



PRESS RELEASE

UN Biodiversity Convention and Future Earth strengthen collaboration in order to aid countries in achieving global conservation goals

- *Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Future Earth sign MoU to catalyse generation of new research*
- *Knowledge to inform evidence-based policy and support needs of CBD Parties*
- *Aim to achieve shared global goals on conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, and mainstream biodiversity in different sectors.*

12 DECEMBER 2017 – The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Future Earth today agreed to strengthen their collaboration around a number of key areas.

The memorandum of understanding, signed at the twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, being held 11 to 14 December in Montreal, Canada, is geared towards facilitating collaboration between CBD Parties to achieve shared goals and objectives on the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, and to mainstream biodiversity into different sectors.

The agreement marks an important commitment by both organisations to jointly strive to achieve the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#) and the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#).

“As the world takes the steps to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and build a sustainable future, the Convention on Biological Diversity relies on partners like Future Earth for the evidence-base for policy decisions and action,” said Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, CBD Executive Secretary.

“The discussions of the post-2020 period will be about transitions of socio-ecological systems and will require that we all harness the opportunities provided by disruption. Our work with Future Earth will ensure that as we move forward towards the 2050 vision of the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity](#), we are guided by the best available science from around the world.”

Based on the agreement, the CBD Secretariat and Future Earth agreed to strengthen their collaboration to:

- Support the development of plausible pathways towards the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by mobilizing scientific communities and providing scientific knowledge

- Align relevant research priorities in Future Earth with policy needs identified in the context of the CBD such as in support of the Convention's work on biodiversity and health
- Support the mainstreaming of biodiversity as an important consideration in other sectors of society.

"We know that biodiversity underpins all aspects of sustainability – from clean air and drinking water to the wellbeing of people living in cities and rural areas alike. Future Earth is excited to work with CBD to help bring a consideration of biodiversity into the mainstream, ensuring that it is embedded into critical international sustainability efforts," said Amy Luers, Executive Director of Future Earth.

Future Earth and the CBD recently worked together to launch a project called Natural Systems and Sustainable Cities, which builds on the successful *Cities Biodiversity Outlook* undertaken by the CBD and its partners. This project aims at assessing areas where urban growth is likely to have the greatest impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. Future Earth and the CBD will also collaborate with governments at various levels to develop tools and best practices to support efforts to foster biodiversity through urban design, planning, development and management.

"This partnership is very important to Future Earth. It will enable us to provide the evidence-based knowledge the world needs to make the transformational changes that are at the heart of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the 2050 Vision and the Sustainable Development Goals," said Anne-Helene Prieur-Richard, Director of the Future Earth Global Hub in Montreal, Canada.

"Nature-based solutions, building on biodiversity, are an example of these transformational changes, which are already arising around the globe. A science-based assessment of opportunities, constraints and impacts for these solutions will be key for efficient and long-term policy-decision and the maintenance of biodiversity and critical ecosystem services."

NOTES TO EDITORS

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 196 Parties so far, 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 the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 171 Parties 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 104 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.

About Future Earth

Future Earth is an international organization started by the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability to empower researchers and innovators to collaborate with policy makers, business, and civil society and accelerate the transition to sustainability. With offices in over 20 countries, Future Earth harnesses the experience and reach of thousands of scientists and innovators from around the world to facilitate research, catalyze innovation, and synthesize knowledge. Future Earth has shaped the agenda on reducing global carbon emissions, won praise for its innovative use of technology to explain the climate crisis, and now reaches thousands of decision-makers with its award-winning Anthropocene magazine.
