

## **Questionnaire on implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs – 2nd DRAFT**

Biological diversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services that are essential for human well-being. It provides for food security, human health, the provision of clean air and water; it contributes to local livelihoods, and economic development more generally. It is thus essential for the achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is for this reason that biodiversity and ecosystems are included throughout the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – not only in Goals 14 and 15, but in targets of many others Goals, including SDG 2 (food), 6 (water) 11 (cities), 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production). It is also a key factor to achieve other goals, in particular SDG 1 (poverty eradication). Global multilateral environmental agreements such as the CBD, together with its ‘sister Conventions, the UNFCCC and the UNCCD have a key role to play in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Parties to the CBD are currently implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets, from which many elements have been drawn and/or expanded in the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the associated targets. The Vision and Mission of this plan make explicit reference to the benefits of biodiversity for *all* people, to poverty eradication and to human well-being. The Conference of the Parties (the governing body of the Convention), the Secretariat, and the Parties to the Convention are, respectively, providing guidance to implementation of, supporting the implementation of, or implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In doing so, they are simultaneously providing guidance to implementation of, supporting the implementation of, or implementing, the numerous relevant and interrelated goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

A description of the interrelations between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2030 Agenda is provided in a technical note “Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, available online:

<https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf> .

Because the many facets of the work under the Convention are so closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda, responding comprehensively to the questions below would lead to a very exhaustive document. Therefore, the responses below focus on the most important facets while specific examples are given for illustrative purposes only.

- 1. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, has the governing body of your organization taken (or will take) any decisions or new strategies to guide the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? If any, please provide a brief summary below, including the overarching vision of your organization.**

The vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2010, is: "Living in Harmony with Nature" where "By 2050, biodiversity is valued,

conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

This 2050 vision was considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its last meeting, in November 2017, in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the upcoming process under the Convention to develop a post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework, as a successor to the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. As some of the targets in the SDGs are a direct reflection of the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Target including its 2020 timeline, this process is of direct relevance to the 2030 Agenda. See further information below.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention has an established work stream on biodiversity and poverty alleviation and development (see further information under question 2). In this context, it has been active throughout the entire work process on the post-2015 development agenda which led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 (see decisions X/6, XI/22 and XII/4).

The theme of the High Level Segment (HLS) during the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2014, was Biodiversity for Sustainable Development. The HLS adopted the Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, which highlighted why biodiversity is essential for sustainable development and why development pathways must ensure that the life support system underpinned by biodiversity is maintained. It also highlighted how the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets can contribute to the post-2015 development agenda and the principle of "leaving no one behind".

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of decisions to guide its Parties, partners, stakeholders and the Secretariat in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

**Decision XIII/3 Strategic Actions to Enhance the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors**

The COP welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and recognized the strong interdependence between the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the SDGs in which biodiversity is included in numerous goals and targets. It also recognized that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a major opportunity for the mainstreaming of biodiversity and for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

The COP recognized the opportunities that arise from an integrated and mutually supportive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance implementation of

the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2008-2018), and the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-2019 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the achievement of internationally agreed goals and targets.

COP urged Parties, when implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to mainstream biodiversity in the implementation of all relevant Sustainable Development Goals, thus promoting linkages between efforts to implement NBSAPs and SDG strategies and plans, and called upon Parties and invites other Governments to consider utilizing an integrated approach towards achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of NBSAPs;

The COP recognized that fundamental changes in consumption and production patterns to ensure sustainable production methods, as well as mutually supportive policy, legal, technical and financial measures in the agriculture, forests, fisheries and aquaculture, and tourism, among other sectors, are critical to meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Decision XIII/3 highlighted the importance of strengthening the mainstreaming of biodiversity through relevant international processes to guide the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The COP recognized that mainstreaming of biodiversity across forests, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, and tourism, among other sectors, is essential for halting the loss of biodiversity and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and recalls the existing guidance under the Convention's work programmes, as well as the Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity.

The COP welcomed the Cancun Declaration on mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being, adopted during the high-level segment of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, 2016, where ministers and other heads of delegation committed to integrating, in a structured and coherent manner, actions for the conservation, sustainable use, management and restoration of biological diversity and ecosystem services in sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes, as well as in legal and administrative measures and budgets;

The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-14), will consider the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, as well as health.

