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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

COLLABORATIVE AND MAINSTREAMING ACTIVITIES ON BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN HEALTH

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants in the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a progress report on the collaborative and mainstreaming activities for biodiversity undertaken with the health sector in the period September 2015 to October 2016. It is therefore relevant to agenda item 10 at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in decision XII/21 (para. 6), requested the Executive Secretary to finalize the *State of Knowledge Review: Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health*. In that decision, the Conference of the Parties also emphasized the relevance of the linkages between biodiversity and human health for the sustainable development goals and United Nations agenda for sustainable development, and, in this context, invited Parties and other relevant stakeholders to consider the information in the *State of Knowledge Review* to identify opportunities for mutually supporting implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national strategies, plans and programmes for human health.

3. Further, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the implications of the findings of the *State of Knowledge Review* and to report on this task to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (para. 9(a) and (h)). In this context, a summary report of the implications of the findings of the *State of Knowledge Review*, was prepared for the nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/6) and it also contains further information that is relevant to this agenda item.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1.

4. In decision XII/21, the Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary, inter alia, to continue efforts under the joint work programme between the Secretariat and the World Health Organization, including regional capacity-building workshops in additional regions, on the interlinkages between biodiversity and human health, and to report the results of collaborative work on biodiversity and human health to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;

5. This note provides a summary of activities carried out or planned in response to decisions X/20, XI/29 and XII/21 on biodiversity and health. Mainstreaming activities aimed at disseminating the findings of the State of Knowledge Review, *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health* to contribute to the identification of opportunities for mutually supporting implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national strategies, plans and programmes for human health, in compliance with decision XII/21 is addressed in section II; and work on strengthening collaboration and partnerships for biodiversity and health is addressed in section III.

6. The Executive Secretary gratefully acknowledges voluntary funds provided by the European Commission, the Governments of France, and United Nations University International Institute for Global Health for support to the activities described herein.

II. DISSEMINATING THE FINDINGS OF THE STATE OF KNOWLEDGE REVIEW ON BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN HEALTH

7. The process for the development of the *State of Knowledge Review* has been described in previous documents made available to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/17) and to the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/12/21). A Summary of the *State of Knowledge Review*, with key messages, was launched jointly with the World Health Organization, at the 14th World Congress on Public Health held in Kolkata, India, on 13 February 2015. The final full report was released at a session dedicated to biodiversity and human health held in Brussels, Belgium, on 4 June 2015 during Green Week. The full report was also made available on that date on the websites of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Health Organization.¹

8. The Executive Secretary also contributed, as a member of the Science Panel, to *Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch: report of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on planetary health*, published in *The Lancet* and launched on 16 July 2015.²

9. Various aspects of the nexus between health and biodiversity have been examined in *The State of Knowledge Review* and under the Convention, more broadly. For example: agrobiodiversity, food and nutrition;³ water supply;⁴ disease risk, including disease risk linked to bushmeat;⁵ climate change and disaster risk-reduction. Since the publication of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, there has been greater attention in the scientific and policy communities to the links between biodiversity, ecosystem services, human health and well-being. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Aichi Target 14, calls for a more coordinated focus on the linkages between health and biodiversity. Work on biodiversity-health linkages also contributes to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development (in follow-up to decision XI/22).

¹ Available from <http://www.cbd.int/health/stateofknowledge> and <http://www.who.int/globalchange/publications/biodiversity-human-health/en/>.

² Available at: <http://press.thelancet.com/PHCommission.pdf>.

³ <http://www.cbd.int/agro/food-nutrition/default.shtml>

⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-60-en.pdf>

⁵ See the revised recommendations of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat, Point 9: “*Health and epidemiology*” (decision XI/25).

