

Seminar on Transformational Change for the Biodiversity Agenda 8 July 2018, 10-1pm

ICAO Conference Room 3 - Montreal, Canada Concept Note

Toward a transformative change for biodiversity based on systems transitions

I. Background

At its fifteenth meeting in Beijing in 2020, the 196 Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are due to adopt the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity. Like the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to provide a framework or "New Deal for Nature" for the entire international community to address the challenge of biodiversity and ecosystems loss and to ensure that the solutions and benefits nature provides are integrated in systemic, inclusive, and transformative actions to benefit human well-being, the economy, and the planet.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, and decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the Convention has recognized that leading to 2020 and beyond requires urgent transformational change in the approaches taken to safeguard, restore, and invest in biodiversity. This urgency includes changes in behaviour at the levels of producers and consumers, governments and businesses; a deeper understanding, based on scientific evidence, of the factors, motivations and levers that can facilitate such transformational change; and innovation in the means of implementation.

At the 21st Session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA21), held in December 2017, in Montreal, Canada, Parties noted that governments and international institutions could play leading roles in establishing an enabling environment to foster positive change. Parties further noted that societal and disruptive technological developments can lead to transitions that may contribute to, or counter, sustainability and the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention. To this end, further work is required, not only to identify the ways and means to facilitate transformational change for the biodiversity regime at different levels, but to examine what the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework requires to leverage such change.

Building on the participatory roadmap for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework¹ and the momentum and outputs of the first² and second³ Bogis-Bossey Dialogues on Transformative Change for Biodiversity, both held in Switzerland in 2017 and 2018 respectively, the Secretariat of the CBD is convening a half-day seminar on the 8 July 2018, in Montreal, at the margins of the 22nd session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The seminar will provide an opportunity for a wider group of participants from all Parties and observers to provide and share insights on transformational change for biodiversity in the lead-up to 2020 and preparation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

II. Objectives of the Seminar

The objective of the seminar is first to share with Parties to the Convention, and its observers, as well as other stakeholder groups the theoretical framework of sustainability transitions research as a starting point for a strategic examination of pathways for action. Second, it will reflect on the steps in the process, including pathways for the acceleration of sustainability transitions in the biodiversity agenda. It will draw on examples from the energy sector as well as factors in fostering transformation in the UNFCCC process. Third, the discussions will focus on how the fourth industrial revolution can be harnessed for nature, mindful of

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/bogis/S73.pdf>

² <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-21> (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/19)

³ UNEP/CBD/SBI/2/INF/35

interconnected risks and opportunities harnessed through technologies and innovations that are rapidly changing the world.

With this framing, the seminar seeks to generate an exchange of views and to receive further insights from Parties, and observer Parties and other relevant stakeholders, on the framework of sustainability transitions research, and steps to accelerate pathways transitions in the biodiversity agenda, as a complement to the preparations for a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

III. Expectations

Through the seminar, as an inclusive and participatory element of the roadmap for the post-2020 framework, the expectation is to receive insights from stakeholders across government, civil society, and business and to identify and work with biodiversity champions to inspire innovative actions that can accelerate change leading to 2020. The seminar will also help to distil areas of focus to advance on narratives, science based targets and innovative finance for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

IV. Preliminary Agenda

Moderated by: **Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Director, Implementation Support Division, Convention on Biological Diversity**

Welcome/ Opening

- 10:00 - 10:10: Welcome remarks: Setting the objectives- **Cristiana Paşca-Palmer, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity**
- 10:10- 10:15 Opening remarks- **representative of the COP 13 Presidency, Mexican Government**
- 10:15- 10:20: Opening remarks- **Norbert Baerlocher, Head of Rio Conventions, Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland**

TED style talks

- 10:20- 10:40: Transformational change in the climate regime in the lead-up to Paris Climate COP - **Halldor Thorgeirsson, Senior Director for Intergovernmental Affairs, UNFCCC Secretariat**
- 10:40 – 11:00: Transitions research and transformational change - exploring elements for a transformative biodiversity agenda post-2020 - **Derk Loorbach, Director, Dutch Institute of Transitions**
- 11:00 - 11:20: Global context of interconnected risks and challenges in a fast-moving world - how is biodiversity emerging in this content? - **Dominic Waughray, Head of Public-Private Partnerships, World Economic Forum**

Moderated interactive discussion

11:20 - 12:20 Moderation of the Ted style talks

Wrap up/ synthesis

- 12:20- 12:35: Wrap-up presentation by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- 12:35 - 13:00: Final Discussion and Q&A

Closing

- 13:00-13:15: Closing of the seminar
- 13:15 - 14:00: Lunch networking session

V. Background Material

Participants will receive details concerning the logistics of the meeting, as well as the following resources:

- Concept Note for the Seminar on Transformational Change for the Biodiversity Agenda
- SBSTTA21: Executive Report from the First Bogis-Bossey Dialogue (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/19)
- SBSTTA22 and SBI2: Executive Report from the Second Bogis-Bossey Dialogue (UNEP/CBD/SBI/2/INF/35)
- SBI2 Information Document: Exploring elements for a transformative biodiversity agenda post-2020 (UNEP/CBD/SBI/2/INF/26)
- Reference to the website with all documentation on the Bogis-Bossey Dialogues <https://www.cbd.int/post2020/>

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