The COP requested the Executive Secretary, to enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships, and initiatives, to provide support for the implementation of Goal A of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Decision XIII/1      Progress in Implementation**

The COP encouraged Parties to review their NBSAPs periodically, and to consider increasing the level of ambition and/or scope of the national or regional targets to a level that is corresponding to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to integrate the targets across different sectors, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, so as to make a greater contribution to collective global efforts to achieve the global targets;

The COP encouraged Parties when establishing or reviewing their national targets under the Convention, and when implementing their NBSAPs, to take into account relevant national and international targets under other processes, as appropriate, including targets of other relevant conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, and also to mainstream biodiversity targets into the national and sub national strategies, action plans or policies of other sectors or processes when these are being reviewed;

The COP encouraged Parties, in the process of updating their NBSAPs, to consider, the indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals;

The COP initiated a process for considering the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as part of which it requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a further assessment, including a gap analysis, on the relationship between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Decision XIII/27      National Reports**

Parties to the Convention were required to submit national reports to the Secretariat on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and their effectiveness. The national report guidance contained in Decision XIII/27 asks countries to report on their contributions to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and how and to what extent these contributions support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Decision XIII/4      Biodiversity and Climate Change**

The COP encouraged the Executive Secretary to promote synergies with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that this includes increasing knowledge and sharing of information, guidance and tools developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to the impacts of climate change on biological diversity and the role of ecosystems for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, with a view to identifying possible solutions;

The full text of the decisions is available here:

<https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-13>

### **SBSTTA recommendation XXI/1**

### **The 2050 Vision and the 2030 Agenda**

The current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity expires in 2020 and a process is currently initiated under the Convention to develop a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which would be adopted by CBD COP-15 in China, in 2020. The document provided under the link below provides initial conceptual considerations based on a first round of consultation with Parties, while the recommendation of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice provided pertinent recommendations including a draft decision for consideration by CBD COP-14, which will take place in Egypt in November 2018.

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/17f8/406d/f3184d92bff8f9506c1e985e/sbstta-21-02-en.doc>

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-21/sbstta-21-rec-01-en.docx>

2. **At the Secretariat level, has your organization taken (or will it take) any steps in follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? If yes, please specify actions, including but not limited to the following areas:**

- **SDG-specific strategies, plans or work programmes**
- **Aligning the structure of the organization with the transformative features of the 2030 Agenda, including any challenges and lessons learned in doing so**
- **Readjusting or updating results-based budgeting and management, including performance indicators**
- **Action to enhance support to the principle of “leaving no one behind” and to integrated policy approaches.**

The Secretariat of the Convention is facilitating several streams of work under the Convention, many of which are under formal programmes of work adopted by the Conference of the Parties or Plans of Action, that are taking steps in follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Some of them explicitly address issues of poverty, as well as the rights, roles, and the full and effective participation of women, youth, and indigenous peoples and local communities.

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<b>Convention on Biological Diversity Work Streams</b>	<b>Web site</b>
SDGs 1, 2, 3	Biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/development">https://www.cbd.int/development</a>

	The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/abs/">https://www.cbd.int/abs/</a>
SDG 2	Agricultural Biodiversity	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/agro/">https://www.cbd.int/agro/</a>
SDGs 2, 3, 6	Health and Biodiversity	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/health/">https://www.cbd.int/health/</a>
SDG 11	Cities and Subnational Governments	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/subnational">https://www.cbd.int/subnational</a>
SDGs 4, 5	Gender and Biodiversity	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/gender/">https://www.cbd.int/gender/</a>
SDGs 2,3,5,10,14,15	Article8(j)-Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/traditional/">https://www.cbd.int/traditional/</a>
SDGs 6,11,14 and 15	Protected areas	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/protected/">https://www.cbd.int/protected/</a>
SDG 13	Climate change	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/climate/intro.shtml">https://www.cbd.int/climate/intro.shtml</a> <a href="https://www.cbd.int/climate/copenhagen/">https://www.cbd.int/climate/copenhagen/</a>
SDGs 14 and 15	Invasive Alien Species	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/island/invasive.shtml">https://www.cbd.int/island/invasive.shtml</a>
SDG 14	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/marine">https://www.cbd.int/marine</a>
SDG 15	Forest Biodiversity	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/forest/about.shtml">https://www.cbd.int/forest/about.shtml</a>
SDG 16	Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/peace/">https://www.cbd.int/peace/</a>
SDG 17	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/">https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/</a>

	Resource Mobilization	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/financial/reporting.shtml">https://www.cbd.int/financial/reporting.shtml</a>
SDG 8, 12 and 14	Biodiversity and Tourism Development	<a href="https://www.cbd.int/tourism/">https://www.cbd.int/tourism/</a> and <a href="http://icr.unwto.org/content/tourism-and-sdgs">http://icr.unwto.org/content/tourism-and-sdgs</a>

In addition to these work streams, and as mentioned above, the Convention and, accordingly, its Secretariat, is providing increasing focus on the mainstreaming of biodiversity into key economic sectors.

