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### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Thirteenth meeting

Cancun, Mexico, 4-17 December 2016

Item 10 of the provisional agenda\*

### **MAINSTREAMING AND THE INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY ACROSS RELEVANT SECTORS, AND FURTHER IMPLICATIONS OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND OF OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES FOR THE FUTURE WORK OF THE CONVENTION**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. In the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020, adopted through decision XII/31, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider, at its thirteenth meeting, strategic actions to enhance national implementation, in particular through mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also agreed to address, at its thirteenth meeting, the implications of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda (now known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>) and other relevant international processes for the future work of the Convention.
2. In decision XII/4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue the collaboration, with key partners, to actively contribute to the discussions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Further, in decision XII/5, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to integrate biodiversity and nature's benefits to people, into poverty eradication and development strategies, initiatives and processes and to apply the Chennai Guidance for the Integration of Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication.
3. Given the breadth and cross-cutting nature of the issues above, the present note has been issued to highlight other items on the agenda for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity related to biodiversity mainstreaming and to provide an update on ongoing work and initiatives.
4. A draft decision addressing issues related to the mainstreaming of biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/2). The text of the draft decision was formulated with due account taken of the documentation issued for the nineteenth and twentieth meetings

\* UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1.

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1, annex.

of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as well as the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. This documentation remains relevant and is listed in the annex to the present note.

5. A number of draft decisions before the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting are also relevant to issues related to mainstreaming. These included draft decisions on biodiversity and climate change, forest biodiversity and the implications of the assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

6. The issue of mainstreaming will also be considered by the high-level segment of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held on 2 and 3 December 2016. The high-level segment is expected to adopt a ministerial declaration on mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being. A number of background documents have been issued to support the deliberations during the high-level segment. Parties may wish to consider the ministerial declaration as well as associated documents in their deliberations of this issue, as listed in the annex to the present note.

7. In preparation for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the associated high-level segment, as well as the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the Government of Mexico, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, organized an international expert workshop on biodiversity mainstreaming. The outcomes of that meeting were made available to the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.<sup>2</sup> Further, an informal follow-up meeting to this workshop was held in Mexico on 3 and 4 October 2016.

8. In preparation for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the associated high-level segment, the Secretariat and the Government of Mexico have also been working closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on issues related to the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture and forestry sectors. This work includes the participation of the Secretariat in the 25th session of the Committee on Agriculture (26 to 30 September 2016), the 32nd session of Committee on Fisheries (11 to 15 July 2016) and the 23rd session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (18 to 22 July 2016). Further information on this work is presented in section I of the present document.

9. The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>3</sup> will enter into force on 4 November 2016. The first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016. The Paris Agreement has implications for the mainstreaming of biodiversity, given the potential contribution of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to the implementation of the agreement. These implications are further discussed in section III of the present document.

## **I. MAINSTREAMING IN AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

10. Addressing the indirect and direct drivers of biodiversity loss requires a focus on primary sectors (agriculture, forests, fisheries and aquaculture). These sectors both impact on biodiversity and are dependent on biodiversity. Demand for the goods and services produced by these sectors is projected to increase over the coming decades as a result of population growth, increasing average wealth and other demographic changes. Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations across these sectors is essential in ensuring not only the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity but also the continued vitality of

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<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/53 and UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/58.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, annex (see [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#))

these sectors. There is a large potential for more biodiversity-friendly management measures in these sectors, and, to a large extent, biodiversity-based solutions have a significant part to play in these measures.

11. The issue of mainstreaming has been addressed during both the nineteenth and twentieth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as well as the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and is reflected in draft decisions resulting from these meetings. In addition, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Government of Mexico have been working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on issues related to mainstreaming biodiversity into the agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture and forestry sectors.

### **A. Agriculture**

12. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the 25th session of the Committee on Agriculture, including through the organization of a side event, in order to highlight the implications of biodiversity in the agriculture sector. Outcomes<sup>4</sup> from the session directly relevant to biodiversity include:

(a) The Committee welcomed the Strategy for FAO's Work on Climate Change and requested FAO and countries to mainstream biodiversity in all aspects of agriculture so as to promote its contribution to ecosystem services and to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Committee further requested that the issues of mainstreaming biodiversity be addressed by the Committee on Agriculture, but also by the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Forestry, as a cross-cutting issue at their next meetings in 2018;

