

**Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**  
**Eleventh meeting (COP11)**

Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012

***Agenda Item 6.2: Consideration of the need to strengthen the existing mechanisms for the Convention and the need for and possible development of additional mechanisms***

**Summary**

**WWF urges COP11 to ensure that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an effective institution that works effectively with the CBD and contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems by:**

- *encouraging IPBES to focus on* strategic target audiences and decision-makers that can allocate resources and promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystems across sectors including heads of state and the UN Security Council as well as key sectors *including* finance, economics, land planning, national development, forestry, agriculture, and fisheries.
- *requesting* the executive secretary to prepare a study for the IPBES intersessional process identifying key constraints in the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan at all levels. This study should consider obstacles to mainstreaming biodiversity across government sectors and how they can be addressed by IPBES.
- *promoting* the CBD Strategic Plan as the organising framework for IPBES, the biodiversity-related conventions, UN agencies and national action on biodiversity.
- *agreeing* a mechanism whereby the biodiversity-related conventions can make a coordinated submissions and requests to IPBES based on the CBD Strategic Plan.
- *encouraging IPBES to ensure* effective capacity-building approaches by requesting an independent evaluation of current biodiversity-related capacity building initiatives by international organisation to inform the IPBES intersessional process.

Specific text changes are outlined in the Annex to this position paper.

A full set of WWF position papers is available on [www.panda.org/cop11](http://www.panda.org/cop11)

## Rationale

WWF commends the work of the CBD Secretariat in preparing UNEP/CBD/COP/11/19/Add.1 including 'proposals for conveying requests from the Convention to IPBES' (Section II) and 'contributions to the intersessional process' (Section III) related to the identification of capacity-building needs and the process for submitting and prioritizing requests.

*WWF welcomes* the establishment of IPBES and believes that it should not only contribute to a better understanding of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for society but promote an understanding of the urgency of ensuring their conservation and sustainable use.

### Targeting key decision-makers and Sectors

WWF believes that the international community and national governments have clearly recognised the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems to human develop and have committed to an agreed path for their conservation and sustainable use under the CBD Strategic Plan.

However, key constraints remain for the implementation of these commitments including: lack of political will; financing; understanding of the economic and non-economic values of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and engagement of key sectors of government and business that have a major impact on the drivers of biodiversity and ecosystem loss.

WWF therefore believes that the CBD should encourage IPBES to focus its attention on target audiences including the highest levels of global and national decision-making as well as key sectors including: UN Agencies dealing with key sectors such as FAO, WHO, World Bank, UNEP and UNDP; national ministries dealing with finance, economics, land planning, national development, forestry, agriculture, fisheries; and equivalent sectoral departments at regional and local level.

WWF believes that if these sectors are to be the main target audiences of IPBES then they should be involved in the identification of the assessments required from IPBES and specify the key questions that assessments should address.

**WWF calls on COP to request the executive secretary to prepare as a matter of urgency a study on the key constraints for the implementation of the Strategic Plan at all levels. This study should consider the key obstacles to implementing the CBD Strategic Plan across all sectors of governments and how IPBES can address these obstacles.**

### Coordination with biodiversity-related conventions

*WWF notes* that the CBD's Strategic Plan and Aichi targets are becoming the *de facto* organising framework for action on biodiversity and ecosystems under the biodiversity-related conventions as well as the wider UN system. This is being supported by the UN General Assembly resolution on the 2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and the ongoing work of the Environment Management Group to promote cooperation between UN agencies and agreements around the CBD Strategic Plan.

*WWF welcomes* the proposal by the executive Secretary to share perspective and coordinate positions with the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions before SBSTTA considers and transmits proposals to IPBES outlined in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/19/Add.1. However WWF believes that a more robust mechanism is required to ensure the identification of common priorities among the conventions.

**WWF recommends** that the biodiversity-related conventions should make a single coordinated submission to IPBES based on the framework of the CBD Strategic Plan that is contributed to by the respective technical advisory bodies but agreed at a meeting of the Chairs of the of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions.

### **Capacity Building**

WWF believes that a key constraint on effective decision-making and understanding of biodiversity and ecosystems is the lack of capacity at national, regional and local level. WWF welcomes the focus of IPBES on capacity building but is concerned that 'top down' approaches to capacity building from the international level have been clearly shown to be ineffective, but they often remain the norm for many international organisations.

