

## **Biodiversity and Sustainable Development – the relevance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

**KEY MESSAGES (Revised June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013)**

### ***Background***

**The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being developed as part of the post-2015 development agenda.** They will integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and will apply to all countries. Potentially, the SDGs could provide the framework that helps nations achieve the transformations necessary to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainability.

**The post-2015 development agenda is being developed under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly.** Further to the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, an intergovernmental open-ended working group (OWG) has been established to prepare a proposal on the SDGs. In parallel, the High-Level panel of Eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in follow up to the 2015 Targets of the Millennium Development Goals, has presented its report “A New Global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development”, while the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network has released “An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development” (Table 1). It is expected that these processes will converge into a single coherent post-2015 development agenda.

**The SDGs and the broader post-2015 development agenda provide an opportunity for the mainstreaming of biodiversity.** On one hand, biodiversity and the ecosystem services that it underpins are essential for continued human development. On the other hand, *sustainable* pathways for human development are needed to ensure that these life support systems continue to be maintained. Indeed, the critical role of biodiversity in development was recognized in the Rio+20 outcome, “*The Future we want*”.

**The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) encouraged Parties and all partners, institutions, organizations and processes concerned to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in developing the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and in the process of establishing SDGs.** The COP requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the secretariats of the United Nations, the Rio conventions and other multilateral environment agreements, and other relevant bodies, in the process of developing Sustainable Development Goals.

### ***Q1: Why is biodiversity important for sustainable development?***

**Biodiversity is important for sustainable development in many ways, as it provides the critical foundation for sustainable development and human well-being:** (i) At the simplest level, the components of biodiversity comprise many natural resources essential for human development including food, fibre, fuel, and medicinal plants. These are provided both from managed agricultural ecosystems and less managed “natural” ecosystems. (ii) Biodiversity also

underpins the functioning of these ecosystems and the provision of ecosystem services such as clean water (quality, quantity and evenness of supply), as well as services such as pollination, regulation of pests and diseases, etc. (iii) Ecosystems, species and genetic diversity provide for adaptation to current needs and adaptability to meet future needs. Ecosystem resilience depends on biodiversity. (iv) Biodiversity also provides spiritual, psychological and cultural benefits.

**The goods and services provided by biodiversity are important to all people. Some are especially important to poor and vulnerable groups** as they are often most directly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems and thus are often most immediately affected by their loss and degradation. Therefore, the goods and services provided by biodiversity constitute social safety nets. Women and men may utilise ecosystem goods and services in different ways. Some of the benefits from biodiversity are realized in the short term, others over longer periods, including over periods spanning multiple human generations.

**Ultimately, the loss of biodiversity impacts negatively on all people.** However, the loss of biodiversity may have particularly severe, and sometimes more immediate, impacts on the poor and vulnerable and on women and children. As biodiversity is lost, there is a risk that some thresholds will be passed, undermining the functioning of the earth system. Conversely, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity contributes to sustainable development and mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The SDG framework is an opportunity to reinstate that biodiversity contributes to human well-being, but also that biodiversity – as an essential element of earth's life support system – needs protection to ensure sustainability.

## ***Q2: Why is sustainable development important for biodiversity?***

**A true sustainable development framework must not only acknowledge the role of biodiversity for development, it must also provide the enabling conditions for its conservation and sustainable use.** To do this, the post 2015 framework needs to promote transformational change in economies and societies. This will require improved governance and institutions at multiple scales as well as behavioural change, and building human capabilities through access to education and health care.

**Economic growth contributes to poverty eradication, but must be pursued in a socially equitable way, with a reduced impact on biodiversity and ecosystems, if it is to address the multiple dimensions of human well-being in a sustainable manner.** Growth will be essential in developing countries to eradicate poverty, and for the foreseeable future, it will be necessary in all countries to ensure full employment. Growth must therefore be decoupled from resource consumption and from negative impacts on biodiversity. Carbon neutral (or even carbon-negative) growth will be an important part of this. It may also be necessary to look beyond growth-based prosperity, especially in high-income countries. Transformation to sustainable production and consumption patterns implies a more even sharing of resources among a greater number of people: greater equality. Waste of food, and excessive levels of consumption of all resources, will need to be reduced. More equal societies tend to have higher levels of well-being across all sectors of society. Equality may therefore be considered as well as a means to development as well as an end in itself.