During COP-13 in Cancun, Mexico, in 2016, the High Level Segment focused on mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being, and adopted the Cancun Declaration in which Parties committed to undertake specific actions for mainstreaming biodiversity into the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors. As mentioned above, COP-13 adopted decision XIII/3 addressing inter alia the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors, and also decided that COP-14 will address the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, as well as health. These sectors are at the heart of the economic priorities of the SDGs, and the analytical and conceptual work required to adequately prepare the deliberations on this item at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties constitutes an increasingly important work area of the Secretariat.

**3. Has your organization provided (or will it provide) any normative, analytical, technical assistance or capacity building to countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? If yes, please provide a brief account of the activities you have organized or intend to undertake, including but not limited to the following areas:**

- **Mainstreaming the SDGs in development plans and policies or through national sustainable development plans/strategies**
- **Mainstreaming the SDGs in sectoral strategies, including specific SDG/target strategies**
- **Data and statistical capacity building**
- **Science, technology and innovation for the SDGs**
- **Multi-stakeholder partnerships**
- **Sub-national plans/strategies and implementation for the SDGs**
- **Leveraging interlinkages across SDG goals and targets**

The Secretariat of the Convention and its partners provide analytical, technical assistance and/or capacity building to countries in implementing the work streams referenced above and thus

support the provision of normative guidance by the Conference of the Parties. In so doing, they also provide this support for implementing the relevant elements of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The extent and specifics of the support provided vary depending on each work programme, country needs, strategic priorities, availability of funds, among other things. The Short-term Action Plan (2017-2020) to Enhance and Support Capacity-Building for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, which was adopted by the Parties in December 2016, includes more than 100 concrete activities relating to various Aichi Biodiversity Targets and will likely contribute to supporting SDGs 14, 15 and others:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-23-en.pdf>

Examples of capacity-building activities organized or facilitated by SCBD, which have or may contribute to the points above including to different SDGs, are provided in reports prepared for various CBD meetings. For instance:

- a report on national capacity-building activities on protected areas: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/information/cop-13-inf-19-en.pdf>;
- a report on the progress and results of capacity-building activities promoted and facilitated by SCBD: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbi/sbi-01/information/sbi-01-inf-29-en.pdf>;
- a report on the financial reporting and resource mobilization capacity-building programme: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbi/sbi-01/information/sbi-01-inf-17-en.pdf>;
- a report on capacity-building and participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the work of the Convention; <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbi/sbi-01/information/sbi-01-inf-01-en.pdf>;
- the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative capacity-building activities: <https://www.cbd.int/soi/events> ; <https://www.feri-biodiversity.org/>

Recent activities facilitated by SCBD is also provided in the Biodiversity Capacity Development Update e-newsletters: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/default.shtml>

### **Mainstreaming the SDGs in development plans and policies or through national sustainable development plans/strategies, in sectoral strategies, including specific SDG/target strategies**

The support mentioned above on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans also provides guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity concerns (and therefore also many of the SDGs) into national development and/or poverty reduction plans and into plans and activities of the major economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism etc.

The Convention Secretariat and partners have made significant efforts around the question of mainstreaming biodiversity (and thus some of the SDGs) into sectoral and cross sectoral strategies and action plans. As mentioned above, COP-13, in 2016 focused on mainstreaming in agriculture, forests, fisheries and tourism while COP-14, in December 2018 will focus on mainstreaming in energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, as well as health.



Decision XIII/3 as well as the 2016 Cancun Declaration, also mentioned above, provides guidance on the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into the management of sectors such as agriculture, forests, fisheries and tourism. This guidance acknowledges the importance of biodiversity for well being, health, sanitation, food security and hunger reduction, poverty eradication, prevention of natural disasters, resilient, sustainable and inclusive cities and human settlements and climate change adaptation and mitigation. It also integrates concerns for employment, decent work, poverty eradication and social inequality.