(b) The Committee called upon FAO to continue, in the context of its work in the Food and Agriculture Sector under the Strategic Framework, to strengthen its normative and science and evidence-based work with particular attention to agroecology, biotechnology, sustainable production, climate change, biodiversity, mechanization, statistics, food safety, nutrition, youth and gender;

(c) The Committee welcomed the Draft Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, including guidance on approaches to preserve and enhance soil biodiversity, for consideration by the FAO Council and FAO Conference;

(d) The Committee recognized the key role of agriculture in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and stressed the need to promote actions that balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability and that promote greater integration across agriculture, forestry and fisheries;

(e) The Committee supported the work of FAO and countries on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems for its contribution to sustainable agriculture, the conservation of biodiversity, food security and environmental sustainability;

(f) The Committee approved the proposal to establish observance by the United Nations System of a World Bee Day to be celebrated on 20 May of each year;

(g) The Committee recognized plant health as being of critical importance for agricultural development, biodiversity, food security and nutrition and called for stronger international collaboration, including with the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(h) The Committee took note of information provided on the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(i) The Committee requested the FAO Conference to consider, at its next regular session, decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on

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<sup>4</sup> The outcomes of the 25th session of the Committee on Agriculture are available from <http://www.fao.org/coag/reports/en/>

Climate Change at its twenty-second meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting relevant to the work of FAO, including in its deliberations on the next medium-term plan and programme of work and budget.

## B. Fisheries

13. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in 32nd session of the Committee on Fisheries, including through the organization of a side event, in order to highlight the implications of biodiversity in the fisheries sector. Outcomes<sup>5</sup> from the session directly relevant to biodiversity include:

(a) The Committee welcomed the outcomes and recommendations of the joint expert meeting on Aichi Target 6,<sup>6</sup> and invited FAO to strengthen cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and recommended that FAO make available suitable indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving relevant Aichi Targets;

(b) The Committee welcomed the initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme and expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Korea for organizing a meeting on Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in September 2016 in Seoul;<sup>7</sup>

(c) Mexico invited members and other interested parties to join the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016, emphasizing that the meeting would also focus on the integration of biodiversity issues in fisheries and aquaculture.

## C. Forestry

14. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in 23rd session of the Committee on Forestry. This included organizing a dialogue event on the opportunities and challenges of mainstreaming biodiversity into the forest sector in collaboration with the Government of Mexico and FAO. During its session the Committee focused on the interlinkages between forest and other sectors and issues, including biodiversity and climate change. Among the key outcomes of the session were requests to FAO:

(a) To collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the ministries responsible for forests and the forest sector in the preparations for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in relation to the discussion of the forest sector under the high-level segment, including consideration of Article 5 of the Paris Agreement;<sup>3</sup>

(b) To continue working with the secretariats of CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, UNFF, other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as other relevant international processes to improve and streamline global reporting on forests, with the aim of identifying synergies and reducing the reporting burden on countries;

(c) Related to FAO's work on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of forests, to support countries in promoting the multi-functional role of forests through valuation of ecosystem services and increased private sector involvement in sustainable forest management.

15. Further, during the 23rd session of the Committee on Forestry, in the context of global plan of action for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources, the Committee

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<sup>5</sup> The outcomes of the 32nd session of the Committee on Fisheries are available from <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr484e.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> The outcomes of this meeting are available as document [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/27](http://www.unep.org/cbd/sbstta/20/inf/27).

<sup>7</sup> The outcomes of this meeting are available as an information document.

invited countries to integrate the conservation and use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant national strategies and programmes, in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, and as appropriate the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, making innovative use of traditional knowledge.

16. Other recent initiatives relevant to the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the forestry sector that the Secretariat has been participating in include the discussions related to the International Arrangement on Forests, and the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity.

## **II. IMPLICATIONS OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

17. In decision XII/4 the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological diversity requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to continue the collaboration with key partners to actively contribute to the discussions on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the sustainable development goals, to follow the relevant outcomes, to inform Parties of any major developments related to biodiversity, and to support Parties by continuing to assist Parties in their efforts to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services into poverty eradication and development. Pursuant to this, the Executive Secretary continued its engagement in the relevant processes related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, including by collaborating with other United Nations agencies and other convention secretariats, with a view to ensuring that the outcomes of the discussions on the 2030 Agenda are consistent with, and mutually supportive of, the commitments under the Convention and other biodiversity instruments.