**Increased investment in governance and institutions at multiple scales as well as education and health care, especially for women, will be essential to underpin the transformational changes necessary to achieve sustainable development.** Improved institutions at appropriate scales (from local to global) will be essential to allow effective stewardship of natural resources

including biodiversity, and to achieve the transformational changes referred to above. Public access to information about the state of biodiversity and ecosystems can contribute to better policies and better management. Institutions will be needed for the management of risks and the negotiation of trade-offs among stakeholder groups. Institutions need to be developed while recognizing the different roles of women and men in the management of natural resources. Empowerment of women (including through literacy and employment) is also a proven way to lower fertility rates and thereby reduce the rate of population growth.

***Q3: How are the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets relevant for the SDGs?***

**The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the three sustainable development conventions to emerge from the 1992 “Earth Summit”** in Rio de Janeiro. The convention has three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The “2010 Biodiversity Target” was also supported by the 2002 Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development and incorporated into the framework of 2015 Targets for the Millennium Development Goals as “reduce biodiversity loss, achieving a significant reduction by 2010”.

**The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a universally agreed framework for action on biodiversity by all stakeholders including agencies across the United Nations System.** The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD and has been subsequently endorsed or supported by the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions. The importance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was reaffirmed in the Rio+20 outcome document, thereby emphasizing the role that the plan plays for the United Nations system, the international community and civil society worldwide to achieve the world we want. The Rio+20 outcome document stresses the urgency to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, highlighting the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity contains a number of elements which are readily available for integration into one or more of the SDGs. The incorporation of these goals and targets into the SDGs has several advantages, not only ensuring policy coherence and building on existing implementation processes, but also reflecting the political will of 193 Parties to the CBD.

**The 2050 vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity stresses the role of biodiversity for human well-being:** “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.” This could provide a basis for an SDG on biodiversity and ecosystems, if it were to be agreed that there should be such a goal. In addition, one of the specific targets of the Strategic Plan, Aichi Target 14, focuses on ecosystem services – the benefits people obtain from ecosystems: “by 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable”, could also provide elements for an SDG. This target explicitly highlights the role of ecosystem services as a basis for human health, livelihoods and well-being, which in turn are crucial elements of sustainable development. The target also integrates the concept of equity by

emphasizing the needs of different groups such as women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

**The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity includes twenty internationally agreed time bound targets, mostly for 2020.** These are organized under five goals towards the 2050 vision, to protect nature (Goal C), to maximize the benefits for all people (Goal D), to reduce pressures on biodiversity (Goal B) and to address the underlying causes of loss (Goal A). Additionally, Goal E provides for enabling activities. Among the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are quantitative targets which could provide useful elements for targets related to the SDGs, for example: by 2020, at least halving deforestation and the loss of other natural habitats (Target 5), protecting at least 17% of land and 10% of oceans through protected areas (Target 11), and restoring at least 15% of degraded lands (Target 15). Experience from the MDGs and other international goals and target setting processes suggest that quantified and measurable targets are more effective than general aspirational ones. Indicators have been developed, or are being developed, for each target.

**The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity addresses the need for sustainable production and consumption.** Some of the targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity are relevant to sustainable development in general. Target 4, for example, provides for Governments, business and stakeholders to develop plans for, and to take steps to achieve sustainable production and consumption by 2020, and to have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits. Other targets relate to particular sectors (e.g. Target 6 on sustainable fisheries, and Target 7 on sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry).

**The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity recognizes the need for the mainstreaming of biodiversity.** Aichi Target 2 specifically calls for biodiversity values to be integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and national accounting, and reporting systems. The most convincing arguments for biodiversity mainstreaming are those highlighting the development outcomes of biodiversity friendly policies, actions and investments. Important development benefits result from effective biodiversity mainstreaming approaches. Capturing those synergies and resolving critical tradeoffs between biodiversity and development goals are fundamental to sustainability. Effective mainstreaming will result in greater impacts of investments, lowered costs, and improved coordination among institutions.

