

IUCN's position on selected issues

Convention on Biological Diversity

Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13)

Second Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation (COP-MOP2)

Cancun, Mexico, 4-17 December, 2016

Summary of Key Messages

The 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets articulate clearly what needs to be done to shore up the life support systems of this planet. In the final years of the UN Decade on Biodiversity, IUCN salutes the many positive efforts to achieve them. However, a great deal of progress is still needed.

Last year, the Heads of State of all the world's Governments adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). IUCN points out that the achievement of the SDGs depends on the achievement of the Aichi Targets. It follows that action now to achieve the Aichi Targets is essential, and is already an investment in the achievement of the SDGs. Failure to achieve the Aichi Targets will undermine this universal Agenda.

On the issue of mainstreaming, IUCN urges Parties to promote linkages between national efforts towards the 2030 Agenda with efforts to mainstream biodiversity through the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). This will serve to implement the work of the Convention and its Protocols cohesively and synergistically with implementation of the SDGs.

IUCN encourages Parties to make use of and incorporate valuation studies into NBSAPs to encourage mainstreaming at the national and/or sub-national level. IUCN also encourages the incorporation of strategies on resource mobilization, gender, capacity development as well as communication and public awareness strategies.

In the marine realm, IUCN urges Parties to immediately implement measures to address threats to cold water biodiversity, including ocean acidification, deoxygenation, destructive fishing practices, pollution and potential expansion of mining activities into deeper waters. We also call on Parties to underline the importance and urgency of finalizing the negotiations on an implementing agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to address the threats to biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

The theme of the 2016 [IUCN's World Conservation Congress - Planet at the Crossroads](#) reflects the serious choices that the world needs to make to reverse environmental declines and secure a healthy and liveable planet. To help us transform and foster a "culture of conservation", IUCN brings forward to Cancun an uplifting message contained in [the Hawai'i commitments](#).

IUCN also draws attention to the Honolulu Challenge on Invasive Alien Species, which aims to accelerate measures to prevent future invasion and manage existing invasive alien species and encourages Parties to commit to its support.

We are pressed for time. IUCN welcomes the focus the Convention is giving to implementation. We know conservation does work. We now call on COP13 to convey to Governments the need to urgently scale up ambition and commitment and put in place more concrete actions to achieve all Targets across all Strategic Goals. We need to make use of the unique opportunity presented by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement to reach our common objectives.

For more information, please contact :

Dr. Jane Smart
Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group
Head, Species Programme
IUCN Headquarters
jane.smart@iucn.org

Mrs. Sonia Peña Moreno
Senior Policy Officer- Biodiversity
Global Policy Unit
IUCN Headquarters
sonia.penamoreno@iucn.org

Ms. Victoria Romero
Junior Policy Officer
Global Policy Unit
IUCN Headquarters
victoria.romero@iucn.org

IUCN World Headquarters
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 999 0000
Fax: +41 22 999 0002
mail@iucn.org
www.iucn.org

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Interim Review of progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Agenda item 9)	4
Strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan: Mainstreaming (Agenda item 10)	5
Cross-sectoral mainstreaming.....	5
Sector-specific mainstreaming	6
Engagement of key actors to enhance mainstreaming	9
Other strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan (Agenda item 10).....	11
Biodiversity and Climate Change	11
Progress towards the achievement of Aichi Targets 11 and 12.....	11
Ecosystem restoration	12
Nature Based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).....	13
Biodiversity and human health	14
Implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	14
Resource Mobilization and Financial Mechanism (Agenda item 11)	15
Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations (Agenda item 13)	16
Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (Agenda item 14)	17
Marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 15)	18
EBSAs	18
Cold water areas	18
Marine debris.....	18
Marine spatial planning.....	19
Invasive Alien Species (Agenda item 16)	20
Other scientific and technical issues: implications of the IPBES assessment on pollinators (Agenda item 17)	21
Guidelines for the sixth national reports, modalities for future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and indicators (Agenda item 19).....	22
Sixth National Reports and GBO5.....	22
Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets	22
Scientific assessment of progress towards Aichi Targets	22
Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing (ABS) MOP2.....	23
Review of progress towards Target 16 (Agenda item 9 of COP13, agenda item 5.1 MOP2).....	23
Capacity-building and capacity-development (Agenda item 10 MOP2).....	23

Introduction

With less than four years left for the timeline of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to be completed, IUCN stresses the critical need to scale up efforts if the Aichi Targets are to be achieved by 2020, and reminds Parties that the implementation of the Aichi Targets is essential for the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We thus welcome the emphasis of COP13 on mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, and its implications on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of other relevant international processes.

Enhanced synergies with other international processes such as the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as well as synergies among biodiversity-related conventions to support the realization of the Strategic Plan are crucial.

It is encouraging to see revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Fifth National Reports to date. In spite of these, Aichi Target 17 – which called for the development and implementation of revised NBSAPs by 2015 and their adoption as a policy instrument – has not yet been attained. Furthermore, as expressed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention during the meetings of the subsidiary bodies earlier this year, our ambition is insufficient, and if the trend continues for the remaining NBSAPs to be submitted, the totality of global targets agreed upon in 2010 will not be met.

IUCN works on the basis that nature conservation and human development are not mutually exclusive. IUCN has been aligning conservation efforts all over the world around three solid lines of work: valuing and conserving nature, advancing effective and equitable governance of the use of nature, and deploying nature-based solutions to climate, food, health and development challenges.

Against the backdrop of the massive conservation and sustainability challenge that the world is facing, the recently adopted [IUCN Programme 2017–2020](#) underlines the urgency of action to change the current unsustainable development path. This new Programme is fully synchronized with and

contributes to the achievement of the Strategic Plan, the Aichi Targets and the SDGs.

The theme of the 2016 [IUCN's World Conservation Congress - Planet at the Crossroads](#) reflects the serious choices that the world needs to make to reverse environmental declines and secure a healthy and liveable planet. To help us transform and foster a “culture of conservation”, IUCN brings forward to Cancun an uplifting message contained in [the Hawai'i commitments](#).

Three critical issues for conservation are highlighted in the Commitments for the coming decades: 1) the nexus between biological and cultural diversity; 2) the significance of the world's oceans for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods; and 3) the threats to biodiversity from habitat loss, climate change, invasive alien species, unsustainable exploitation, and pollution.

Our commitments can be summarized under six broad themes:

- *Linking Spirituality, Religion, Culture and Conservation*
- *Engaging and empowering youth*
- *Addressing the challenge of preserving the health of the World Ocean*
- *Addressing the challenge of ending Wildlife Trafficking*
- *Addressing the challenge of engaging with the Private Sector*
- *Addressing the challenge of Climate Change*

Alongside the Hawai'i Commitments and the IUCN Programme, IUCN's Members at the World Conservation Congress adopted 112 Resolutions and Recommendations¹ related to IUCN's governance and to the most pressing conservation challenges. Some of these Resolutions and Recommendations are referenced in this paper as they directly contribute to this agenda. Our Union stands ready to support Parties, partners and the Executive Secretary to drive this positive impulse forward.

¹ [IUCN Resolutions & Recommendations database](#)

Interim Review of progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Agenda item 9)

IUCN strongly welcomes progress with the preparation of new and revised NBSAPs, and Parties' efforts to align national targets and other commitments therein to the relevant Aichi Targets, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Executive Secretary.