18. In order to further inform the deliberations of the Conference of the Parties on these requests, the present section provides an update on the work undertaken by the Executive Secretary to contribute to the implementation, follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, identifies implications for the future work of the Convention and identifies a number of possible activities that could be undertaken. Further information on major developments related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are provided in an information document.

### **A. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

19. Following the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (66/288, 67/290 and 70/1), the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development was established as the central platform for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was decided that the High-Level Political Forum would meet every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government, and every year under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, including a three-day ministerial segment (see resolution 67/290).

20. The third meeting of the High-Level Political Forum, the first since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, was convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York, from 11 to 20 July 2016. Under the overarching theme of “ensuring no one is left behind”, voluntary national reviews from 22 countries and the results of regional forums on sustainable development organized by the regional commissions of the Council were presented.

21. In resolution 70/299 it was decided that the annual themes for reviews of progress made on the 2030 Agenda by the High-Level Political Forum for the remainder of the current four-year cycle would be: (a) for 2017: “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”; (b) for 2018: “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”; (c) for 2019: “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”.

22. It was further decided that the High-Level Political Forum would discuss a set of Sustainable Development Goals and their interlinkages with other Goals every year. The aim of this is to facilitate an in-depth review of progress of all Goals. The schedule for the review of the Sustainable Development Goals is:

(a) In 2017: Goals 1 (poverty), 2 (hunger), 3 (health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and 14 (coastal and marine ecosystems);

(b) In 2018: Goals 6 (water and sanitation), 7 (energy), 11 (cities and communities), 12 (consumption and production) and 15 (terrestrial ecosystems);

(c) In 2019: Goals 4 (education), 8 (work and economic growth), 10 (inequalities), 13 (climate action) and 16 (peace, justice and institutions).

In addition Goal 17 (partnership for the goals), will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### **B. Indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals**

23. The effort to develop a global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals is being led by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). As a contribution to this process the Executive Secretary informed the United Nations Statistics Division of the ongoing work under the Convention to identify global-level indicators for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Further, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity provided inputs to the process for defining global-level indicators for Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15.

24. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is responsible for two indicators: (a) 15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits and (b) 15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Metadata fact sheets on these indicators have been prepared and shared with the United Nations Statistics Division.

25. The Executive Secretary has also commissioned a study on the potential contribution of environmental economic accounting to an integrated information system and indicators for the three Rio Conventions and for the Sustainable Development Goals. The study addresses data gaps and inconsistencies between data sources, an issue identified as obstacles by the IAEG-SDGs. The study can inform the methodological development and use of environmental economic accounting for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The study will be made available as an information document.

### **C. Work to link Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets to Sustainable Development Goals**

26. The Secretariat provided a note to the nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the links between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>8</sup> Further, the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with the member agencies of the United Nations Technical Support Team to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (FAO, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank), developed a technical note on the enabling role of biodiversity and ecosystems in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to help decision makers identify the contribution of biodiversity to the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets and to promote the integration of biodiversity and ecosystems services in the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals. The technical note is presented in the addendum to the present document (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/10/Add.1).

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<sup>8</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/9.

**D. High-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14**

27. In its resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Subsequently, in resolution 70/303, the Assembly decided to convene the conference at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2017, and requested the President of the General Assembly to convene a two-day preparatory meeting in February 2017.

**E. Further implications of the 2030 Agenda for the work under the Convention at the global level**

28. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers further opportunities for a comprehensive approach to monitoring and reporting processes across MEAs and other instruments under the United Nations. In collaboration with relevant organizations and mechanisms, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Secretariat can contribute to the operationalization of the follow-up and review mechanism of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global, regional and national levels and the effective use of the monitoring and reporting mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through:

(a) The provision of input to the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report and the annual High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, notably for the thematic review of the Goals 14 and 15 in 2017 and 2018 respectively, through contribution to the annual progress report on Sustainable Development Goals, national voluntary reviews and other relevant follow-up and review processes;

(b) Refinement of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to biodiversity under the work of the IAEG-SDGs and other relevant organizations.

29. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and is a tool to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity for human well-being. Further it represents a strong argument to mainstream biodiversity into different sectors. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, which integrate the issues of sustainable use of lands, ecosystems and natural resources, provides an avenue for the further integration of biodiversity and ecosystems across economic sectors. The strengthened efforts to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystems into and across sectors under the Convention on Biological Diversity are therefore conducive to improving policy coherence through a whole-of-government approach in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the national level, the integration of biodiversity into national development planning may be facilitated by obtaining broadened support for NBSAP implementation and revision processes, and the application of other tools relevant to biodiversity.