**The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity provides a framework for national action.** While the CBD is an international environmental agreement, it is primarily implemented by countries at the national, sub-national and local level. The goals and targets of the Strategic Plan comprise both: (i) aspirations for achievement at the global level; and (ii) a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets. Parties are invited to set their own targets within this framework, taking into account national needs and priorities, while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets. National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) are key instruments for translating the Strategic Plan to national circumstances, including through the national targets, and for integrating biodiversity across all sectors of government and society. Aichi Target 17 calls for Parties to develop, adopt as a policy instrument, and commence implementing an effective, participatory and updated NBSAP by 2015.

**The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.** It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among

organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems, and is therefore central to sustainable development. The ecosystem approach requires adaptive management to deal with the complex and dynamic nature of ecosystems and the absence of complete knowledge or understanding of their functioning. The ecosystem approach, as described by the COP, is the primary framework for action for the 193 Parties of the CBD.

***Q4: How could biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets be integrated into potential SDGs?***

**The Sustainable Development Goals may be expected to address different aspects of human well-being and be accompanied by targets and indicators.** The process for the development of the SDGs is at an early stage, and the outcome of this process cannot be prejudged. However, for the purposes of considering how biodiversity may be integrated into the SDG framework, different types of SDGs may be envisaged. A first type are overarching goals that encompass multiple dimensions of sustainable development such as poverty eradication (Type 1). A second type of goals (Type 2) relate to issues such as food security (“food for all”), water security, universal clean energy or access to medicines. These are constituents and determinants of human well-being that both directly depend on, and directly impact biodiversity and ecosystems or have a direct and two-way link to biodiversity. A third type of goals may be related to less tangible, but no less important aspects such as education, equality, gender equity, governance, participation or human rights (Type 3). Finally some goals may relate to the underlying global “life support systems” such as healthy and productive ecosystems (Type 4). Table 1 provides some examples drawn from recent high-profile contributions to the post 2015 development agenda and SDG process. The Goals, which encapsulate ambitious and long-term commitments, would each be accompanied by more specific time-bound and quantified targets, and by indicators to assess if progress towards the target are being achieved. These types are closely interrelated (see Figure 1), and the link to biodiversity should, for each type, be ideally realized at the appropriate level in the structure of the SDGs, including goals, targets and indicators. The “life support systems” (Type 4) directly underpin, and at the same time can be negatively affected by, the determinants of well-being (Type 2). Types (2), (3) and (4) underpin the achievement of goals related to broader concepts (Type 1).

**Type 4 goals such as “healthy and productive ecosystems” would, in effect, be biodiversity-related goals, with supporting targets and indicators.** The vision of the Strategic Plan could provide useful elements for such a goal. All of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, especially Targets 5 to 15, are relevant. Target 14 is particularly relevant. Possible indicators could include trends in the extent of biomes or ecosystems such as forest and wetlands, and trends in the abundance of species (eg: Living planet index) or the status of threatened species (eg: Red list index), as well as the extent of protected areas.

**Type 2 goals such as food security or water security relate to constituents and determinants of human well-being that both directly depend on, and directly impact biodiversity and ecosystems or have a direct and two-way link to biodiversity.** For example, biodiversity is essential to the continued provision of food, and is an important determinant of its quality. Biodiversity is the source of our crops and livestock as well as fish and other wild food sources. A nutritious diet requires a diversity of these plants and animals. The provision of these goods depends on functioning agricultural and other ecosystems. Essential processes such as pollination, nutrient cycling and the regulation of pests and diseases all depend on biodiversity – on the

interactions among a diverse range of organisms. The genetic diversity of crops and livestock allows not only adaptation to current needs, but also the adaptability to meet future changes, including those resulting from climate change, and the potential for further increases in yields that will be necessary to meet expected food demands. On the other hand, food production, through agriculture as well as fisheries has major impacts on biodiversity through land use, nutrient use, pollution, etc. Similarly, there are direct and two-way linkages between water security and biodiversity. Biodiversity may be integrated into potential SDGs related to food security through targets, indicators or both (see Table 2). Targets and indicators should relate not only to production (yield, quantity) but also to nutritional quality including diversity, as well as to distributional and sustainability aspects. These could relate to the maintenance of important components of agricultural biodiversity such as pollinators, or to limiting pesticide use and improving fertilizer use efficiency. The most relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets in this regard include Targets 7, 8 and 13.