IUCN is however very concerned that, as stated in COP/13/8/Add.2, the majority of national targets fall short of the ambition expressed in the Aichi Targets and will therefore impede the achievement of the Strategic Plan.

IUCN recommends that the draft decision contained in SBI/REC/1/1 should include an additional paragraph:

- ✓ ***6 bis. Calls on Parties to scale up their efforts and increase the level of ambition of national targets in NBSAPS, ensuring they are aligned with and contributing to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;***

IUCN is equally concerned about the limited progress in implementing some of the Aichi Targets (e.g. 14 and 18) and stresses the fundamental role of indigenous peoples and local communities, and particularly women, in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. IUCN highlights that this issue is not addressed in recommendations to Parties in the draft decision for this item and strongly

urges Parties to implement specific measures in this regard.

To support Parties in implementation and reporting progress towards the Targets, IUCN highlights its collaborative efforts with UNEP-WCMC and BirdLife International to develop decision-support tools. For example, IBAT Country Profiles provide nationally disaggregated information from integrated global datasets on species extinction risk, protected areas and key biodiversity areas, to assist Parties to better understand and report on the status of biodiversity within State boundaries, and complement national data resources. IUCN and its partners welcome Parties' feedback on this new and evolving resource.

IUCN draws Parties' attention to the outstanding outcomes of the six Regional Capacity Building Workshops convened by the Executive Secretary, in which IUCN participated and facilitated the preparation of priority actions and road maps for accelerating implementation of Aichi Targets 11 and 12. These roadmaps provide an indication of how targeted actions can be addressed, how regional coordination and cooperation can be enhanced and how networking and regional support for capacity development can be applied. This approach would be very beneficial for other Aichi Targets.

Strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan: Mainstreaming (Agenda item 10)

IUCN believes that efforts to mainstream biodiversity into different sectors must now meet the challenges of translating the long standing theory into practice in a wider and sustained manner.

IUCN agrees with the scope and intention of the recommendations to the COP on mainstreaming biodiversity and fully supports the need to recognize opportunities arising from an integrated and mutually supportive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the 10-year strategic plan and framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2008-2018), the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-2019 of FAO, as well as the Paris Agreement, for the achievement of internationally agreed goals and targets.

Only a few NBSAPs demonstrate that biodiversity is being mainstreamed significantly into cross sectoral plans and policies, poverty eradication policies, or even into sustainable development plans.

IUCN calls on COP 13 to:

- ✓ ***Urge Parties to promote linkages between national efforts towards the 2030 Agenda, and towards the Nagoya Protocol, with efforts to mainstream biodiversity through the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. This will serve to implement the work of the Convention and its Protocols cohesively and synergistically with the implementation of the SDGs.***

In addition,

- ✓ ***IUCN recommends the use of clearer language in the recommendations about the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, the role of women, and the need to support local food systems when mainstreaming biodiversity in various sectors.***

Furthermore few NBSAPs contain resource mobilization strategies, communication and public awareness strategies, or capacity development strategies. Revised NBSAPs also rarely make use of valuation studies to

encourage mainstreaming in countries (see also below on business engagement).

- ✓ ***IUCN encourages Parties to make use of and incorporate valuation studies into NBSAPs to boost mainstreaming at national and sub-national level;***
- ✓ ***IUCN encourages the incorporation of resource mobilization strategies, communication and public awareness strategies, and capacity development strategies in NBSAPs.***

IUCN welcomes the acknowledgement of the importance of securing tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests for all, as required by SDG1, and the recommendation to Parties under paragraph 4 to use the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The application of the Voluntary Guidelines through a mainstreaming approach needs to be complemented by its application specifically to conservation measures.

IUCN and BirdLife International with financial support from the French Government have produced [a series of factsheets](#) showcasing simple and practical ways to overcome challenges to biodiversity integration, with positive impacts on biodiversity and human well-being. Parties are encouraged to contribute with their own case studies.

Cross-sectoral mainstreaming

IUCN concurs with the need to further develop coherent policy frameworks, engaging all relevant stakeholders, improving awareness and coordination across sectors, providing additional guidance and technical support on spatial planning and management for integrated landscape and seascapes approaches, understanding and applying economic and social incentives for biodiversity conservation, among others, as highlighted during discussions at SBSTTA20 and SBI11.

Noting the priority expressed by Parties for integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, IUCN highlights the initial steps it has taken (with support from the German Federal Government's International Climate Initiative)

to review the application of laws and policies for the integration of biodiversity and climate change into land-use planning. A global study is complete and country studies in Colombia, Vietnam, Tanzania and Zambia are in progress.

Certification

Voluntary certification standards are increasingly being promoted as effective alternatives to regulation and tools for promoting business accountability. However, IUCN's latest study on this matter, [Policy Matters: Certification and biodiversity - How voluntary certification standards impact biodiversity and human livelihoods](#), concluded that more comprehensive assessments are required for voluntary certification standards to have a real impact on biodiversity conservation and livelihoods.

Furthermore, controversies associated with current voluntary certification schemes still need to be addressed. These include the negative effects of compromise between conservation and economic demands of certification and antagonism towards voluntary certification, resulting in suboptimal outcomes.

Overall, IUCN believes that voluntary certification can be an effective tool to complement regulatory frameworks and can help hold businesses accountable in meeting sustainability standards. However, we need to have a better understanding of the conditions that make these voluntary systems effective. Unfortunately, not all certification systems are designed to have a positive impact.

IUCN thus agrees with bracketed paragraph 13(d) of the proposed decision under this agenda item and offers its expertise to support its application.

Natural Capital

IUCN highlights the importance of building a portfolio of different methodologies and approaches for the measurement and valuation of natural capital impacts and dependencies, and to take into account rights and institutional and legal frameworks.

Natural capital approaches developed for business, such as the Natural Capital Protocol, should align with national level natural capital initiatives including the United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (EEA), which allow countries to track natural assets,

the services provided and the relationship to national economies.

Furthermore, IUCN's 2016 Resolution 58 - "Natural Capital" calls on IUCN to develop a discussion paper and draft IUCN policy on natural capital for adoption by the Union before the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress. IUCN welcomes the input and contribution of Parties in the development of this work.

People and nature

IUCN recognizes that societal disconnection from nature is an important driver of biodiversity loss, and that efforts to raise awareness of biodiversity and its values and to enable people to experience nature and its benefits will help to reverse this trend and inspire new audiences to support the achievement of the objectives of the Convention. In this regard, IUCN stresses the need to accelerate implementation of Aichi Target 1, including through efforts such as #NatureforAll recently adopted as part of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020. IUCN supports the language in the proposed decision, paragraph 14(a).

IUCN recommends that a paragraph be added to the preamble along the following lines:

- ✓ ***Recognizing that global reductions in health and wellbeing, including the rapidly accelerating increases in non-communicable diseases (heart disease, diabetes, depression and some cancers) is directly linked to increased urbanization, reduced time outdoors and global biodiversity loss;***

In addition, ***IUCN recommends COP13 to:***

- ✓ ***Call on Parties, other governments and stakeholders to continue to build the evidence base for quantifying the benefits of nature for human health and well-being and build cross-sector partnerships to measure the effectiveness of nature-based health programmes.***

Sector-specific mainstreaming

IUCN strongly supports the mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors and welcomes the inclusion of other sectors beyond those under consideration at COP13.

