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable with increased resource-use efficiency and adoption of environmentally sound technologies</p> <p><b>Target 12.2</b> Achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p>
The loss of all habitats at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero; Degradation and fragmentation significantly reduced	5	<p><b>SDG 13</b> on climate change adaptation and mitigation; <b>SDG 14</b> on oceans and coasts; <b>SDG 15</b> on terrestrial ecosystems</p> <p><b>Target 15.1</b> Conservation of terrestrial ecosystems</p> <p><b>Target 15.2</b> Sustainable management of forests</p> <p><b>Target 15.5</b> Reduce degradation of habitats and extinction of species</p>
Fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems; The impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits	6	<p><b>SDG 2</b> on hunger and food security; <b>SDG 12</b> on sustainable consumption and production; <b>SDG 14</b> on oceans and coasts</p> <p><b>Target 14.4</b> End overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, destructive fishing, implement science-based management plans</p> <p><b>Target 14.7</b> Increase economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from sustainable use of marine resources</p>
Pollution from excess nutrients brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity	8	<p><b>SDG 3</b> on health and well-being; <b>SDG 6</b> on water and sanitation; <b>SDG 9</b> on industry, innovation and infrastructure; <b>SDG 11</b> on cities and human settlements; <b>SDG 12</b> on sustainable consumption and production; <b>SDG 14</b> on oceans and coasts; <b>SDG 15</b> on terrestrial ecosystems</p> <p><b>Target 9.4</b> Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable with increased resource-use efficiency and adoption of environmentally sound technologies</p> <p><b>Target 14.1</b> Prevent and reduce marine pollution of all kinds, including marine debris and nutrient pollution</p> <p><b>Target 15.5</b> Reduce degradation of habitats and extinction of species</p>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. (2016). Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Technical Note (<https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf>); UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/9 Linkage between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Note by the Executive Secretary.

<b>Elements of ABTs</b>	<b>ABT</b>	<b>Major relevant SDGs and associated targets<sup>5</sup></b>
Introduction and establishment of invasive alien species (IAS) prevented	<b>9</b>	<b>SDG 14</b> on oceans and coasts; <b>SDG 15</b> on terrestrial ecosystems <b>Target 15.8</b> Introduce measures to prevent introduction and significantly reduce the impact of IAS; control or eradicate priority species
Multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning	<b>10</b>	<b>SDG 11</b> on cities and human settlements; <b>SDG 14</b> on oceans and coasts <b>Target 14.2</b> Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems <b>Target 14.3</b> Minimize and address impacts of ocean acidification
Extinction of known threatened species prevented; The conservation status of those species most in decline improved and sustained	<b>12</b>	<b>SDG 14</b> on oceans and coasts; <b>SDG 15</b> on terrestrial ecosystems <b>Target 14.4</b> End overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, destructive fishing, implement science-based management plans <b>Target 15.5</b> Reduce degradation of habitats and extinction of species <b>Target 15.7</b> Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species
The genetic diversity of wild relatives maintained	<b>13</b>	<b>SDG 2</b> on hunger and food security <b>Target 2.5</b> Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species
Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded; taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable	<b>14</b>	<b>SDG 1</b> on poverty; <b>SDG 6</b> on water and sanitation; <b>SDG 14</b> on oceans and coasts; <b>SDG 15</b> on terrestrial ecosystems <b>Target 1.4</b> Ensure equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other property, inheritance, natural resources, technology and financial services <b>Target 1.6</b> Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events, other shocks and disasters <b>Target 6.6</b> Protect and restore water-related ecosystems
Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks enhanced through conservation and restoration	<b>15</b>	<b>SDG 13</b> on climate change adaptation and mitigation; <b>SDG 15</b> on terrestrial ecosystems <b>Target 15.1</b> Conservation of terrestrial ecosystems <b>Target 15.3</b> Combat desertification, restore degraded land

### **III. Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity**

As reflected in the preamble, the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes that the Earth's biodiversity and resources are vital to humanity's social, cultural and economic development. The three objectives of the Convention — conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources — align with the principles of equality and equity.

