

Biodiversity for Sustainable Development



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Beyond environmental considerations

Biodiversity: Key pillar for the Development Agenda...

FAST FACTS

FOOD SECURITY

In some parts of the world, 90% of coastal populations obtain much of their food and earn their primary income through fishing; yet over-fishing has reduced some commercial fish stocks by over 90%.

HUMAN HEALTH

The international trade in medicinal plants is estimated to be worth US\$60 billion annually.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Estimates suggest that investing US\$45 billion annually into protected areas alone could result in the delivery of ecosystem services worth some US\$5 trillion a year.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon and water cycles, two large-scale bio-geological processes crucial for life on Earth, are known to depend on biodiversity that can help enhance resilience to changing conditions.

Biodiversity underpins all ecosystem goods and services responsible for providing food and water, buffering the impacts of climate change, controlling the outbreak of diseases and supporting nutrient cycling. Biodiversity also serves as the foundation of many spiritual, recreational and cultural **benefits**.

The Convention on Biological Diversity helps promote biodiversity, not as a problem, but as an opportunity to help decision-making processes achieve broad **social and economic goals**.

The High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 2010 called for strengthening the biodiversity and economy nexus by incorporating the **true values** of biodiversity into economics, financial planning and investments into all sectors and at all levels of policy and planning processes.

The UN Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want”, highlights biodiversity as being critical in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, the very

foundations for sustainable development and human well-being.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 views biodiversity as an opportunity for sustainable development. That is why the Plan’s 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets relate not only to conservation, but to addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by **mainstreaming biodiversity** across all sectors of government and society.

Overall, the Targets aim to bring about a considerable change to our lifestyles, and particularly to **our development paradigm** – over the next decade we must move towards sustainability and firmly away from inappropriate production and consumption.

The poorest populations are the most dependent on ecosystem services for food, clothes, medicine, fuel, shelter, income and other basic needs. It is essential to **protect the rights of poor people** to access ecosystem services and renewable natural resources, both on land and at sea.

more information:

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United Nations Decade on Biodiversity



STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

TARGET 2

By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

TARGET 14

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.

The poor and vulnerable suffer most severely from biodiversity degradation. Their **empowerment** in the management of biodiversity is key to improving their well-being.

Recognition of the link between ecosystem services and the fate of poor people implies that biodiversity should be a **priority** in national and international efforts to address poverty reduction.

How the Convention on Biological Diversity contributes

...towards sustainability

- The 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity unequivocally state that biodiversity must be recognized as the **foundation of economic productivity, prosperity and sustainable development**, and be backed by new economic regulations and governance.

- The Convention's **Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development Initiative** is presently, in collaboration with partners, developing tools geared towards increasing the capacity of governments to develop **national accounting** systems that take biodiversity and ecosystem services into consideration for implementing the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (Experimental Ecosystem Accounts).

- The Secretariat supports and promotes initiatives to facilitate the integration of biodiversity into **development planning and mainstreaming approaches** in different non-environmental strategies, particularly those dealing with poverty eradication aspects.

- The Secretariat seeks to support Parties and stakeholders through the production of **good practice guides** and the sharing of **case studies**.

- New guides on biodiversity for **food security** and **human health** are presently being developed together with UN partners. Good practice guides have previously been issued on drinking water,

tourism, forest management and pastoralism.

- An **Expert Group** on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development was established in 2011 to further elucidate the linkages between the three objectives of the Convention and poverty eradication. These experts were mandated to identify the most effective approach towards a framework on **capacity development** for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

- In 2012, a report was prepared on the Development of **Poverty-Biodiversity Indicators** and their Eventual Application.