



Ref.: SCBD/SPS/CG/SG/JL/JA/86108

22 November 2016

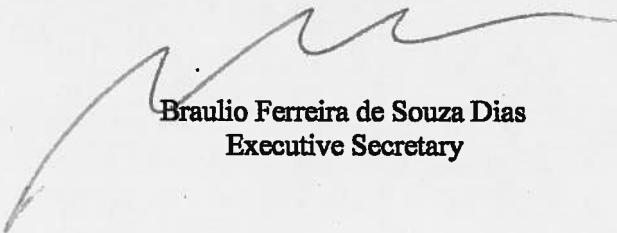
Dear Mr. Zhu and Ms. Goettsche-Wanli,

Reference is made to your letter dated 2 November 2016, inviting the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to provide input to the Secretary-General's background note for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Appended herewith is the contribution of the Secretariat to the Secretary-General's background note. We ask that the full contribution be reflected on the website of the Conference.

I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,


Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Mr. Juwang Zhu
Director, Division for Sustainable Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
E-mail: zhu@un.org

Ms. Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli
Director, Division for the Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations
E-mail: goettsche-wanli@un.org; doalos@un.org

cc: Ms. Ling Wang (E-mail: wang24@un.org)
Mr. Dmitry Gonchar (E-mail: gonchar@un.org)
Ms. Julie Powell (E-mail: powellj1@un.org)
Ms. Alice Hicuburundi (E-mail: hicuburundi@un.org)



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 300, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



INTRODUCTION

This contribution includes: (i) a description of recent work and developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relevant to Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its targets; (ii) information on challenges to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and opportunities to facilitate achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14; (iii) information on linkages to Sustainable Development Goal 15 and its targets, and relevant work under the CBD; and (iv) information on the development of partnerships (stocktaking of existing partnerships and opportunities for synergies and collaboration, new partnerships to address gaps, in particular capacity gaps).

I. CURRENT ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES, INCLUDING CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

14.1. By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution (*aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Target 8*)

- Preventing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats

Drawing on the results of the CBD Expert Workshop to Prepare Practical Guidance on Preventing and Mitigating the Significant Adverse Impacts of Marine Debris on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Habitats, held in 2014, the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) will consider, at its 13th meeting in December 2016, voluntary practical guidance on means to prevent and mitigate impacts of marine debris on the oceans. A background document originally produced for the workshop was further revised and will soon be published as CBD Technical Series No. 83: Marine Debris—Understanding, Preventing and Mitigating the Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. The report of the expert workshop is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-07-en.pdf>. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans (*aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Targets 10 and 15*)

- Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems

At its 12th meeting in 2014, the COP adopted the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems. These actions focus on efforts at the local, national, regional and global levels to manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems as socio-ecological systems undergoing change due to the interactive effects of multiple stressors, including both global stressors and local stressors. The Priority Actions are contained in the annex of COP decision XII/23 (available at: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13386>), and also available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-aichi-target-10-en.pdf>.

- Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration

The COP, at its 13th meeting, will consider a short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration. The overall objective of this action plan is to promote restoration of degraded natural and semi-natural ecosystems as a

contribution to reversing the loss of biodiversity, recovering connectivity, improving ecosystem resilience, enhancing the provision of ecosystem services, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, and improving human well-being while reducing environmental risks and scarcities. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

- Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-Water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention

The COP, at its 13th meeting, will consider a voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention. The workplan includes actions focused on avoiding, minimizing and mitigating the combined and cumulative effects of multiple stressors on biodiversity in cold-water areas, and maintaining and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems in cold-water areas. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>

- Marine spatial planning

The COP, at its 13th meeting, will consider the results of the CBD Expert Workshop to Provide Consolidated Practical Guidance and a Toolkit for Marine Spatial Planning, held in September 2014. The workshop report is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-06-en.pdf>. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

In 2012, the CBD Secretariat, together with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, produced CBD Technical Series 68: Marine Spatial Planning in the Context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-68-en.pdf>). The CBD Secretariat also carries out various capacity building activities through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative to support the application of marine spatial planning and other types of integrated approaches to conserving and sustainably using marine and coastal biodiversity (further information available at: <https://www.cbd.int/soi>).

- Integrated marine and coastal area management

The CBD Secretariat carries out capacity building activities through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative to support the application of integrated marine and coastal area management (further information available at: <https://www.cbd.int/soi>). In 2015, the CBD Secretariat produced CBD Technical Series 76: Integrated Coastal Management for the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-76-en.pdf>).