**F. Further implication of the 2030 Agenda for the work under the Convention at the national level**

30. The process related to the first Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda<sup>9</sup> revealed that many countries have begun to put institutional mechanisms in place and to integrate the Sustainable

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<sup>9</sup> Retreat on the preparation for the 2016 session of the High-Level Political Forum, 23-24 February 2016, Report of representatives of the MGOS.

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9798MGOS%20report%20on%20HLPF%20Retreat%20Feb%2023%202016\\_FINAL.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9798MGOS%20report%20on%20HLPF%20Retreat%20Feb%2023%202016_FINAL.pdf), Earth Negotiation Bulletin Vol. 33 No. 27. Summary of the 2016 Meeting of the High-Level Political Forum

Development Goals into national development and international cooperation plans. However, it also revealed that stock-taking and the identification of baselines have been recognized as crucial steps for the first year, and countries are facing capacity gaps, in particular related to data identification and collection, as well as analytics. Progress on planning and implementation of national sustainable development strategies and plans vary in accordance with countries' priorities and capacities. For instance, some countries are in the middle of the implementation cycle of their current national development plans, while other plans already include many areas related to the Sustainable Development Goals. These countries have yet to incorporate additional actions and targets that would take into account the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals.

31. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, a number of useful instruments have been developed which can help to inform and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. These include:

- (a) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its associated indicators framework;
- (b) The strategy for resource mobilization;
- (c) The thematic work programmes;
- (d) The national and financial reporting frameworks.

32. The national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) continue to provide an important entry point for mainstreaming biodiversity into the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at the national level, thus using them as instruments to align the national implementation of the Convention with broader sustainable development objectives of the countries, including the 2030 Agenda, and vice versa. To this effect, there is a need to continue encouraging and promoting the sharing and dissemination of approaches and lessons learned, through appropriate national and regional channels, on the mainstreaming of biodiversity and NBSAPs in national development planning and their implementation.

33. Parties to the Convention have also utilized various national coordination mechanisms in order to facilitate the development and implementation of NBSAPs that integrate the priorities and interests of all relevant ministries. Mechanisms such as the establishment of an inter-agency or interministerial committee could also be useful for countries to ensure collaboration across agencies and ministries necessary for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

34. In response to the request of Member States for coherent and integrated support from the United Nations Development System to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Development Group has updated the Interim Guidance for United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

35. As described by the Executive Secretary in document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/48, the United Nations Environmental Management Group (EMG) and its Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity identified UNDAF as a key entry point through which biodiversity can be integrated into both policies and regional and national projects of the United Nations agencies, and recommended a number of steps to ensure that biodiversity is included in relevant guidance materials and new roll-outs of UNDAF. The Executive Secretary provided input to this ongoing process in order to further strengthen the inclusion of biodiversity and ecosystems in the UNDAF Guidance. In the interest of the countries enlisted for the UNDAF roll-out in 2017, an updated analysis on the progress in revising national



biodiversity strategies and action plans based on document UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/2/Add.1 has been provided to the United Nations Development Group. This analysis includes information on the extent to which countries foresee mainstreaming sustainable development plans and poverty reduction strategies in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

36. The interim guidance will be finalized towards the end of 2016 by incorporating the feedback from the roll-out United Nations Country Teams, and will be updated regularly to reflect lessons learned and share the experience and innovation of the Country Teams.

### **III. IMPLICATIONS OF OTHER RELEVANT AGREEMENTS**

#### **A. Biodiversity and Climate Change**

37. In document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/10, the Executive Secretary provided an overview of the outcomes of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC. This section provides an update to the information presented there.

38. The Paris Agreement was adopted on 13 December 2015 with the goal of holding the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Successful implementation of the Paris Agreement would contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Without it, average global temperatures could be expected to increase by 4°C, resulting in catastrophic climate change impacts on biodiversity. Parties to the Paris Agreement are expected to take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases. According to Article 4, paragraph 1(d), of UNFCCC, these include biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.