Numerous articles of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 have a direct bearing on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity:

(a) Article 6(b) of the Convention calls for the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies;

(b) Article 8(j) requires Parties to respect, preserve, and promote the wider application and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the knowledge, innovations, and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with their approval and involvement as far as possible and as appropriate;

(c) Article 10(a) calls on Parties to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making;

(d) Under the overall goal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society, Aichi Biodiversity Target 2, mirrored in Target 15.9 of Sustainable Development Goal 15, calls for integration of biodiversity values into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies, planning processes, national accounting, and reporting systems.

The Convention has undertaken numerous streams of work to address issues of poverty, rights, roles, and full and effective participation of socially excluded groups, including women and indigenous peoples and local communities. These are summarized below.

In addition, the Conference of the Parties decided to devote particular attention to the mainstreaming of biodiversity into specific economic sectors, which provides additional opportunities to undertake targeted sector-specific analysis and to identify possible policy interventions on the interface between the three objectives of the Convention and poverty alleviation. At its thirteenth meeting, held in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2016, the Conference of the Parties considered and adopted related decisions on the mainstreaming of biodiversity into agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. The Conference of the Parties also decided to further consider the mainstreaming of biodiversity in infrastructure, energy and mining, manufacturing and processing, and health sectors at its fourteenth meeting, in late 2018.

## **1. Biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation**

Through its decisions IX/8 and XII/5, the Conference of the Parties encourages Parties to mainstream biodiversity concerns in national strategies, in particular poverty eradication strategies, and vice versa, to integrate poverty eradication and development concerns and priorities into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Together with the Chennai Guidance for the Integration of Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication, contained in the annex to decision XII/5,<sup>6</sup> the Conference of the Parties further encouraged Parties and other stakeholders to promote actions that are “compatible with biodiversity conservation to strengthen food security and nutrition as mechanisms for poverty eradication in rural areas”, “empower indigenous and local communities, the poor, marginalized and vulnerable”, and “to support indigenous and community conserved areas and territories, community-based management, customary sustainable use and community governance of biodiversity”. It also recognized that “integration of biodiversity and poverty eradication needs to take into consideration [...] cross-cutting issues related to gender, indigenous and local communities, smallholders, and inequalities, and to promote an understanding that maintaining biodiversity is not a problem to be solved but rather an opportunity to help achieve broader social and economic goals in addition to a healthy environment and society”.

## **2. Health and biodiversity**

The Conference of the Parties, at its ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth meetings, called for strengthened cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other organizations on health and biodiversity issues. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the establishment of a joint work programme with WHO and other relevant organizations, to support the contribution that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 can make to achieving human health objectives. The

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-05-en.pdf>

Secretariat, in collaboration with WHO and other contributors, published *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health: A State of Knowledge Review*, which highlights multidimensional linkages between biodiversity and health, including: water and air quality; food production and nutrition; microbial diversity and non-communicable diseases; infectious diseases; development of pharmaceuticals; traditional medicine; mental, physical and cultural well-being; and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

### **3. Urbanization and biodiversity**

The Convention was the first among the United Nations multilateral environmental agreements to adopt a decision on cities and subnational governments. Recognizing their leading roles in translating national strategies into local context and mobilizing efforts, the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting adopted the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020).

The publication *Cities and Biodiversity Outlook: Global Assessment of the Links between Urbanization, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Services*, released by the Secretariat at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, highlights the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services as significant natural capital that enhances safety and value of human settlements, and contributes to health and well-being of residents. The *Outlook* contains information on the toolbox of more than 50 policy instruments, guidelines, projects and institutions that can promote the preservation of biodiversity at the subnational and local levels.