### **Science, technology and innovation for the SDGs:**

The Secretariat, with support from the Republic of Korea, is implementing a programme, known as the Bio-Bridge Initiative, focused on catalyzing and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols on biosafety (Cartagena Protocol) and on access and benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol). The Initiative facilitates technical and scientific cooperation among Parties by linking Parties that have specific technical and scientific needs with Parties or institutions that are able to provide the necessary technical support and resources to meet those needs through mutual partnerships and creating a space for countries and institutions to share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned with each other. This is facilitated through the help desk service, the Bio-Bridge web platform and regional round tables. This will contribute to the implementation of biodiversity-related SDGs and their targets. See here:

<https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/platform>

### **Multi-stakeholder partnerships**

Multi-stakeholder partnerships enhance the capacity of the Secretariat to provide normative, analytical, technical assistance or capacity building to Parties on a range of issue areas that support implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and therefore the SDGs. The Secretariat coordinates or participates in the following multi-stakeholder partnerships: the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, the Global Islands Partnership, the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, the Global Platform for Business and Biodiversity and the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity. (Interagency cooperation mechanisms are addressed under question 5).

Key activities of several of these multi-stakeholder partnerships are further described under different sections of the present document.

#### **Global Islands Partnership**

The Global Islands Partnership, GLISPA, created in 2018 to support implementation of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity, evolved into a multi-stakeholder platform focused

mostly on the needs of SIDS, island Parties and Parties with islands, offering a technical and scientific cooperation platform for sustainable development and the SDGs. For more information see <http://glispa.org/>.

### **Biodiversity and sustainable development plans for subnational and local authorities**

As mentioned under question 2, the Secretariat and its partners provide normative, analytical, technical assistance or capacity building to Parties under various work streams. One of the work streams is on cities and subnational authorities.

Since 2008, the Convention has become active in promoting the development of subnational biodiversity and ecosystem service strategies and action plans. As these levels of government are even more sensitive to basic needs of citizens, and aware that the importance of the biodiversity agenda is linked to its contribution to sustainable development, this has made mainstreaming even more relevant. In 2010, along with the Strategic Plan 2011-2020, Parties adopted a Plan of Action for the engagement of sub-national governments, cities and other local authorities:

<https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12288>

Subsequent decisions on this topic were taken at every Conference afterwards, including XIII/3, and the Secretariat and Parties coordinated their input into the New Urban Agenda arising out of the Habitat III process closed in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016. It is expected that this line of work will also be considered in the post 2020 framework.

### **Leveraging inter-linkages across SDG goals and targets**

In 2017, SCBD in collaboration with FAO, UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank published a technical note on *Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The purpose of this technical note is to help decision-makers such as government representatives and development professionals to understand more easily the contributions of biodiversity to achieving the SDGs. It presents a mapping of the linkages between the SDGs, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets:

<https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf>.

- 4. The HLPF is the central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Has your organization participated in the work of the HLPF in the 2016-2018 cycles, convened under the auspices of ECOSOC? If yes, please specify your involvement in the following areas:**

- **Supporting the intergovernmental body of your organization in contributing to the thematic review of the HLPF**
- **Contributing to policy/background briefs for the HLPF**
- **Helping organize SDG-specific events in the preparatory process**
- **Organizing side-events or speaking at the HLPF**

## **- Supporting VNR process**

### **Supporting the intergovernmental body of your organization in contributing to the thematic review of the HLPF**

While the COP has taken numerous decision addressing the linkages with the 2030 Agenda including its implementation process (see above), it has not as of yet contributed directly to the thematic reviews of the HLPF. However, the Executive Secretary of the CBD has sent notifications to National Focal Points of Parties highlighting the close linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and encouraged them to contribute to these reviews through their national representatives (please see below under VNRs).

In April 2017, the SCBD sent input to the 2017 HLPF, using the template suggested by ECOSOC for this purpose.

### **Helping organize SDG-specific events in the preparatory process**

In June 2017, the SCBD organized various events during the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 - the Oceans Conference - which provided input to the 2017 HLPF. Input provided in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations include:

- (a) Substantive input to the UN Secretary-General's background note for the Conference;
- (b) Substantive input to the concept notes for each of the Partnership Dialogues during the Conference;
- (c) Participation in, and substantive input to, two Informal Preparatory Working Groups ((i) Informal Preparatory Working Group 5 on Marine Protected Areas and Informal Preparatory Working Group 2 on Sustainable Management, and (ii) Protection of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Strengthening Resilience;
- (d) Registering two voluntary commitments for the Conference ((i) The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity Building Platform for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, #14849, and (ii) Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogues with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, #14827); see more information under the following links:  
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=14849>  
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=14827>
- (e) Participation of the Executive Secretary of the CBD as a panelist during Partnership Dialogue #2: "Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems";

