



Ref.: SCBD/SAM/DC/CS/LJ/84301

9 February 2015

NOTIFICATION

Request for information from Parties and partners on commitments to reduce habitat loss and on ecosystem restoration (Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15)

Dear Madam/Sir,

The fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook has reported limited progress on Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15. These two targets include quantified elements: to reduce the loss of habitats, including forests, at least by half, and to restore at least 15 per cent of degraded lands. Regarding Target 5, indicators suggest a highly variable picture in different parts of the world and among different biomes, with data still scarce for many types of ecosystems. Regarding Target 15, initiatives currently under way or planned may put us on track to restore 15 percent of degraded ecosystems, but it is difficult to make an overall assessment given the different ways these initiatives and commitments are expressed.

Over the past few years, several countries have made public commitments on ecosystem restoration. Countries have also declared restoration targets in their revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Fora such as the Bonn Challenge, the United Nations Climate Summit and the related New York Declaration on Forests, Rio + 20, the Gaborone Declaration, the Hyderabad Call for a Concerted Effort on Ecosystem Restoration launched at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, and the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative launched at the twelfth meeting of the COP have provided platforms for countries to announce commitments on reduced deforestation and degradation of ecosystems as well as on ecosystem restoration. These commitments, when implemented, would make great strides toward achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15. Parties are therefore encouraged to reflect these in their national targets in the context of the updated NBSAPs in order to formalize them and integrate them into national planning processes.

With this background, and further to decision X/2, with a view to providing updated and coherent information on implementation to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and to the COP, I would like to invite Parties to send to the Secretariat (secretariat@cbd.int) updated information on commitments made on reducing habitat loss and on ecosystem restoration as soon as possible and preferably before **30 April 2015**, using the attached guiding questions as appropriate.

To: National Focal Points to the CBD, PoWPA Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points



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The Secretariat stands ready to assist as may be required, including through the compilation of relevant information. In preparing their inputs, focal points to the CBD are encouraged to coordinate with their counterparts from other relevant conventions and processes.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

National commitments made to reduce habitat loss and on ecosystem restoration

Guiding questions

Note: Where information is already included in the NBSAP or 5th National Report, a simple cross-reference would suffice. Kindly provide this information to the CBD Secretariat by 30 April 2015.

1. Please describe national commitments made in the context of contributing to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 (By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.)

- a. What commitments have been made in your country's updated NBSAP; via the Bonn Challenge initiative; the UN Climate Summit; UNFCCC; other convention processes (Ramsar, UNCCD, etc) or other fora? Has any progress been achieved so far?
- b. What policy and economic instruments, and other tools or financing mechanisms are being used to reduce natural habitat loss?
- c. Are these instruments being applied for national coverage? If not, please specify. How effective are they?
- d. To which ecosystem/biome/habitat type do these instruments/tools/mechanisms apply?
- e. What baseline is being utilized and what monitoring tools are/ will be utilized?
- f. Is the value of reducing habitat loss being captured in national accounting and used in public awareness campaigns?
- g. Has your country carried out an assessment of the costs of degradation?

2. Please describe national commitments made in the context of contributing to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 (By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.)

- a. What commitments have been made in your country's updated NBSAP; via the Bonn Challenge initiative; the UN Climate Summit; UNFCCC; other convention processes (Ramsar, UNCCD, etc) or other fora? Has any progress been achieved so far?
- b. What policy and economic instruments, and other tools or financing mechanisms are being used to reduce natural habitat loss?
- c. What is the area of land to be restored?
- d. What is the main purpose for undertaking restoration activities?
- e. To which ecosystem/biome/habitat type do these commitments apply?
- f. What restoration methods are being used?
- g. What baseline is being utilized and what monitoring tools are/will be utilized?
- h. Is the value of ecosystem restoration being captured in national accounting and used in public awareness campaigns?
- i. Is the restoration of degraded land contributing toward productive lands e.g. for agriculture or forestry?

3. Please indicate what type of support (e.g. technical, financial, information exchanges) would help to advance ecosystem restoration and the reduction of natural habitat loss in your country:

Kindly return this form to the CBD Secretariat (secretariat@cbd.int)