### **4. Gender mainstreaming**

The recognition of the vital role of women and the need for their full participation at all levels of policymaking and implementation, as outlined in the preamble of the Convention, provides an important basis for the mainstreaming of gender issues in efforts to implement the Convention. In 2008, the Convention became the first multilateral environmental agreement to incorporate a Gender Plan of Action, which was updated at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2014, for the period 2015-2020. It not only contains an updated framework for actions for the Secretariat to integrate gender considerations in its work supporting the implementation of the Convention but also lists possible actions for Parties.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 further highlights the importance of gender mainstreaming, requesting Parties “to mainstream gender considerations, where appropriate, in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its associated goals, the Aichi Targets, and indicators”.

Well over 50 decisions of the Conference of the Parties have included gender mainstreaming objectives addressing various themes, such as women as stakeholders and as actors, consideration of gender issues and gender roles, combating discrimination against women, and the preservation of women’s biodiversity knowledge. Guidelines have been developed to support the integration of gender into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

### **5. Indigenous peoples and local communities, traditional knowledge**

Numerous measures have been taken to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in processes under the Convention. For example, it is the only multilateral environmental agreement to have established a voluntary fund for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in its meetings, primarily the meetings of the Working Group on Article 8(j) on traditional knowledge, innovation and practices. In addition, the General Principles for the programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j) of the Convention call, among other things, for the “full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities”, and relevant work of the Convention is continued to provide further advice for engaging local communities.

Furthermore, in 2012, the Conference of the Parties adopted the global Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity. The Plan's objective is to promote, within the framework of the Convention, a just implementation of Article 10(c) (customary sustainable use of components of biological diversity), at the local, national, regional and international levels and to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and levels of implementation.

In many of its decisions, the Conference of the Parties has adopted various guidelines and tools for promoting and ensuring the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. These include the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities and the Tkarihwaí:ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities.

## **IV. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity**

### **1. Rapid urbanization and infrastructure development**

The global urban population is expected to reach 5 billion by 2030, and more than 60% of the area projected to become urban by 2030 is yet to be developed. In addition to the impact of expansion of urban land use, changing consumption patterns lead to an increased ecological footprint, i.e. demand for food, water, fibre, energy and other goods and services as well as waste and wastewater discharge, impacting ecosystems near and far due to associated land use changes. Such degradation of the ecosystem and its services potentially affect the well-being of both urban and rural populations that rely on them.

Efforts to achieve some of the Sustainable Development Goals closely linked to urbanization, such as Goal 6 on water and sanitation, Goal 7 on energy, Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, and Goal 11 on cities and human settlements, will require substantial investment for construction of various infrastructures. In particular, the energy and transportation sectors are likely to receive large investments, followed by water and sanitation, and communications. Some estimates suggest that, in order to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, investments in infrastructure as high as US\$ 6 trillion annually are needed.<sup>7</sup> This also creates pressure in terms of significant scale-up of investments within a short timeframe compared with the pre-2015 period. Infrastructure and urbanization are among the major drivers of fragmentation, degradation or loss of habitats, leading to significant biodiversity loss. Ensuring careful management of such investments in a way that does not undermine ecosystem services or biodiversity, especially those ecosystem services that are of particular importance for the poor, is an urgent task. Thus, in order to be “sustainable”, infrastructure investments must be not only low carbon and resilient but must also support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. As mentioned above, the issue of mainstreaming biodiversity into infrastructure policies and programmes is one of the items for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, which is scheduled to be held in late 2018.

### **2. Agriculture and fisheries**

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<sup>7</sup> Mercer and Inter-American Development Bank, [Crossing the Bridge to Sustainable Infrastructure Investing: Exploring Ways to Make it Across](#), 2017.

Unsustainable practices in agriculture and forestry, such as pollution by fertilizers, chemicals and pesticides, conversion of habitats and excessive water withdrawal, cause substantial environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Agricultural expansion is said to account for 70 per cent of the projected loss of terrestrial biodiversity.<sup>8</sup> Demand for fertile land is projected to increase substantially by 2050 due to increasing population and urbanization. The combination of expanded agriculture and bioenergy could result in a global land squeeze in which there would not be sufficient room to conserve natural terrestrial habitats, leading to large declines in biodiversity. Under prevailing production and consumption patterns, biodiversity loss and natural resource degradation will continue unabated or accelerate without additional policies, with the poor being disproportionately affected. The provision of food, water, and energy to the poor becomes more difficult when available natural resources are not managed sustainably or are degraded.

Fisheries account for 17% of global intake of animal protein, with small-scale fishers directly dependent on coastal and marine biodiversity for their livelihoods. However, the world's oceans and coasts are highly threatened and subject to rapid environmental change. Coral reefs continue to be degraded, and nearly 90% of fisheries stocks are said to be fully fished or overfished. Significant challenges exist in controlling major threats to coastal marine ecosystems, including unsustainable fishing practices, impact of climate change, land-based pollution and eutrophication. This requires the enforcement of effective regulations through cooperation among different global, national and subnational governing bodies and the private sector.

### **3. Impacts of climate change**

Global temperature increases of 0.4 to 2.6°C by 2055 and 0.3 to 4.8°C by 2090 would be accompanied by rising sea levels, changes in precipitation patterns, substantial loss of summer Arctic sea ice and increasing ocean acidification. These changes would have a broad range of impacts on biodiversity at genetic, species and ecosystem levels, including shifts in the distribution of species and ecosystems, changes in species abundance and increased risk of extinctions. This, in turn, will affect vital ecosystem services, such as air and water purification, pollination, food production, and global nutrient and carbon cycles. Efforts to mitigate climate change could also have very large impacts, both positive and negative, on biodiversity.

Poor populations are at higher risk from climate-related shocks. For instance, agriculture is one of the most important economic sectors in many poor countries, but also one of the most sensitive to climate change due to its dependence on weather conditions and other climate-related stressors, such as pests, diseases or sea level rise. One scenario estimates that an additional 100 million people will fall in poverty by 2030 due to climate change, mostly due to rising food prices.<sup>9</sup> In addition to addressing the issue of food security, there is a need to increase the resilience of communities through restoration of ecosystems, which contributes to the protection of people and infrastructure from the negative impacts of extreme climatic events.

## **V. Areas where political guidance by the high-level political forum is required**

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<sup>8</sup> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Global Biodiversity Outlook 4](#) (2014).

<sup>9</sup> Hallegatte, Stephane; Bangalore, Mook; Bonzanigo, Laura; Fay, Marianne; Kane, Tamaro; Narloch, Ulf; Rozenberg, Julie; Treguer, David; Vogt-Schilb, Adrien. 2016. Shock Waves : Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty. Climate Change and Development. Washington, DC: World Bank.

## **1. Additional guidance to support integrated approach for the implementation, follow-up and review at the national and regional levels<sup>10</sup>**

In order to live up to the ambition of the 2030 Agenda to balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, it is crucial to ensure integrated approach and policy coherence at the national and regional levels. Otherwise, the balanced, mutually supportive approach of the Sustainable Development Goals could be undermined, and activities to implement certain Sustainable Development Goals could cause adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. Additional guidance on a common approach for planning, implementation, follow-up and reviews for countries and regions could be provided to encourage the application of integrated approach and policy coherence.

One area for further improvement includes the effective application of Strategic Environmental Assessment to ensure that efforts to achieve one or more Sustainable Development Goals do not undermine or conflict with the achievement of others. This is particularly important in the light of the trillions of dollars needed over the coming period for infrastructure investments in order to ensure that such investments are directed towards sustainable approaches. This is critically important for not only ensuring that such investments are supportive of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, but also supporting low-carbon and resilient infrastructure.

The High-Level Political Forum may also wish to encourage subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including the regional commissions, to foster synergies with the existing relevant global processes, such as multilateral environmental agreements.