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels (aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Target 10)

- Impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity

The CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with researchers from around the world, coordinated the preparation of a systematic review document on the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity and ecosystem functions, which provides a targeted synthesis of the biodiversity implications of ocean acidification for marine and coastal systems. In 2014, this was published as CBD Technical Series 75: An Updated Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity (available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-75-en.pdf>).

- Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-Water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention

The above-noted workplan includes actions focused on improving coordination and collaboration in research, information sharing and capacity-building, and expanding and improving monitoring and research on biodiversity in cold-water areas to improve fundamental knowledge of how, and over what time scales, climate change and other human-induced stressors, such as ocean acidification, will impact the long-term viability of cold-water biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. This workplan will be considered by the COP at its 13th meeting. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

- Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems

The above-noted Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems include actions focused on managing coral reefs and associated ecosystems as socio-ecological systems undergoing change due to the interactive effects of multiple stressors, including global stressors (e.g., rising sea temperature, the effects of tropical storms and rising sea levels, as well as ocean acidification,) and local stressors (e.g., overfishing, destructive fishing practices, land-based and sea-based pollution, coastal development, tourism and recreational use, etc.). The Priority Actions are available in the annex of COP decision XII/23 (<https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13386>), and also available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-aichi-target-10-en.pdf>.

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics (*aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 and 7*)

- Focus of CBD COP 13 on mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being, including in fisheries and aquaculture

The 13th meeting of COP, to be held in December 2016, will focus on the theme of “Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-Being.” This will focus in particular on mainstreaming into four key sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture, and will address key actions needed to enhance the mainstreaming of biodiversity into these sectors. The COP 13 website is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/cop2016>. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

- Facilitating the monitoring of progress in the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on sustainable fisheries

In 2016, the CBD Secretariat, FAO, the IUCN Fisheries Expert Group, and the European Bureau on Conservation and Development organized an expert meeting on improving progress reporting and working towards the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6. The workshop developed a framework of actions and indicators to accelerate, monitor and report on progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6. The results of this workshop were also considered at the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 32nd meeting in 2016, where COFI welcomed the outcomes and recommendations of the expert meeting, invited FAO to strengthen cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and recommended that FAO make available suitable indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving relevant Aichi targets. The workshop report available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-27-en.pdf>. The report of FAO COFI 32 is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr484e.pdf>.

- Sustainable Ocean Initiative

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative, a global capacity building partnership coordinated by the CBD Secretariat, facilitates capacity building activities to support enhanced cross-sectoral planning and management of marine and coastal biodiversity to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This includes a focus on the interlinkages between fisheries management and biodiversity conservation. Information on SOI is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/soi>.

- Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was convened by the Secretariat in September 2016, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention, the IUCN-CEM-Fisheries Expert Group, and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, and the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea. The meeting brought together representatives of regional seas organizations, regional fishery bodies and relevant United Nations/international organizations/initiatives as well as experts from national governments and agencies, and non-governmental organizations. This meeting, the first of its kind at the global level, aimed at facilitating the exchange of experiences and discussing specific tools and guidelines in order to enhance science-based, cross-sectoral and ecosystem-based approaches for addressing biodiversity and fisheries issues, and identifying options and opportunities to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies, with a view to further strengthening their complementary roles in supporting national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. The outcome of this meeting is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SOIOM-2016-01>.

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information (*aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and 12*)

- Assessing and facilitating progress on the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and 12

Since May 2015, the Secretariat, in collaboration with partner organizations, has undertaken efforts to reach out to Parties to collect information on the status of each element of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and priority actions that Parties would undertake in the next five years to contribute to facilitating the achievement of the target at the global level. To date, Parties from the following regions were covered by were covered through six subregional capacity-building workshops: (i) East Asia and Southeast Asia, (ii) Latin America and the Caribbean, (iii) South, Central and West Asia, (iv) Africa, (v) Central and Eastern Europe and (v) the Pacific. Detailed information on the status of implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 at the subregional, regional and global levels from publicly available information and from the outcomes of these three workshops is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-43-en.pdf>. An update on the status of progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 is available at the following links, respectively: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/information/cop-13-inf-17-en.pdf>, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/information/cop-13-inf-18-en.pdf>.