**Type 3 goals, such as education, equality, gender equity, governance, participation or human rights, will be essential to ensure the effective management of biodiversity.** These goals do not depend directly on biodiversity, nor does their provision involve the utilization of biodiversity. However, the achievement of SDGs of this type is expected to positively affect the achievement of other SDGs. Further, an understanding of the role biodiversity and the ecosystems it underpins play for related constituents of human well-being may inform these goals and the targets and indicators under them (e.g. the role of biodiversity for gender equality from the perspective of food and water security).

**Goals addressing broad concepts (Type 1) such as poverty eradication will depend on progress towards achieving the other types of goals.** This is especially true if poverty eradication is understood in a broad sense to include not only income but also other “capabilities”. Efforts to develop comprehensive measures of progress towards sustainable development, as alternatives to GDP, offer opportunities for the integration of biodiversity in SDGs on broader concepts such as poverty eradication, “green economy”, human well-being, and sustainable development. It is increasingly recognized that GDP (or GNP) is too narrow an indicator of human progress. Broader indicators would focus on wealth (stocks) rather than income (a flow), and encompass not only manufactured and financial assets (capital), but also natural, human and social assets. In most countries, assessments of natural capital are currently limited to tangible assets such as mineral reserves, timber stocks and fish stocks. However, efforts are underway to also measure the status of ecosystems, taking into account pollution and other forms of degradation. Aichi Target 2 calls for the biodiversity values to be integrated into such national accounting systems.

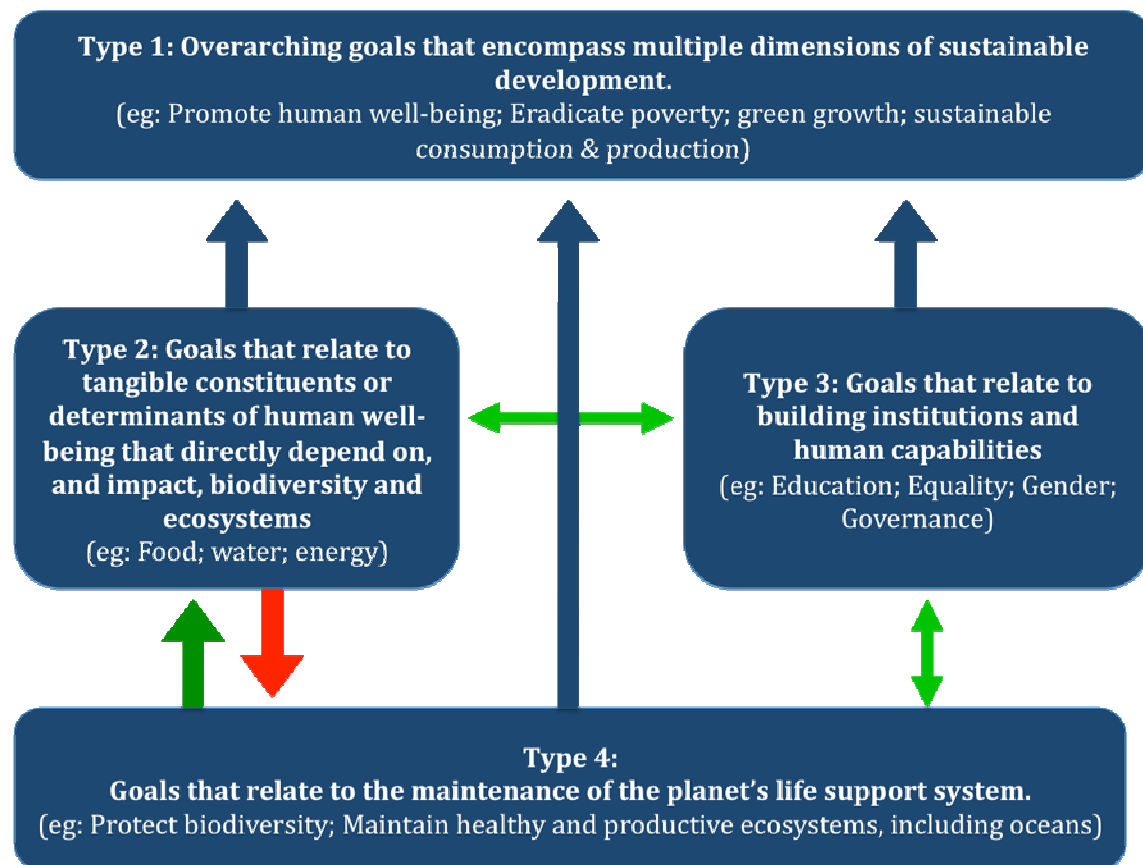
***Q5: How can we promote the integration of biodiversity and consideration of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity in the SDG process for developing the SDGs?***