## **2. Implementation, follow-up and review of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**

Many biodiversity-related targets included in the Sustainable Development Goals use 2020 as the date for their achievement as they reflect the pertinent Aichi Biodiversity Targets, or elements thereof, of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. A post-2020 follow-up to the current Strategic Plan will be discussed at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which is scheduled to take place in late 2020,<sup>11</sup> and it will be critical to ensure that the current level of coherence between the Sustainable Development Goals and the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity will be maintained and further improved under its successor framework.

# **VI. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication**

## **1. Promotion of approaches to integrate biodiversity in development policies and actions**

In order to ensure the benefits of biodiversity to the poor as well as the future generation and to avoid negative impacts of development investments on ecosystem services which support the lives of vulnerable populations, national and local decision makers and stakeholders both in private and public sectors need

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<sup>10</sup> Analysis of the zero draft of the outcome document for the United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 Development Agenda. 19 June 2015 (Ref: SCBD/MPO/AF/ACO/fd/84780); CBD newsletter May 2015. Translating Universal Sustainable Development Goals to Country Action. Lessons from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (<https://www.cbd.int/idb/image/2015/more/sdg-may2015.pdf>).

<sup>11</sup> See decision XII/31 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020 ([UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XII/31](https://www.cbd.int/decisions/2010/12/31.html)).

to ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem services are mainstreamed in development and poverty reduction policies and actions.

Experiences and lessons learned by Parties and other partners of the Convention encompass various approaches: institutional coordination mechanisms (see sect 2 below), integration of biodiversity consideration in national budgets and sectoral policies, use of spatial planning tools, and use of nature-based solutions to development challenges, such as ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR). Such approaches are most effective when they are adopted at the earlier stage of planning and decision-making, such as during strategic environment assessments. Support needs to be provided to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and availability of information that enables the use of those approaches in decision-making processes.

## **2. National institutional mechanisms for effective inter-agency coordination, stakeholder engagement<sup>12</sup>**

Experiences by Parties and partners of the Convention suggest that effective institutional arrangements are one of the key requirements for integrating biodiversity, national poverty reduction strategies and sectoral plans across all relevant ministries. One aspect of this is the use of effective inter-ministerial or inter-agency processes for developing government-wide policies. Such mechanism provides an effective formal forum for development and implementation of government-wide and sectoral policies through better integrated approach.

Another key aspect of institutional arrangements is the effective engagement of civil society, indigenous peoples, and local communities, and their ability to contribute to decision making. The use of robust and inclusive mechanisms for stakeholder engagement is an important element of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which strives to “leave no one behind”.

## **3. Ensuring that the benefits of conservation mechanisms reach the poorest**

Several conservation measures include innovative mechanisms to address poverty, mainly in rural areas. These include: Payments for Ecosystem Services including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), ecotourism, sustainably managed fisheries and no-fish zones, community forestry, non-timber forest products, mangrove restoration, protected area jobs, agroforestry, grassland management, and conservation of agricultural diversity. Evidence suggests that schemes such as REDD+ and Eco-DRR also have extensive social, economic and environmental benefits. Ecosystem-based solutions can often be more cost-efficient and sustainable compared to grey infrastructure.

However, studies and discussions suggest that the existence of these mechanisms alone does not guarantee that they contribute to poverty reduction. It is necessary to ensure that the benefits produced by such mechanisms reach the poorest and the most vulnerable by embedding rights-based approaches into policy designs and accountability of such interventions through monitoring and reporting. In addition, it is important to provide decision makers with better information on multiple benefits that can be generated by investments in programmes that contribute to both social and environmental benefits.