- Description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)

Since 2011, the CBD Secretariat has been coordinating a global process to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) through regional workshops. Thus far, these regional workshops have covered more than 70% of the ocean and described more than 200 areas meeting the EBSA scientific criteria. The description of EBSAs is a scientific and technical process and the

identification of EBSAs and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations. Further information on the work on EBSAs under the CBD available at: <https://www.cbd.int/ebsa>.

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation (aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Targets 3 and 6).

- Modalities and milestones for Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 on incentives

At its 12th meeting in 2014, the COP took note of the modalities for the full operationalization of Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 and adopted a set of milestones as a flexible framework for the full implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 3. This includes actions and milestones to (i) identify those harmful incentives that are candidates for removal, phase-out, or reform; (ii) provide for a prioritized list of measures leading to their eventual removal, phase-out, or reform; (iii) provide for a prioritized list of measures leading to the introduction, or strengthening, of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (iv) provide for associated timelines and milestones for implementation. The milestones are annexed to COP decision XII/3, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-03-en.pdf>, and the modalities are available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-20-en.doc>.

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism (aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14, 15 and 16)

- Focus of COP 13 on mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being, including in fisheries and aquaculture and in tourism

The 13th meeting of COP, to be held in December 2016, will focus on the theme of mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being. This will focus in particular on mainstreaming into four key sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture and tourism, and will address key actions needed to enhance the mainstreaming of biodiversity into these sectors. The COP 13 website is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/cop2016>. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

- Biodiversity and tourism development

In 2014, at its 12th meeting, the COP adopted decision XII/11, inviting Parties and other Governments to take a number of key actions for sustainable tourism management, including promoting communication, education and public awareness activities on sustainable travel choices, identifying areas where there are significant levels of biodiversity and pressure from tourism, and monitoring tourism activities in protected areas. COP also invited donors to provide funding to support developing countries in the demonstration of “tourism and conservation hotspots”. At its 13th meeting, COP will consider a decision addressing further actions on sustainable tourism such as using information on the benefits and values of sustainable tourism in decision-making on the planning, operation and expansion of the tourism sector, and promoting capacity-building to support sustainable tourism. CBD COP decision XII/11 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/?id=13374>. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

- Sustainable Ocean Initiative / Pacific Ocean Alliance Regional Workshop for the Pacific Islands

In November 2016, the CBD Secretariat, together with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat / Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization of Australia and the French Marine Protected Areas Agency co-organized the Sustainable Ocean Initiative / Pacific Ocean Alliance Regional Workshop for the Pacific Islands, which brought together a diverse range of stakeholders representing conservation, fisheries, tourism, aquaculture and trade to discuss integrated approaches to conservation and sustainable use to achieve SDG 14, including approaches to achieve SDG 14.7 and means to balance economic growth with conservation. Further information available at: <https://www.cbd.int/soi>. The workshop report is forthcoming.

14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries (aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Target 19)

- Sustainable Ocean Initiative

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative, a global capacity building partnership coordinated by the CBD Secretariat, facilitates capacity building activities to support enhanced cross-sectoral planning and management of marine and coastal biodiversity to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This includes a focus on the interlinkages between fisheries management and biodiversity conservation. Information on SOI is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/soi>.

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want (aligned with all aspects of work under the Convention)

- Facilitating the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets

All work and developments within the Convention is focused on facilitating the implementation of the Convention and its protocols and the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The CBD Secretariat is also providing input and support to relevant UN processes. The CBD Secretariat actively provides scientific and technical input to the ongoing deliberations related to conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), including to the meetings of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in ABNJ. The Secretariat also works in the context in the SDG process, including the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators and as part of the informal preparatory working groups for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

II. CHALLENGES TO THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO FACILITATE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14
--

Mid-term review of progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and actions to enhance implementation

At its 12th meeting in 2014, the COP adopted decision XII/1, in which it noted the following general conclusions from the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, in the context of the mid-term review of progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:

(a) Meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets would contribute significantly to broader global priorities addressed by current discussions on the post-2015 development agenda: namely, reducing hunger and poverty, improving human health, ensuring a sustainable supply of energy, food and clean water, contributing to climate-change mitigation and adaptation, combating desertification and land degradation, and reducing vulnerability to disasters;

(b) Actions to achieve the various Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be undertaken in a coherent and coordinated manner; the individual Aichi Biodiversity Targets should not be addressed in isolation. Actions towards certain targets, notably those that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the further development and sharing of information, and the mobilization of financial resources, will have an especially strong influence on the achievement of the other targets;

