

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) appreciates the opportunity to provide proposals for the next Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance on the theme of “Finance for Nature-based Solutions (NBS)” and the invitation from the UNFCCC Secretariat to provide such input. The CBD Secretariat is happy to provide the following inputs that centre around the relevance of the theme of “Finance for Nature-based Solutions (NBS)” to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and opportunities to support Parties in their implementation of the objectives of the three Rio conventions, including through NBS. If you find merit in any of these proposals, the CBD Secretariat would be happy provide additional input to develop them further for the preparation of the Forum.

➤ Scope and purpose of the Forum

We have no specific comments on the scope and purpose of the forum and its design, as set out in the co-facilitators note. However, we believe that an element that could be added into the draft programme outline of the 2021 SCF Forum, at appropriate points of its structure, could be focused on strengthening and leveraging synergies in the implementation of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD, including their NAPs, NAPAs, NBSAPs, through finance for nature-based solutions. In addition, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, currently being negotiated under the CBD, is envisaged to be relevant to UNFCCC, UNCCD, including with respect to ecosystem management and restoration. Furthermore, the consideration of biodiversity finance methodologies and experience may be relevant to the Forum.

➤ NBS related papers and case studies that could inform the Forum

The CBD has adopted numerous decisions, including guidance for national implementation, concerning ecosystem management, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity and climate change that may be relevant and could inform the Forum.

In 2000, CBD COP adopted, in decision V/6, the description, principles and operational guidance for application of the ecosystem approach. Subsequently, several relevant decisions concerning biodiversity and climate change and ecosystem restoration have been adopted, including:

- Decision 14/5: addressing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, including the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
- Decision XIII/5: addressing ecosystem restoration and providing the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration;
- Decisions XII/20: addressing reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and the implementation guidance it provides;
- Decision XII/3 and XI/19: addressing safeguards – decision XI/19 providing 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 decision XII/3 providing (annex 3) the voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms;

- Decision X/33: providing guidance on ways to conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services while contributing to climate-change mitigation and adaptation, including: assessing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, reducing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods, reducing biodiversity impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, valuation and incentive measures, climate change and the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands;

In relation to these decisions, the CBD Secretariat has published a number of pertinent publications, including:

- Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change - Advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol ([Technical Series No. 10](#), (2003))
- Guidance for Promoting Synergy among Activities Addressing Biological Diversity, Desertification, Land Degradation and Climate Change ([Technical Series No. 25](#), 2006)
- Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change ([Technical Series No. 41](#), 2009)
- Synthesis report on experiences with ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction ([Technical Series No. 85](#), 2016)
- Guidance on enhancing positive and minimizing negative impacts on biodiversity of climate change adaptation activities ([UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/1](#))
- Voluntary guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/4)
- Managing ecosystems in the context of climate change mitigation: A review of current knowledge and recommendations to support ecosystem-based mitigation actions that look beyond terrestrial forests (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/3)
- Relationships between the Aichi Targets and land-based climate mitigation (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/29)

CBD Secretariat would be happy to provide further attention, in consultation with the Forum organizers, to refine a list of relevant COP decisions, CBD publications, and literature and case-studies related to biodiversity financing, that may help to inform specific aspects and objectives of the Forum.

➤ **Potential institutions and events to partner with, in the organization of the Forum**

In view of the relevance of the theme to CBD and UNCCD, we would suggest involving the two conventions in the Forum, at least as participants but potentially also as institutions (and events) to partner with in the organization of the Forum.

- (i) Participation: given the importance of the subject and its interconnections, we believe it would be beneficial to have good representation from the CBD community, including of the convention bodies. As one approach, this could include, but is not limited to, participants drawn from among the members of the COP bureau, the SBSTTA bureau, the Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI and the Co-chairs of the Open-ended Working group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. A similar participation from UNCCD could also be beneficial. In addition, or alternatively,

experts on NBS and biodiversity finance from among the CBD community could be invited to participate.

- (ii) Time and venue: In addition to giving consideration to convening the Forum in conjunction with intersessional meetings of the subsidiary bodies of UNFCCC in 2021, consideration could be given to convening the Forum in conjunction with intersessional meetings of the subsidiary bodies of CBD or UNCCD. In the case of CBD, there are several meetings to be organized prior to CBD COP15, including SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 in Canada (tentatively scheduled for November 2020 but likely to be rescheduled to the first quarter of 2021) and the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in Colombia (tentatively scheduled for February 2021 but likely to be rescheduled to the second quarter of 2021). Similarly, consideration could be given to the meeting of the UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) that is expected to convene in Bonn.

The CBD Secretariat stands ready to provide further information, clarifications and inputs that may be helpful.