



Press Release

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity Launches Initiative on Global Biodiversity Impact Indicators for Commodity Production

Pyeongchang, 16 October 2014. Understanding that the impacts of agricultural commodity production on biodiversity are immense and that food commodity production has the largest environmental impact of any human activity, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity launched the Initiative on Biodiversity Impact Indicators for Commodity Production on World Food Day. The initiative includes partners such as WWF, IUCN, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and others.

Incomes and consumption are projected to increase to the point that it is expected that the world will need to roughly double food production by 2050. This implies incredible pressures on land and water, which efficiency and technology solutions will not be able to reduce sufficiently. It is key to achieve sustainable agricultural commodity production with less impact on biodiversity.

The purpose of the initiative is to identify the major types of impacts on biodiversity caused by global agricultural commodity production and to measure progress towards more sustainable production. Based on these impacts, the initiative will then focus on formulating corresponding performance indicators in order to track performance around the major impacts identified. This will be clear and consistent for producers across various sectors and applicable to different regions.

“With the hands-on guidance developed by the initiative, commodity producers will be able to identify their impacts on biodiversity and to apply practices to reduce these impacts. It will be a major move towards more sustainable agricultural commodity production” said Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

“We will reach out to those commodity producers and companies that are not yet committed to sustainable business actions. It is a fact that a disproportionate amount of adverse environmental impacts from agricultural production is caused by only a few worst performing producers. If we can reach out to these companies by providing a basic guidance on how to reduce biodiversity impacts, we can really achieve major change” he said.

The initiative will also disseminate outcomes of this work to governments and standard bodies, and partners and networks who can take them into their own work. A number of initiatives on supply chains could make use of these indicators and guidance to urge that companies use them, contributing to broad mainstreaming of biodiversity on all levels.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



The initiative allows for the integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity into agricultural commodity production activities on a wide scale - such that habitats and ecosystems are no longer threatened and such that food security in the near future can be achieved.

For more information on the initiative, please contact Kristina Neumann at Kristina.neumann@cbd.int

Notes for Editors

Aichi Biodiversity Targets

In decision X/2, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held from 18 to 29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the 2011-2020 period. Parties agreed on implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan, and progress achieved towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. For more information on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, please see: www.cbd.int/sp/targets/default.shtml

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 194 Parties up to now, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 167 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 53 countries plus the European Union. For more information visit: www.cbd.int.

For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 833 0196 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int