(c) Attaining most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will require the implementation of a package of actions, typically including: legal or policy frameworks; socioeconomic incentives aligned with such frameworks; public and stakeholder engagement; monitoring; and enforcement. Coherence of policies across sectors and the corresponding government ministries is necessary to deliver an effective package of actions;

(d) It will be necessary to broaden political and general support for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the objectives of the Convention. This will require working to ensure that all levels of government and stakeholders across society are aware of the multiple values of biodiversity and related ecosystem services;

(e) Partnerships at all levels are required for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to leverage broad-scale actions, to garner the ownership necessary to ensure the mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors of government, society and the economy and to enable synergies in the national implementation of the various multilateral environmental agreements;

(f) There are opportunities to support implementation of the Strategic Plan through enhanced technical and scientific cooperation among Parties. Further capacity-building support will also be needed, especially for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition; and

(g) An overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding, is needed for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

These general conclusions are further supported by a range of reports related to the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. These include: Technical series 78 - Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An Assessment of Biodiversity Trends, policy scenarios and key actions, Technical series 79 - How Sectors Can Contribute to Sustainable Use and Conservation of Biodiversity and a series of regional state of biodiversity reports prepared for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and West Asia. CBD Technical Series 78 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-78-en.pdf>. CBD Technical Series 79 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-79-en.pdf>. The regional state of biodiversity reports are available at the following links (The State of Biodiversity in Africa - <http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-Africa>; The State of Biodiversity in West Asia - <http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-WestAsia>; The State of Biodiversity in Asia and the Pacific - <http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-AsiaPacific>; The State of Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean - <http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-LatinAmericaAndCaribbean>)

The COP also took note of the following key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and invited Parties to take action to address the identified gaps:

(a) *Social science* - The need for better ways to draw on social sciences to motivate choices consistent with the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to develop new approaches through, inter alia, better understanding of behavioural change, production and consumption patterns, policy development, and the use of non-market tools. The need for more effective communication, education and public awareness to be spread more widely through school systems and other channels and to devise communication and awareness strategies on biodiversity, complementing communication, education and public awareness efforts with other perspectives including research on intercultural and intracultural communication experiences;

(b) *Data and information* - The need for more accessible, affordable, comprehensive, reliable and comparable data and information streams through, inter alia, facilitated access to remote sensing, better collection and use of *in situ* observations, proxies, citizen science, modelling, biodiversity monitoring networks, better application of data standards and interoperability related to data acquisition and management to produce policy-relevant products, including indicators and scenarios to inform decision-making;

(c) *Evaluation and assessment* - The need for improving and promoting methodologies for assessing the status and trends of species and ecosystems, hotspots and conservation gaps as well as ecosystem functions, ecosystem services and human well-being, at the national, regional and global levels;

(d) *Planning and mainstreaming* - The need for improvement and better use of appropriate planning tools, and approaches for mainstreaming, in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 through, inter alia: biodiversity safeguards, tools and methods for spatial planning, including integrated land use and coastal and marine planning, valuation of biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services; and mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable development and other relevant policy sectors;

(e) *Linking science and policy* - The need for better integration of science and policymaking and for improved science-policy interfaces, particularly at the local and national levels and through the use of IPBES, and the improved and wider use of tools to promote policy coherence and policy evaluation and to produce scenarios and options relevant to policymakers;

(f) *Maintenance, conservation and restoration of ecosystems* - The need for better understanding of ecosystem processes and functions and their implications for ecosystem conservation and restoration, ecological limits, tipping points, socio-ecological resilience and ecosystem services; and improved methodologies and indicators for monitoring ecosystem resilience and recovery, in particular for vulnerable ecosystems;

(g) *Economic instruments* - The need for better understanding of the performance of economic instruments and their wider use in achieving the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as poverty eradication strategies, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions, and the need for improved guidance and tools to develop positive incentives and for the identification, elimination, phasing out or reform of harmful incentives, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, as well as the integration of biodiversity in national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems;

(h) *Traditional knowledge* - The need for better ways to include relevant indigenous and traditional knowledge systems and the collective actions of indigenous and local communities to complement scientific knowledge in support of the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

(i) *Scientific and technical cooperation* - The need to foster improved scientific and technical cooperation among Parties, scientific networks and relevant organizations, in order to match

capabilities, avoid duplication, identify gaps and achieve efficiencies. The need to enhance the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention to make scientific and technical cooperation more effective;

(j) *Different approaches* – The need to strengthen non-monetary valuation tools and methodologies for the maintenance of ecosystem functions.

