STATEMENT

OF

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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A landscape approach to halt biodiversity loss and safeguard and restore ecosystem services

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Sir Peter Crane, Dean of School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University

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Mr. Carlos Scaramuzza, Director of Biodiversity Conservation, of the Ministry of Environment of Brazil,

Students, faculty, and conservation practitioners,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address you at the start of this new calendar year and to commend you on your resilience after experiencing the fierce Juno winter storm. Before I start, I would like to express my appreciation to our hosts at Yale University for their invitation and for organizing this 21st annual conference of the Yale Chapter of the International Society of Tropical Foresters.

Findings from Global Biodiversity Outlook 4

Just last October, the flagship publication *Global Biodiversity Outlook 4* revealed the state of our global biodiversity. The report indicated that bold and innovative actions are urgently required if governments are to meet the globally-agreed Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020.

While some Aichi Target components are on track to be met, in most cases this progress will not be sufficient to achieve the targets set for 2020. Based on current trends, pressures on biodiversity will continue to increase at least until 2020.

Among the analysis of the major primary sectors, the publication concludes that drivers linked to agriculture account for 70 percent of the projected loss of terrestrial biodiversity. Addressing trends in food systems is therefore crucial to halt biodiversity loss and safeguard and restore ecosystem services.

For forest habitat and restoration, the findings state that Aichi Targets 5 (Halving the Rate of Loss of All Natural Habitats, including Forests) and Target 15 (Ecosystem Restoration and Development of Resilience) are not being met.

GBO4 explains that while global rates of deforestation are declining, they remain alarmingly high. The total area of land remaining in natural or semi-natural conditions has shown a downward trend in recent decades and would decline further by 2020 if recent trends continue.

Substantial efforts are also required if the aim of restoring at least 15 percent of ecosystems is to be met. A number of countries have set targets related to ecosystem restoration. For example: Antigua and Barbuda, Belgium, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Dominica, France, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Japan, Malta, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uganda, and the European Union, have set targets to restore at least 15 per cent of degraded lands.

About three-quarters of the national reports assessed for GBO-4 suggest that some progress is being made towards the attainment of this target.

The combined initiatives currently underway, or planned, may put the world on track to restore 15 percent of degraded ecosystems, but it has been difficult to assess and, on the current trajectory, is not a likely outcome. The reality is that despite the rising attention on restoration and conservation efforts and commitments, there is still a net loss of forests - a major global carbon stock.

Society’s responses to the loss of biodiversity are increasing, and national plans and commitments are expected to continue to increase for the remainder of this decade.

However, responses are still insufficient relative to the continued pressures, such that they may not overcome the growing impacts of the drivers of biodiversity loss. This suggests that work to address these drivers will be a priority.

Additional efforts are therefore required to ensure that these Targets, among others, are achieved by 2020.

But as several Targets are strongly dependent on the achievement of others, each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets cannot be tackled in isolation. Actions towards certain targets will have a strong influence on the achievement of the rest. In particular, these are targets related to addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, developing national frameworks for implementing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and mobilizing financial resources.

A good example of this is Brazil's successes in combatting deforestation. With the use of a broad range of actions, corresponding to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Strategic Goals, deforestation rates in the Brazilian Amazon and Atlantic Rainforest have been greatly reduced.

The second key finding form GBO4 is that meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets contribute significantly to broader global priorities addressed by the post-2015 UN development agenda.

Importance of biodiversity recognized at the highest levels

Strategic goals and targets that apply to a landscape approach include those contained in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted by CBD at COP10 in Nagoya, Japan. The UN General Assembly endorsed the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and established the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011 – 2020), recognizing the various measures used by the Convention on Biological Diversity to translate global commitments into national actions.

The Outcome Document of the "Rio+20 Conference", The Future We Want, in June 2012 confirmed the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It recognized the use of different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development.

