



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,  
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

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Agenda item 6

### RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

#### 22/4. Updated scientific assessment of progress towards selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets and options to accelerate progress

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,  
Recalling decision XIII/29,*

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia and the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
2. *Welcomes* the review of updated scientific information, including its conclusions and information gaps summarized in the information document issued by the Executive Secretary<sup>1</sup> and takes note of other related information documents,<sup>2</sup>
3. *Notes* the additional indicators which have been identified and those which have updated data points,<sup>3</sup> and *acknowledges* the contribution of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in advancing the work on indicators relevant to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;<sup>4</sup>
4. Having reviewed possible options to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets contained in the annex from a scientific and technical perspective, *invites* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider these options in the context of its deliberations on item 3 of the provisional agenda,<sup>5</sup> on the review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
5. *Notes with concern* that the assessments and review referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above conclude that:

<sup>1</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/10.

<sup>2</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/5, CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/23, CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/26, CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/30, CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/31, CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/32, CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/34, CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/35

<sup>3</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/22/5, annex I.

<sup>4</sup> Decision [X/2](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> [CBD/SBI/2/1](#).

(a) Progress is still insufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and corresponding elements of the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>6</sup>

(b) Information gaps persist, including with regard to incorporating socioeconomic issues and indigenous and local knowledge;

6. *Encourages* Parties to make use of the findings of the assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, updated scientific information, and additional indicators referred to above, as appropriate, in accordance with national circumstances, in the preparation of their sixth national report, among other things;

7. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in collaboration with the co-chairs and authors of regional assessments, as appropriate, to make available to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting information on the cross-regional analysis of the regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consider the regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia and the Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other relevant information, including the updated scientific assessment of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, when preparing documentation related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

9. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Deeply concerned* that, despite many positive actions by Parties and others, most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are not on track to be achieved by 2020, which, in the absence of further significant progress, will jeopardize the achievement of the mission and vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020<sup>7</sup> and the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling* decisions XIII/5, XIII/28 and XIII/29,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia, and the Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

2. *Welcomes* the review of updated scientific information, including its conclusions and information gaps, and the possible options to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;<sup>9</sup>

3. *Also welcomes* the additional indicators which have been identified and those which have updated data points<sup>10</sup> and acknowledges the contribution of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in advancing the work on indicators relevant to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;<sup>7</sup>

4. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, with a view to informing actions at the national level, to make use of the following, as appropriate:

<sup>6</sup> See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

<sup>7</sup> Decision [X/2](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

<sup>9</sup> See also CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/10, INF/22, INF/23, INF/26, INF/30, INF/31, INF/32, INF/34 and INF/35.

<sup>10</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/22, annex I.

(a) The regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia, and the Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(b) The review of updated scientific information, including its conclusions, information gaps and possible options to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;<sup>11</sup>

(c) The additional indicators relevant to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which have been identified and those which have updated data points;<sup>12</sup>

5. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, as appropriate, to consider undertaking national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services;

6. *Invites* relevant organizations and development partners to support Parties in undertaking national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, noting ongoing work in this regard undertaken in the context of BesNET with technical support from the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre;<sup>13</sup>

7. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, in accordance with national circumstances, and *invites* relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders to take urgent action by 2020 on those Aichi Biodiversity Targets, or elements thereof, for which progress needs to be accelerated, by carrying out, among other things, the following actions, as appropriate:

(a) For Target 1 advance the development of communication strategies and tools for education and awareness-raising related to biodiversity as a means to promote behavioural change for sustainable consumption, noting that while more biodiversity-related information has been made available it is not reaching the general public;

(b) For Target 3, eliminate, phase out or reform perverse incentives that contribute to biodiversity degradation and devise positive incentives that reward the adoption of sustainable practices;

(c) For Target 5, noting that while the annual rate of net forest loss has been halved, further efforts to address regional forest degradation and deforestation are needed;

(d) For Target 6, enhance efforts to reverse the decline in the sustainability of the world's fisheries;

(e) For Target 7, promote the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, such as by contributing to the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;<sup>14</sup> and improve enforcement and monitoring of sustainable forest management, particularly in developing countries and tropical regions;

(f) For Target 8, increase actions to reduce pollution, including from excess nutrients;

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<sup>11</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/10.

<sup>12</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/22, annex I.

<sup>13</sup> See the [report of the global inception and capacity-building meeting on developing capacity for undertaking national ecosystem assessments in IPBES](#) and [Project on "supporting developing country capacity to address science-policy questions through IPBES via the UNDP managed Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network \(BES-Net\) and the UNEP-WCMC hosted Sub-Global Assessment Network"](#).

<sup>14</sup> Decisions III/11, V/5 and VIII/23.

