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11 December 2013

## NOTIFICATION

### **Engagement in the processes to develop the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**

Madam/Sir,

In decision XI/22, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties and all partners, institutions, organizations and processes concerned, to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in developing the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and in the process of establishing sustainable development goals under the United Nations General Assembly. In the same decision, the Conference of Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate in the process of developing sustainable development goals and provide information on ways and means for the Convention's national focal points to engage in processes to develop sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

I am pleased to inform you that, to this end, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) continues to participate in the United Nations System Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda and serves in the United Nations System Technical Support Team (TST) to the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1</sup>. In this capacity, the CBD Secretariat has co-led the preparation of a TST Issues Brief on Biodiversity, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank, and with contributions from other United Nations entities and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions. The Issues Brief on Biodiversity has been prepared to inform the work of the Open Working Group (OWG) that will take up the issue of biodiversity at its eighth session that will convene at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 3 to 7 February 2014<sup>2</sup>.

The Issues Brief on Biodiversity stresses that biodiversity is crucial to sustainable development and that many economic sectors depend upon biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides. The conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity can contribute solutions to major societal challenges, including poverty eradication and adaptation to climate change. Four complementary recommendations on how biodiversity could be integrated into Sustainable Development Goals are set out

<sup>1</sup> The Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals was established on 22 January 2013 by decision 67/555 of the General Assembly (see [A/67/L.48/rev.1](#))

<sup>2</sup> The [TST Issues Brief on Biodiversity](#) and comprehensive information on the work of the OWG and its membership are available at the online Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>) maintained by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Issues Brief on Biodiversity is posted at the following location: [http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2401TST%20Issues%20Brief%20Biodiversity\\_FINAL.pdf](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2401TST%20Issues%20Brief%20Biodiversity_FINAL.pdf)

To: All CBD National Focal Points and relevant organizations



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

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as follows:

- (i) Biodiversity should be integrated into overarching goals addressing broad concepts such as poverty eradication, an inclusive “green economy”, human well-being, and sustainable development;
- (ii) Specific biodiversity-related targets and indicators should be integrated into SDGs on food security and nutrition, water and health;
- (iii) Biodiversity should also be included as a central component of goals for global “life support systems” such as goals relating to the protection of ecosystems, including land, forests and oceans, and their natural resources;
- (iv) The SDG framework should provide the enabling conditions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and for the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss to be addressed.

To enable the wider dissemination of this important document, the CBD Secretariat has enabled its translation to the six official languages of the United Nations. These are made available on the CBD website at: <https://chm.cbd.int/database/record?documentID=200547>. I would like to encourage national focal points to disseminate the Issues Brief to all relevant national entities and other entities, and to take additional steps, as appropriate, to raise awareness of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the SDGs process.

As an additional effort to raise the attention of negotiators to the importance of biodiversity in the context of the SDGs, the CBD Secretariat, working with a number of partners, is facilitating the organization of a side event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to coincide with the eighth session of the OWG in February 2014. I look forward to conveying to you the details of this event once they are finalized. The CBD Secretariat will continue to pursue other efforts to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the SDGs process, and I look forward to providing you with updates on our efforts.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary