

# IUCN's position on means of implementation and cross-cutting issues

Convention on Biological Diversity

Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14)

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November, 2018

## Summary of Key Messages

### Capacity-building and scientific and technical cooperation (Agenda item 10)

- ✓ As a contribution to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, and in alignment with discussions on the post-2020 biodiversity framework, IUCN conducted a survey of Members which gathered views on capacity-building gaps to implement the biodiversity-related conventions (BRCs) and strengthen synergies;
- ✓ IUCN supports the establishment of an informal advisory committee at COP15, with a mandate to focus on technical and scientific cooperation.

### National reporting, assessment and review (Agenda item 12)

- ✓ Nationally disaggregated information from global, peer-reviewed datasets on species extinction risk (Target 12), protected areas (Target 11) and areas of importance for biodiversity (Targets 11 and 12) in individual countries is now available in downloadable reports through IBAT Country Profiles;
- ✓ IUCN invites Parties to utilize these Country Profiles, and other relevant data, in their national reports of implementation to the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

### Cooperation and synergies (Agenda item 14)

- ✓ IUCN welcomes the continuation of the work of the advisory group on synergies, emphasizing its fundamental role in optimizing synergies among the BRCs in the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework;
- ✓ IUCN supports and welcomes collaborative work with UNESCO, including on the links between nature and culture;
- ✓ IUCN invites Parties to utilize the [Biodiversity Guidelines for Assessments of FLR Opportunities](#);
- ✓ IUCN offers full support to the preparatory process to carry out broad consultations on the post-2020 framework, including through facilitating exchanges with a wide range of stakeholders as well as through the staging of IUCN's 2020 World Conservation Congress (Marseille, France, June 2020).

### Mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors (Agenda item 22)

- ✓ IUCN is committed its contribution to the work of the CBD-WHO Inter-Agency Liaison Group for Biodiversity and Human Health;
- ✓ IUCN calls for the integration of a health perspective into biodiversity policy and practice, emphasizes the importance of sex-disaggregated indicators, and calls for health perspectives to be articulated in a post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- ✓ IUCN strongly encourages greater engagement of representatives of all sectors in the finalization of proposed mainstreaming actions;
- ✓ IUCN stresses the importance of effective implementation of the mitigation hierarchy; and
- ✓ IUCN stresses the need to recognize urban development as part of the wider landscape and in the context of the ecosystem services that nature provides, and highlights the increasingly significant role that cities can play.

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## Capacity-building and scientific and technical cooperation (Agenda item 10)

IUCN welcomes the draft COP Decision in [recommendation SBI2/8](#) regarding capacity-building. As a contribution to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, and in alignment with discussions on the post-2020 biodiversity framework, IUCN conducted a survey of its Members, to gather views on capacity-building gaps to implement commitments under the biodiversity-related conventions (BRCs) and strengthen synergies.

The survey responses will feed into a study, to be carried out at the beginning of 2019, of the necessary knowledge base for the preparation the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020.

Regarding scientific and technical cooperation, **IUCN supports the establishment, at COP 15, of an informal advisory committee on technical and scientific cooperation**, to become operational at the end of the term of the current Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-house Mechanism. With a highly focused mandate, this committee could provide the Executive Secretary with advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention beyond 2020.

## National reporting, assessment and review (Agenda item 12)

IUCN welcomes the SBSTTA<sup>1</sup> and SBI2<sup>2</sup> recommendations in relation to this agenda item. Information in national reports and the GBO5 is a key input to the decisions that Parties will take at COP15 in relation to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. **IUCN highlights the value of national reports, and the need for streamlined reporting with other MEAs and processes.** IUCN looks forward with interest, to a draft communication strategy, which will be prepared jointly with the Secretariats of IPBES and other BRCs.

IUCN continues to make data available on the status, threats and trends in biodiversity, including in particular, progress towards the targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020, through the mobilisation of various knowledge products, in collaboration with a range of partners.

<sup>1</sup>[CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XXI/6](#)

<sup>2</sup>[CBD/SBI/REC/2/10](#); [CBD/SBI/REC/2/11](#)

**IUCN highlights that it can now provide, for each Country, disaggregated information from global, peer-reviewed datasets** at the national level on species extinction risk (Target 12), protected areas (Target 11) and areas of importance for biodiversity (Targets 11 and 12). This information is available as **downloadable reports: IBAT Country Profiles**. The information in these reports can be used to supplement national datasets and inform both national reports, and the GBO5.

IUCN welcomes the suggested information sources for GBO5, and in particular, we stress the important role of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, for providing reports of progress towards the global Aichi Targets.