(g) For Target 9, place more focus on preventing the spread of invasive alien species and to eradicate those already present;

(h) For Target 10, enhance efforts to prevent continued worldwide decrease of live coral cover;

(i) For Targets 11 and 12, noting that not all eco-regions of the world are adequately covered by protected areas, most protected areas are not well connected, and most Parties have not assessed the management effectiveness of the majority of their protected areas, and that global prevention of species loss should focus on specific regions of the world where most species diversity exists and/or where they are the most threatened, focus on the protection, management and conservation of the most significant areas for biodiversity, such as through the initiatives of the Alliance for Zero Extinction and others,<sup>15</sup> through protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and specific species conservation measures;

(j) For Target 13, noting that the number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in conservation facilities shows an increase, enhance actions to avoid further reduction in genetic variation among breeds of farmed and domesticated animals;

(k) For Targets 14 and 15, step up the implementation of the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration,<sup>16</sup> drawing on the findings of the Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(l) For Target 18, increase efforts in the protection of and respect for traditional knowledge and make use of information contained in the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*,<sup>17</sup> inter alia, on the customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities to contribute to updated reporting on progress in the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

8. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, and relevant organization to:

(a) Strengthen the capacities of national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and decision makers to make effective use of the findings of the assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(b) Facilitate integrated approaches to biodiversity research, including on the interactions between indirect and direct drivers of biodiversity loss and their impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services and human well-being;

9. *Recognizes* that there is a need to make more effective and systematic use of the support mechanisms identified in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,<sup>18</sup> to facilitate action on the issues identified in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to communicate through the United Nations system, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, that failing to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 jeopardizes the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, therefore, urgent action is required to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to use and analyse the review of scientific information and the outcomes of all IPBES products including the regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services and the Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration in the preparation of post 2020 global biodiversity framework

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<sup>15</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/23.

<sup>16</sup> Decision XIII/5, annex.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/gbo4/publication/lbo-en.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Decision X/2, section VI.

under Convention and provide the results of those considerations to a meeting of SBSTTA prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

*Annex*

**POSSIBLE OPTIONS TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS**

1. The present annex contains information on possible actions that could be taken, depending on national circumstances and priorities, to facilitate the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
2. The possible actions, based on the findings of the IPBES regional and thematic assessments and on the conclusions identified from scientific literature,<sup>19</sup> include:
  - (a) Making greater use of the social sciences, promoting research on cultural issues and on issues associated with people's quality of life, non-material values of biodiversity, the needs of women and the poor and vulnerable,
  - (b) Increasing the generation of, and access to, biodiversity information, including by promoting research on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, developing data sets which can be disaggregated for different ecosystems and at different geographic scales, and developing and promoting mechanisms to share biodiversity information more effectively;
  - (c) Enhancing the monitoring of all aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, including by making greater use of remote observations and geographic information systems as well as using technology for species identification and generation of biodiversity information;
  - (d) Promoting the use and development of scenarios which integrate biodiversity considerations with other societal and cultural objectives, including poverty and hunger alleviation and climate change adaptation and mitigation, and which consider multiple direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss and better reflect ecosystem functions and services;
  - (e) Better integrating or mainstreaming biodiversity issues within and across all sectors of society, including into national planning and development processes and policy development, to better account for policy leakages and spill-over effects in decision-making and the broader impacts of policy decisions;
  - (f) Better consideration of the direct and indirect impacts of policies and production and consumption patterns, causal interactions between, and effects on, distant places and ecosystems, and better addressing the implications on biodiversity of policy decisions and production and consumption, both within and outside national borders;
  - (g) Promoting the greater use of spatial planning techniques in biodiversity conservation and management;
  - (h) Promoting and developing governance systems which address biodiversity issues in a more coherent manner and better internalize global biodiversity commitments, including by improving the integration of indigenous and local knowledge and plurality of values in governance processes, and by better accounting for possible synergies in the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other international and regional initiatives at the national level;
  - (i) Promoting the use of participatory approaches to biodiversity management, including through the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and by building the capacity of stakeholders to be able to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes,

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<sup>19</sup> The actions identified herein should be viewed in relation to the guidance already developed by the Conference of the Parties, including decision X/2 on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its technical rationale (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27/Add.1), as well as the implementation needs identified by the Conference of the Parties in decision XII/1.

(j) Working more effectively with small landholders to adopt more efficient and biodiversity-friendly practices and enhancing cooperation and partnerships with indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and individuals;

(k) Improving awareness of biodiversity and the interactions between indirect and direct drivers of biodiversity loss and their impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services and human well-being through enhanced communication, education and public awareness and taking actions to bring about behavioural and policy change;

(l) Improving the flow of, and access to, financial and technological resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(m) Promoting actions which address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and which will contribute to the attainment of multiple Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(n) Promoting multiple approaches, including non-monetary approaches, to valuing biodiversity and ecosystem function and services;

(o) Better consideration of the full impact of production and consumption processes along the entire supply chain and product life cycle on biodiversity;

(p) Eliminating perverse incentives that contribute to biodiversity degradation and devising positive incentives that reward the adoption of sustainable practices;

(q) Promoting investment in the development and use of nature-based solutions in order to address societal challenges, including through ecosystem restoration and the rehabilitation of agricultural systems, ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation and ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction,

(r) Taking appropriate measures to protect and restore pollinator diversity, abundance and health;

(s) Reducing the costs of certification of sustainable practices and other barriers for marketing products from sustainable production;

(t) Improving efforts to prevent land degradation and to restore degraded lands;

(u) Increasing efforts to achieve a transformational change in society's relationship with biodiversity.

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