



**STATEMENT BY**

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**to the**

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**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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Mrs. Naoko Ishii, GEF CEO,  
Distinguished Members of the Council, Alternates and Advisors,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since we met last November, I have had the opportunities to converse with a large number of Parties and organizations, including at the meetings organized in February in Geneva, Switzerland and in May in Trondheim, Norway. I am encouraged by the information received about the progress being made around the world: the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing is speeding up, and two-thirds of developing countries receiving GEF support are expected to have revised and updated their national biodiversity strategies and action plans later this year and early next year. Against this backdrop, I also have had the opportunity to discuss with the GEF CEO and the GEF biodiversity team on the proposed GEF-6 Strategy, and would like to brief you on some key questions raised.

### **The extent to which the proposed GEF-6 strategy meets the CBD COP guidelines**

We are reminded that the relationship between CBD and GEF is governed by the Memorandum of Understanding contained in decision III/8 adopted in 1996. According to the agreement, CBD COP will determine the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for access to and utilization of financial resources available through the financial mechanism, including monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis of such utilization. GEF, in operating the financial mechanism under the Convention, will finance activities that are in full conformity with the guidance provided to it by the Conference of the Parties.

Two main decisions from CBD COP are of particular relevance to the GEF-6 strategy development. Decision X/24 provides a consolidated set of guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention, which compiles all the previous guidance accumulated in the preceding fifteen years. 24 priority issues are identified in decision X/24, including:

Biodiversity planning; identification and monitoring (Article 7); Global Taxonomy Initiative; conservation and protected areas (Article 8(a-f)); invasive alien species (Article 8(h)); traditional knowledge (Article 8(j) and related provisions); sustainable use (Article 10); incentive measures (Article 11); research and training (Article 12); public education and awareness (Article 13); access to genetic resources (Article 15); access to and transfer of technology (Article 16); technical and scientific cooperation and Clearing-House Mechanism (Article 18); biosafety; ecosystem approach; forest biological diversity; agricultural biological diversity; inland water biological diversity; marine and coastal biological diversity; island biological diversity; dry and sub-humid lands; mountain biological diversity; climate change and biodiversity; national reporting (Article 26).

In decision XI/5, the Conference of the Parties adopted the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2014-2018 as contained in the annex to that decision and requested the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement it and report back to

the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the GEF 6 strategy and its thirteenth meeting on its implementation and how it responds to the individual elements and their components, and the additional strategic considerations of the framework, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility.

In guiding the development of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities 2014–2018 consists of the following elements:

- (a) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision X/2, annex);
- (b) The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011–2020 (decision BS-V/16);
- (c) The guidance to the financial mechanism on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing put forward by the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol, contained in appendix I of decision XI/5;
- (d) Any relevant indicators for national and global use for assessing the progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan;
- (e) The current set of output, outcome and impact indicators, and associated monitoring processes and tracking tools, currently in use by the Global Environment Facility.

The proposed GEF-6 strategy provides an entry point for considering the GEF response to the guidance provided to the financial mechanism by the Conference of the Parties. Most issues referred to above can be found in the proposed GEF-6 strategy, for instance,

- Protected areas are covered by Program 1: Sustainable Financing of the National Ecological Infrastructure; Program 2: Nature’s Last Stand: Expanding the Reach of the Global Protected Area Estate; Program 3: Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface
- Sustainable use by Program 4: Reducing Widespread Poaching of African Elephants and Rhinos and Illegal Trafficking of Elephant Tusks and Rhino Horn
- Invasive alien species and island biological diversity by Program 5: Avoiding Imminent Extinction in Island Ecosystems
- Biosafety by Program 6: Implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB)
- Marine and coastal biological diversity by Program 7: Ridge to Reef+: Maintaining Integrity and Function of Coral Reef Ecosystems

- Agricultural biological diversity by Program 8: Securing Agriculture's Future: Sustainable Use of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources
- Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing by Program 9: Implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS
- Incentive measures by Program 10: Integration of the Valuation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Development & Finance Planning
- Forest biological diversity by Program 11: Taking Deforestation out of the Supply Chain for Global Commodities of Beef, Soy, Oil Palm, Pulp and Paper to Secure Global Biodiversity Benefits

Through the eleven programmes, the proposed GEF-6 strategy also indicates that other priority issues are also covered, for instance, support to the sixth national reporting. Discussions have been focused on the scope of these programmes, and in addition, the following issues could be more explicitly addressed in the proposed GEF-6 strategy:

Biodiversity planning; identification and monitoring (Article 7); Global Taxonomy Initiative; traditional knowledge (Article 8(j) and related provisions); research and training (Article 12); public education and awareness (Article 13); access to and transfer of technology (Article 16); technical and scientific cooperation and Clearing-House Mechanism (Article 18); ecosystem approach; inland water biological diversity; dry and sub-humid lands; mountain biological diversity; climate change and biodiversity.

### **How effective the proposed GEF6 strategy can be to mobilize funding and promote up-scaling of actions**

The document Draft **GEF-6** Programming Directions prepared by the GEF Secretariat (GEF/R.6/07 dated March 08, 2013) does not provide financial indications, nor on how to mobilize funds and promote up-scaling of actions. The similar document **GEF-5** Programming Document prepared by the GEF Secretariat (GEF/R.5/31/CRP.1, dated May 12, 2010) explicitly referred to outcome targets for \$4.2 billion target in Table 1: Biodiversity Results Framework.

