



PRESS RELEASE

196 Governments agree to scale up investments in nature and people towards 2020 and beyond

UN Biodiversity Conference closes in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

- *Sharm El Sheikh Declaration adopted inviting UN General Assembly to convene a Summit on Biodiversity for heads of State by 2020*
- *Governments agree to accelerate action to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020*
- *Agreement on a comprehensive and participatory process to develop post-2020 global biodiversity framework*
- *Sharm El Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People launched to mobilize broad stakeholder engagement*
- *Over three dozen decisions made on technical issues of importance including Synthetic Biology, Digital Sequence Information, and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures.*

29 November 2018 – The 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (COP14) closed tonight with broad international agreement on reversing the global destruction of nature and biodiversity loss threatening all forms of life on Earth.

To combat this crisis, governments agreed to accelerate action to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, agreed in 2010, from now until 2020. Work to achieve these targets will take place at the global, regional, national and subnational levels. The meeting also agreed on a comprehensive and participatory process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework anticipated to be agreed upon at the next Conference of Parties (COP 15) in Beijing in 2020. The framework aims to safeguard nature and biodiversity for decades to come.

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, thanked delegates for their work and their commitments at the meeting. Throughout the conference, she laid out the scientific case that humankind is currently on an unsustainable path that involves a continuing steep loss of biodiversity with cascading consequences for nature and for human society, including in the global economy, the availability of food and water, and human security, health and wellbeing.

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Dr. Paşca Palmer said “Nature is dynamic and interrelated -- and so must be our response. We must move from the very real incremental change that we have created to a model that continues to push incremental wins while also fundamentally reaching for transformational change. As this COP shows, we have already begun this journey.”

To engage all sectors and stakeholders, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Government of the People’s Republic of China, and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity announced the launch of a Sharm El-Sheik to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People to catalyze, collect, and celebrate actions taken in support of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.

Her Excellency, Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and COP 14 President, reiterated that ministers and heads of delegation welcomed Egypt's initiative to promote a coordinated approach to address biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystems degradation.

She called on the United Nations General Assembly to convene a summit on biodiversity at the level of heads of State prior to the CBD COP15 in 2020, and for countries to complete the achievement of the CBD Strategic Plan before the end of this decade.

From the “city of peace”, Sharm El Sheikh, Minister Fouad stressed Egypt’s appreciation for the opportunity to host COP 14 with representations of delegations from countries, organizations and institutions over 17 days under one common slogan, "Investing in biodiversity for People and Planet.”

"We need to think seriously about system transformation and a new social contract to protect the global commons," Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility said at the opening of COP14. "Nature and people deserve a new deal," Ishii said. "2020 offers one last opportunity for the global community to get its act together - let's not miss it!"

Other announcements and decisions made at the conference include:

- An African Ministerial Summit held immediately prior to COP 14 produced a Ministerial Declaration as well as the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience;
- COP14 decision on cooperation also called for UN General Assembly to designate 2021 to 2030 as the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration;
- The Business and Biodiversity Forum produced dialogues and recommendations to further strengthen private sector and corporate engagement in support of the biodiversity and mainstreaming agenda;
- Building on the theme of the conference, COP14 adopted a decision for a long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity into the work of a number of productive sectors, including energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing and health, with a view to contribute to the post 2020 process ;
- A Nature and Culture Summit announced activities to advance work on biological and cultural diversity in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Voluntary guidelines were adopted on various issues, including on the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; on the repatriation of traditional knowledge and on integration of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures into the wider land- and seascapes ;

- Decision for further studies and discussions under a number of Ad Hoc Technical Expert Groups were also adopted, in particular groups were agreed for synthetic biology and digital sequence information. The meeting also adopted a procedure for avoiding conflicts of interest in expert groups under all three bodies of the Convention;
- The meeting adopted important decisions on issues related to the three objectives of the Convention, including: pollinators, sustainable wildlife management, health, invasive alien species and resource mobilization;
- The meeting adopted decisions on issues related to the the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including risk assessment and risk management, socio-economic considerations, specialised international access and benefit-sharing instruments in the context of Article 4, paragraph 4 of the Nagoya Protocol, and on a Global Multilateral Benefit Sharing Mechanism, and others.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The UN Biodiversity Conference was held in Sharm El Sheikh from 17 to 29 November 2018, with its High Level Segment taking place on 14 and 15 November.

Results of negotiations can be found at: www.cbd.int/conferences/2018

On demand webcasts of negotiations, press conferences and selected side events available at: www.cbd.int/webcast/

Social media for the conference can be found on: www.facebook.com/UNBiodiversity
twitter.com/unbiodiversity, www.instagram.com/unbiodiversity,
www.linkedin.com/company/unbiodiversity

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 171 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 114 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 561 2720 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int
