

1. General description of mandates and objective(s) of your organization / associated network with institutional structure

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is **the key international treaty** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources. Elements of the CBD, which are relevant to addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, include Article 7, which requires Parties to the CBD to identify the status of and trends in biodiversity and threats to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It addresses, in its Article 8, the protection of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings (d), asks its Parties to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species (f), and to address the threats to biodiversity identified in accordance with Article 7. Article 14, paragraph 2 of the CBD mandates the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP) to consider the issue of liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.

The CBD COP, at its fifth meeting, highlighted the risks of **climate change**, in particular, to **coral reefs** (decision V/3) and to **forest ecosystems** (decision V/4), and drew attention to the serious impacts of biodiversity loss on these systems and their associated livelihoods. Biodiversity and climate change was included as a cross-cutting issue in the work under the Convention in 2004. Already in 2001, an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) was established carried out an assessment of the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change. The fourth meeting of the CBD COP endorsed a work programme for **forest biological diversity** (decision IV/7) and at its next meeting established an AHTEG on forest biological diversity to carry out a review of available information on status, trends and threats to forest biological diversity and to identify options and suggest priority actions for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity (decision V/4 paragraphs 4-6 and annex). Marine and coastal biological diversity were also an early priority for the CBD COP. Also already at its fourth meeting, the CBD COP took decision IV/5 which specifically addresses **coral bleaching** and related biodiversity loss, and the special needs and considerations of small island developing States.

At its tenth meeting, the CBD COP adopted the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**, which represents a universally agreed global framework to conserve, restore and sustainable use biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people. The framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets is particularly relevant with regard to building resilience of ecosystems as a preventive measure against slow onset events and their impacts:

- On **ocean acidification**, Aichi Target 10 aims that “By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.”
 - In this context, the COP, in decision XI/18, mandates a review document on the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity.
- On **ecosystem resilience, ecosystem restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation and desertification**, Aichi Target 15 states that “By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.”

- The CBD COP adopted decision X/33 on biodiversity and climate change, which provides guidance on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation, mitigation and reducing biodiversity impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
- CBD COP decision XI/16 on ecosystem restoration mandates regional and subregional capacity-building and training workshops, implementation tools and practical guidance as well as a web portal on ecosystem restoration
- The CBD COP, in decision X/28, addresses the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in reducing the vulnerability to the impact of some natural disasters, in particular flooding and drought, mandates an analysis of the role of inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services in disaster risk reduction and capacity-support to assist Parties to improve the contribution of inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services to natural disaster risk reduction
- The CBD COP, in decision X/35 on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, addresses the impact of drought and desertification on biodiversity and the role of biodiversity and actions to combat desertification in increasing the resilience of dry and sub-humid lands, and their consideration for drought-management plans and early-warning systems
- In the context of **forest degradation**, Aichi Target 5 states that “by 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced” and Aichi Target 7 that “by 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity”.
 - The CBD COP, in decision XI/19, provides advice on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity with regard to policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
- In the context of **species loss**, Aichi Target 12 aims that “by 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.”

In addition, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets explicitly refer to **valuation of biodiversity**, in Target 2, which aims that “by 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.”

Furthermore, Aichi Target 3 can contribute to **encouraging investment** in climate risk management, as it aims that “by 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.”

2. Relevant operational framework(s)

The **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020** has been endorsed or supported by the governing bodies of other biodiversity related conventions and welcomed by the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly as the overarching ten-year global framework to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. Its importance has been reaffirmed in the Rio+20 outcomes. Its Vision is that “by 2050 biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used so as to maintain ecosystem services and sustaining a healthy planet that can deliver essential benefits for all people.” For 2020, the mission statement of the Strategic Plan foresees that actions have been taken to halt the loss of biodiversity and to ensure that ecosystems are resilient and are contributing to human well-being and poverty eradication. The Strategic Plan includes twenty internationally agreed time bound targets, mostly for 2020. These are organized under five goals towards the 2050 vision, to protect nature (Goal C), to maximize the benefits for all people (Goal D), to reduce pressures on biodiversity (Goal B) and to address the underlying causes of loss (Goal A). Additionally, Goal E provides for enabling activities.