Agriculture

Recent scientific literature shows that unsustainable agricultural practices are the second largest driver of species extinction². IUCN notes that agriculture depends on biodiversity, as well as on the ecosystem functions and services that it underpins, but also that sustainable agriculture can be a source of enhanced biodiversity. Thus, IUCN is developing its own Strategic Vision on agriculture, by first assessing relevant activities across IUCN and its Commissions. This assessment will help guide our future interventions on this issue and the support that we can provide to implementation of this Convention.

IUCN highlights the relevance of sustainable food systems and agriculture to the SDGs (Goals 2 and 15), and to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

IUCN calls on COP 13 to:

- ✓ ***Encourage Parties to develop national legal frameworks for land use and to implement policies that promote the diversification of agricultural practices, the sustainable use of land, the phasing out of harmful subsidies, and the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities in the governance of land uses; and***
- ✓ ***Enhance these policies, both from the economic perspective (i.e. valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting) and the scientific perspective (i.e. species and habitats loss, crop wild relatives) through increased development of knowledge and tools.***

IUCN notes with appreciation the encouragement to Parties to support models such as small-scale family farming and pastoralism in view of their importance for food security and nutrition, poverty reduction, social equity and conservation, and encourages keeping this language in sections relating to, and including incentives.

Finally, IUCN recommends strengthening the references to the role of women in biodiversity mainstreaming, for example in relation to the measures regarding the multiple values of biodiversity, and the recognition of the value of

² Maxwell, S. L. *et al.* (2016) Biodiversity: the ravages of guns, nets and bulldozers. *Nature*, Vol. 536, 143 – 145.

traditional knowledge and practices and agrobiodiversity and nutrition as stated in paragraph 22 of the draft decision.

Forests

IUCN fully supports the focus on forests as one of the sectors which are key to mainstreaming biodiversity in order to enhance national, subnational and local implementation of the Strategic Plan.

IUCN congratulates countries that have set national targets that meet or exceed the scope and/or threshold set for Aichi Targets 5 and 15. Exponentially more countries should address these Targets in their action plans, emphasising the inclusion of qualitative and quantitative goals against which it is possible to measure progress.

In support of SBSTTA recommendation XX/15 and SBI recommendation 1/4, IUCN stresses the urgency of integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values in decision-making processes at all levels including in relation to patterns of consumption that affect forest biodiversity and forest-dependent communities. Strategies are needed to improve sectoral and cross-sectoral coordination based on an integrated view of the landscape, for example aiming to achieve development objectives through restoration of degraded landscapes while at the same time securing the provision of ecosystem services and the conservation of forest biodiversity.

Stressing the need for synergetic action across different global frameworks, IUCN welcomes the inclusion in the draft decision on this agenda item (paragraph 38) which recognizes SDG 15 and its target 2, “*which refers to sustainable management of all types of forests, halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation;*”.

IUCN supports the idea that contributions from the REDD+ mechanism can be consistent with increasing attention and action on biodiversity conservation as stated by SBSTTA recommendation XX/10. This is fully supported by the Cancun Agreements adopted in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with Decision 1/CP.16.

As a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and as an observer of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), IUCN fully supports an approach whereby

forest biodiversity is embedded in the proposals for action as part of the UNFF's new 2017 – 2030 Strategic Plan.

Fisheries and aquaculture

IUCN agrees that healthy marine, coastal and inland waters ecosystems and biodiversity play an essential role in ensuring sustainability and improved resilience in the provision of food and livelihoods. The sustainable management of fisheries is indispensable if the targets 2, 4 and 6 under SDG 14 are to be met. However, it is of great concern that currently, a number of fisheries are not sustainably managed and aquaculture operations and practices are having significant negative impacts on biodiversity and habitats.

IUCN notes with alarm the increasing threats to, and ensuing decline of marine biodiversity, the continued degradation of marine ecosystems and is gravely concerned by the risks 'unselective, unsustainable and unmonitored' (UUU) fisheries³ pose to marine populations. To conserve natural resources and avoid adverse impacts on threatened species and ecosystems and consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the CBD, IUCN stresses the need to take precautionary action to protect the environment, vulnerable marine ecosystems and ecosystem functioning.

IUCN calls on COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Urge Parties to integrate marine biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into national and regional regulation of fishing activities.***

IUCN commends the results coming out of the Joint Experts Meeting on reporting progress towards Aichi Target 6 organized by CBD, FAO and IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management Fisheries Expert Group (CEM/FEG) held in Rome February 2016. Important progress has been made in furthering collaboration between the CBD and FAO and the Regional Fisheries Organizations towards implementation of Target 6. In this regard, IUCN supports the reference to this on-going collaboration in paragraph 65 of the draft COP decision on agenda item 10.

While acknowledging their value for food security and livelihoods, IUCN notes with

³ IUCN 2016 Resolution 21 "Monitoring and management of unselective, unsustainable and unmonitored (UUU) fisheries"

concern that the section on fisheries and aquaculture, does not sufficiently recognise the critical role of community-based fisheries management.

IUCN recommends COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Call on Parties to take note and apply the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in furthering the objectives of biodiversity-friendly fisheries development.***

In particular, the Voluntary Guidelines recognize that small-scale and artisanal fisheries undertaken by men and women play an important role in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization.

Finally, IUCN welcomes the call to Parties to provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and recommends that Parties ensure "secure" access, which means "accompanied by measures that strengthen local governance and control of marine resources"; and to link any market access provisions to an approach of securing local livelihoods, adding value to local resources.

Tourism

IUCN encourages Parties to highlight the specific role of ecotourism in the conservation of biodiversity. During the 2016 World Conservation Congress, IUCN Members stressed the need to conduct transparent impact assessments and periodical monitoring of ecotourism, to broadly share data about ecotourism best practices, to work with existing national, regional and international certification schemes to encourage the adoption of appropriate standards, and to promote and seek auditing and certification for ecotourism in landscapes and seascapes.

IUCN invites the Executive Secretary and Parties to support its efforts to work with existing national, regional and international ecotourism certification schemes, standards, and guidelines in order to improve conservation outcomes.

IUCN is pleased to continue to work with Parties and others in implementing the guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development adopted by COP7 in line with

paragraph 68 of the draft decision for this COP.

Engagement of key actors to enhance mainstreaming

Business engagement

IUCN welcomes and commends the Executive Secretary for efforts to engage the business sector in mainstreaming biodiversity in their operations, and we support the invitation to Parties and other Governments to encourage business to take action. IUCN considers businesses should prioritize avoidance and minimization of impacts on biodiversity, restoration and, only in presence of unavoidable residual impacts, consider biodiversity offsets. IUCN's Biodiversity Offsets Policy⁴, adopted by IUCN Members during the 2016 World Conservation Congress, provides a sound reference on how offsets should be implemented.

IUCN calls on business to contribute actively to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to meeting the Aichi Targets, and to integrate biodiversity into their strategies and activities by aiming at achieving transformation of their economic models⁵.

It is important that business strengthens measurement, valuation and reporting of impacts on biodiversity, and provides information on issues that are important for the understanding of the impacts of the business on biodiversity⁶.