IUCN recognises the considerable value of a multidimensional review approach under the Convention. Engagement of non-State actors in the process of national as well as global implementation of the Strategic Plan is vital. Furthermore, lessons learnt should be shared within and between countries; such information will be critical for exploring possible modalities for implementation of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. **IUCN encourages all Parties to submit review reports of implementation to the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.**

## Cooperation and synergies (Agenda item 14)

Collaboration and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions (BRCs) and other international conventions and processes is essential not only for the implementation of international biodiversity goals and targets, but also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. Moreover, **for the process of development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be truly inclusive, and to ensure buy-in by all sectors and constituencies, all these conventions and processes must be invited to actively participate and provide inputs from the outset.**

**IUCN welcomes the continuation of the work of the advisory group on synergies** emphasizing its important role in optimizing synergies among the BRCs in the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework. IUCN equally **supports the organization of a workshop in early 2019**, to facilitate discussions among Parties of the various BRCs on ways in which the conventions can contribute to the elaboration of

the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as proposed in paragraph 12 of the draft COP decision. **IUCN offers its full support, including by facilitating exchanges with different stakeholders and making use of IUCN's 2020 World Conservation Congress and its preparatory process to carry out these broad consultations.**

Good collaboration is taking place with various UN agencies and IUCN welcomes those important efforts. **IUCN highlights the Joint Programme of Work on the links between biological and cultural diversity as a valuable platform for collaboration** between the CBD Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in pursuit of shared objectives related to nature and culture. IUCN welcomes the idea to enhance and extend those efforts beyond 2020, including by launching an initiative towards an International Alliance on Nature and Culture. IUCN is pleased to be co-convening the Nature and Culture Summit in the margins of this COP.

With regards to cooperation with inter-agency and coordination networks, as member organization of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), **IUCN supports the request to the Executive Secretary to continue engaging with CPF to seize additional opportunities to support the advancement of biodiversity commitments.** Further, in line with the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration, IUCN highlights the **Biodiversity Guidelines for Assessments of FLR Opportunities<sup>3</sup>** – a tool that provides practical advice on how to integrate biodiversity knowledge and data into FLR opportunities assessments, resulting landscape planning and decision-making processes, which support both conservation and development objectives.

## **Mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors (Agenda item 22)**

### ***Health and biodiversity***

IUCN welcomes the recommendations contained in [SBSTTAXI/3](#) on Health and Biodiversity, and the complementary decisions taken by the 71<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly, which highlight opportunities for the mutual integration of health and biodiversity linkages into respective policies; these include actions for pursuing further collaboration, research, capacity-building and application in practice among and within the biodiversity and health communities.

<sup>3</sup> <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47713>

In particular, **IUCN restates its commitment to contribute towards the Inter-Agency Liaison Group for Biodiversity and Human Health** convened by the CBD Secretariat and the World Health Organisation.

Through its Resolution [WCC-2016-Res-064](#), IUCN has undertaken to strengthen cross-sector partnerships to recognise the contributions of nature to health, well-being and quality of life that includes working together with the WHO; quantifying benefits of ecosystems for health; quantifying benefits of protected areas and urban natural spaces for health; and developing and communicating relevant nature-based solutions.

IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Specialist Group on Health and Well-being, is working to develop interdisciplinary materials, case studies, tools and programmes, facilitate partnerships for policy that support activities in protected areas, parks and green spaces; and to further build and communicate the evidence and knowledge base on the extent of benefits of nature for human health and wellbeing.

**IUCN urges Parties to consider further options for enhancing reciprocal mainstreaming of the biodiversity and health sectors.** In particular:

- ✓ **IUCN calls for the integration of a health perspective into biodiversity policy and practice and the ongoing implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and for health perspectives to be clearly articulated in a post-2020 global biodiversity framework;**
- ✓ **IUCN also calls for the articulation of a transformative agenda for integrated health and biodiversity policy in a post-2020 framework towards SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being.**

IUCN commends the recognition of traditional knowledge for the health of indigenous peoples and local communities in the preamble of the draft decision and recommends the following amendment to the text to better recognize gender differentiated concerns, roles and knowledge:

- ✓ ***Also acknowledging the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and of traditional knowledge for the health of indigenous women and men and local communities,***

IUCN reinforces the invitation to Parties to consider gender-differentiated impacts and responses in the integration of biodiversity and

health linkages in their policies, plans and actions, and recommends to include gender considerations in case studies and practical examples related to mainstreaming biodiversity in the health sector.