- (f) Participation of the Executive Secretary of the CBD in the plenary debate of the Ocean Conference by delivering a statement in the UN General Assembly hall;
- (g) Co-organizing six side events during the conference: (i) Marine Pollution: A critical challenge and opportunity for sustainable development, (ii) Ocean Acidification-what can we do about it?, (iii) Facilitating cross-sectoral regional collaboration to support implementation towards SDG 14: Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, (iv) Strengthening national capacity and empowering indigenous peoples and local communities to accelerate implementation towards SDG 14: Sustainable Ocean Initiative Capacity Development Platform, (v) Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: special places to accelerate implementation towards SDG 14, and (vi) Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries for human well-being;
- (h) Co-organizing, during the Conference a high-level reception at the UN headquarters “Sustainable Ocean Night: Biodiversity for the Future We Want”; and
- (i) Announcing, through a press conference, media releases and various statements during the Conference, the results of an analysis showing that, with commitments made thus far, if implemented as planned, the global community is on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14.5 in the global ocean by 2020.

### **Organizing side-events or speaking at the HLPF**

**HLPF 2017:** Side event “Accelerating Progress on Agenda 2030: Biodiversity and Healthy Ecosystems at the Heart of Sustainable Development” (co-organized with UNDP, UN Environment)

### **HLPF 2018 potential events**

The Secretariat is currently exploring options for collaboration with regional commissions on the preparatory meeting leading up to HLPF 2018. Already confirmed is the collaboration, in form of organizing and chairing a panel on ecosystems and biodiversity, in the preparatory meeting organized by the Economic Commission for Europe. Interventions can build on biodiversity as a link between cost-effective freshwater security (goal 6), sustainable energy systems (7), urbanization (11), sustainable consumption and production patterns (12), and the protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (15).

At HLPF 2018, the Secretariat is planning a series of high-level events with executive heads of major implementing partners, other biodiversity-related conventions, as well as major stakeholders including businesses. These events will also provide an opportunity to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention. The secretariat also initiated collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF) with a view to highlighting the contribution of biodiversity and nature-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda, at the WEF Sustainable Development Impact Summit, planned to take place during UNGA 2018.

### **Supporting VNR process**

The Secretariat of the Convention has supported the Voluntary National Review process by informing the Parties to the Convention of the themes of the upcoming HPLF and encouraging them to provide biodiversity relevant inputs to their national representatives through their national processes.

A notification was sent on January 12, 2018, reminding Parties of the decisions from our governing body that link biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda, informing them of the themes of this year's HPLF and inviting them to highlight the specific role of biodiversity and ecosystems for sustainable development and poverty eradication in their countries, in their voluntary national reviews and more generally in their participation in the HPLF.

- 5. How was your organization cooperated with other UN system organizations to achieve coherence and synergies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? In this regard, has your organization launched or intend to launch any joint programmes or projects in collaboration with other UN entities? Are there any results or lessons you would like to highlight that might help improve the design and impact of such efforts? Has your organization participated in any of the following coordination systemwide mechanisms or any other relevant platform – CEB, UNDG, EC-ESA Plus, RCMs, UN-Energy, UN-Water, UN-Ocean, IAEG, IATT? Please specify which and indicate any suggestions you may have about improving collaborations within and across these mechanisms/platforms.**

**Cooperation with other UN system organizations, or system-wide coordination mechanisms to achieve coherence and synergies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs**

The Convention and its Secretariat cooperates with numerous UN system organizations and conventions, including but not limited to: UNCCD UN Environment, UNDP, UNFCCC, FAO, UNESCO, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, UNFF, other biodiversity-related conventions, etc.

**EMG:** The CBD Secretariat is a member of the United Nations Environment Management Group consisting of specialised agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations, including secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

**EC ESA:** CBD is an active member of the EC ESA Principals Group and finds this a useful system wide coordination platform particularly for those entities which do not enjoy membership of CEB or UNDG.

**IAEG:** The CBD contributes actively to the work of the IAEG both as custodian agency for two indicators (15.6.1, 15.9.1) and in an advisory capacity on a range of other indicators under Goals 6, 14 and 15. The CBD has also included 40 SDG indicators relevant to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity into its monitoring framework; see here:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-28-en.pdf>

The CBD has cooperated actively with the UN World Tourism Organization, in identifying the links between sustainable tourism development, biodiversity and the SDGs (see <http://icr.unwto.org/content/tourism-and-sdgs>), in producing supporting documentation for Parties to facilitate a stronger contribution of Ministers of Tourism to the CBD's COP 13 process of mainstreaming, resulting in the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming as well as in a common choice of theme for the 22 May as International Day of Biodiversity during 2017 as the UN's International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

Similarly, the CBD cooperated from 2012 to 2014 with UNDESA's SIDS Unit and the UN's Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) to ensure that the SDGs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 were reflected in the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in 2014, the SAMOA Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway.

