

IUCN's Key Messages

**Convention on Biological Diversity
Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention (COP12)
6-17 October 2014, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea**

Introduction

The adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in 2010 gave the world a unified agenda to tackle the loss of biodiversity, the basis of life on earth. Supported by the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, we are now reviewing progress in implementation of the Aichi Targets at a key moment - the midpoint of both the International Decade on Biodiversity and the Strategic Plan.

This document provides an overview of IUCN's key messages to COP12. Specific agenda items have been targeted:

- *Assessing progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Agenda items 11-14)*
- *The Financial Mechanism (Agenda item 15)*
- *Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (Agenda item 16)*
- *Marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 21)*
- *Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and stakeholders' engagement, including business (Agenda item 29)*

Other specific inputs including proposals for changes to the proposed decisions in UNEP/CBD/ COP/ 12 / 1/ Add.2 will be presented, as appropriate, during the meeting.

A separate document with IUCN's key messages to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (MOP1) has been prepared. Issues related to progress in meeting Aichi Target 16 are thus not included in this document.

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Assessing progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Agenda items 11-14)

Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 and Aichi Target Indicators

- ✓ It is now evident that most of the Aichi Targets are not on track for being met by 2020. IUCN reiterates the urgent call to accelerate implementation.
- ✓ It is essential that Parties invest in, and support indicators underlying GBO4 to allow continuing reporting to 2020 and beyond.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

- ✓ Parties must complete the revision of their NBSAPs without delay ensuring that they contain SMART national level targets (set within the flexible framework) and that these are mapped against the global level targets.
- ✓ The full participation and integration of all relevant stakeholders in the development and revision of NBSAPs is not only desirable but also a pre-requisite for the instrument's broad societal ownership and thus increased chances of successful implementation.

Mid-term review on progress towards the Aichi Targets

Target 1

- ✓ Awareness is insufficient to make people change their behavior. To inspire change, science-based organizations stand a better chance aligning their messages with people's existing values.

Target 2

- ✓ The conceptual foundations and methodologies for ecosystem assessment and valuation are being developed and becoming well-established. It is time to enact the transition from case studies to their systematic application at all levels for decisions relating to development, investment and equity.

Target 3

- ✓ Operationalization of Target 3 depends on the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies alongside the identification and implementation of incentive schemes that reward the sustainable management of natural resources.

Target 6

- ✓ While developing longer-term instruments to measure biodiversity recovery, the focus must be on measuring action taken to reduce fishing pressure (where necessary) and to protect biodiversity directly.
- ✓ To better tackle the problem of by-catch and better mitigate the impact of fisheries on non-target species, a combination of traditional deterrent methods and economic incentives must be applied.

Target 9 (Agenda item 22)

- ✓ Identification and prioritisation of invasive species and their pathways of introduction are necessary for enhancing prevention and improving management of this threat. This should be reinforced by the exchange and sharing of invasive alien species information, expertise, experiences and best practice.

Target 11

- ✓ Urgent action to advance progress on country commitments toward meeting Aichi Target 11 in all its aspects is needed. While the percentage coverage elements of the target are receiving most attention, other elements, most notably, effective management, conservation of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, and ecological representation, are fundamental to ensuring that protected areas become a key tool to halt biodiversity loss and provide ecosystem services.

- ✓ Protected areas are proven cost-effective and sustainable natural solutions to a range of environmental problems and social needs on land and sea, with many maintaining essential ecosystem services that underpin human welfare and livelihoods.

Target 12

- ✓ Assessing species for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species greatly contributes to Target 12; Parties are encouraged to support this work at the national level.
- ✓ Equally, developing and implementing multi-stakeholder species conservation recovery plans significantly contributes to the achievement of Target 12 and is strongly supported.

Target 13

- ✓ National and regional conservation strategies for Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) and crop landraces (LR) should be developed and included in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

Target 14

- ✓ The provision of ecosystem services needs to benefit those managing and restoring them.

Target 15

- ✓ Rural men and women, especially in the world's drier lands, must be the core of the solution to climate change in terms of their adaptive capacities and of being the owners (or at least having secure rights) of restored lands and their benefits.
- ✓ Healthy ecosystems enhance resilience to disasters and climate change.

Target 18

- ✓ Efforts need to be significantly boosted to meet the capacity-building requirements for full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels, and for the development and deployment of indicators that can be applied at country and local levels to respond to the requirements of Target 18.

Target 20

- ✓ Efforts to narrow and eliminate the gap in financial resources between what is required to implement the Strategic Plan and what is currently available should be met by increases in innovative and new sources of biodiversity finance to generate resources from a broader base as well as doubling international financial flows to developing countries.

The Financial Mechanism (Agenda item 15)

- ✓ Further efforts are needed to mobilize additional funding for biodiversity as well as measures to ensure that existing finance is deployed in a manner which maximizes the benefits to biodiversity.

Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (Agenda item 16)

- ✓ The means of implementation established to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must include an appropriate level of investment into conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services as they are the foundation of sustainable development and the natural infrastructure for responding to current development challenges.
- ✓ The work undertaken under the CBD, especially the elaboration of indicators for the Aichi Targets, must become an integral part of the indicator framework to be adopted globally to track progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.
- ✓ To ensure policy coherence and mutual supportiveness between the process of implementation of the SDGs and the review and implementation of NBSAPs increased coordination at the national level is urgently needed.

Article 8(j) and related provisions (Agenda item 19)

- ✓ The decision to use the term “indigenous peoples” within the Convention’s future decisions and secondary documents should be supported by Parties at COP12.

Marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 21)

Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)

- ✓ The scientific and technical evaluation of information contained in the reports of the seven additional regional workshops for describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) should be welcomed and steps to promote the use of this scientific information in national and international processes is encouraged.

Impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of anthropogenic underwater noise and ocean acidification

- ✓ It is essential to minimize direct and indirect impacts of human activity on marine and coastal biodiversity through efforts such as minimizing ocean noise impacts and building resilience through MPAs and by removing other stressors on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems.

Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and stakeholders’ engagement, including business (Agenda item 29)

Business engagement

- ✓ Work to articulate the responsibility of the business sector in implementation of the individual Aichi Targets, through identifying key milestones in the lead up to 2020 and developing guidance for business to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, must be carried out.

Engagement with subnational and local governments

- ✓ Subnational and local governments play a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan; they nevertheless require increased and sustained support, both in terms of knowledge, capacity building and exchange of best practices, as well as financially.
- ✓ Further engagement with subnational and local authorities as well as other key stakeholders at the local level is necessary to raise awareness of the values of ecosystem services and to integrate these values in urban and regional planning and development.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

- ✓ IPBES must equitably support all its functions, including by proportionally assigning sufficient financial resources to its policy, knowledge generation, and capacity-building functions alongside that of conducting assessments.

Gender mainstreaming

- ✓ The [Environment and Gender Index \(EGI\)](#) is having a concrete impact and contribution to the advancement of the gender mainstreaming agenda across the board; it should be further promoted and its use encouraged.