39. Parties to the Agreement are required to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which may include mitigation co-benefits arising from Parties' adaptation and/or economic diversification plans. NDCs submitted before entry into force are referred to as intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs). As at 20 October 2016, 163 INDCs representing 190 countries had been prepared and submitted to the Secretariat of UNFCCC (the European Union submitted one INDC for all its member states). In November 2015 the United Nations Environment Programme undertook an analysis of the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emissions levels resulting from the 119 INDCs submitted by 1 October 2015. It found that the aggregate emissions do not fall within least-cost 2 degrees Celsius scenarios. Rather, the emissions reduction efforts specified in INDCs would likely result in a global average temperature increase of about 3 degrees Celsius. This would have very dangerous consequences for biodiversity.

40. The threshold for entry into force of the Paris Agreement was achieved on 5 October 2016. The Paris Agreement will enter into force on 4 November 2016. The first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1), will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016.

41. The decision adopting the Paris Agreement invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to prepare a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways. Subsequently, at its 43rd Session the IPCC decided to accept the invitation from UNFCCC to provide a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways. The IPCC, at its 44th session, adopted an outline of the special report<sup>10</sup> which will include an assessment of mitigation pathways compatible with 1.5 degrees Celsius, and impacts of 1.5 degrees Celsius warming on human and natural systems. The IPCC also decided to

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<sup>10</sup> The outline is available at [http://ipcc.ch/meetings/session44/12\\_adopted\\_outline\\_sr15.pdf](http://ipcc.ch/meetings/session44/12_adopted_outline_sr15.pdf).

issue a special report on climate change and the oceans and the cryosphere, as well as a special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. All these reports will provide information relevant to the Convention's work on climate change and biodiversity.

42. Recommendation XX/10 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice invited IPCC, when elaborating its special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, to include consideration of the impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and of the contribution of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and of ecosystem restoration, to efforts to keep global warming within a limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Secretariat has brought several relevant reports to the attention of IPCC. This included its input to the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, such as contributions to the Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) of the 2013-2015 review on the adequacy of the long-term global goal of 2°C,<sup>11</sup> and a report prepared by the Université Paris-Sud on an analysis of the contribution of Aichi Biodiversity Targets to land-based climate mitigation<sup>12</sup> which explores the importance for biodiversity in keeping global warming to 2 degrees Celsius or below, and the role of models and scenarios in informing pathways to achieve biodiversity and climate objectives. Other relevant reports identified to the IPCC include:

(a) Updated synthesis of the impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity (CBD Technical Series No. 75);

(b) Geoengineering in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Technical Series No.66) and its update;<sup>13</sup>

(c) Managing Ecosystems in the Context of Climate Change Mitigation: A Review of Current Knowledge and Recommendations to Support Ecosystem-Based Mitigation Actions That Look Beyond Terrestrial Forests;<sup>14</sup>

(d) Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change” (CBD Technical Series No. 41).

43. The Paris Agreement does not specify mitigation pathways and is based on the national commitments of its Parties. Scenarios for the IPCC fifth assessment report rely heavily on the assumptions that negative emissions technologies will be mature and in use in the latter part of this century. However, several reports<sup>15</sup> and numerous papers in the scientific literature caution against over-reliance on negative emissions technologies are far from being ready for largescale deployment, and further that they may have adverse impacts on biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods.

44. The link between ecosystem-based objectives in national plans under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity is crucial in creating synergies and avoiding conflicts in implementation. In order to promote coherence between these national plans the Secretariat has responded to the invitation by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) to provide information, views and proposals on any work of the APA before its session at the twenty-second meeting of the Conference of Parties to UNFCCC to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco in November 2016. Further several countries already explicitly recognize their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) actions in their national biodiversity strategy and action plan, allowing for integration of biodiversity in climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

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<sup>11</sup> The report of the report on the structured expert dialogue on the 2013–2015 review is accessible from <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/sb/eng/inf01.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/29.

<sup>13</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/12.

<sup>14</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/3.

<sup>15</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/29, UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/2.

## **B. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

45. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted by the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.<sup>16</sup> For the first time in an international disaster risk reduction framework the sustainable management of ecosystems is recognized as a way to build disaster resilience; and ecosystems need to be taken into account in three priority areas: (a) undertaking risk assessments; (b) risk governance; and (c) investing in resilience.

46. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on disaster risk reduction. The 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 22 to 26 May 2017. It will consider, in a working session, ecosystem protection and management and resilient agriculture.

47. Furthermore, in 2016, several Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction were held. The Regional Platforms are recognized by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as critical processes and mechanisms to monitor progress in its implementation at the regional level and to support the preparations for and discussions at the 2017 Global Platform.