WWF welcomes the 'identification of capacity-building needs' and the outline of approaches that are effective in supporting capacity building in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/19/Add.1, however WWF believes that a more sophisticated analysis of the effectiveness of current biodiversity-related capacity building initiatives by international organisations and capacity-building needs is required if the IPBES intersessional process is to benefit.

**WWF urges COP to request an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of current biodiversity-related capacity building initiatives by international organisations as well as the most important capacity-building needs in order to inform the IPBES intersessional process**

## Annex

### Suggested text changes to recommendation XI/1 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/3)

Text that WWF feels is important is **in bold** and new text proposed by WWF is **in bold and underlined**.

*XVI/1. Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the subsidiary body and options for collaboration with the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services*

1. A. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopts a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions VIII/9, IX/15, X/2 and X/11, and *emphasizing* that regular assessments are needed at multiple scales to provide decision-makers with the necessary information base for adaptive management and to promote the necessary political will for action in addressing biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems and ecosystem services and the implications for human well-being,

*Recalling* that the function of the Subsidiary Body, as set out in Article 25 of the Convention, is to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies, with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention, including providing scientific and technical assessments of the status of biological diversity and of the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,

*Reaffirming* the need to strengthen the ability of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to deliver advice in this regard,

*Stressing* the need to support the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

*Recognizing* that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is an independent intergovernmental body and the need to respect its functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements,

**Noting that the international community has recognized the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems for human development and set ambitious targets for their conservation and sustainable use under the CBD Strategic Plan,**

**Further noting that the CBD Strategic Plan has become the de facto organizing framework for international action on biodiversity and ecosystem services at all levels,**

1. *Noting* the assessment of the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in meeting its mandate contained in section II and annex II of the note by the Executive Secretary on *Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice* (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2), *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of the necessary resources:

(a) To collate information from existing decisions and reviews relating to:

- (i) The scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- (ii) Existing policy support tools and methodologies (including intercultural tools and methodologies) developed or used under the Convention and their adequacy, impact and obstacles to their uptake and identify gaps and needs for further development of such tools and methodologies;
- (iii) The adequacy of observations, and of data systems, for monitoring the biodiversity attributes addressed in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, drawing, *inter alia*, upon information in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/6) and the report on the Adequacy of Biodiversity Observation Systems to Support the CBD 2020 Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/8); and
- (iv) Options for assessing the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and

(b) To report on progress on the above matters to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, on the basis of its analysis of the report on progress on the matters in paragraph 1 (b) above, to identify the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;

2. 3. *Welcomes* the establishment in Panama City, Panama, on 21 April 2012, of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and other outcomes of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for this platform, in particular the decision providing for the Chair of the Subsidiary Body to participate as an observer in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in order to promote adequate communication and synergies between SBSTTA and IPBES;

4. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider ways in which the activities of the Platform could build on and contribute to the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, as well as other future assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and information on further policy options available to deliver the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan, as appropriate and in accordance with the mandates of SBSTTA and IPBES;

**4 bis Noting that effective the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets requires the engagement of decision-makers at the highest level including heads of state as well as key sectors of government and business, invites IPBES to focus on strategic target audiences and decision-makers that can allocate resources and promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystems across sectors including heads of state and the UN Security Council as well as key sectors including finance, economics, land planning, national development, forestry, agriculture, and fisheries.**

5. *Considers that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a useful flexible framework for the delivery of the biodiversity agenda at all levels and invites the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider how its work plan can contribute to their achievement;*

**5 bis Noting the capacity building needs related to IPBES indentified in the CBD's fourth national reports of the CBD and the critical need to ensure that capacity building initiatives are effective and efficient, requests the Executive Eecretary to comission an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of current biodiversity-related capacity building initiatives by international organisations as well as the most important capacity-building needs in order to inform the IPBES intersessional process**

6. *Decides that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, within its mandate and following further guidance of the Conference of the Parties:*

(a) *Should identify the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan that could be considered by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;*

**(a) bis Should agree a common set of scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan with the other biodiversity-related conventions based on the work of SBSTTA and submit a common set of needs to IPBES;**

(b) *Should consider the relevant outputs from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and take them into account and complement them with further work as needed in its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;*

7. *Requests the Executive Secretary to explore options for formalizing the collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.*

**7. bis Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a for SBSTTA 17 a study on the key constraints for the implementation of the Strategic Plan at all levels. This study should consider the key obstacles to implementing the CBD Strategic Plan across all sectors of governments and how IPBES can address these obstacles.**

*A full set of WWF position papers is available [on www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)*

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Why we are here.  
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and  
to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.  
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