



HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

A very brief guide for policy makers at COP 12

What did the report do?

Building on the first phase of the Panel research (which took a top-down look at the scale of the investments required to meet the Aichi Targets), the second phase of the Panel's work took a bottom-up approach to look at the benefits of these investments and the most cost effective approaches that could be used to deliver the investments required.

Six regional reports were carried out by researchers within those regions which were brought together by a team led by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

The High-Level Panel synthesised the work by drawing out 10 key messages supported by the evidence from the regional reports. Based on these findings, the Panel also generated recommendations for Parties to help progress the resource mobilisation agenda.

What were the key messages and recommendations?

The Panel confirmed that there is generally a gap across all countries and regions between the investments needed to meet the Aichi Targets and the resources currently allocated towards this. However they stress that closing the gap fully can only be achieved through realigning existing expenditures (particularly those which currently lead to biodiversity loss) with biodiversity objectives, and through improved sectoral integration.

They highlight the benefits of policy action on biodiversity, reflecting that meeting the Aichi Targets will have benefits far beyond biodiversity, for human health and well-being, as well as economic and environmental stability.

Understanding and communicating (and potentially enhancing the role of biodiversity in delivering a range of goals across the economy and society is strongly emphasised alongside the role of institutions, policy frameworks and incentives to ensure that this role is captured in decisions across all sectors.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Meeting the Aichi Targets will deliver substantial benefits to people and to economies across the world
2. Biodiversity is essential to sustainable development
3. Biodiversity contributes to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience
4. Investments in biodiversity can strengthen the provision of ecosystem services on which vulnerable communities depend
5. Biodiversity provides insurance and option values
6. Enhancing synergies, addressing trade-offs and promoting alignments across sectoral policies, are prerequisites for effective implementation of the Aichi Targets and of major importance for resource mobilization
7. All countries need to invest in institutions and policy frameworks, direct conservation and sustainable use actions, incentives and economic instruments
8. Design and implementation of appropriate economic and policy instruments is essential to halt the loss of biodiversity
9. The monetary and non-monetary benefits of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use frequently outweigh the costs
10. There is a need to increase investments substantially to bridge financing gaps

In this context, the recommendations focussed on ways in which the Panel felt Parties could best make the case for mainstreaming biodiversity and for securing long term sustainable financing for conservation measures.

The need to work broadly with stakeholders outside the biodiversity community and to explore and exploit synergies where co-benefits can be revealed (for example with regard to investments in climate change mitigation/adaptation) feature strongly. Building on this, the need to ensure that investments in biodiversity are understood as real options to deliver sustainable development, growth and poverty alleviation is emphasised.

The Panel also focus on the capacity building required, especially in developing countries to better manage biodiversity; investments in knowledge, in education and training of decisions makers, and in sharing practical experience of policy development and governance of ecosystems are all highlighted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All countries should continue to urgently assess financing baselines, needs and gaps, and the full range of potential financing sources, as well as identify opportunities for improving cost-effectiveness in national biodiversity expenditure; and use this information at the national level to understand where further action is needed and to help identify potential sources of finance.
2. Countries should develop strategies and policies to bridge the biodiversity finance gap with a broadened and diversified base of sustained and predictable sources of finance, including commitment of public funds through medium-term expenditure frameworks.
3. Biodiversity investments in marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems need to be understood, presented and recognised as solutions to wider problems and challenges. This requires better understanding and communication of the wider benefits of well-functioning ecosystems and the value of natural solutions in place of human-made alternatives.
4. When developing international and national sustainable development goals and plans, countries should identify actions through which mainstreaming biodiversity can directly contribute to achieving such objectives and goals, in order to encourage biodiversity-positive development decisions.
5. As part of broader mainstreaming efforts, countries should further enhance the links between climate change policies, projects and programmes and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
6. Governments should convene broad dialogue among governmental, private and civil society actors on the arguments for the integration of conservation and sustainable use principles into various sectors, and on practical options, to increase funding and to assist in mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use objectives.
7. The in-kind contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities' collective actions, efforts and knowledge on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and provisioning of ecosystem services and functions, should be respected and taken into account when designing, resourcing and implementing interventions.
8. Human and institutional capacity development programmes should include an increased focus on the sharing of practical knowledge and experience in developing effective policies and instruments for mainstreaming that support increased investment in conservation and sustainable use; and enhance the role of regional and south-south cooperation and support.
9. Countries should integrate into training, education and capacity building programmes, awareness of the economic rationale for action for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and their role in achieving sustainable development.
10. Countries should include robust and verifiable baselines and indicators on the status and trends of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services within their local and national sustainable development plans and NBSAPs that will help to track and evaluate the benefits of biodiversity investments and promote their uptake more broadly.
11. Investments should be made in improved knowledge generation regarding the insurance value of biodiversity and better learning processes for adaptive governance of ecosystems to avoid dangerous tipping points and regime shifts to cost-effectively increase the potential for sustainable development and well-being.

In practical terms, to develop successful approaches to meeting the Aichi Targets, the Panel also highlight the important roles of NBSAPs, financial planning for the investment these identify, and the consideration and recognition of the rights and role of indigenous and local communities.

What are the implications of this for the work of COP?

The report reemphasises the finding of the Panel's first report from 2012 which highlighted that the investment needs to meet the Aichi Targets must not be seen as an invoice to be paid for only by the biodiversity community. Rather, these should be seen as an indicator of the scale of the change needed in the way we make investments across our economies to ensure that biodiversity's real value is reflected in the way such investments are made. This is especially true in terms of the greatest investment requirements identified by the Panel, for reducing the direct drivers of biodiversity loss.

To deliver a transformation of the scale needed, the Panel highlight the need to invest at various levels in the knowledge, institutions and relationships which can ensure that the role of biodiversity is considered in every decision that can impact it.

This implies broadening the focus to the forthcoming CBD COP decision on Resource Mobilisation beyond simply agreeing on financial targets. It suggests in addition that the decision needs to build on decisions about mainstreaming elsewhere in the Convention's agenda, e.g., under Business and Biodiversity / Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, and to respond to a wider set of questions.

How else can the report be used?

The Panel report was not aimed solely at the COP meeting. It contains a wealth of research evidence and case studies which support the key messages. The Panel's intention was to provide this evidence to help Parties on return from COP to learn from the experience of others and the evidence available, to help extend the range of options available to parties with regard to drawing in the resources needed, from a range of sources, to meet the Aichi Targets.

Where can the report be found?

Executive Summary

- Arabic: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/official/cop-12-13-add2-ar.pdf>
- English: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/official/cop-12-13-add2-en.pdf>
- Spanish: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/official/cop-12-13-add2-es.pdf>
- French: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/official/cop-12-13-add2-fr.pdf>
- Russian: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/official/cop-12-13-add2-ru.pdf>
- Chinese: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/official/cop-12-13-add2-zh.pdf>

Full report: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-04-en.pdf>

Regional reports: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-74-en.pdf>