### **Assessment of how the proposed GEF6 strategy covers the Aichi targets and what adjustments are needed**

The proposed GEF6 strategy indicates that the strategy prioritizes investments that meaningfully contribute to directly achieving 15 of the 20 Aichi Targets and that have the greatest potential for a “knock-on” effect to other Aichi Target achievements. The strategy also incorporates elements of the new Strategic Plan on Biosafety, with a focus on implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBF) as this remains unfinished business from previous GEF phases.

The proposed GEF6 strategy indicates also alerts that targets 1 and 17-20 are not directly addressed in the strategy. Awareness-raising as identified in Target 1 will be supported as an

element of GEF projects and programs as appropriate, but not as a stand-alone activity. Targets 17-19 are deemed as operational means to an end and are part of the project design process. With regards to Target 20, GEF will track the total amount of co-financing leveraged through GEF biodiversity projects, including multi-focal area projects of all kinds that have used biodiversity resources, and other GEF projects that contribute directly and indirectly to the Aichi Targets.

In addition, Figure 1 of the proposed GEF strategy demonstrates the main linkages between programs and achievement of the Aichi Targets. According to the figure, the Aichi targets are covered as follow:

- Aichi target 2: by GEF-6 programmes 3 and 10
- Aichi target 3: by GEF-6 programmes 10 and 11
- Aichi target 4: by GEF-6 programme 11
- Aichi target 5: by GEF-6 programmes 1, 2 and 11
- Aichi target 6: by GEF-6 programme 7
- Aichi target 7: by GEF-6 programme 11
- Aichi target 9: by GEF-6 programme 5
- Aichi target 10: by GEF-6 programmes 2 and 7
- Aichi target 11 by GEF-6 programme 2
- Aichi target 12 by GEF-6 programmes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Aichi target 13 by GEF-6 programmes 2 and 8
- Aichi target 16: by GEF-6 programme 9

According to the Figure, GEF-6 programme 2 is designed to address five Aichi targets, and GEF-6 programme 11 addresses four Aichi targets.

The Figure shows that no programmes proposed in the biodiversity focal area are specifically designed to cover: Aichi target 1; Aichi target 8; Aichi target 14; Aichi target 15; Aichi target 17; Aichi target 18; Aichi target 19; Aichi target 20.

### **Contribution of other focal areas of GEF6 to the Aichi targets**

Actions to be supported under other focal areas of GEF6 will also contribute to the achievement of some Aichi targets. As climate change has been increasingly identified as a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystem services, achieving the objectives of the proposed climate change

focal area programs, particularly the program to promote conservation of carbon stocks in forest, and land-use, and support climate smart agriculture, can also contribute to the implementation of the Aichi target. This linkage is demonstrated in the Aichi target 15 (By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification).

All programmes proposed under the proposed international water focal area can find similar discussions under CBD, particularly the CBD programme of work on coastal and marine biological diversity. For instance, the Aichi target 10 provides that by 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. The Aichi target 11 establishes that by 2020, at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, and integrated into the wider seascapes.

The proposed land degradation focal area strategy, organized around agriculture and rangeland systems, forest landscapes, and integrated landscapes, also resonates with the CBD programme of work on dry and sub-humid land biological diversity, and is of direct relevance to the Aichi target 7 (By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity).

The proposed chemicals strategy aims for a significant reduction in the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste of global importance. Obviously, this strategy can contribute to the Aichi target 8 (By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity).

Lastly, given that forests are home to a large majority of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the proposed sustainable forest management strategy, including maintained forest resources, enhanced forest management, restored forest ecosystems, can also be considered as a biodiversity focal area strategy. The Aichi target 5 (By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced), as well as the above mentioned targets 7, 11 and 15, can all benefit from implementing the proposed sustainable forest management strategy.

Given the potential contribution of other focal area strategies of GEF-6, full integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services objectives in all other focal area strategies is thus encouraged.

### **Contribution of the proposed signature programmes to the CBD objectives**

The proposed signature programmes seeks to promote an integrated approach to the global environmental commons in support of sustainable development, and should contribute significantly to promote such synergies. These signature programmes are very much in line with

the lines of action suggested in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and other CBD programmes, for instance,

- Taking Deforestation out of the Commodities Supply Chain. This programme can provide direct contribution to the above-mentioned Aichi targets 5 and 7.
- A New Development Path for the Amazon Basin. This programme seeks to experiment an integrated approach to GEF support, or the ecosystem approach using the CBD terminology. CBD began to advocate the ecosystem approach by adopting a set of principles of the ecosystem approach since the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties ten years ago, and requested the financial mechanism to support the implementation of the ecosystem approach.
- Fostering Sustainability and Resilience of Production Systems in Africa. This programme can contribute to the achievement of the above-mentioned Aichi target 7.
- Rebuilding global fisheries. This programme is of single importance to the Aichi target 6 (by 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits).
- Harnessing Local Action for Global Commons. CBD Parties have explored the importance of local action, and agreed on the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities, and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020).

Colleagues,

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the associated Aichi targets will only be achieved if we succeed to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity and engage other sectors and key stakeholders such as the private sector. Partnerships at all levels are required for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan, to leverage actions at the scale necessary, to garner the ownership necessary to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors of government, society and the economy and to find synergies with national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. In particular, the Strategic Plan has identified needed efforts to ensure that the Convention, through its new Strategic Plan, contributes to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty, and the other Millennium Development Goals; ensure cooperation to achieve implementation of the Plan in different sectors; promote biodiversity-friendly practice by business; and promote synergy and coherence in the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements.

In conclusion, I congratulate Ms. Naoko Ishii and her team on advancing the proposed GEF-6 strategies and programmes, and hope that the above observations are useful in your consideration of the proposed GEF6 strategy for biodiversity.

Thank you very much for your attention, and wish you a successful meeting.