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31 August 2015

NOTIFICATION

Preparation for the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that the President of the United Nations General Assembly has circulated the draft outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. You will find the outcome document at the following address: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>.

The document, developed over the three years following the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, will be transmitted to the seventieth session of the General Assembly for its consideration and adoption during the Summit, to take place from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York. The outcome document includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with their targets, as well as a preamble, a declaration, a section on means of implementation and a section on follow-up and review.

Biodiversity and ecosystems feature prominently in the outcome document. Importantly, the SDGs reflect all three of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of genetic resources. In addition, the SDGs are consistent with and include nearly all of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Together, Goals 14 and 15 provide extensive targets on marine and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems. Biodiversity and ecosystems are also integrated in key goals, including: Goal 1 on poverty eradication, Goal 2 on food security and sustainable agriculture, Goal 6 on sustainable water management, Goal 8 on economic growth, Goal 9 on resilient infrastructure, Goal 11 on cities and human settlements, and Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production. Target 2.5 calls on countries to promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. A direct linkage of biodiversity to poverty eradication is made in Target 15.9, which calls for the integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

The section on the means of implementation of the final outcome document also reflects the approach of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with paragraph 63 stating that “cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of our efforts”. In addition, in paragraph 82 of the follow-up and review section, the document makes an important connection to other processes, noting that “Effective linkages

To: CBD National Focal Points



Convention on
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will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant UN Conferences and processes". This mandate will allow to ensure that the review of the implementation of the SDGs takes into account any decisions adopted by the CBD Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting in 2020 in relation to the final review of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

The implementation phase of the SDGs will provide tremendous opportunities to mainstream biodiversity in key national priorities and, at the same time, will help countries achieve the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Secretariat will continue to work in partnership with other entities, including governments, other UN bodies, and stakeholders to develop effective steps to ensure that biodiversity is well reflected as efforts now turn to implementation.

Your Government may wish to consider including references to biodiversity in the statement to be delivered by your Head of State at the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. This could be under the form of a call to all nations to effectively implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in support of the SDGs and/or to link their efforts to implement the SDGs to the achievement of the Strategic Plan. It could also applaud the efforts of, or invite, governments, international organizations and their partners to work together closely to mainstream biodiversity at all levels. It could also urge governments, international organizations and their partners to continue their efforts to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity and to halt biodiversity loss.

I am pleased to transmit to you, as an annex to this letter, an analysis of the linkages between biodiversity and the post-2015 development agenda, and the ongoing work of the CBD Secretariat.

Thank you in advance for your collaboration and efforts in making the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a milestone for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Biodiversity and sustainable development are inextricably linked. Biodiversity and ecosystem services form the foundation of the Earth's life support systems, and underpin human lives and well-being.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is scheduled to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, sets forth an ambitious set of universal goals and targets to tackle the challenges facing the world today. Implementing the 2030 Agenda in a way that integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions will be crucial in ensuring that the purpose of the new development agenda is realized.

Biodiversity and ecosystems feature prominently in the 2030 Agenda. Paragraph 33 of the declaration section focuses entirely on biodiversity and ecosystems and related matters, and two of the Sustainable Development Goals are directly related to biodiversity; Goals 14 and 15 provide extensive targets on marine and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems. Target 15.9 directly links biodiversity to the top priority of the 2030 Agenda - poverty eradication - by calling for the "integration of biodiversity and ecosystem values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts". Biodiversity and



ecosystems are also integrated in other key goals, including Goal 1 on poverty eradication, Goal 2 on food security and sustainable agriculture, Goal 6 on sustainable water management, Goal 8 on economic growth, Goal 9 on resilient infrastructure, Goal 11 on cities and human settlements, Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production, and Goal 13 on combating climate change.

The implementation phase of the Sustainable Development Goals will provide a tremendous opportunity to mainstream biodiversity in key national priorities and at the same time, help countries achieve the objectives of the Strategic

Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, agreed by 192 governments in 2010 and further reaffirmed in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The Strategic Plan has been recognized as a UN-wide framework for action on biodiversity. Meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will contribute significantly to broader national and global priorities addressed through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Convention on
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Key initiatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity that can contribute to the 2030 Agenda

Activities to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity address a range of issues relevant to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. These include poverty eradication and development, food security and sustainable agriculture, cities, sustainable consumption and production, water, oceans, gender equality and traditional knowledge.

Poverty eradication and development

Poverty eradication is one of the greatest global challenges facing us today. While the benefits of biodiversity are important to all people, some benefits are especially important to the poor and to vulnerable groups. The Convention seeks to advance this work through its work on biodiversity for poverty eradication and development. In this endeavour, the Secretariat works with partners, including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. An important element of this work will be to ensure that national development planning processes, including those linked to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, include biodiversity and ecosystem values.

Food security and sustainable agriculture

Biodiversity contributes directly to food security, nutrition and human well-being. It is essential to the provision of food and is an important determinant of food quality.



ty. The different crop varieties and animal breeds used in agriculture around the world are based on the world's genetic diversity. In addition, biodiversity directly supports agriculture systems by helping to ensure soil fertility, pollination and pest control. It is key for producing food for a growing world population. The work on agriculture and biodiversity can contribute to the achievement of the targets for Sustainable Development Goal 2 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7 and 13. The Secretariat works with many partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Bioversity International, and the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to build coordinated approaches for food security and sustainable agriculture.

Water

Water is at the core of sustainable development. Biodiversity and ecosystems underpin sustainable water supply including by supporting ecosystem functions that deliver water-related ecosystem services. For exam-

ple, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems contribute to providing clean drinking water and regulate the availability of water, including in the extremes of drought and flood. These benefits enable ecosystems to be used as natural water infrastructure that can help provide sustainable and low-cost solutions for pressing water problems. Target 6.6 reflects the importance of ecosystems in contributing to sustainable water (Goal 6). The essence of this role of biodiversity is also captured in Aichi Biodiversity Targets 14 and 15. The Secretariat works closely with many partners, including the Ramsar Convention and UN Water, and actively contributes to capacity building through partnerships in relevant areas, including national drought management planning, disaster-risk reduction and water-related benefits of ecosystem restoration.

Cities

In an increasingly urban world, cities are a testing ground of our capacity to live together and create environments that are socially just, ecologically sustainable, economically productive, politi-

cally participatory, and culturally vibrant. Biodiversity and ecosystems offer solutions for planning and supporting sustainable cities, by supporting the natural resources on which they rely, such as a reliable water supply, and by providing cost-effective natural infrastructure, such as healthy coastal ecosystems that provide protection against natural disasters. Effective stewardship must also consider the interconnectedness that links cities to resources and ecosystems outside of urban boundaries, and the multitude of actors that shape and sustain resource flows. The Secretariat works in partnership with Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), UN-Habitat, national and subnational governments and other actors in order to mainstream biodiversity into urban planning and practices.

Sustainable consumption and production

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is an essential requirement for sustainable development, and therefore is an integral part of both the Sustainable Development Goals and of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits to making fundamental changes in the way that our societies produce and consume goods and services. Governments, international organizations, the business sector, and other non-State actors and individuals will play a key role in contributing to these changes. Many of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets address unsustainable consumption and production as it relates to bio-

diversity, and Aichi Biodiversity Target 4 includes a cross-cutting target on sustainable consumption and production. The Secretariat is also involved in the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, and seeks to highlight ways that biodiversity conservation and sustainable use contributes to SCP in a number of sectors. In particular, the Secretariat supports the shaping of policies that relate to sustainable public and private procurement, which can act as a fundamental driver of good practices. Governments, with their enormous influence on the economy, as well as large corporations, can, through their procurement policies, create new markets and opportunities for sustainable growth and development.

Oceans

Oceans occupy more than 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and 95 per cent of the biosphere, providing the global population with critical services that are essential to sustainable development, the health of the planet and the well-being of its people. In particular, fisheries and marine aquaculture are important sources of nutrition and sustainable livelihoods, supporting food security and poverty eradication. The CBD plays a key role in addressing a range of issues, including habitat protection and management, sustainable use of marine resources, and enhancing capacity for conservation and sustainable use. Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas will also contribute to the achievement of Goal 14. Under the CBD, relevant issues that are being addressed are: understanding the



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ecological and biological value of the oceans, including through the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs); addressing impacts of key pressures and threats on marine and coastal biodiversity such as impacts due to ocean acidification, marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise; tools and guidelines for applying the ecosystem approach for conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including guidance on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessments, marine and coastal protected areas and marine spatial planning; and, capacity-building and partnerships, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.

Gender equality

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. There is a need to strengthen the capacity and support for women and girls to play

an equal role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and management, as envisioned through Target 5.a of the Sustainable Development Goals. In many countries, women play key roles as resource managers, with responsibilities for household operations, food production, and collection of natural resources, including water, fuel and fodder. Efforts towards gender mainstreaming in the CBD's work on gender and biodiversity are an important component for influencing and shaping national and international norms and laws related to equitable ownership and control over natural resources. The CBD Gender Plan of Action

2015-2020 sets out actions that may be taken by Parties to mainstream gender in their work under the Convention.

Traditional knowledge

The traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities will be essential in achieving the 2030 Agenda, particularly their knowledge related to climate change, sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

The objective of the Convention's programme of work on Article 8(j)

is to promote within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity a just implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions at the local, national, regional and international levels. This work seeks to promote the development of mechanisms and guidelines for respecting, preserving and maintaining the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities and to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and levels of its implementation, in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 18.

The way forward

As we embark on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must ensure that our work is truly transformative and puts this new integrated approach into action. The global challenges we face are cross-cutting issues that will require us to work with many different partners, across different entities, governments, sectors, and stakeholders.

There are tremendous opportunities to contribute to this work. Partners to the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020, which include a wide variety of actors, are taking actions to support and promote the implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

At the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Mexico in December 2016, Parties and stakeholders will have the opportunity to consider concrete ways to mainstream biodiversity across a variety of sectors and areas. Sectors including agriculture, forests, fisheries and sustainable tourism will be a particular focus, as well as the implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other major international processes for the work of the Convention. This will be a key opportunity to make advances not only on the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, but simultaneously, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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