The CBD Secretariat is a member and acts as the secretariat of the Liaison Group of biodiversity-related Conventions. The group is composed of the heads of the secretariats of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention, the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Whaling Commission.

The CBD Secretariat is a member of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio Conventions: Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Secretariat coordinates or participate in the following interagency mechanisms: the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, the Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife Management, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, the Liaison Group on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the Interagency Liaison Group on Biodiversity and Health.

**Results or lessons we would like to highlight that might help improve the design and impact of such efforts?**

- 6. How has your organization engaged with stakeholder groups, both in supporting implementation (of SDGs) at the country, regional and global levels, and within your**

**own organization? If yes, please provide main highlights, including any lessons learned.**

**1/ Business engagement:** A **Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity** was established under the CBD in 2010, and now has 21 national or regional member initiatives. The Global Partnership provides a platform for the sharing of information and best practices amongst the various member initiatives as well as their constituent organizations.

Ongoing research into biodiversity reporting by businesses includes an element on the relevance and importance of linking to SDG 14 and 15.

In addition, the recent Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity meeting included a session on the SDGs with a speaker from the UN Global Compact as well as examples from business how they are incorporating the SDGs and the relationship to biodiversity.

<https://www.cbd.int/business/>

## **2/ Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:**

The Convention recognizes the close dependency of indigenous peoples and local communities on biological diversity and their unique role in conserving life on Earth. This recognition is enshrined in the preamble of the Convention and in its provisions. It is for this reason that in Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties have undertaken to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation of biological diversity and to promote their wider application with the approval of knowledge holders and to encourage equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological diversity.

The programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions is the main instrument that Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have given themselves to achieve the commitments in Article 8(j) and related provisions. One of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (no 18) is also dedicated to this issue. The programme of work has produced significant results, such as:

- Guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments (the Akwe: Kon voluntary guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities):  
<https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=7753>
- The Tkarihwaí:ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities:  
<https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12308> ;

- The global Plan of Action on the Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13375>
- The Mo'otz kuxtal<sup>1</sup> voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities<sup>2</sup> for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-18-en.pdf>

The importance attached to indigenous peoples and local communities by the Convention is demonstrative of their importance, including the role of their traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use in attaining the goals of the Convention and more broadly for the Sustainable Development Goals.

More information is available here: <https://www.cbd.int/traditional/>

### **3/Women :**

The Convention in its preamble recognizes the importance of women's and gender issues in the achievement of biodiversity objectives. The Convention was the first multi-lateral environmental agreement to have a gender plan of action, adopted in 2008. The plan has since been updated to align with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action includes possible actions for Parties as well as a framework for actions by the Secretariat to mainstream gender considerations in work to implement the convention. The objectives of the Plan correspond well with the approach of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Goals, within which gender equality and women's empowerment are addressed as critical cross-cutting components.

See here: <https://www.cbd.int/gender/>

Efforts by the Secretariat to implement the Gender Plan of Action include:

- Supporting developing countries to integrate gender considerations in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in collaboration with IUCN's Global Gender Office, and with generous financial support from the Government of Japan. This work also involved an analysis of gender integration in NBSAPs received by Parties since the establishment of the Convention (from 1993 to mid-2016) and gender integration into the most recent national reports received from Parties (5<sup>th</sup> national reports on the implementation of the Convention).
- Preparing informational and capacity building tools, including a pocket guide to the Gender

---

<sup>1</sup> Meaning “roots of life” in the Maya language.

<sup>2</sup> The use and interpretation of the term “indigenous peoples and local communities” in these Guidelines should refer to decision XII/12 F, paragraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c).



Plan of Action providing a summary and examples of efforts by Parties to implement the Plan; a technical fact sheet on Sustainable Wildlife Management and Gender, produced on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management; a factsheet on gender perspectives on biodiversity; and others – work which has benefited from the support of the Government of Canada, among others.