## **4. Supporting customary rights, traditional knowledge and ecological practices of communities**

In order to ensure that the poor continue to benefit from ecosystem services, the importance of recognizing and strengthening the customary rights and laws of indigenous peoples and local communities to access, use, govern and manage lands and natural resources has been repeatedly highlighted. The Governments of many Parties to the Convention have undertaken legal, political and institutional reform to recognize such rights. In many cases, these provisions have enabled communities to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably, generate income and empower themselves. Political support

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<sup>12</sup> Report of the International Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Mainstreaming (UNEP/CBD/IMP/WS/2015/1/3), paras 42-46

for the preservation of traditional knowledge and ecologically sustainable practices by communities, such as supporting conservation of agricultural biodiversity and ensuring a minimum support price for sustainable production in times of drought and floods, also contribute to the well-being of poor households.<sup>13</sup>

## **5. Taking actions for climate change and energy systems, and food systems<sup>14</sup>**

*Global Biodiversity Outlook 4* underlines two major areas of actions that may contribute significantly to pathways for the long-term sustainability of human society and biodiversity:

(a) Climate change and energy systems: Halting deforestation and appropriately implementing reforestation could make important contributions to climate mitigation and protection of biodiversity. Nevertheless, a substantial degree of climate change by 2050 and beyond is already committed due to long lags in the Earth's climate system; therefore measures for adaptation of communities including the poor are needed. Such measures include conservation and restoration of coastal habitats such as mangroves, and enhancing diversity of crops and their wild relatives to help farmers adapt to climate change by switching to drought or flood resistant varieties. From the perspective of biodiversity conservation, adaptation will require, for instance, anticipating climate change in the design of protected area systems;

(b) Food systems: Major transformations to food systems are among the key areas of actions for achieving sustainability. There is a need for improved management of agriculture, aquaculture and wild capture fisheries. Realistic changes in management of crops and livestock could substantially reduce both water consumption and pollution. Significant reductions in fishing pressure and changes in fishing techniques in most marine fisheries would lead to rebuilding of fisheries over the next one to two decades. It is also essential to restore land and water resources by shifting to more sustainable agricultural practices. Food waste needs to be reduced: roughly a third of harvested food is lost either in the food transport and transformation chain (primarily in developing countries) or in the home (primarily in developed countries). Diverse diets combined with global convergence to moderate levels of calorie and meat consumption would improve health and food security in many areas and also substantially reduce impacts on biodiversity.

## **6. Strengthening the implementation, follow-up and review of poverty-related Sustainable Development Goals in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem services**

Sustainable Development Goal 1 recognizes not only socioeconomic but also environmental dimensions of poverty, through its associated targets 1.4 and 1.5 encompassing the rights of the poor and the vulnerable to natural resources, land tenure, basic services, and resilience against socioeconomic and environmental shocks and disasters. Many of them are supported by healthy ecosystems, though the current proposed global Sustainable Development Goal indicators by themselves do not necessarily capture the multidimensional aspect of poverty in terms of access to various ecosystem services. The implementation, follow-up and review of Sustainable Development Goal 1 and its interrelation with other relevant Sustainable Development Goals could therefore be further encouraged in order to account for the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services to the poor, through such means as additional monitoring and reporting of pro-poor policies and programmes that contribute to safeguarding or enhancing access to ecosystem services.

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<sup>13</sup> [CBD Technical Series No. 64. \*Recognising and Supporting Territories and Areas Conserved By Indigenous Peoples And Local Communities: Global Overview and National Case Studies\*](#); Note by the Executive Secretary on identification of best practices and lessons learned on how to integrate biodiversity, poverty eradication, and sustainable development: Summary of submissions received and synthesis of lessons learned ([UNEP/CBD/COP/13/INF/30](#)).

<sup>14</sup> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Global Biodiversity Outlook 4](#) (2014). Part III: Synthesis. Achievement of the 2050 vision for biodiversity. pp. 136-137

## List of further resources

- Technical Note: *Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.  
<https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf>



- CBD Technical Series No. 55 *Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: A State of Knowledge Review*. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-55-en.pdf>



- Principles, Guidelines and Other Tools Developed under the Convention  
<https://www.cbd.int/guidelines/>