10. Further to decision XII/21 on biodiversity and human health, the following activities were carried out in relevant international fora to mainstream the findings of the *State of Knowledge Review*, in collaboration with partners:

(a) On 23 and 24 September 2015, the Executive Secretary co-organized two joint launches on the *State of Knowledge Review* and the Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission report on Planetary Health reports in Brazil. The launch event were held in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo⁶ respectively, in collaboration with World Health Organization, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, University of Sao Paulo and UNU IIGH;

(b) Co-convened two side events on Health and Biodiversity with several partners including UN Environment, UNU, EcoHealth Alliance, Future Earth and other partners at the nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and co-organized the Montreal launch of The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, in an event on biodiversity and planetary health;

(c) Presented key findings of the *State of Knowledge Review* on 15 January 2015 for the 16th Swiss Forum on Conservation Biology (SWISSCOB 16) held in Berne, Switzerland. Further details on the event and related presentations are available from: <http://www.sciencesnaturelles.ch/organisations/biodiversity/events/swifcobs/47912-swifcob-16-la-biodiversite-un-facteur-de-sante->;

(d) Contributed to an opening plenary session on biodiversity and human health at the Second ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity 2016: Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, held from 15-19 February in Bangkok, Thailand. The Secretariat also co-organized a full day of sessions on Health and Biodiversity in collaboration with United Nations University;

(e) Co-convened a side event on mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agriculture for Nutrition, Human Health and Well-Being in the context of Sustainable Development on 26 April 2015 for the at the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Collaborators in the event held on 26 April 2016 also include UN Environment Programme, Bioversity International, University of California, Los Angeles, the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), Loyola Sustainability research Centre and UNU-IIGH;

(f) Contributed to a three day Conference and roundtable discussions on Conflict, Ecosystem Degradation and Human Health "Avoiding Catastrophe: Armed Conflict, Ecosystem Degradation and Human Health" held from 4-6 May 2016 led by the Concordia Sustainability Research Centre. Other Partners include Medicins Sans Frontiere (MSF), Montreal Institute of Genocide Studies, Ecohealth Alliance, Future Earth, Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) and others. The Secretariat also contributed to a two-day expert workshop at the margins of the Conference to identify ways in which different sectors and stakeholders can better jointly address health, security and environmental pressures. A summary of these discussions has been Published in The Lancet. Available from: [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/langlo/PIIS2214-109X\(16\)30173-5.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/langlo/PIIS2214-109X(16)30173-5.pdf);

(g) Organized a high-level panel on health and biodiversity during the multi-stakeholder dialogues prior to the Second UN Environment Assembly as part of International Day of Biodiversity celebrations on 22 May 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition to the CBD Executive Secretary, the panel also included involved representatives from World Health Organization who delivered a video-statement, UN Environment Programme and United Nations University, and others. <http://web.unep.org/unea/international-day-biodiversity>;

⁶<http://www.jb.com.br/ciencia-e-tecnologia/noticias/2015/09/28/degradacao-ambiental-ameaca-a-saude-humana/>

(h) Contributed to a full day Satellite meeting on Planetary Health, and and strengthening collaborative partnerships including with Future Earth through the development of a Health Knowledge Action Network, the Planetary Health Alliance and related environment-human health communities on 25 May 2016. The full day event was held at the margins of the Second UN Environmental Assembly held in Nairobi, Kenya. <https://iigh.unu.edu/events/planetary-health-meeting-at-aphrc.html#overview>;

(i) During the WHO Second Global Conference on health and climate held in Paris, France on 7-8 July 2016, in collaboration with WHO, IUNS, and others, the Secretariat co-organized, an event on "Sustainable food systems, biodiversity and health" to explore the co-benefits to environment, biodiversity and health of the promotion of sustainable and healthy food systems in line with the findings of the WHO-CBD State of Knowledge Review, in an effort to foster pragmatic, scalable and interdisciplinary policy solutions to strengthen health, food and nutrition security, to jointly support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the ICN2 commitments and UN SDGs. The full programme and key messages can be accessed from: http://www.who.int/nutrition/events/2016_side-event_healthandclimate_flyer.pdf?ua=1;

(j) Convened and contributed to side events to mainstream biodiversity, human health and well-being including to support the implementation of the Sustainable development Goals and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, *Planet at a Crossroads*, held from 1-10 September 2016 in Hawaii, USA. The Congress website can be accessed from <http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org>;

(k) The Secretariat and WHO jointly contributed to the first European One Health/Ecohealth European workshop held on 6-7 October 2016 in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting aimed to support the implementation of integrative approaches such as One Health and EcoHealth in line with the findings of *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health* and to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in particular in the context of the joint work programme on biodiversity and human health. Further details and presentations are available from the Belgian Biodiversity Platform Website: <http://www.biodiversity.be/health/58>. The full meeting report can be accessed from: https://www.cbd.int/health/eu_bbp_onehealth_workshop.pdf.

III. STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH

11. The Conference of the Parties, at its ninth, tenth and eleventh meetings, called for strengthened cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other organizations on health and biodiversity issues. Specifically, in paragraph 17 of decision X/20, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary (i) to further strengthen collaboration with WHO and other relevant organizations, with a view to promoting the consideration of biodiversity issues in health programmes and plans; (ii) to investigate how implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 can best support efforts to address global health issues, and thereby facilitate consideration of biodiversity within national health strategies, in line with the World Health Declaration, and in support of the Millennium Development Goals; (iii) to explore avenues for bridging the gaps between work being carried out to address the impacts of climate change on public health and work to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity; and to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues into health policy and action plans (decision X/20, paragraph 17).

12. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the strengthening of collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Health Organization, and other relevant organizations and initiatives, and requested the establishment of a joint work programme with the World Health Organization, and other relevant organizations, to support the contribution that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 can make to achieving human health objectives (decision XI/6, paragraph 29).

13. Further to COP decision XII/21, the Executive Secretary also contributed to the following collaborative activities, held under the joint work programme on biodiversity and human health:

(a) The Secretariat and the World Health Organization concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation in July 2015 to further collaborative work under the work programme on biodiversity and human health including for awareness-raising, mainstreaming and capacity-building activities. The Memorandum also seeks to establish the interagency liaison group on biodiversity and human health, jointly chaired by the Secretariat and WHO;

(b) The Secretariat and the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation in December 2015 to further collaborative work under the CBD-WHO work programme on biodiversity and human health including to strengthen collaborative partnerships and to support activities under the CBD-WHO joint work programme on biodiversity and human health;

(c) As a member of the Biodiversity and Community Health Initiative, the CBD Secretariat contributed to a community to community learning exchange from 28 September to 4 October 2015 in Bangalore, India. The multi-stakeholder initiative envisages a global network of centers of excellence addressing issues of biodiversity, health, traditional knowledge, and community well-being. The Initiative builds on its partners' long-standing experiences in the field of policy research and advocacy, capacity development, networking and knowledge exchange on issues related to biodiversity and health. To further understanding and awareness, and to contribute to the building of more robust, peer-reviewed evidence about the importance of the interlinked domains of biodiversity conservation, health and nutritional security goals, and the use of different knowledge systems to achieve them, the Initiative aims to conduct a wide range of activities including: policy research, capacity development, policy advocacy, community to community engagement as well as supporting establishment of centres of excellence. The full report is available from https://www.cbd.int/health/c2c_bach_finalreport.pdf;

(d) The CBD Secretariat Contributed to the preparation of a report, entitled *Healthy Environment, Healthy People*, led by UN Environment Programme, launched at the second UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA-2) in Nairobi, Kenya. The Executive Secretary also contributed to in the Inter-ministerial Roundtable on Biodiversity and Human Health at UNEA-2, following the official launch of the Report. The report is available from <http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/Portals/50153/UNEA/K1602727%20INF%205.pdf>;

(e) Contributing to the ongoing development of a Health Knowledge Action Network (KAN) with Future Earth and other partners. The Secretariat contributed to an expert meeting from 5-7 July 2016, at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Centre in Bellagio, Italy. The meeting was designed to share ideas and thoughts about how to integrate health research into the activities of Future Earth, setting out priorities for the Health Knowledge-Action Network. To contribute to a strengthening of this work, the Secretariat is on the development team for the Health KAN. The Report of the meeting is available from http://futureearth.org/sites/default/files/advancing_planetary_health_bellagio_july_2016_conference_summary.pdf;

(f) Progress in collaboration with partner organizations toward the implementation of One Health in practice include the World Bank's forthcoming "Operational Framework for Strengthening Human, Animal and Environmental Public Health Systems at their Interface", which highlights examples of existing and potential applications of One Health, as well as the value of this integrative approach and review of relevant tools for advancing implementation of One Health. The document has been informed by consultation with the CBD Secretariat, FAO, OIE, WHO, UNEP, EcoHealth Alliance, and other partner organizations and it is anticipated to be finalized by early 2017.