

*Fifth session of the plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Bonn, Germany. 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.*

## **Convention on Biological Diversity**

Statement by David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary and Officer-in-charge.

Thank you, Mr Chair for this opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

As we have just heard from the delegation of Mexico, the UN Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2016 recently took place with the theme of “mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being”. I’d like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Mexico for its leadership as well as to our partner organizations in organizing the Conference. UN Biodiversity Conference included the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the concurrent meetings of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, as well as a high-level segment with the participation of ministers from agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, as well as environment. The Cancun declaration reflects the commitments of ministers across these sectors to mainstream biodiversity across government.

An overview of the outcomes of this Conference is provided in IPBES/5/INF.22. As noted in that document, the COP explicitly referred to the Platform and its work in 14 of its decisions. The COP welcomed the Platform’s Assessments on Pollinators and on Scenarios and Models. It welcomed the scoping report for the global assessment.

And it called for cooperation with regards to other on-going work of the Platform.

Moreover, the Conference of the Parties made use of the deliverables of IPBES. Based on the Pollinators assessment, and subsequent work of the Convention's scientific body (SBSTTA), the Conference of the Parties adopted a comprehensive decision on pollinators. Drawing directly on the findings of the Assessment, it provided policy guidance with regards to, for example, improving the management of pollinators and their habitats, reducing risk from pesticides, promoting appropriate incentives, and so on. It also provided guidance for Parties and for Research bodies on the use of scenarios and models drawing upon the Scenarios and Models Assessment.

It is clear from these examples, that the IPBES assessments are already providing the basis for informed policy-making at the international level, as well as at the national level, as highlighted by the Coalition of the Willing on pollinators, launched at COP-13.

Further, the Conference of the Parties acknowledged the key role of the on-going Global Assessment in the development of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook which will provide the final review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and of progress to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity, and lay the foundations for the successor post-2020 strategic plan.

The Conference of the Parties took a number of other decisions of relevance to the Convention, including with respect to indicators and it adopted the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines for the prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing

their knowledge, innovations and practices and for fair and equitable sharing of benefits<sup>1</sup>.

In another decision, the Conference of the Parties called for an inclusive process for developing the next strategic plan for biodiversity. We will thus soon be reaching out to engage all relevant stakeholders as we design this process; we expect that, among others the IPBES community and the wider science constituency will be key actors. As we will just heard from Richard Kinley and Guy Midgley, and as SBSTTA has emphasised, an integrated approach to addressing climate change and biodiversity will be essential.

At the same, countries will need to ensure that we remain focussed on doing all that can be done to achieve the existing Aichi Targets and the related targets of the SDGs. The interim assessment of progress at COP-13 did not change the earlier assessment from the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook: there is progress, but it is insufficient to achieve the targets. We need to step up efforts and to make the best use of evidence – of science – in doing so.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge (adopted by decision XIII/18).