The full text of decision XII/1 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/?id=13364>

III. LINKAGES TO SDG 15 AND RELEVANT WORK UNDER THE CBD

In the context of the ecosystem approach and a cross-cutting perspective in line with the principles of sustainable development, it is important to consider the interlinkages of SDG 14 with other relevant SDGs, including SDG 15 and its focus on halting biodiversity loss. There are some SDG 15 targets in particular that are relevant to SDG 14 and for which there is also relevant work under the Convention.

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species (aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 12)

The work under the CBD that can facilitate the achievement of SDG 14 (described in section D), including work on the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems, Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration, Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-Water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention, marine spatial planning, integrated marine and coastal area management, ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, is relevant to the achievement of SDG 15.5 in marine and coastal areas.

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species (aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Target 9)

- Work on invasive alien species

At its 12th meeting in 2014, COP adopted two decisions on invasive alien species, including voluntary guidance on devising and implementing measures to address the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food. These decisions are available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=cop-12>. At its forthcoming 13th meeting, COP will consider a draft decision on invasive alien species, including elements related to addressing risk associated with trade and experiences in the use of biological control and decision support tools. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts (aligned with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2)

- Focus of COP 13 on mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being, including in fisheries and aquaculture and in tourism

The 13th meeting of COP, to be held in December 2016, will focus on the theme of mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being. This will focus in particular on mainstreaming into four key sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture and tourism, and will address key actions to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts. The COP 13 website is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/cop2016>. The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

- Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

Reaffirming its commitment to an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 from a variety of sources, COP-12 adopted targets for resource mobilization, under Aichi Target 20 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. At its forthcoming 13th meeting, the COP will consider progress towards the above targets, and their adequacy, and to consider the need for appropriate action. The COP will have before it for its consideration an analysis of pertinent financial reports submitted by Parties, further to the adoption of the financial reporting framework by COP-12, as well as a draft decisions on resource mobilization developed by the Subsidiary Body on implementation at its first meeting, addressing the next round of reporting against the target for resource mobilization as well as elements related to safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms, milestones for the full implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 3, and strengthening biodiversity finance information systems. The full text of decision XII/3 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13366> .

COP-13 will also consider a draft decision on the financial mechanism of the Convention, which contains inter alia consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention, including a four-year framework of programme priorities for the seventh replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund, as well as elements related to the assessment of funds needed for the seventh replenishment cycle as well as to terms of reference for the fifth effectiveness review of the financial mechanism.

-

The compilation of draft decisions for COP 13 is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-02-rev1-en.pdf>.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS (STOCKTAKING OF EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGIES AND COLLABORATION, NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS GAPS, IN PARTICULAR CAPACITY GAPS)

- Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI)

In the context of the CBD, there are various partnership initiatives aimed at facilitating the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the Convention. Of particular relevant to SDG 14, is the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, a global capacity building partnership coordinated by the CBD Secretariat which facilitates capacity building activities to support enhanced cross-sectoral planning and management of marine and coastal biodiversity to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. SOI focuses centrally on bringing together stakeholders from different ocean sectors (e.g., conservation, fisheries, tourism) to:

- (a) Facilitate the sharing and exchange of knowledge, information, experience and best practices;
- (b) Create partnerships that can provide targeted capacity-building and technical assistance in support of on-the-ground implementation;
- (c) Enhance interactive communication among global policy, science and local stakeholders;
- (d) Facilitate the monitoring of progress;
- (e) Develop partnerships among different sectors and stakeholders on local, regional and global scales; and
- (f) Work together to achieve a balance between the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, and promoting flexible and diverse approaches towards this end.

SOI achieves this through activities such as global partnership dialogues, high-level events at CBD COPs, regular training of trainers workshops, regional capacity building workshops, national capacity building workshops and online information-sharing. In light of the close complementarities between SDG 14 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, this is an important partnership to facilitate achievement of SDG 14. Information on SOI is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/soi>.

- Capitalizing on existing partnerships, commitments and initiatives

Various partnerships, commitments and challenges have emerged in recent years to catalyze political will and support to accelerate progress towards healthy and well-managed oceans in different areas, including, but not limited to, the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), the International Coral Reef Initiative, the Monaco Blue Initiative, the Micronesia Challenge, and the Coral Triangle Initiative, among others, in addition to ambitious unilateral commitments by countries. The lessons-learned, political will catalyzed and support generated by these partnerships should be built upon in advancing progress towards SDG 14.