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Ministry of the Environment and Energy
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Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer
Executive Secretary
CBD Secretariat
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Regarding CBD Notification 2018-019, Mainstreaming of
biodiversity and other strategic actions to enhance
implementation: request for submission of relevant information

Dear Ms Paşca Palmer,

Please find enclosed response from Sweden to CBD Notification 2018-019.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotta Sörqvist

CBD National Focal Point for Sweden

General

Notification 2018-019 invites Parties and other relevant stakeholders to submit case studies and practical examples of the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing, and health, and to consider these in its preparation for deliberations on this issues at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. In response to this notification we would like to give the following information, focusing on the mining sector.

Many sectors outside the green sectors depend on, and affect biodiversity. Therefore, reaching out for further developing partnerships through mainstreaming is a key to reach the Aichi biodiversity targets, as well as the sustainable development goals. Mainstreaming is the key to safeguard that biodiversity is reflected in all decision making. To protect, enhance and sustainably use biodiversity it is important to fully value and integrate biodiversity into relevant decisions, planning processes and policies. Sweden would like to stress that we need to ensure that there are effective regulatory frameworks in place, governed by strong institutions. It is of importance to ensure that effective participatory processes are established within these frameworks, ensuring transparency and involvement of stakeholders such as indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, civil society, private sector and national and subnational governments, in line with the ecosystem approach. It is also important to work with standards and good practice guidelines, considering ecosystem based approaches that offer multiple benefits for the sectors, society, nature and health. This aspect is also included in the recommendation to COP adopted by the SBSTTA in CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XXI/4.

National environmental legislation

Legislation has for many years been the key tool in Sweden with which principles of environmental policy have been converted into practical action.

The Swedish Environmental Code constitutes a modernised, broadened and more stringent environmental legislation aimed at promoting sustainable development. It came into force on 1 January 1999. The purpose of the Environmental Code is to promote sustainable development which will ensure a healthy and sound environment for present and future generations. For more information see <http://www.swedishepa.se/Guidance/Laws-and->

regulations/The-Swedish-Environmental-Code/. The minerals legislation does not exempt mines from compliance with environmental legislation. Thus, the Environmental Code applies in parallel with the Minerals Act, in the same way as the Environmental Code applies in parallel with other sector legislation.

Joint Swedish EPA -UNDP Global Programme

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and UNDP is co-implementing a Sida-financed Global Programme on Strengthening Environmental Governance of the Mining Sector (EGP) in support of Agenda 2030. The objective of the programme is to strengthen national capacities for mainstreaming and integrating gender, human rights, rule of law, biodiversity and ecosystem services in law and policy making and service delivery in transition and development countries for a net positive contribution to sustainable development.

The programme focuses on the nexus between human rights, the environment and conflict prevention and adopts an integrated approach to considers all bottom lines of the SDG framework: economic, social and environmental impacts. More information can be found in the attached annex.

Webinars and conferences

At the twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the side-event on Strategies and legal tools for mainstreaming biodiversity and human rights in the mining sector co-organized by SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre, UNDP and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with International Development Law Organization and Natural Justice took place. Lessons learned by various organizations on the use of tools and strategies to understand and act upon the effects of mining on biodiversity and human rights of different groups in society, across time and across different localities, especially in the Global South were discussed. This side-event forms part of a broader collaboration between SwedBio, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the United Nations Development Environmental Global Program which has included the development of a webinar on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services in the mining

sector, part of the NBSAPS Forum and Goxi Platform Learning Series which took place on October 3rd and 5th 2017, with a joint SEPA and SwedBio/SRC presentation.¹ These webinars brought together 269 people from across all over the world.

Examples from the private sector

We have also invited stakeholders of the Swedish private sector to contribute and give examples from their experiences. Several stakeholders have provided written contributions to the Government Offices of Sweden. These contributions are found in Annex and reflect the opinions and views of each contributing stakeholder.

¹ English https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRN5jn3Lu_I
Spanish <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAi24IArOdw>