



PRESS RELEASE

Science body of UN Biodiversity Convention adopts key recommendations that will inform discussions on post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- *Importance of a variety of biodiversity, climate and socio-ecological scenarios for preparation of future biodiversity targets underlined*
- *Linkages between health and biodiversity policies emphasized, basis for broad intergovernmental collaboration established.*
- *Mainstreaming biodiversity and its implications for the work of the Convention considered by the science body for the first time.*

16 DECEMBER 2017 – Delegates to the science body of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) closed their meeting this week, sending a number of recommendations to the next UN Biodiversity Conference¹ that set the stage for achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

“Parties to the Convention have shown, in their recommendations agreed this week, that the possible futures before us include paths that will protect biodiversity and build a future of life in harmony with nature” said Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “But achieving this will require that we mobilise the best available scientific evidence to best exploit the possibilities presented by transformational change.”

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) provides scientific, technical and technological advice to the Conference of the Parties (COP). Recommendations from this meeting will be considered by Parties at the next UN Biodiversity Conference, set to take place 10 - 22 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Scenarios towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity

SBSTTA noted that the continued loss of biodiversity has major negative consequences for human well-being. However, scenarios demonstrate a wide range of plausible futures, providing space for developing policy measures to achieve the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and other

¹Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, to be held 10-22 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

global goals. Achieving the Vision requires transformational change, including changes in behaviour at the levels of producers and consumers, Governments and businesses. SBSTTA noted that societal and disruptive technological developments may help or hinder sustainability. Delegates noted that scenarios can help societies decide on their preferred approach towards the 2050 Vision.

SBSTTA also highlighted the need for a coherent approach on biodiversity and climate change to ensure that impacts on biodiversity of climate change are reduced, that biodiversity and ecosystems can contribute solutions related to climate adaptation and mitigation, and that climate change adaptation and mitigation measures do not negatively impact biodiversity.

Sustainable Wildlife Management

Wild meat is an important source of nutrition for millions of people in many regions of the world, but this is threatened by unsustainable exploitation of the resource, driven by growing human populations and the emergence of a booming commercial wild meat trade. SBSTTA developed guidance that provides advice for promoting the sustainability of supply at the source, managing the demand along the entire value chain, and creating the enabling conditions for legal, sustainable management of terrestrial wild meat in tropical and subtropical habitats. The guidance also takes into account traditional use and the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities. The Collaborative Partnership for Sustainable Wildlife Management will support countries in applying the guidance on the ground.

Biodiversity and Health

SBSTTA also reviewed guidance to integrate biodiversity into One Health approaches. Human well-being can be supported by the prevention and reduction of both infectious and non-communicable diseases, and by supporting nutrition and healthy diets. SBSTTA also highlighted the importance of the human microbiome for human health and the value of green spaces in urban environments. SBSTTA recommended that the World Health Organization and others be invited to promote and facilitate dialogues on biodiversity-health approaches with relevant stakeholders to assist countries in developing strategies to mainstream biodiversity-health linkages effectively.

Mainstreaming biodiversity in energy, mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health

SBSTTA, for the first time under the Convention, considered the nexus between biodiversity and key economic sectors, including energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing industry, as well as health. SBSTTA's work will help mobilize momentum and build a solid basis for further inter-sessional work and consensus building by the Second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (July 2018) and the next UN Biodiversity Conference in 2018.

Other issues:

SBSTTA emphasized the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of national actions taken in supporting the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity when preparing for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

SBSTTA took note of the plan for the preparation of the fifth edition of *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and urged Parties make available accurate and reliable data to assess the status of biodiversity, in an open manner, as well as progress made in implementing the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including mainstreaming activities. It was recommended that Parties continue collaborating

with other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant processes and organizations for this and other assessments, including, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The SBSTTA-21 final report will be available at: www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta-wg8j

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.