- Undertaking a participatory process to develop training tools on gender and biodiversity that target the South East Asia and Pacific regions, carried out with generous financial support from the Government of Sweden. These tools are intended to strengthen capacity of national government institutions to address gender considerations in respect to biodiversity policy and programming.
- Strengthening advocacy and exchange on gender and biodiversity and related environmental issues, including through convening events on these issues at meetings under the Convention, and under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as engagement supporting training and related efforts by partners.
- Pursuing efforts to harmonize approaches to capacity building and the achievement of shared gender objectives with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC and UN Convention to Combat Climate Change), including through provision by the Secretariat of expert input into the development of gender plans of action under the UNFCCC and UNCCD.

Lessons learned from these processes include: the importance of building awareness, engagement and capacity on gender and biodiversity issues, in order to grow momentum and interest enough to realize progress. Working towards the achievement of gender equality in respect to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as in other processes, is a long term endeavor, which necessitates ongoing targeted investment and support from a range of partners. There are clear opportunities to link with and build on the gender-biodiversity/environment linkages in the SDGs with objectives and actions under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as related work with the Rio Conventions.

#### 4/Youth:

The Secretariat supports youth's efforts in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets including by (i) facilitating registration and accreditation of youth groups at the meetings of the Convention and providing support for youth to carry out activities in the margins of the meetings; (ii) developing guidance and tools on youth and biodiversity; (iii) participating in the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development; (iv) supporting resource mobilization for youth projects.

By supporting youth engagement in the implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Secretariat contributes to strengthening the role of youth in the Sustainable Development Goals. In turn, youth contributes to better integrating biodiversity in SDG-related processes and implementation.

Over the last seven years, the Secretariat, with financial and other support provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund and several CBD Parties, contributed to "Youth Voices" a project implemented by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), aimed at developing the capacities of youth

to engage at the political level and in the implementation of the Convention and Aichi Biodiversity Targets and therefore the SDGs. GYBN is an inclusive and representative network of hundreds of youth organizations working on biodiversity. Through the project, GYBN reached out and trained hundreds of youth to participate in decision-making processes under the Convention, through “Regional Youth Capacity-Building Workshops.”

The network has a strong social media presence and will further develop online outreach and capacity-building tools and materials on youth and biodiversity. In particular, the publication “CBD in a Nutshell” developed by GYBN has become a flagship publication under the Convention. A second edition of the guidelines will be released in 2018.

7. In January 2018, GYBN in partnership with the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) moderated a thematic breakout session on SDG15 of the ECOSOC Youth Forum, and organized a side-event on interlinkages between the SDGs and other sustainable development frameworks. The outcomes of the 2018 ECOSOC Youth Forum will serve as inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2018). **Has your organization organized any conferences, forums or events designed to facilitate exchange of experience, peer and mutual learning? If yes, please provide a brief summary below and include lessons learned and gaps identified based on the outcomes of these events. Please also include any events you plan to organize in the coming years.**

The SCBD’s core business is the organization of conferences, meetings, or events designed to facilitate exchange of experience, peer and mutual learning. We organize numerous such events on a number of the topics covered by our mandate and the Strategic Plan on Biological Diversity 2011-2020. While some of these meetings pertain to the intergovernmental negotiations by which guidance from the governing body is issued on a biannual basis, many meetings are more technical in nature and are specifically for the exchange of experience and peer and mutual learning.

For a list of upcoming meetings and events, please consult <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/>

8. **Is there any other information you would like to share, including annual reports of your organization and any impact assessment or evaluation report? If yes, please use the space below and attached documents. Please also use this space to provide any other information, comments or remarks you deem necessary.**

The Secretariat of the Convention publishes the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) every 4 years based on Parties national reports, scientific literature and other resources. The GBO provides a summary of the status of biological diversity and an analysis of the steps being taken by the global community to ensure that biodiversity is conserved and used sustainably, and that benefits arising from the use of genetic resources are shared equitably. Four editions of the report have been

prepared and preparations for the fifth edition are currently underway. For more information: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/>

In addition to the above, the Secretariat of the Convention produces biannual reports of activities.

### **BRAINSTORMING (PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR IDEAS)**

**9. In your view, what should a strategic plan for the UN system in support of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs look like? What key elements should it include and major challenges address in such a road map?**

Such a Strategic Plan of the UN system in support of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs could build on, and strengthen, the existing MAPS approach (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support), which is already advanced by the 32 member agencies of the UN Development Group.