**IUCN highlights the importance of sex-disaggregated indicators toward measuring progress on Aichi Target 14 and related Targets and Goals.**

***Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors***

IUCN welcomes the focus that has been given to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in sectors that heavily depend on, and are likely to have major impacts on biodiversity. **IUCN welcomes and supports the decision to establish a long-term strategic approach for the mainstreaming of biodiversity as a more strategic way to set priorities** and effectively address the challenges currently faced by Parties. Such a long term approach would in addition, support the development and implementation of the post-2020 biodiversity framework and achievement of the SDGs.

IUCN also notes the importance of involving representatives of the business sector in the mainstreaming discussions and **strongly encourages greater outreach and engagement with sector representatives in the implementation of these recommendations and proposed actions.**

Among the various measures put forward for the mainstreaming of biodiversity, **IUCN would like to stress the central importance of an effective implementation of the mitigation hierarchy.**

Accordingly, IUCN recommends Parties to consider the following changes to the draft decision:

✓ **Modify paragraph 11 (d) to read:**

(d) To apply the mitigation hierarchy as the framework for planning and designing new projects **and for managing existing ones with particular attention to high impact operations; establish a clear biodiversity target (No Net Loss or Net Gain) to be achieved through the mitigation hierarchy; and develop a corporate biodiversity management policy in line with IUCN's Policy on Biodiversity Offsets to ensure that the mitigation hierarchy is designed**

**and implemented in line with recognized best practices; and finally, develop public policies aimed at maximizing the biodiversity gains for society from individual companies' mitigation investments, and align with land and seascape planning.**

✓ **Edit paragraph 11 (f) to read:**

(f) To provide, where appropriate, effective incentives to mainstream biodiversity in the energy and mining, manufacturing, and processing sectors, consistent with international obligations, **and to remove or diminish perverse incentives that discourage mainstreaming biodiversity or promote biodiversity loss.**

IUCN highlights the need to further integrate gender and social considerations to guide Parties in mainstreaming biodiversity in the sectors under consideration, **with particular attention paid to the distribution of benefits, the needs of and risks to women and men, indigenous peoples and local communities.** In light of this, IUCN suggests a slight text amendment in paragraph 17(e):

✓ To undertake additional analysis to examine the **roles, distribution of benefits between and priorities women and men,** indigenous peoples and local communities in mainstreaming biodiversity;

IUCN further recommends that the Informal Advisory Group on mainstreaming include one or more gender specialists to provide gender considerations on all aspects of the long-term strategic approach.

Lastly, IUCN recommends that Parties consider adding to this decision the following:

- A call to businesses to adopt biodiversity sectoral science-based targets to guide their corporate policies and strategies for the conservation of biodiversity; and to consider the use of credible, multi-stakeholder based sustainability certification schemes;
- A call to all stakeholders to consider not only a site-based approach but also an integrated landscape/seascape level approach when measuring and managing impacts and dependencies on biodiversity; and to fully respect protected areas in line with IUCN's Recommendation [WCC-2016-Rec-102](#)
- A call to relevant organizations and initiatives to promote and strengthen access to global biodiversity datasets for the sectors of energy

and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing including enhancing the functionality of the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT).

***The role of local and subnational governments in promoting and implementing the mainstreaming of biodiversity***

Nature provides fundamental contributions to health, human well-being, social and economic development in cities and a much greater focus on stewardship of our urban natural assets and mobilising financing for investment in nature-based solutions is utterly needed. IUCN stresses that both the positive and negative contributions of **cities and urban development need to be recognised and accounted for in the post 2020 global biodiversity framework**. In this regard, IUCN is currently working with a number of partners to document the benefits of deploying nature-based solutions to climate, water security, health, and disaster risk reduction in cities<sup>4</sup>.

In follow-up to the adoption of Resolution [WCC-2016-Res-029](#), IUCN is convening an **Urban Nature Alliance**, which aims to contribute to the development of landscape restoration programmes to conserve and manage ecosystems in and around cities and increase awareness of local and subnational governments through assessing the value of their natural assets.

Other initiatives are worth mentioning include work carried out supporting countries in Latin America on the Governance of Municipal Protected Areas<sup>5</sup>, being rolled out in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; The Urban Protected Areas Best Practice Guidelines<sup>6</sup>; and collaboration between ICLEI, IUCN and TNC – CitiesWithNature<sup>7</sup> – to enhance nature in urban and city-region landscapes, among others.

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<sup>4</sup> [www.growgreenproject.eu](http://www.growgreenproject.eu) ; [www.thenatureofcities.com](http://www.thenatureofcities.com).

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/58263.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.iucn.org/content/urban-protected-areas-profiles-and-best-practice-guidelines>

<sup>7</sup> <http://citieswithnature.org/>