

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to the joint virtual sessions of the fifth Science Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am very pleased, on behalf of the co-organizers, to invite Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities to participate in the joint virtual sessions of the fifth Science Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science (ICSS 8), which will comprise five sessions to be held on 13, 15, 19, 21 and 23 April 2021.

The virtual sessions are jointly organized by the International Union of Biological Sciences, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, the University of Tokyo (Institute for Future Initiatives), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, the United Nations Environment Programme, the UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the UN Environment Programme-International Ecosystem Management Partnership, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the International Science Council, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the University of Stockholm and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research. The other contributors include the United Nations Development Programme, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the University of Bonn (West African Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, NatureServe, VertNet and the Young Ecosystem Service Specialists.

The joint sessions were initially planned to take place in October 2020, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the postponement, the co-organizers have decided to convene the above virtual sessions, ahead of the planned parallel events at COP 15, in order to maintain the momentum and to use the opportunity to provide science-based input to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The conclusions and recommendations of the joint virtual sessions will be submitted, as appropriate, to the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24) and the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020 3).

For further details about the joint sessions, including the agenda and the registration, please visit the event website: <https://science4biodiversity.org/>.

I thank you for your cooperation and continued support to the Convention, as well as for your contributions towards the preparations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

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

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points, ABS Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol Focal Points, other Governments, relevant IGOs, NGOs and indigenous peoples and local communities' organizations



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