As part of the international sustainable development process, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) agreed in July 2014, to forward a proposal containing 17 Goals to the General Assembly. Biodiversity and ecosystems featured prominently in the document which includes two goals directly related to biodiversity:

Goal 14 (Oceans and coasts): "*conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for SD*".

Goal 15 (Terrestrial biodiversity): "*protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*".

Several targets explicitly refer to biodiversity, ecosystems and the work of the Convention. For example, on Goal 15 there are 12 targets which relate to biodiversity:

15.1 by 2020 **ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services**, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
15.2 by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, **halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation** by x% globally
15.3 by 2020, combat desertification, and **restore degraded land and soil**, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world
15.4 by 2030 ensure the **conservation of mountain ecosystems**, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits which are essential for sustainable development
15.5 take urgent and significant action to **reduce degradation of natural habitat**, **halt the loss of biodiversity**, and by 2020 **protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species**
15.6 ensure **fair and equitable sharing of the benefits** arising from the utilization of **genetic resources**, and promote appropriate **access to genetic resources**
15.7 take urgent action to **end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna**, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
15.8 by 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact

of **invasive alien species** on land and water ecosystems, and control or **eradicate** the **priority species**
15.9 by 2020, **integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into national and local planning**, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts
15.a mobilize and significantly increase from all sources **financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems**
15.b mobilize significantly resources from all sources and at all levels to **finance sustainable forest management,** and provide adequate **incentives** to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including **for conservation and reforestation**
15.c enhance **global support** to efforts to **combat poaching and trafficking of protected species**, including by **increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities**

More than half of the other proposed goals are of direct interest to biodiversity and include biodiversity-related targets that are complementary to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, such as:

Goal 2: "*End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture*" and respective targets 2.4 (*Ensure sustainable food production systems)*; and 2.5 (*Maintain genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals).*

Goal 6: "*Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*" with attention to targets 6.5: (*Implement water resources management)*; and 6.6: (*Protect and restore water-related ecosystems).*

Goal 11: "*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*" and targets 11.4 (*Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage)*; and 11.7 (*Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public space).*

Goal 12: "*Sustainable consumption and production*" and target 12.2 (*By 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources)*; 12.4: (*Sound management of chemicals and waste)*; and 12.8 (*Information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature); and*

Goal 17: "*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*" and numerous targets such as 17.9 (*Capacity building to implement SDGs)*; 17.15 (*Implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development*); 17.16: (*Partnerships)*; and 17.19: (*Measurement of progress that complement GDP).*

This demonstrates the number of areas in the SDGs where biodiversity plays a fundamental role and the opportunities for strengthening further linkages. For example, the linkage between biodiversity and human health was a topic of major discussion at COP12, yet there is very little consideration of biodiversity in SDG Goal 3.

Responding to this, at the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP12), held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, Parties reiterated the importance of engaging in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals.

The message was to further integrate and mainstream the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan, into relevant goals, targets and indicators, as well as in the means of implementation for a transformative sustainable development agenda.

On the latter, Parties to the Convention reaffirmed their commitment to an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

Ambitious targets for resource mobilization were also adopted. This includes the doubling of total biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015,

and the mobilization of domestic financial resources from all sources to reduce the gap between identified needs and available resources at the domestic level.

Such outputs of the Convention have helped to create links to processes within the UN promoting policy coherence related to financing for development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Accountability and transparency of actions is another important component. To review overall progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the Convention has identified a set of biodiversity indicators to assess the status and trends of biodiversity, drivers of biodiversity loss, benefits to society, and policy responses. Further developments are underway to help monitor progress.

Translating Global Aspirations to the National Level

One of the major topics in the post-2015 development agenda concerns how actions at the national level can contribute to achievement of the universal SDGs. Attention has also focused on landscape approaches to address SDGs in a coherent and integrated manner.

The model set through the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity may prove useful. This is due to the strong commitment of the 194 Parties to the CBD to develop, implement and report on their national biodiversity strategy and action plan, aligned with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The model allows each Party to tailor its plan to meet their country-specific circumstances.