## **IV. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CHENNAI GUIDANCE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

48. The Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting, adopted a decision encouraging Parties to integrate biodiversity into poverty eradication and development strategies, initiatives and processes at all levels, and vice versa, to integrate poverty eradication and development concerns and priorities into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other appropriate plans, policies and programmes for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision XII/5, para. 3).

49. In the same decision, it welcomed the detailed Chennai Guidance for the Integration of Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication (decision XII/5, para. 2, annex), and encouraged the Parties to identify and promote policies, activities, projects and mechanisms on biodiversity and development that empower indigenous and local communities, the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, who depend directly on biodiversity and ecosystem services and functions for their livelihoods (decision XII, para. 10), and to apply the Chennai Guidance to their related plans, policies and actions (decision XII/5, para. 16). The Conference of the Parties further encouraged Parties, other Governments, international organizations, other relevant stakeholders, and indigenous and local communities to identify best practices and lessons learned on how to integrate biodiversity, poverty eradication, and sustainable development, and to share this information using the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and, as appropriate, other relevant means (decision XII/5, para. 12).

50. It also requested the Executive Secretary to continue the work requested by the Conference of the Parties in decisions X/6 and XI/22 for effective integration of biodiversity for poverty eradication and development, and to assist Parties in disseminating and utilizing the Chennai Guidance (decision XII/5, para. 17). Through notification 2016-078, the Executive Secretary invited Parties, international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities to submit information on the best practices and lessons learned with respect to the Chennai Guidance. As of 8 September 2016, the Executive Secretary had received submissions from Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Commission, Finland, Peru and Sweden. Submissions were also received by the Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). There was also a joint submission by the Global Forest Coalition (GFC) and members and partners of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative.

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<sup>16</sup> See General Assembly resolution 69/283.

51. In their submissions, many Parties noted that biodiversity and ecosystems are already integrated into their national development strategies and international development cooperation policies. Support to the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems in the areas of food and nutrition, through agro-ecological approaches, was one of the commonly reported good practices related to the Chennai Guidance. The use of traditional knowledge and community-based management were also documented in several submissions. A number of submissions also noted the importance of legal, political and institutional reform to ensure the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities over land tenure, access to resources and customary governance. Other issues addressed in the submissions were the promotion of national programmes that balance the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity with the alleviation of social disparity, by a holistic evaluation of their social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes. A more detailed summary of the submissions is provided in an information document.

52. With regard to poverty eradication, the Secretariat organized a round-table discussion on biodiversity for poverty eradication and sustainable development in Brussels on 28 October 2015 in cooperation with the European Commission and the Government of France. A side-event on the same topic was also held on the margins of the nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. In addition, an international workshop on biodiversity mainstreaming, hosted by the Government of Mexico, was convened from 17 to 19 November 2015.

## Annex

## Documents issued for meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/2	Further consideration of the implications of the findings of the fourth edition of the <i>Global Biodiversity Outlook</i> and related reports, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across sectors
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/2	Update on climate geoengineering in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity: potential impacts and regulatory framework
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/7	Mainstreaming under the Convention: compilation of relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/9	Links between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/10	Biodiversity and climate change
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/15 UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5/Add.1	Mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors including agriculture, forests and fisheries
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/27	Expert Meeting on Improving Progress Reporting and Working Towards Implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/29	Relationships between the Aichi Targets and land-based climate mitigation
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/49	Strategic scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: biodiversity, food systems and agriculture
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/50 UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/56	Actions to mainstream biodiversity into sustainable forest management
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/51	Strategic Scientific and Technical Issues Related to the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: biodiversity, fisheries and aquaculture
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/53 UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/58	Report of the International Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Mainstreaming
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/55 UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/44	Voluntary guidance for mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors including agriculture, forestry and fisheries: tools, guidance, frameworks, standards and platforms to move towards more sustainable practices
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/64 UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/25	OECD Environmental Performance Reviews – Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Sectoral Policies
UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5	Strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5/ADD2	Strategic actions to enhance mainstreaming of biodiversity: cross-cutting issues
UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/11	Biodiversity impact indicators for commodity production: A CBD initiative to mainstream biodiversity into agricultural practices and policies

**Documents prepared for the high-level segment of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>17</sup>**

1. Mainstreaming Biodiversity for well-being
  2. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the fisheries and aquaculture sector
  3. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the agriculture sector
  4. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the tourism sector
  5. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the forestry sector
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<sup>17</sup> Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/cop/preparation/cop13-hls/default.shtml>.