In addition, IUCN calls on governments to prohibit environmentally damaging industrial activities and infrastructure development in all IUCN protected area categories, and to take measures to ensure that all activities are compatible with the conservation objectives of these areas. Further, IUCN calls on the business community to respect all categories of protected areas as "no-go" areas for environmentally damaging industrial activities and infrastructure development, to withdraw from those activities in these areas, and not to conduct future activities in protected areas.⁷

⁴ IUCN 2016 Resolution 59 "IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets"

⁵ IUCN 2016 Recommendation 110 "Strengthening business engagement in biodiversity preservation"

⁶ IUCN 2016 Resolution 66 "Strengthening corporate biodiversity measurement, valuation and reporting"

⁷ IUCN Recommendation 102 "Protected areas and other areas and other areas important for biodiversity in relation to environmentally damaging industrial activities and infrastructure development"

Ultimately, IUCN calls on COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Invite Parties and all stakeholders to work with IUCN in defining a common framework and set of principles on how to measure, value and report on biodiversity in order to improve, standardise and promote corporate biodiversity reporting.***

This language could be included in the decision for this COP as an additional paragraph 74bis.

Subnational and local governments

Understanding how cities and urbanized areas depend on their surrounding ecosystems (such as watersheds, aquifers, forests and protected areas) is essential for sustainable future urban development. Nature within and around cities provides spaces for recreation, adventure, social interaction, inspiration and learning. Access to nature is therefore fundamental to human health and wellbeing.

Subnational and local governments play a vital role in both conserving ecosystems and promoting sustainable development, and a crucial role in implementing the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan. Cities and regions around the world have taken the lead in demonstrating their commitment by investing in, and restoring ecosystems. Despite these positive examples, the value of nature is still not fully recognized in planning and decision making and all too often, socio-economic and environmental issues are treated separately.

In Decision XII/9, Parties were called upon to incorporate biodiversity considerations into their urban, peri-urban and land use planning and infrastructure; to strengthen capacities of subnational and local governments to incorporate biodiversity into urban and other spatial planning processes; and to encourage subnational and local governments to contribute to the attainment of the Strategic Plan. These calls must be maintained and continue to be relevant today.

The development of evidence to promote the benefits for society of nature-based solutions and the up-scaling of their use is at the heart of IUCN's global actions and subnational and local governments are crucial partners in achieving this. However, increased capacity building, knowledge sharing, exchange of best practices and financial support are required for assessing and integrating the value of

biodiversity and ecosystems in urban and regional planning and up-scaling the use of nature-based solutions. IUCN calls on Parties to work towards this goal and offers its support to implement relevant decisions⁸.

Gender mainstreaming

IUCN encourages Parties to continue to recognize gender considerations and build capacity toward gender-responsive implementation, including towards implementation of the CBD Gender Plan of Action 2015-2020, and in alignment with SDG 5, Aichi Target 14 and complementary gender mandates across sister Rio Conventions.

More than half (56%) of NBSAPs integrate gender considerations to some extent, according to the forthcoming dataset (December 2016) from IUCN's Environment and Gender Information (EGI) platform, but only 4% characterize women as agents of change, including recognizing women's powerful role as managers of natural resources implying that enhanced capacity building to understand the transformative potential of gender equality is required to fully implement the Strategic Plan and the CBD Gender Plan of Action 2015-2020.

Moreover, IUCN expresses concern over the lack of attention to, capacity for addressing, or strategies to meet Aichi Target 14, one of the targets that is emphasized as having the fewest national targets identified to meet these commitments according to the analysis in COP/13/8/Add.2. Only 3% of national reports suggest that this Target is on track to be met by 2020, whereas Parties to the CBD have recognized for decades the need to take into account "the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable." IUCN offers its technical support to Parties and stakeholders to build capacity to address Target 14, based on its practical experience coming from pilot projects to revise NBSAPs from a gender perspective in Uganda, Mexico and Brazil.

IUCN supports the various SBSTTA recommendations that recognize the gender-biodiversity links and position women as agents for change, including but not limited to: SBSTTA recommendations XX/10; XX/12; and XIX/6 on human health.

IUCN welcomes paragraph 83 of the draft decision for Agenda item 10, in particular the

request to the Executive Secretary to continue the work with respect to gender mainstreaming to support the implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action including by support to Parties in integrating gender considerations into their revised NBSAPs, as well as in integrating biodiversity in national gender policies and actions plans. IUCN does, however, suggest that commitments to implementation of the elements of the Gender Plan of Action should be enhanced, including to meet Aichi Targets, effective NBSAP revision and implementation, and SDG 5, among others.

IUCN has played a technical support and facilitative role to support the Rio Conventions, as well as the GEF, harmonize across gender issues. IUCN continues to liaise closely with the Executive Secretary and Parties and offers its support to enhanced harmonization.

IUCN informs Parties that it is supporting the development of a capacity building initiative "*Gender mainstreaming in UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC and BSR Conventions*" under the GEF cross-cutting Capacity Development Fund. The overarching goal of the joint capacity development project is to enhance the capacity of national governments to implement policies, initiatives and legislative frameworks that effect transformational change in their country with regard to gender equality, women's empowerment and environmental sustainability in line with their obligations under these multilateral environmental agreements.

⁸ IUCN 2016 Resolution 29 "Incorporating urban dimensions of conservation into the work of IUCN"

Other strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan (Agenda item 10)

Biodiversity and Climate Change

The role of ecosystems in combating climate change was clearly recognised in the 2015 Paris Agreement, which calls for the conservation and enhancement of ecosystems of all types, and notes the importance of ensuring ecosystem integrity and biodiversity protection when taking action on climate change.

IUCN reiterates the important role that healthy ecosystems play in providing effective and inclusive nature-based solutions to climate change through the implementation of practical ecosystem-based mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures.

IUCN stresses the need to accompany these ecosystem-based measures with sound science-based assessments of the risks posed by climate change to vulnerable ecosystems and species, and to address these, in order to provide effective solutions to this global challenge. Recent research by IUCN reveals that remarkably few direct actions to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity are currently being implemented and monitored⁹. Parties are invited to consider IUCN's recent publications - [IUCN SSC Guidelines for Assessing Species' Vulnerability to Climate Change](#), [IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines on Adapting to Climate Change: Guidance for Protected Area Managers](#) and ['Explaining ocean warming: Causes, scale, effects and consequences'](#).

IUCN supports SBSTTA recommendation XX/10 (as contained in CBD/COP/13/2).

Furthermore, IUCN welcomes the entry into force of the Paris Agreement and encourages all Parties that have not yet done so, to ratify the Agreement at the earliest possible¹⁰.

Progress towards the achievement of Aichi Targets 11 and 12

Target 11

⁹ Carr, J. & Foden, W. (2016) IUCN SSC Climate Change Specialist Group, unpublished data

¹⁰ IUCN 2016 Resolution 56 "IUCN response to the Paris Climate Change Agreement"

IUCN and partners have recognised the requests made by Parties to facilitate support networks for capacity development at the regional and subregional level to support the implementation of national actions, including through the establishment of **Regional Reference Information Systems** and **Regional Observatories in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Regions** under the [BIOPAMA](#) programme supported by the European Commission.

IUCN draws Parties' attention to the [Protected Planet Report 2016](#) published in conjunction with UNEP WCMC, and the significant improvement of the data holdings as a result of enhanced reporting by Parties, which is gratefully acknowledged.

IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) have continued to undertake technical consultations and have prepared [draft Guidance for Recognition and Reporting of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures \(OECMs\) under Aichi Target 11](#). The consultation draft will be made available to Parties through the Executive Secretary.

IUCN supports the emphasis placed by Parties on the importance of ecosystem services generated in protected areas and OECMs, and the need to establish greater connectivity in protected area systems.

IUCN would like to draw Parties' attention to the new [IUCN Green List Standard](#), which is being developed as a means to measure progress towards Aichi Target 11 in all its dimensions. In support of the development of the Green List Standard and to elucidate the concept of "equitable and effective" in Target 11, IUCN is conducting governance assessments at national level and a suite of social assessments at site level. IUCN in collaboration with IIED has published [policy briefs](#) on this topic.

IUCN proposes the addition of the following phrase to the draft decision:

- ✓ ***Welcomes progress being made by IUCN to develop a global standard for measuring the performance of protected areas in relation to Aichi Target 11 and further invites IUCN and other organizations to provide further***

guidance on this topic to Parties, including at the next SBSTTA.

IUCN highlights the recently adopted [Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas](#), and the formal establishment of the **Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership**, which will serve as key resources for Parties and conservation bodies to identify areas that are important for biodiversity, in order to ensure that those protected areas are well positioned for maximum conservation benefit.

IUCN calls on COP 13 to:

- ✓ **Encourage all Parties, partners and other relevant stakeholder to make use of the Global Standard in the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and to engage with the KBA Partnership to assist with the process.**

The KBA Partnership has developed an information document about the partnership and KBAs for consideration at this meeting.

Target 12

IUCN and its partners continue to support species conservation efforts globally, through the maintenance of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, coordination of The Friends of Target 12 Group, and direct conservation action. IUCN highlights recent species conservation success stories for the Giant Panda and the Tibetan Antelope among others. Yet, as we noted at SBSTTA19 and 20, despite some individual successes, the average risk of extinction for birds, mammals, amphibians and corals is increasing, and there is a need to massively increase the number of plant assessments at the global level. The Red List Index (an accepted indicator for this Target) continues to decline, with no sign overall of reduced risk of extinction across groups of species. This trend is surprising, considering that a quarter of Parties make specific commitments to Aichi Target 12 in their NBSAPs (COP/13/8/Add.2).

IUCN reiterates its appreciation of the efforts of the Executive Secretary, to organize regional capacity building workshops, which showcased the contribution of protected areas to progressing Target 12. Further, the documents provided by the Executive Secretary (SBSTTA/20/INF/44, SBI/1/INF/42) provide a good summary of national species conservation actions established by countries

and indicate some of the barriers to implementation of this key Target. This useful assessment of the national actions towards Target 12 helps IUCN to prioritise its own global actions towards this Target.

IUCN has prepared for the consideration of this meeting an information document about progress towards Target 12. The information provided include guidance on red listing assessments, advice on how to prioritise species for conservation, as well as how to implement conservation activities. It also draws attention to the need to complete Strategic Plans for species in need of recovery. This information distils guidance from the [Strategic Planning for Species Conservation](#) Handbook which was revised this year.

IUCN welcomes feedback from Parties on these resources and on how to continue to support implementation of Target 12 which is critical for implementation of many of the Aichi Targets.

IUCN calls on COP13 to:

- ✓ **Encourage Parties to adopt the relevant recommendations to enhance the implementation of Target 12;**
- ✓ **Undertake concerted efforts to address the considerable gaps in the conservation assessment of most taxonomic groups (particularly for plants and invertebrates), and the general lack of information on species conservation plans.**
- ✓ **Actively address the gaps identified through SCBD-led regional capacity-building workshops on achieving Aichi Targets 11 and 12;**
- ✓ **Support the development of an enhanced collaborative framework by the Executive Secretary through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, in order to guide the work of the CBD and to assist with implementation of Target 12, and for actions to be submitted to SBSTTA prior to COP14.**

Ecosystem restoration

IUCN welcomes SBSTTA recommendation XX/12 to adopt the 'Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration'. Urgent action is needed to restore productivity and ecosystems in the planet's vast areas of

degraded land, including mangroves. The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) has estimated that there are more than two billion hectares where opportunities for the restoration of deforested and degraded landscapes may be found – an area the size of South America.

With regards to forest ecosystems, IUCN works with Parties and other partners to design forest landscape restoration (FLR) interventions aimed at regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being. It does so through the application of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology, which has included the four main groups of activities identified as part of the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration.

IUCN considers that ecosystem restoration at a landscape scale is a comprehensive way to achieve not only domestic goals and on-the-ground benefits but also international commitments as mentioned in paragraph 2 of the Short-Term Action Plan on Restoration.

Moreover, IUCN welcomes the SBSTTA recommendation XIX/8 and the invitation to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to further enhance its contributions as a group and individually to the Aichi Targets, including the provision of support to countries for the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets.

IUCN calls on COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Encourage Parties to continue their efforts and increase ambition in designing and implementing biodiversity action plans that include tangible targets for Aichi Target 5 and 15; and***
- ✓ ***Call on Parties to find synergies in other concurrent and cross-sectorial efforts to restore and protect forest ecosystems, bearing in mind that a comprehensive approach will be key to achieving the Aichi Targets.***

IUCN offers support to Parties to find strategic ways to implement the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration through the application of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology for forest ecosystems.

Nature Based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Recalling Decision XII/20, IUCN stresses that biodiversity and ecosystem services contribute significantly to disaster risk reduction by acting as physical barriers during a hazard event and also through reducing underlying or pre-existing vulnerabilities such as poverty and environmental degradation (which amplify physical/ direct effects of a hazard).

Nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction (DRR) simultaneously contribute to conservation efforts, risk reduction, sustainable development, gender equity, climate change adaptation and food security. It is not a narrow return to one sector or one interest group.

Nature based solutions for DRR are based on the following facts:

- Healthy ecosystems enhance resilience to disasters
- Nature based solutions are cost effective
- Nature based solutions provide multiple benefits, regardless of a disaster occurrence

IUCN thus calls on COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Urge Parties, other governments and stakeholders to recognise the critical role played by healthy ecosystems in reducing risks resulting from disasters.***

Furthermore, ***IUCN recommends that COP13:***

- ✓ ***Calls on Parties and other governments to invest in the protection, sustainable use and restoration of ecosystems, as a key risk reduction strategy.***

Finally, ***IUCN calls on COP13 to:***

- ✓ ***Urge Parties to harmonize efforts amongst key national plans, namely the NBSAPs, National Disaster Management Plan and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to implement biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management for risk reduction.***

Biodiversity and human health

IUCN recognizes the interdependency between people and nature and environmental health and human health and wellbeing. This is highlighted in the IUCN Programme 2017-2020. This clearly links to the IUCN's alignment with the imperative of delivery on the SDGs, in this case, SDG Goal 3. Additionally, the actions outlined in IUCN's recently adopted Resolution 64 "*Strengthening cross-sector partnerships to recognize the contributions of nature to health, well-being and quality of life*", will contribute to the collective progress of Aichi Targets 11, 12 and 14 and the objectives of the Convention.