The Convention’s guidance is made concrete in its **programmes of work**, which contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets. The CBD COP has initiated work under work programmes addressing marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, the biodiversity of inland waters, dry and sub-humid lands, mountain biological diversity and island biodiversity as well as several cross-cutting issues, including climate change. Each thematic programme of work establishes a vision for and basic principles to guide future work; sets out key issues for consideration; identifies potential outputs; and suggests a timetable and means for achieving these outputs. (For information on the individual programmes see www.cbd.int/programmes)

While the CBD is an international environmental agreement, it is primarily implemented by countries at the national, sub-national and local level. The goals and targets of the Strategic Plan comprise both aspirations for achievement at the global level; and a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets. The Conference of the Parties has encouraged Parties to set their own **national targets** within this framework, taking into account national needs and priorities, while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets. **National biodiversity strategies and action plans** (NBSAP) are key instruments for translating the Strategic Plan to national circumstances, including through the national targets, and for integrating biodiversity across all sectors of government and society. Aichi Target 17 calls for Parties to develop, adopt as a policy instrument, and commence implementing an effective, participatory and updated NBSAP by 2015.

The Strategic Plan itself contains provisions for its implementation and several of its targets directly relate to implementation issues, including the **mobilization of financial resources**. In addition, **capacity building** support has been offered by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other organizations, including the organization of workshops, online forums, and the preparation of additional guidance materials.

At each of its meetings until 2020, the Conference of the Parties will **review progress** in the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

3. Focus areas of risk management for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts

- CBD Technical Series No. 46 – Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity.
- CBD Technical Series No. 41 – Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change.
- CBD Technical Series No. 43 - Forest Resilience, Biodiversity, and Climate Change - A Synthesis of the Biodiversity/Resilience/Stability Relationship in Forest Ecosystems and CBD Technical Series No. 59 – REDD+ and Biodiversity
- An overview of the concept of ecosystem restoration, related work under the CBD and other MEAs is available in CBD document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/4. A report on ‘Available Guidance and Guidelines on Ecosystem Restoration’ is contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/17. Document UNEP/CBD/COP/INF/18 compiles an overview of 1227 tools and technologies for ecosystem restoration, including methods, materials and means used to accomplish ecosystem restoration goals and objectives, or to solve practical problems related to ecosystem restoration.

4. Geographic coverage

CBD Parties – 192 countries and the European Union

5. Key stakeholders

CBD Parties – 192 countries and the European Union
Indigenous and local communities / NGOs, especially those working on the biodiversity-climate change nexus

6. Implementation modality / delivery mechanisms

Please provide information related to the technical, financial and institutional support mechanism

The implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is supported by a strategy for resource mobilization, including preliminary targets for international financial flows. Other means provided by the CBD include mechanisms for research, monitoring, and assessment, capacity-building and education, and global and regional partnerships.

Please provide information related to reporting, if any

Many Aichi Biodiversity Targets are quantifiable, with core global indicators established, and national indicators at different stages of development. The COP, in decision X/10, requested Parties to submit their fifth national report by 31 March 2014. The fifth national reports will provide an important source of information for a mid-term review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and progress towards the Aichi Targets which will be undertaken by the COP at its twelfth meeting in the second half of 2014.

7. Key activities / outputs to date

- CBD workshop series on the implementation of area-based Aichi Targets, covering all regions, 2013-2014 (particular focus on ecosystem restoration)
- CBD contribution to UN-Water Capacity Development Initiative to support National Drought Management Policies, regional workshops in 2013-2014
- The Second AHTEG on Biodiversity and Climate Change, in 2010, developed scientific and technical advice on biodiversity, in so far as it relates to climate change and decision 1/CP.13 of the UNFCCC COP on the Bali Action Plan as well as its Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change so as to support the enhanced implementation of synergies (CBD TS 41)
- At the tenth meeting of the CBD COP, the Sustainable Oceans Initiative was established to provide a global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity in a holistic manner.
- At the eleventh meeting of the CBD COP, the Hyderabad Call for a Concerted Effort on Ecosystem Restoration was launched. The Hyderabad call was endorsed by a panel of high-level representatives and sets the stage for collaborative work on implementing ecosystem restoration programmes among Parties to the Rio Conventions, other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, relevant international bodies and organizations, indigenous and local community organizations and civil society.
- At the eleventh meeting of the CBD COP substantial progress was made in describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and the CBD COP decided to transmit results of the first tranche of work to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), for consideration by the UNGA Working Group, which is considering the development of an international agreement for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- SCBD contributes to the work of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)

8. Any additional information and contact details

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