

## Annex 1

### Analysis of the Status of Biodiversity in the Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda

#### I. Overview

The nature and scope of the post-2015 development agenda as reflected in the Zero draft provides a new and ambitious vision. The agenda seeks to be universal, collaborative and transformational, and to address, in an integrated manner, environmental, social and economic objectives, while emphasizing that poverty eradication remains the number one priority.

The Zero draft includes the following major components: 1) a preamble; 2) text in the form of a declaration, entitled “Transforming our world by 2030: A New Agenda for Global Action”; 3) the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were produced by the Open-Working Group established by the United Nations General Assembly (along with a short set of introductory statements); 4) a section entitled “Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership”, and 5) a section on “Follow-up and Review.” It also includes three Annexes: Annex 1 with proposed changes to a number of the SDG targets – including one related to biodiversity (target 15.2); Annex 2 with ideas relating to a possible technology facilitation mechanism; and Annex 3 with the introduction of the Open Working Group Proposal for sustainable development goals and targets.

#### 2. Preamble and Declaration

While the importance of addressing climate change is well-covered in the preamble and declaration sections of the document, other environmental issues are not given much attention, including biodiversity, as well as water, chemicals and disaster risk reduction. In particular, although biodiversity features prominently in the SDGs themselves, the important role of biodiversity for sustainable development, and for achieving other SDGs, is not highlighted in the draft declaration. Governments may wish to strengthen the text with respect to biodiversity. For instance, the preamble could note as an objective the need to “protect the planet, **its biodiversity and ecosystems**, fight climate change, use natural resources sustainably and safeguard our oceans.”

Governments may also wish to consider including references to biodiversity and/or ecosystems and natural resource use in various paragraphs, such as Paragraphs 3, 12, and 24.

Paragraph 27 of the declaration emphasizes the importance of addressing climate change. Governments may wish to consider adding a separate paragraph addressing the need to conserve and sustainably use terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems, and to tackle biodiversity loss, natural habitat protection, sustainable land-use, and maintain ecosystem services.

#### 3. Sustainable Development Goals

##### *The issue of 2020 vs. 2030 as the target date for achievement.*

Biodiversity is included not only in Goal 14 on oceans and coasts, and Goal 15 on terrestrial ecosystems, but also plays an important role in targets under several other Goals: Goal 2 (hunger and food security), Goal 6 (water and sanitation), Goal 11 (cities) and Goal 12 (sustainable consumption and production).

There is, however, a very important issue that has yet to be resolved. In order to ensure that the SDGs do not fall below the ambition level of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the biodiversity targets included in the SDGs use 2020 as the date for their achievement. A number of targets for other subject matters in the SDGs also use the date of “2020”; however, most of the other SDGs use 2030 as their target date.

The Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will conduct a review of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and associated targets in 2020 and may update them. It is expected that most of the issues to which the current Aichi Biodiversity Targets refer will remain important issues after 2020. Thus, it will be very important to find a way to include these issues in the SDGs beyond 2020, so that biodiversity remains an active part of the SDGs until 2030. Note that this is an issue of importance not only for the CBD, but for the other global biodiversity agreements that also have aligned their work with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

One solution could be the inclusion, in the introductory section of the SDGs language to the following effect:

*“In line with existing commitments, a number of targets use the date of “2020”. These targets should be reviewed at an appropriate time, taking into account discussions in relevant inter-governmental forums, with a view towards further action that may be warranted to 2030”.*

#### Proposed changes to target 15.2 on Forest Ecosystem

As finalized by the Open Working Group, Target 15.2 reads as follows:

“15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation by [x] per cent globally”. The co-facilitators have sought a way to address the “x” per cent figure in this and similar targets, in order to finalize the SDGs for adoption.

The Secretariat has developed a common position to address this with the other co-leaders of the Technical Support Team on Biodiversity (Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on Biological Diversity), as well as with the UN Forum on Forests, which would read as follows:

*“By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests and restore at least 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands, and by 2030, halt deforestation and increase afforestation and reforestation, stabilize forest cover, and reduce forest degradation by 30%”.*

#### 4. Follow-up and Review

The Zero draft does not set forth a clear mechanism by which countries can contribute at the national level to the achievement of the global SDGs, in a common manner. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides a useful model that governments may wish to consider for this purpose.

Like the SDGs, the Strategic Plan represents a set of global commitments by all Parties to the CBD. It is primarily implemented at the national level, and provides a flexible framework so that countries can contextualise the global commitments to fit their national conditions and priorities.

Parties to the CBD use National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as the principal instrument for implementing the Strategic Plan at the national level. The NBSAPs identify and prioritize national targets within the framework of the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The NBSAPs are to be policy instruments, applicable to all relevant governmental actors and agencies. While flexible in nature, the Strategic Plan calls on Parties to monitor and report on their progress through mandatory national reports submitted to the Secretariat.

In the context of the SDGs, governments may wish to consider adopting an approach whereby countries can develop their own national Sustainable Development Plans (SDPs). The plans could highlight the relevant considerations in a country, the priorities and the challenges. The SDPs could set forth a set of national actions to be taken, possibly in the form of goals and targets.

Ideally, the plans would be adopted at the highest levels of government, after an interministerial process, which provides for inputs from stakeholders to help shape the plan. Implementation of the plans could also be supported through an

interministerial committee or council, thereby bringing together the key governmental agencies who have a role to play on sustainable development.