[The Hawai'i Commitments](#) clearly highlight the profound impact on human life and wellbeing from species loss, ecosystem decline and climate change and that human health and wellbeing depend on healthy ecosystems. In addition, the importance of healthy nature for people's health and wellbeing, and more specifically the opportunities that parks, protected areas and other areas of importance for biodiversity can play as nature-based solutions to the rapidly accelerating global health problem of non-communicable diseases, is increasingly recognized.

IUCN reminds Parties that The Promise of Sydney adopted at the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 states that recognizing the connections between nature and health and human wellbeing will "unlock the values of protected areas for health and wellbeing, while conserving biological diversity".

IUCN admits however, that further evidence is required to better understand the impacts of alien invasive species on human health. In particular, research should be conducted in countries with emerging economies, where there is limited capacity.

IUCN is fully committed to further exploring the inter-linkages between biodiversity and human health in collaboration with the Secretariat, the World Health Organization and other partners.

Implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

IUCN notes the close alignment between the Aichi Targets and the targets under SDG 14, 15 and other goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (e.g., goal 6 on water). We also recognize that the timeline for the attainment date for relevant SDG targets (2020) was strongly influenced by the need to encourage timely achievement of the related Aichi Targets.

IUCN recognizes that integrating new post-2020 biodiversity targets into the 2030 Agenda would greatly enhance their visibility and make clear the tight links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, including enhanced social and economic wellbeing. IUCN offers to play an active role in this process - in whatever manner deemed appropriate - utilising its broad network of scientists, technical experts, policy makers and practitioners.

IUCN calls on COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Urge Parties to provide all relevant national information to the Secretariat so as to inform, with the best available evidence-based science, the discussions and further adoption of any post-2020 biodiversity goals and targets and their possible incorporation into the SDGs as may be appropriate through the mechanisms for monitoring and review of the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.***

Resource Mobilization and Financial Mechanism (Agenda item 11)

Safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms

Decision XII/3 on Resource Mobilization, includes voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms, and urges Parties and other stakeholders to take them into account when selecting, designing and implementing biodiversity financing mechanisms. Following the safeguard policies of the GEF Minimum Requirements, IUCN established an Environmental and Social Management System that contains rights-based safeguards on topics such as indigenous peoples, community livelihoods, cultural heritage and gender, as well as environmental safeguards. Another seventeen GEF agencies have developed similar systems. IUCN recommends that such existing systems be disseminated, together with case studies and lessons from implementation, and that the wider donor community is invited to consider such safeguards as a basis for their integration into their own funding policies.

Collective action of indigenous peoples and local communities

IUCN recommends the inclusion of the following additional paragraph in Annex I,

Appendix “Indicative, non-exhaustive list of methodologies for assessing the contribution of collective action”:

“The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is developing the ‘People in Nature’ (PiN) initiative aimed to improve our understanding of how nature contributes to livelihoods and well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities. It focuses on material use of nature by people while recognizing that use is embedded within worldviews that include deep-seated cultural norms, values, and understandings. It also considers symbolic interrelationships with nature expressed through cultural narratives, language, and traditions, including diverse understandings of sacred and spiritual aspects of nature and our relationship with natural resources. PiN is currently developing methodological guidance and tools that will help assess the contributions of nature to livelihoods and wellbeing, as well as the ways in which indigenous peoples and local communities contribute, through their management/stewardship of nature and cultural practices, to the conservation of biodiversity”.

Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations (Agenda item 13)

The importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, avoiding conflicting efforts, increasing efficiency and coherence, and strengthening outcomes has been acknowledged in the decisions of the governing bodies of these agreements over the years. Calls for more synergistic work have also been echoed in the framework of the Rio Conventions. Nonetheless, there is still ample room to further strengthen efforts, and in particular to implement concrete steps to materialize these decisions and learn from relevant experiences. IUCN has been actively supporting this agenda, including through work on harmonising the management of Multi-Internationally Designated Areas: Ramsar Sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks¹¹.

IUCN welcomes the discussion at COP13 of both, the options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, as well as at the international level as presented in COP/13/15. IUCN considers that given the that the different MEA have clearly interrelated policy processes means it is essential to prioritise opportunities to collaborate on implementation, build on commonalities, and join forces to meet funding challenges. It simply makes no sense to do otherwise. IUCN thus stresses that the framework provided by the SDGs constitutes an enormous opportunity to find clear and concrete ways to advance on the synergies agenda.

With respect to the Annexes in COP/13/15, IUCN views positively the different options presented; they are simple yet cover all relevant aspects (from institutional structures to communications, awareness and knowledge sharing...) and propose ways of benefitting from existing coordination mechanisms and tools.

IUCN welcomes the roadmap proposed for implementation of the options stage by stage. However, IUCN recommends that actions under each of the three phases proposed be linked to the calendar of meetings of the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio Conventions for the period-2017-2020, with concrete joint activities to be put in place clearly identified. This could help Parties, stakeholders and organizations, to more easily visualize the process and activities and engage as appropriate.

Specifically regarding improving synergies at the international level, IUCN welcomes the proposal to extend and improve the Biodiversity Liaison Group, including through the establishment of "issue-based working groups". In addition, IUCN fully supports the option of establishing a wider inter-agency consultative group or network of relevant international organizations to act as a coordination mechanism, mirroring the example of the Environment Management Group of the United Nations, provided that this has a clear goal to put in place a programme of activities that can be monitored as implemented.

- ✓ ***IUCN offers its full support to take forward these actions to enhance coordination, and is willing to align its current efforts in support of MEA synergies to contribute to an effective work plan;***
- ✓ ***IUCN welcomes the proposal to form part in the proposed inter-agency consultative group, as appropriate.***

Finally, IUCN firmly supports the adoption of a strong decision on this issue at this COP building on Recommendation 1/8 of the SBI and the Annex with options developed by the Executive Secretary.

¹¹ IUCN 2016 Resolution 37 "Harmonising the integrated management of overlapping Ramsar sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks"

Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (Agenda item 14)

IUCN welcomes work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions for the development of Voluntary Guidelines to ensure the free, prior informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use and application of such knowledge, innovations and practices, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge.

IUCN strongly recommends COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Urge Parties to retain the word “free” in the text of the Draft Voluntary Guidelines, as it reflects a growing international consensus in the development and environment fields.***

IUCN notes that the current draft of the guidelines contains no reference to the importance of ensuring that the voice of women from indigenous peoples and local communities is expressed in processes requiring consent, and that the brief reference to gender in the section on benefit-sharing principles is not followed-up on in the section on guidelines, and therefore encourages Parties to include specific provisions on this matter.

IUCN informs Parties and the Executive Secretary that it has produced several tools to support communities in the exercise of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and that other conservation organizations members of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights have also produced a variety of tools and methodological guidance that can support implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines, and recommends the Executive Secretary to compile and disseminate these and other relevant tools.

In-depth dialogue on thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues

IUCN recommends that the topic for the in-depth dialogue to be held at the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions includes “practices” and highlights the role of women, to read as follows (additions underlined):

- ✓ ***“Contribution of the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with particular emphasis on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the role of women.”***

Marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 15)

IUCN strongly supports the draft recommendations SBSTTA XX/3, XX/4, XX/5 and XX/6 regarding marine and coastal biodiversity. This suite of recommendations provides vitally important mechanisms to support implementation of Aichi Targets 6, 11 and 12 and SDG 14 and for mainstreaming marine biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and plans.

EBSAs

The draft recommendations provide important mechanisms to update, share and distribute information on EBSAs and encourage its use. International processes and bodies, including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Preparatory Committee addressing marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use beyond national jurisdiction, among others, may benefit from the information in considering mechanisms for the adoption of area-based management tools and the conduct of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments.

IUCN however notes with regret that proposed processes to further update and enhance the scientific methodologies and approaches for describing EBSAs remain in brackets. IUCN emphasises that Paragraphs 7 and 8, and the associated Annex I provide a timely mechanism for updating and evolving the EBSA descriptions to reflect advancements in science, information and data availability since 2010 when the process started, including through an informal advisory group. This work is particularly important for marine areas beyond national jurisdiction as there is no one State or intergovernmental organization at present capable of providing this type of scientific and technical advice.

IUCN calls on COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Urge Parties to support a robust process for improving data compilation, synthesis and application of the EBSA criteria, as elaborated in paragraphs 7 and 8 and the related Annex I.***

IUCN encourages Parties to include, among measures and tools to ensure conservation and sustainable use of marine protected areas (MPAs), the marine areas under management by indigenous peoples and local communities that have demonstrable conservation and

sustainable use values, such as Locally Managed Marine Areas and others.

IUCN also calls on Parties to underline the importance and urgency of finalizing the negotiations on an implementing agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to address the threats to biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

Cold water areas

IUCN welcomes the expansion of the work plan during SBSTTA20 to recognize the wide range of threats to cold water biodiversity, including ocean acidification, deoxygenation, destructive fishing practices, pollution and potential expansion of mining activities into deeper waters. IUCN recognizes the monitoring and research needs as described in the Annex III of the specific workplan.

IUCN recommends COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Urge Parties to support sustained attention, action and funding to implement measures to address threats to cold water biodiversity, including ocean acidification, deoxygenation, destructive fishing practices, pollution and potential expansion of mining activities into deeper waters as critical additions to the marine and coastal programme of work.***

Marine debris

IUCN acknowledges the Executive Secretary for the significant efforts in compiling information on these topics and welcomes the recommendation SBSTTA XX/5 that includes the development of a voluntary practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats.

To complement the list of priority actions identified in the guidance, IUCN encourages reflection on the development of priority actions specific to the private sector such as, for example, plastic footprint disclosure and plastic content labelling¹².

¹² IUCN 2016 Resolution 49 "Promoting regional approaches to tackle the global problem of marine debris (litter)"

Underwater noise

In relation to “Impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity” and particularly in relation to noise generated during seismic operations, IUCN would like to highlight its recent published resource [Effective planning strategies for managing environmental risk associated with geophysical and other imaging surveys: A resource guide for managers](#).

IUCN recommends that an additional paragraph be added to the draft decision taken from recommendation XX/5, paragraph 2bis as follows:

- ✓ ***Also takes note of IUCN’s publication “Effective planning strategies for managing environmental risk associated with geophysical and other imaging surveys: A resource guide for managers” as a useful resource for future legislation focusing on seismic survey licensing for oil and gas.***

Marine spatial planning

Regarding the invitation to Parties to apply marine spatial planning to marine and coastal areas within Governments’ jurisdiction or enhance existing marine spatial planning initiatives in these areas (paragraph 3 of the draft decision taken from recommendation XX/6), IUCN recommends strengthening references specifically to community-based marine areas, such as Locally Managed Marine Areas, recognizing the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities in conserving marine areas and resources under their management.

In addition, IUCN stresses the importance of ensuring that marine conservation contributes not only to ecological benefits, but also to socio-economic benefits especially for indigenous peoples and local communities who depend on marine resources, avoiding negative social consequences for stakeholders of the application of conservation measures based on marine spatial planning.

IUCN notes with appreciation the invitation to Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant organizations and scientific groups in paragraph 8, to provide information and experiences regarding criteria for socially or culturally significant marine areas, and highlights the need to include specifically the contribution and value of marine and coastal areas to the security of local livelihoods for coastal and island communities.

IUCN calls on COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Encourage Parties to consider a new process for developing post-2020 targets to increase the percentage of marine protected areas significantly, well above the 10% called for in Target 11, taking into account the rights and interests of indigenous peoples, and their conservation, economic, social and cultural traditions and aspirations.***¹³

¹³ IUCN 2016 Resolution 50 “Increasing marine protected area coverage for effective marine biodiversity conservation”

Invasive Alien Species (Agenda item 16)

IUCN supports the SBSTTA recommendations on invasive alien species: addressing risks associated with trade; experiences in the use of biological control agents; and decision support tools.

IUCN encourages Parties and relevant stakeholders to make use of the “**Summary of technical considerations for the use of biological control agents to manage invasive alien species**” in their efforts to curb the impact of alien invasive species, and meet Aichi Target 9.

IUCN strongly encourages Parties to adopt the SBSTTA recommendation to continue developing strategies and take action to achieve Target 9, and to continue investing resources in the development and circulation of new knowledge on alien species and pathways particularly through relevant existing tools, such as the [Global Invasive Species Database](#) (GISD) of IUCN, the Invasive Alien Species Pathways tool (under development) and the [Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species](#) (GRIIS), implemented within the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership.

Since COP12, IUCN has contributed significantly to the development of decision support tools to address the threat posed by invasive alien species. Such tools include GRIIS, developed within the framework of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASI) and the re-launch of the GISD. GRIIS and GISD provide critical information to Parties to allow them to prioritise control of invasive alien species and develop National Invasive Species Strategies and Action Plans, ultimately helping advance towards achieving Aichi Target 9.

IUCN acknowledges the support provided by the Executive Secretary through the GIASI Partnership to IUCN for data collection, standardization, and provision that has supported Parties work towards achieving Aichi Target 9. IUCN encourages the continuation of this support.

With regard to the draft decision for this agenda item (from SBSTTA XX/7) ***IUCN recommends the following text to be added under the section Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9:***

- ✓ ***Recognizing the increasing risk of biological invasions in emerging economy and biodiversity rich areas and limited capacity to act on invasive alien species prior to introduction of, or at early stage of establishment, in particular in developing countries;***
- ✓ ***Further recognizing greater needs of implementation of measures to address the issues of invasive alien species to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 globally;***

In addition, ***IUCN recommends a new paragraph 18 bis be added as follows:***

- ✓ ***18 bis. Also welcomes the [Honolulu Challenge on Invasive Alien Species](#), an outcome of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016, which aims to further accelerate the development of measures to prevent future invasion and manage existing invasive alien species, and Encourages Parties, and other countries and organisations, to provide commitments to develop such measures in support of the Honolulu Challenge.***

Finally, ***IUCN recommends additional text to paragraph 20 (underlined).***

- ✓ 20. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to make the information requested in paragraph 19 above available through the clearing-house mechanism and other means, **continue to provide support for data collection, standardization, sharing and open access at global level through the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership**, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Technical, Technological and Scientific Advice at a meeting held prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Other scientific and technical issues: implications of the IPBES assessment on pollinators (Agenda item 17)

The findings of the IPBES Full Report and the Summary for Policy-makers pose an urgent challenge to Parties of the CBD to consider addressing the identified stress factors that interactively lead to a decline in pollinators, pollination and food security. Adhering to the precautionary approach spelt out in the Preamble of the Convention and in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration, Parties should not postpone policies, measures and regulation until scientific certainty has been fully achieved for all stress factors and their interactions. Addressing their task of avoiding or minimizing damage means that quick and effective preventive or remedial action is taken, even if it does not comprehensively cover all contributing factors at the time being.