**The development of the post-2015 development agenda comprises thematic discussions at the global level and national discussions with civil society forums as well as the formal UNGA-based discussions. Each of these processes provides opportunities for the biodiversity community to actively engage in these discussions, in particular those at the national level.** United Nations is supporting a process of national consultations in more than 55 countries.

**The biodiversity community can demonstrate how biodiversity-based approaches (“nature-based solutions”) can contribute to addressing a range of contemporary priority issues from food security to adaptation to climate change.** An analysis of responses from over 60 countries regarding Sustainable Development Goals priority areas place food security and sustainable agriculture on top of the list, followed by water and sanitation, energy, education, poverty eradication. Biodiversity has a central role to play in most of these areas. Countries also recognized “Biodiversity” as such as one of the top twenty priority areas. Well targeted integrated policies, institutional actions and investments in biodiversity offer pathways to meeting these challenges. The SDGs provide a unique opportunity to highlight the critical role of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, and which are the foundations for sustainable development and human well-being.

**The integration of biodiversity into the SDG framework would be facilitated by the identification of suitable targets, indicators and metrics.** In order to achieve the mainstreaming agenda, reliable and systematic collections of relevant and robust data on the status and trends of ecosystems, associated ecosystem services, and underlying biodiversity, including statistical information, are necessary. It is precisely for this reason that Aichi Target 2 also calls for the incorporation of biodiversity values into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems more generally. Further work is required to improve indicators for the sustainability of Type 2 Goals including biodiversity-related indicators. A decision guide could be developed to ensure that the SDG framework is consistent with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to facilitate the integration of biodiversity related goals, targets and indicators (see Appendix 1).

**The SDGs provide a unique opportunity to translate the complex challenges and interrelationships facing biodiversity and sustainable development into easily communicated and understood goals and targets and engage in a renewed dialogue between the biodiversity and development communities at all levels.**



**Figure 1: Potential types of goal that may be included in the SDG framework**

Sustainable Development Goals may include overarching goals that encompass multiple dimensions of sustainable development (Type 1). Other SDGs may relate to particular tangible constituents or determinants of human well-being, including those addressing basic needs, such as food and water (Type 2; e.g. “food for all”) as well as social aspects such as education and equality (Type 3). The former depend directly on biodiversity and ecosystems for their production (green arrows) and, in turn, impact, often negatively, (red arrows) on those ecosystems. The latter, while essential for its sustainable management, do not require the utilization of biodiversity. Finally, goals may also relate to the underpinning life support system (Type 4). Goal Types 2, 3 and 4 may all be regarded as contributing to the broader Type 1 Goals (blue arrows). While Type 4 Goals may themselves be biodiversity goals, Type 1 and Type 2 Goals should include targets and indicators relating to biodiversity and ecosystems, reflecting that the sustainable provision of these goods requires ecosystem services. Type 3 Goals have less obvious links to biodiversity and ecosystems, even though their achievement is also expected to positively affect the achievement of SDGs of all other types.