<https://undg.org/about/undg-global/undg/>

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2018/how-will-we-navigate-towards-2030--well-be-using-maps-.html>

- Under a Mainstreaming strategic objective, the Convention and its Secretariat could help providing SDG-specific guidance and support to UN Country Teams and Member States. In its contribution, the Secretariat could build on its existing analysis and guidance on the fundamental role of biodiversity in supporting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including in particular its essential role in providing ecosystems services that are critical for livelihoods and for human wellbeing (see links provided above), as well as on its pertinent work on biodiversity mainstreaming, both cross-sectorial and in economic sectors (see references provided above). This could contribute to the overarching aim to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated manner – thus reflecting the indivisible nature of the framework.
- Under an Acceleration strategic objective, the Convention and its Secretariat could provide targeted advice and specific tools supporting the three areas already advanced by the acceleration component of the UN MAPS approach, including: (i) integrated analysis and assessment of SDG interconnections; (ii) ‘leave no one behind’ analysis tools; and (iii) risk-informed development planning tools. Moreover, the joint conceptual work on transformational change and on resilience, suggested under question 10 below, could also feed into achieving this objective.
  - The CBD Secretariat uses already integrated environmental assessment approaches and methodologies for its flagship Global Biodiversity Outlook, among other useful tools, and could share its experiences and lessons learned.
  - The Convention and the Secretariat undertook considerable analytical work on the linkages between biodiversity and poverty alleviation (see for instance <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-55-en.pdf> ), which could be put to

good use in highlighting, in the ‘leave no one behind’ analysis tools, the role of ecosystems and underpinning biodiversity in maintaining livelihoods of the rural poor and indigenous and local communities.

- Similarly, biodiversity is recognized as critical for ecosystem resilience, with pertinent scientific research evolving dynamically, and the Convention could contribute expertise and channel the pertinent experience of its Parties in the development of risk-informed development planning tools.
- Under a Policy Support strategic objective, the Convention and its Secretariat could provide SDG-specific support:
  - on data and indicators, including guidance for reporting under the HLPF’s Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and country-specific SDG reporting. The Secretariat is already communicating with Parties to the Convention on supporting the biodiversity aspects of voluntary reporting to the HLPF and on the merits of considering the broader indicator framework developed under the Convention for tracking progress against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in reporting progress against the SDGs.
  - On relevant policy tools measures, such as environmental impact assessments, strategic impact assessments, or incentive measures, where the Convention and its Secretariat has also a considerable repository of expertise and guidance already developed.

More generally, key elements of the strategic plan for the UN system in support of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs could include:

- a review of the current functions and existing capacities of the UN development system in achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs;
- building on insights in addressing gaps and overlaps in support of the SDGs, repositioning development at the highest levels of the organization, to support and enable results at the country level;
- capacity building and support to countries for implementing the SDGs and relevant multilateral environmental agreements in a coherent manner
- elements to improve governance, including strengthened oversight by Member States and increased transparency on system-wide results.

Some major challenges to address could be the capacity gaps to support policy integration, data management, partnerships and financing, but also the challenges associated with enhancing coordination and collaboration.

**10. Please indicate one or two endeavor or initiatives you suggest that the UN system organizations could undertake together to support the implementation of the SDGs between now and 2030.**

As explained above, implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has direct bearing on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity expires in 2020 and a process is currently initiated under the Convention to work out a post-2020 strategic biodiversity framework, which would be adopted by CBD COP-15 in China, in 2020. This provides a strategic opportunity to align even more closely the global biodiversity policy agenda with the 2030 agenda, including, but not limited to, providing updates to those targets under the SDGs which, as they originated from the current Strategic Plan for biodiversity, also have a 2020 timeline. Achieving this alignment will require collaboration and will facilitate implementing the Strategic Plan of the UN system in support of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in a coherent and synergistic manner.

An important initiative that the UN system could potentially undertake together is to further elaborate and operationalize the concepts of ‘Transformation’ and ‘Resilience’. Both are thematic foci of the 2018 HLPF, and the former is actually the leading title to the 2030 Agenda itself – ‘Transforming Our World’. Both topics are fundamentally important to the work of the Convention and its Secretariat, due to the urgent imperative of achieving transformational change for attaining the objectives of the Convention, and due to the essential role of biodiversity in ecosystem resilience and, ultimately, in supporting resilient societies (for example, in the context of ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation and of ecosystem-based disaster risk prevention).

Another initiative that the UN system organizations could undertake together to support the implementation of the SDGs between now and 2030 could be to perhaps put more emphasis on support at the sub national and local levels. The multi-agency working group established by the UN Secretariat with the assistance of UN Habitat, for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, could provide an important opportunity and entry point for this area of work.