The IPBES Report and Summary for Policy makers make it clear that food security and especially the “end of all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2.2)” is dependent on viable pollinator diversity and abundance. These findings are relevant for the combination of tasks set out in the CBD on ecosystem conservation and sustainable use, including agricultural ecosystems, and those agreed on as the SDGs. They could trigger an in-depth review of agricultural systems. Such a process would lead to the urgently needed updating and mainstreaming of indicators for good agricultural practice in the combined light of the CBD and SDGs. This in turn could lead to proposals for regulation of demands placed on such good practice.

In light of this, IUCN offers some specific edits to this section.

IUCN recommends including in paragraph 3 of the draft decision taken from SBSTTAXX/9 (changes underlined):

- ✓ “Encourages Parties, other Governments, relevant United Nations and other organizations ... to help their efforts such as policies, programmes, measures and regulation, as appropriate, based on the precautionary approach to improve...”

IUCN suggests amending paragraph 5 of the same draft decision to read as follows (changes underlined):

- ✓ “Encourages businesses ... assessment of products, contribute to avoiding or minimising threats to pollinators in line with the preamble to the Convention...”

IUCN recommends strengthening paragraph 6(j) by modifying it as follows (changes underlined):

- ✓ “To develop and implement national and, as appropriate, regional and subregional pesticide risk reduction strategies, including using alternatives to pesticide use and to avoid or minimise the use of pesticides harmful for pollinators...”

Finally, ***IUCN suggests the inclusion of the following text to paragraph 7 (changes underlined):***

- ✓ “Invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organisations to provide the Executive Secretary with information on relevant national initiatives and activities, including regulatory approaches, to promote...”

Guidelines for the sixth national reports, modalities for future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and indicators (Agenda item 19)

Sixth National Reports and GBO5

- ✓ ***IUCN recommends that Parties contemplate the inclusion of gender considerations in the preparation of National Reporting Guidelines for the sixth National Reports and Global Biodiversity Outlook 5.***

This will also contribute to support, align with and implement the CBD Gender Plan of Action, progress toward meeting SDG 5 and cross-cutting targets of other goals, Aichi Target 14, etc. A stand-alone section or requirement for reporting on the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action in the national reporting guidelines would also be effective.

Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

IUCN strongly endorses the use of indicators to track progress towards intergovernmental commitments and targets, and welcomes the recommendations to the COP regarding the endorsement of the updated list of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

IUCN recognises that there remain gaps in the existing suite of indicators, and acknowledges the efforts of many organizations to address these. Currently, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) is working to provide guidance to IUCN Members and Parties on OECMs as a component of assessing progress towards Target 11. WCPA is involving over 100 experts from 30 countries and has held two expert meetings, an indication of the effort required to build new robust indicators. We also highlight the ongoing development of the new IUCN Green List Standard that includes new indicators for social equity complementing those that measure management effectiveness.

IUCN considers the top priority action is to invest in strengthening and maintenance of

existing indicators and the information which underpin them, while addressing critical gaps as efficiently as possible. IUCN cautions against allocating significant resources to new potential indicators, and echoes concerns about existing reporting burdens, and the costs and challenges of maintaining indicators.

In this regard, IUCN encourages COP13 to:

- ✓ ***Urge Parties to adopt the set of recommendations relating to indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity; and***
- ✓ ***Call on Parties to consider the use of the subset of indicators that are flagged as available now, easy to communicate, have national data available and are proposed as indicators towards the Sustainable Development Goals, in support of the COP recommendation.***

Scientific assessment of progress towards Aichi Targets

IUCN supports the updated scientific review of progress towards the Targets proposed in document COP/13/20. IUCN considers this review timely and important, in order to provide Parties and partners to the CBD with the best available information in order to aid decision making at COP14 and COP15. IUCN is prepared to provide information to support the review, based on its own global scientific assessments that are relevant to this task and in response to any specific requests for data from the Secretariat for the purposes of this review.

IUCN notes the equal importance of all the key inputs to the process. IUCN encourages all Parties and agencies involved in these assessments, in this and parallel processes, to provide timely and relevant information where possible.

Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing (ABS) MOP2

Review of progress towards Target 16 (Agenda item 9 of COP13, agenda item 5.1 MOP2)

IUCN welcomes progress made so far to advance in the full implementation of all parts of Target 16. IUCN congratulates Parties to the Protocol for their efforts to ensure that it becomes operational and consistent with national legislation. IUCN sees very positively the fact that Parties to the Convention have included in their revised NBSAPs and 5th National Reports information pertaining to the Nagoya Protocol and Target 16. However, IUCN reminds Parties that in order for the Secretariat to be able to have a full picture of the measures taken at the national level to implement the Protocol and advance Aichi Target 16, as well as to respond to calls from Parties for support, specific national information needs to be shared with the Secretariat on a regular basis. Submissions from Parties to the Protocol (and non-Parties) in response to notifications from the Executive Secretary are not enough.

IUCN thus calls on COP13 and MOP2 to urge Parties to the Convention and Parties to the Nagoya Protocol to:

- ✓ ***Share with the Secretariat, on a regular basis, all relevant national information on the progress made to establish institutional structures and/or measures taken to develop and revise legislative, administrative or policy measures on ABS;***
- ✓ ***Make use of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing House to share this information as appropriate; and***
- ✓ ***Use every opportunity to communicate gaps, specific needs and challenges encountered in implementing the Protocol at the national level so that these can be addressed in the best way possible.***

In addition, IUCN notes with appreciation the invitation to Parties and other governments, as stated in paragraph 27 of the draft decision (taken from recommendation 1/2, paragraph 5 of the SBI), to take note of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) paper *Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, which provides

important considerations about genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) such the need for in-depth contextual analysis including of the socio-economic environments and use and exchange practices, as well as the specific characteristics of GRFA developed by indigenous peoples and local communities.

However, IUCN notes with concern that the particular case of animal genetic resources in pastoral communities is not properly examined in such document. Therefore, the crucial issue of the conservation of the genetic pool of pastoral herds, fundamental for adaptation to climate variability, still raises many questions that require specific responses that currently don't seem enough reflected in conventional ABS frameworks.

Capacity-building and capacity-development (Agenda item 10 MOP2)

IUCN is of the view that capacity-building in supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol as recognized in Article 22 and further highlighted in the *Strategic Framework for Capacity-building and Development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol* adopted by the COP-MOP (decision NP-1/8) plays a fundamental role in advancing the application of the Protocol at the national level.

It is clear to us that capacity-building should be demand driven, target-group specific, hands-on and complementary to other existing efforts. IUCN thus notes the importance of matching the needs and expectations of countries with existing resources as well as the need to establish partnerships in order to achieve a more holistic approach to mobilizing resources for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Having participated in the two meetings of the *Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Nagoya Protocol*, IUCN stresses the importance of establishing synergies among ongoing capacity-development projects and initiatives in order to ensure value added, avoid duplication, make use of available resources, and put in place sustainable follow-up plans. Finally, IUCN highlights that capacity-building is not a short-term or one-off endeavour but a long-term, iterative process.