



Ref.: SCBD/SAM/DC/SK/AC/84278

12 February 2015

NOTIFICATION

Tools, guidance and information related to biodiversity and climate change in the context of the expected climate agreement

Dear Madam/Sir,

As you may recall, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has on many occasions addressed the relationship between biodiversity and climate change and adopted several relevant decisions, for example decisions IX/16, X/31, X/33, XI/19 and XI/21 and XII/20.

I would like to bring to your attention the expected climate agreement to be reached in Paris later this year, under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In the context of the development of the agreement, Parties to the UNFCCC have been invited to communicate Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)¹.

In this context and pursuant to an invitation from the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) Working Group on Climate Change for members to promote broad ministerial support in national Governments for an ambitious climate agreement, I would like to encourage Parties to the CBD to make use of existing tools, guidance and information related to biodiversity and climate change, and you, as Focal Points to the CBD, to liaise, collaborate and share relevant information with your counterparts in charge of the climate change agenda, in particular, for the development of INDCs.

As the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook highlighted, mitigating climate change is a key long-term priority and urgent action to reduce emissions is essential to limit the loss of biodiversity and related ecosystem services. The Global Biodiversity Outlook also notes that limiting climate change to two degrees Celsius warming while halting biodiversity loss, and achieving other sustainable development goals can be collectively accomplished if coherent and strategic action is taken that appropriately accounts for the interactions between climate change, carbon sequestration and biodiversity. I would like to remind you that the COP has already developed guidance on ways to conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, which can be used to help develop such a package of actions.

Regarding adaptation, for example, the COP, in decision X/33, invited Parties and other Governments to consider implementing, where appropriate, ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation that may include the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, as part of an overall adaptation strategy that takes into account the multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits

¹ More information available on the INDC Portal: http://unfccc.int/focus/indc_portal/items/8766.php

To : CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



for local communities. Regarding mitigation, the same decision invited Parties and other Governments to implement ecosystem management activities, including the protection of natural forests, natural grasslands and peatlands, the sustainable management of forests considering the use of native communities of forest species in reforestation activities, sustainable wetland management, restoration of degraded wetlands and natural grasslands, conservation of mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass beds, sustainable agricultural practices and soil management, amongst others, as a contribution towards achieving and consistent with, the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the CBD.

Furthermore, the COP, in decision XII/1, encouraged Parties, other Governments and organizations to make use, in a flexible and voluntary manner, of the lists of key potential actions identified in the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook² that could accelerate progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In the context of climate change and biodiversity, the actions related to Targets 5, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 15 are particularly relevant.

In addition, Parties may wish to refer to their national and regional targets developed in response to decision X/2 and using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets³ which provide a flexible framework for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable land and water management in the context of climate change.

I trust that our efforts will contribute to strengthening synergies with the ongoing work under the UNFCCC and actions towards achieving the objectives of both conventions.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

² The fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/gbo4/>

³ More information on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets available at: <http://www.cbd.int/sp/>

Annex

Tools, guidance and information related to biodiversity and climate change

Decisions

- *IX/16* – Biodiversity and Climate Change (contains proposals for the integration of climate-change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention and options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio Conventions)
- *X/31* – Protected Areas (contains a section on climate change)
- *X/2* – Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- *X/33* – Biodiversity and Climate Change (contains guidance on ways to conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation)
- *XI/19* – Biodiversity and climate change related issues: advice on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity with regard to policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
- *XI/21* – Biodiversity and climate change: integrating biodiversity considerations into climate-change related activities
- *XII/1* – Mid-term review of progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and actions to enhance implementation
- *XII/20* – Biodiversity and climate change and disaster risk reduction

Declarations

- *Hyderabad Call for a Concerted Effort on Ecosystem Restoration:*
<http://www.cbd.int/doc/restoration/Hyderabad-call-restoration-en.pdf>
- *The Lima 2014 Declaration on Biodiversity and Climate Change from Science to Policy-Makers, for Sustainable Development:* http://www.ipbes.net/images/documents/plenary/third/in-session/non-paper/other_matters/The_Lima_declaration.pdf

Publications

- CBD Technical Series – <http://www.cbd.int/ts/> :
 - *Technical Series No. 10* – Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change - Advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol (2003)
 - *Technical Series No. 25* – Guidance for Promoting Synergy among Activities Addressing Biological Diversity, Desertification, Land Degradation and Climate Change (2006)
 - *Technical Series No. 41* – Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (2009)
 - *Technical Series No. 42* – Review of the Literature on the Links between Biodiversity and Climate Change: Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation (2009)
 - *Technical Series No. 43* – Forest Resilience, Biodiversity, and Climate Change. A synthesis of the biodiversity/resilience/stability relationship in forest ecosystems (2009)
 - *Technical Series No. 46* – Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity (2009)
 - *Technical Series No. 59* – REDD+ and Biodiversity (2011)

- *Technical Series 75 - An Updated Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity* (2014)
- Review of Global Assessments of Land and Ecosystem Degradation and Their Relevance in Achieving the Land-Based Aichi Biodiversity Targets: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-18-en.pdf>

Tools

- E-learning module on protected areas and climate change: <http://www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning/>
- The Ecosystem Approach Sourcebook: <http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/sourcebook/>

Related notifications

- FAO's tools and guidance on food and agriculture to assist implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2014/ntf-2014-099-agri-en.pdf>
- Incorporating disaster risk reduction into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and opportunities to engage with national agencies responsible for the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 and its follow up in 2015: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2014/ntf-2014-116-nbsaps-en.pdf>
- Request for information from Parties and partners on commitments to reduce habitat loss and on ecosystem restoration (Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15): <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2015/ntf-2015-014-ecosystem-restoration-en.pdf>