National-level coordinating mechanisms have also been developed to oversee planning and/or implementation. Most take the form of inter-agency or inter-ministerial committees or councils, fostering cross-sectoral cooperation.

National reporting by Parties is another important source for assessing progress in implementation.

Each Party is requested to report routinely as part of their obligations. In addition, an online reporting tool is now available to facilitate reporting, make it more effective and available for interested stakeholders.

Importance of implementing a landscape approach to biodiversity conservation

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite the recorded advancements, as GBO4 indicates based on current trends, the status of biodiversity will continue to decline.

In the last 50 years, humans have transformed ecosystems and landscapes more rapidly than in any comparable period of time. In Uganda, for example, the annual contribution of ecosystem services is estimated to have decreased from US$ 5,097 million in 2005 to US$ 4,405 million in 2010. This decline has mainly been due to deforestation which has affected the resilience of the ecosystem and consequently the quality of goods and services accruing from the affected ecosystems. The global welfare loss of ecosystem services from land-based ecosystems alone is estimated, by the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, to be around € 50 billion per year under a business as usual scenario.

Competing interests of a single sector approach and/or limited governance structures that undermine multi-stakeholder engagement, including the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and their knowledge systems adds further to the loss.

As the human population increases and pressures on land use rise, we run the risk of failing to invest in long term sustainability and in the design of policies that maximise the benefits from the sustainable management of ecosystems.

Society is however becoming more aware that complementary to any work to enhance resource use efficiencies, there is a need to ensure that ecosystems services are supported and sustained. FAO's new policy to promote sustainable production system: "Building a common vision for

sustainable food and agriculture", for example, suggests a way forward to sustainably increase the provision of goods and services from agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries. Such policy embeds a central focus on biodiversity, ecosystem services and cross-sectoral collaboration.

To ensure the sustainability of our planet and our well-being we therefore must factor in the role of ecosystems, including ecosystem services, in public policies, incentives measures, and other tools to secure their health, productivity and resilience. Understanding essential biological interactions and their benefits to human well-being, as well as measures to prevent further impacts on the distribution, quantity and condition of genetic diversity, species and ecosystems, can help build our resilience and adaptability to change.

How can the landscape approach for biodiversity conservation integrate multiple land uses, governance systems, financial mechanisms and land planning tools?

Integrating multiple land uses, within a landscape approach through the management of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation, requires a combination of measures, information, commitment, and enabling conditions to meet specific legal and cultural circumstances and socio-economic and ecological conditions.

For example, in some countries changes in our consumption and production patterns, incentive measures and governance reforms have helped to make conservation and sustainable use more equitable and feasible for small land owners to take part in. Such adjustments have helped to reduce the drivers of biodiversity loss, while also contributing to other national development priorities.

For instance, experience shows that protected or community conserved forested areas within a landscape provides significant ecosystem services, such as improved water supplies, regulation of local climate as well as income from ecotourism. Active restoration of coastal mangroves for example, has also improved the habitat and nursery areas for fish and shellfish, supported the

lives and livelihoods of millions of people through the provision of food, timber and fuelwood, and served as buffers along coastlines preventing coastal surges.

Similar examples in countries have revealed that providing access to ecosystem services by poor and vulnerable groups help alleviate poverty, reduce deforestation and degradation, secure water and food, and enhance the carbon stocks in forests, grasslands, drylands, rangelands and croplands.

The focus on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction has also been leveraged through ecosystem management. These management measures are vital in building our society's resilience against extreme weather variability, offering the means to generate social, environmental and economic opportunities.

The importance of securing the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation to succeed can also be seen in many examples. Interrelated public and private policy initiatives in Brazil, coordinated through the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, launched in 2004, for instance, has reduced deforestation in the region by 70% since 2005.

The action plan was a cross-ministry initiative, coordinated by the President's office. It includes a range of activities that relate to a number of Aichi Biodiversity Targets across all of the Strategic Goals, such as:

• Monitoring of land-cover (Target 19), both near real-time coarse resolution and annual high resolution satellite monitoring, made publicly available.

• Enforcement campaigns by Brazil's environmental agency and the federal police to crack down on illegal deforestation and logging (Target 5 and 7), with interventions informed by near real-time monitoring.

- Businesses and stakeholders have also engaged in implementing plans to reduce deforestation within safe limits.

• Incentive measures (Target 3), including restricting credit for rural landowners with the highest rates of deforestation.

• Expansion of protected areas and demarcation of indigenous lands (Targets 11, 18).

- Approximately 40 per cent of natural vegetation is legally protected by parks and indigenous reserves.
- From 2002 to 2009, the Brazilian Amazon Protected Area network expanded by 60 percent; a large part of these new areas were created in regions of intense land conflict to act as green barriers against deforestation, establishing a new protected area paradigm.

- In addition, as people have become more aware of the values of biodiversity (Target 1), NGO and business initiatives have implemented moratoria on soya and meat produced on recently cleared land.
- Public prosecutors have also installed industry requirements to exclude deforesters from their supply chains (Target 4).

The combined effect of these measures has helped to integrate biodiversity conservation in land use planning, innovative finance and governance reforms. This and other cases show that an economy can grow based on the pillars of sustainability and conservation.

The last two Global Landscape Forum events organized by CIFOR, on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on the margins of the UNFCCC COPs in 2013 and 2014, have also brought together numerous countries and organizations to showcase experiences in managing multiple land uses in an integrated manner, considering both the natural environment and the human systems that depend on it. These Forums have allowed stakeholders to identify policy options, investment opportunities and research priorities, fit to address complex multi-stakeholder settings.

In 2014 CIFOR launched the "T20Q", project, revealing the top 20 questions for research and policy on forestry and landscapes. The project result illustrated the growing attention and interest in researching the role of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services in restoring and sustainably managing forests and in meeting the needs of all stakeholders within the landscape.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The major actors in both conservation and development are recognizing the essential contribution that biodiversity makes to human well-being, poverty eradication, food security, human health, community empowerment and sustainable development, at large.

The CBD Secretariat is working in partnership with others to strengthen country capacities, to identify and implement win-win solutions that utilise the benefits of biodiversity to improve governance and allow us to become more resource efficient. For example, next week we will be fostering a knowledge exchange between Indonesia and Brazil two major REDD+ implementing countries. Drawing on Brazil's experience in reforming forest legislation, we aim to provide Indonesian parliamentarians a contextual understanding of the elements required to ensure an institutional and participatory framework to achieve REDD+ objectives, while generating other co-benefits for society.

The broader governance focus of engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in REDD+ schemes will also be covered. While there are few concrete examples of how the use of traditional knowledge is being applied in monitoring systems (for REDD+ and across the landscape), some countries such as Mexico, Guyana and Indonesia, have advanced National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ and plans which will include community data.

This provides another example of integrated approaches across the landscape for countries to build upon, when designing systems to monitor biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Moving along these tracks, we can support efforts to ensure that National Forest Monitoring Systems include data relevant for monitoring both REDD+ and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This will help advance the implementation of both international agendas and establish greater synergies across the landscape to ensure that biodiversity continues to abound and contribute multiple benefits.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity promotes ecosystem-based solutions (the ecosystem approach) and a landscape focus for enhanced cooperation among stakeholders with varied

specific interests, allowing all to work towards a common vision, but each contributing in their own fields.

Achieving the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan as well as other development goals, requires concerted efforts, resources, commitment and partnerships across various sectors, as well as investment and engagement of the private sector and civil society.

Plausible pathways exist for achieving the 2050 vision for an end to biodiversity loss, in conjunction with other priority development goals, such as limiting climate change to 2^{o}C warming and combating desertification and land degradation.

However, reaching these joint objectives requires sustained changes in society, including much more efficient use of land, water, energy and materials, rethinking our consumption habits and in particular major transformations of food production systems.

Thank you for your attention.