**Table 1. Examples of proposed Goals categorised according to the four types (see figure 1)**

Type	<i><b>“A New Global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development”</b></i> <i>High-Level panel of Eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013)</i>	<i><b>“An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development”</b></i> <i>Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2013)</i>
<b>Type 1: Overarching goals that encompass multiple dimensions of sustainable development.</b>	1. End Poverty 4. Ensure Healthy Lives	1 End extreme poverty including hunger 2 Achieve development within planetary boundaries 5 Achieve Health and Wellbeing at All Ages 7 Empower Inclusive, Productive, and Resilient Cities
<b>Type 2: Goals that relate to constituents or determinants of human well-being that directly depend on, and impact, biodiversity and ecosystems</b>	5. Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition 6. Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation	6 Improve Agriculture Systems and Raise Rural Prosperity 8 (Curb Human-Induced Climate Change and) Ensure Clean Energy for All 9 (Secure Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity) Ensure Good Management of Water and Other Natural Resources
<b>Type 3: Goals that relate to building institutions and human capabilities</b>	2. Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality 3. Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning 8. Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth 10. Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions 11. Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies 12. Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance	3 Ensure Effective Learning for All Children and Youth for Life and Livelihood 4 Achieve Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Human Rights for All 10 Transform Governance for Sustainable Development
<b>Type 4: Goals that relate to the maintenance of the planet’s life support system</b>	9. Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably	8 Curb Human-Induced Climate Change (and Ensure Clean Energy for All) 9 Secure Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity, Ensure Good Management of Water and Other Natural Resources

**Table 2. How biodiversity and the Strategic Plan and Aichi targets may be integrated into the different types of potential goals**

Type	Modality for integration of biodiversity	Relevant targets and other elements of the Strategic Plan	Example indicators
<b>Type 1: Overarching goals that encompass multiple dimensions of sustainable development.</b>	Targets or indicators related to biodiversity could be integrated under this type of goal	Vision statement Target 4: Reference to sustainable consumption and production ( <i>Goal or Target</i> ) Goal A and Targets 1 – 4	Broad based measures of societal progress – (beyond GDP ( <i>Indicator</i> ) in line with Target 2
<b>Type 2: Goals that relate to constituents or determinants of human well-being that directly depend on, and impact, biodiversity and ecosystems</b>	Targets or indicators related to biodiversity could be integrated under this type of goal	Targets 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13	Eg for Food: Diversity of crops and livestock in production Fertilizer use efficiency Pesticide use Water use. Land use change. Catch per unit effort (fisheries)
<b>Type 3: Goals that relate to building institutions and human capabilities</b>	Biodiversity considerations inform the development of goals and targets	Target 1, target 18	
<b>Type 4: Goals that relate to the maintenance of the planet's life support system</b>	The goal itself could be a biodiversity goal which could be derived from the vision of the Strategic Plan. This could be supported by more specific targets and indicators	Vision statement Potentially all targets, but especially Targets 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15	Forest area Wetland area Protected areas. Abundance (Living Planet Index; fish stocks) Threatened species status.

## Appendix 1: Draft Decision Guide

1. Clarify objectives to be reflected in the framework through inputs from stakeholders.<sup>1</sup>
2. Develop draft Goals based on the framework described above
3. Review draft Goals for possible impacts on other dimensions of sustainable development.
  - Do they contribute to sustainable development in a sustained way?
  - Do they provide for the transformative change needed?
  - Do they enhance, or undermine the other Goals (including any potential Goal related to biodiversity)?Revise the set of Goals accordingly.
4. Consider alternative pathways for the achievement of the Goals.
  - Consider how targets, sub-targets and/or indicators could be included under the Goal to promote the more sustainable pathways: to ensure that the pathway towards the Goal accentuates the positive impacts on biodiversity and on other Goals, and minimizes the negative impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> The report of the High-Level panel of Eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013) provides a list of such possible objectives.

## ***Appendix 2: Additional questions for discussion at the Trondheim Biodiversity Conference***

AQ1: From the perspective of your country's circumstances, does the above analysis on the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and the SDGs address the critical elements? Does the analysis adequately highlight the role of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity? What is missing? Please provide a concise description.

AQ2: Are you actively involved in the national preparatory process of defining the post-2015 development agenda? If so, what are your experiences? Do you think biodiversity and its contributions to sustainable development are adequately covered and reflected in your country's national preparatory process, and the biodiversity community adequately represented? If so, what are, in your view, the drivers/reasons for success? If not, what are the main obstacles/barriers?

AQ3: How should biodiversity be integrated into the SDGs? i.e., full integration, dedicated biodiversity target, or a hybrid approach? What are the advantages/limitations of each modality?

AQ4: Building on the answers to AQ2 above, can you identify good practices and/or lessons learned from your experiences in engaging in the national preparatory process? Or options to upscale or replicate drivers of success, or to overcome obstacles identified?

AQ5: What could the CBD Secretariat do to strengthen the strategic inroads of the Convention's national focal points, and the biodiversity community more generally, into the SDG preparatory process, at national and at international levels?