

MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY WITHIN AND ACROSS SECTORS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
I. Introduction.....	1 - 6
II. Challenges and opportunities for biodiversity mainstreaming	7 - 8
III. Biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry	9 - 10
IV. Conclusion	11

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a longstanding history of collaborating with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as evidenced by a number of decisions and joint work programmes adopted or endorsed by the CBD Conference and Governing and Statutory Bodies of FAO. The CBD Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity,¹ adopted in the follow-up to a joint FAO/ CBD assessment of instruments in this area, identifies assessments, adaptive management, capacity building and mainstreaming as important cornerstones of this collaboration. Since 2006, FAO and the CBD have been collaborating on cross-cutting global initiatives on pollinators, food and nutrition and soil biodiversity.

2. At various occasions, COFO has addressed topics on sustainability that are relevant for biodiversity mainstreaming, and the linking of FAO's forestry work with the Rio+20 Agenda and the SDGs. COFO has reviewed The State of the World's Forests reports² within a long-term strategy³; it developed a Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox⁴ and has addressed forest genetic resources⁵. COFO further addressed cross-cutting issues, such as the links of forests with climate change⁶, rangelands⁷, landscape restoration⁸ and payments for ecosystem services⁹.

3. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD will consider at its 13th meeting, to be held from 4 to 17 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico, strategic actions to enhance the implementation of its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 “including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors.”¹⁰ Mexico, in its role as the host of COP-13, intends to highlight the

¹ COP decision V/5, Annex.

² COFO/2016/4; COFO/2014/4;

³ COFO/2016/7.2 Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring; [COFO/2012/7.3 Supporting Sustainable Forest Management through Global Forest Resources Assessment: Long-Term Strategy 2012-2030](#)

⁴ [COFO/2014/6.2](#)

⁵ [COFO/2014/5.5 Rev.1 The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources](#)

⁶ [COFO/2014/7.2 Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Climate Summit](#)

⁷ [COFO/2012/7.2 Inter-Sectoral Cooperation on Forests and Rangelands: Review of the activities of forest and rangelands bodies in the Near East region](#)

⁸ [COFO/2014/6.4 Rev.1 Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism](#)

⁹ COFO/2014/4.5 Payment for Ecosystem Services for Forests (PES) and Forest Financing; [COFO/2012/6.3 Broadening the Financial Basis for Sustainable Forest Management](#)

¹⁰ UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1.

importance of biodiversity mainstreaming for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals and will convene a high-level ministerial segment with the aim of facilitating the adoption of a declaration on biodiversity mainstreaming within and across agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. Mexico recently circulated, through the Executive Secretary of the CBD, a non-paper outlining some possible elements of the declaration.¹¹

4. FAO's commitment to mainstreaming and integrating biodiversity within and across agriculture and its derivatives which includes forestry and primary forestry products, fisheries, marine products,¹² is reflected in its Goal 3 on *Sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations*. Under the current Programme of Work and Budget¹³, biodiversity forms an integral part of Strategic Priority 2, *Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner*. COP-13 is expected to recognize FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19 as an important contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets¹⁴.

5. The CBD Executive Secretary, as well as representatives of the host government of COP-13 have repeatedly stressed the need for FAO's involvement in (the preparation of) COP-13. The CBD secretariat and FAO consult regularly and closely collaborate in the preparation of COP-13.

6. This document identifies some of the challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity within the forestry sector and summarizes recommendations adopted in the run-up to COP-13 by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) of the CBD.

II. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

7. Agriculture, including forestry, crop and livestock production and fisheries and aquaculture, depend heavily on biodiversity and its components, as well as on the ecosystem functions and services that they underpin. The loss of biodiversity can impact these sectors negatively, potentially threatening food security and the provision of ecosystem functions and services that are vital to humanity.

8. However, these sectors also impact on biodiversity through various direct and indirect drivers. The Global Biodiversity Outlook 4¹⁵ singles out agriculture "*as the major global threat to biodiversity.*" Mainstreaming biodiversity across agriculture means to recognize the essential role of agriculture for world food security, on the one hand, and the essential role of biodiversity which provides the basis of all our food and which is threatened by unsustainable production methods, on the other. Mainstreaming biodiversity across the different sectors of food and agriculture production requires intensification of production based on ecological processes and biodiversity, improved diversity in farming systems and landscapes, including through increased connectivity in area-based conservation systems, and sustainable consumption.¹⁶ Without this transformation, food and agriculture production will continue to destroy biodiversity and thus threaten world food security.

¹¹ <https://www.cbd.int/cop/preparation/cop13-hls/default.shtml>

¹² Constitution, Article I.1.

¹³ CL 153/3 Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17.

¹⁴ UNEP/CBD/SBI/REC/1/4 Strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.

¹⁵ Global Biodiversity Outlook 4.

¹⁶ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/15 Mainstreaming of Biodiversity across sectors including Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries.

III. BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING IN FORESTRY

9. The SBI, at its first session, adopted a series of recommendations to COP-13¹⁷ related to mainstreaming biodiversity.¹⁸ It recommended, *inter alia*, that COP-13:

- Recognize the opportunities that arise from an integrated and mutually supportive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2008-2018), and the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-2019 of FAO for the achievement of internationally agreed goals and targets;
- Urge Parties to the CBD, and invite other Governments to strengthen their efforts to mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within and across various sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and tourism at all levels and scales, including by involving relevant stakeholders and by taking into account relevant standards and best practice guidance related to biodiversity in these sectors;
- Urge Parties to the CBD to use, as appropriate, existing guidance relating to the Food and Agriculture Organization's Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems Guidelines and the Policy Support Guidelines for the Promotion of Sustainable Production Intensification and Ecosystem Services, take note of the voluntary guidance on Building a Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture and encourage Parties and invite other Governments to apply this guidance, as appropriate;
- Take note of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security and encourage Parties and invite other Governments to make use of this guidance, as appropriate, to promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests;
- Encourage Parties to the CBD and invite other Governments, as appropriate,
 - to reduce and reverse biodiversity loss, through the implementation, as appropriate, of sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and integrated landscape and seascape management that foster sustainable practices, identify potential measures to contribute to the health and resilience of ecosystems and consider spatial and regional approaches as well as appropriate measures to promote the conservation and restoration of areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, habitats of threatened species, and recovery of endangered species;
 - To create and strengthen cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms that enable biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism and other sectors, and to establish milestones for the mainstreaming of biodiversity in national agendas;
 - To enhance monitoring of the use of natural resources, such as land, soil and water in all sectors, including agriculture, forests, fisheries and aquaculture, among others, and to improve public access to monitoring data.
- Request the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare and disseminate to Parties, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners, further guidance on the concept of "sustainability" in food and agriculture with regard to biodiversity, and to promote and strengthen support for relevant information-sharing

¹⁷ Strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.

¹⁸ UNEP/CBD/SBI/REC/1/4,

and technology transfer among Parties, in particular for developing countries, building on existing initiatives, where feasible, such as the Satoyama Initiative, consistent with decisions X/32 and XI/25, and consistent with international obligations.

10. More specifically, the SBI adopted recommendations to COP-13 on forests, that COP-13:
- Recognize the role of forest biodiversity for the maintenance of ecosystem functions that contribute to sustainable development, poverty eradication and human well-being, including through the provision of food, feed, clean water, wood, fibre, fuel, medicine, recreation, as well as the mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
 - Also recognize that there remain forests managed under practices that are not sustainable, with significant negative impacts on biodiversity and habitats;
 - Further recognize Sustainable Development Goal 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;
 - Note Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, which emphasizes the economic, social and environmental contributions of all types of forests to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in which the Council acknowledged the progress made by countries and stakeholders towards sustainable forest management, taking into account different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve sustainable development;
 - Also note United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/98, which describes sustainable forest management, and refers to its seven thematic elements, adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests;
 - Further note the elements of the Durban Declaration,¹⁹ from the XIV World Forestry Congress, which promote the need for a deeper understanding of the integral role of biodiversity in forest ecosystem functioning;
 - Note the Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests, the 2009 ITTO/IUCN guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests, as well as other relevant tools and guidelines prepared by member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to operationalize sustainable forest management, ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
 - Encourage Parties to the CBD and invite other Governments to give due consideration to biodiversity when implementing actions set out in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement²⁰ of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
 - Also encourage Parties and invite other Governments, as well as relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, to make use of the United Nations forest instrument,²¹ and to contribute to the preparation of the 2017-2030 Strategic Plan of the international arrangement on forests, under the United Nations Forum on Forests, ensuring that due consideration is given to biodiversity, with a view to promoting a coherent and coordinated approach to support the achievement of forest-related multilateral commitments and goals, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

¹⁹ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/wfc2015/Documents/Durban_Declaration_1.pdf.

²⁰ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, twenty-first session, decision 1/CP.21 (see [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php)).

²¹ See [General Assembly resolution 70/199](https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/15-11-2015.asp) of 22 December 2015.

- Further encourage Parties and invite other Governments to strengthen efforts to enhance the awareness of all stakeholders and their involvement in the development and implementation of policies and strategies for sustainable forest management, including on measures for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, recognizing the importance of the practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and the role of natural regeneration in living systems;
- Encourage Parties and invite other Governments to strengthen participation of indigenous peoples and local communities as part of a strategy for forest protection, sustainable use of biodiversity and the welfare and livelihoods of these communities;
- Also encourage Parties and invite other Governments to create enabling conditions and incentivize the adoption of sustainable forest management practices in the forest sector, and encourages forest enterprises and forest owners to appropriately integrate sustainable use, conservation and restoration of biodiversity into the development and use of forest management plans, certification schemes or other voluntary mechanisms;
- Further encourage Parties and invite other Governments to develop or enhance monitoring of the impacts of forest activities on biodiversity and to verify progress, through different monitoring methodologies, such as forest monitoring systems that demonstrate the integral health of forest ecosystems;
- Encourage Parties and invite other Governments to strengthen their efforts to establish and maintain and/or develop well-managed and connected national or regional forest protected area networks, giving priority to existing ones, and, where appropriate, to apply spatial and land-use planning tools to identify areas of particular importance to the sustainable use and conservation of forest biodiversity, including in buffer zones;
- Invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Forestry to further support the development and implementation of measures, guidance and tools to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the forest sector and to consider, on a regular basis, ways and means to further enhance contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

IV. CONCLUSION

11. The Committee may wish to consider the above recommendations with a view to guide the integration of biodiversity within the forestry and primary forestry products sector and across the different sectors.