

IUCN Meeting Report



UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Investing in biodiversity for people and planet

COP 14 - CP/MOP9 - NP/MOP3
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018

Abstract

The [UN Biodiversity Conference](#) was held from 17-29 November 2018, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Under the theme “Investing in biodiversity for people and planet”, the Conference opened with the African Summit on Biodiversity on 13 November, followed by the High-level Segment (HLS) on 14-15 November and subsequently the 14th meeting the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14), the 3rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP3) and the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol. This report focuses mainly on COP14 and addresses some aspects of MOP3 of the Nagoya Protocol.

The 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference effectively launched the negotiations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Parties assessed progress made towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets and considered tools to evaluate the effectiveness of policy instruments for the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan. COP 14 also included discussions on mainstreaming biodiversity into core sectors of the economy – infrastructure, energy and mining, manufacturing, and health.

The Conference was organized in two Working Groups: Working Group 1 dealt with COP14, MOP3 and MOP9 matters and addressed jointly issues related to operations of the Convention. Working Group 2 in turn discussed issues in the agenda of COP14, and some items of the Cartagena Protocol. Following intense negotiations and late night contact groups, COP14 took 37 decisions while COP MOP3 and COP MOP9 took 16 decisions, each.

In addition to the HLS and the Africa Summit, other parallel meetings were held over the course of the two weeks in Sharm El-Sheikh: The Business and Biodiversity Forum, the 4th Science Forum; the Nature-Culture Summit; the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments; the Communication, Education and Public Awareness Fair; the Rio Conventions Pavilion; and a number of exhibitions and side events.

All in all, the decisions taken at the UN Biodiversity Conference demonstrate the urgency of accelerating and increasing efforts to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets through the mainstreaming biodiversity into productive sectors and promoting a more synergetic approach internally, between the Convention and its Protocols, and externally,

among the biodiversity-related conventions and other processes like those related to the Rio Conventions (The Paris Agreement in particular) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the Conference considered and took decisions on a series of items on emerging technologies, including synthetic biology, gene drives and digital sequence information on genetic resources, which proved highly contentious, but that ultimately, will contribute to ensuring the Convention's relevance in environmental governance.

IUCN's participation at the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 was substantive with IUCN delegates actively taking part in nearly all of the activities and strands of the conference. IUCN's participation didn't go unnoticed and the balance is extremely good. As evidenced in this report, IUCN continues to demonstrate its unique role in advancing conservation actions on the ground through the development and application of a myriad of technical tools and approaches, while at the same time, also demonstrate its value added in steering and successfully influencing policy decisions.

For a summary and in-depth analysis of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 please refer to the [Earth Negotiations Bulletin](#).

Overview of IUCN's participation

The section below presents a brief overview of IUCN's participation at the UN Biodiversity Conference including highlights of IUCN's contributions to the COP itself as well as through participation in other parallel events preceding or in the margins of COP. Highlights of some key decisions and agenda items for IUCN and its work is also presented.

Delegation

IUCN's "One Programme" delegation comprised members of IUCN's Secretariat (Headquarters (16 staff) and Regions (20 staff)); Commissions (19 experts including 3 Commission Chairs – CEM, WCPA and CEC) and 1 Council member. The IUCN Delegation was headed by the Director General for the duration of her stay in Egypt during the African Summit and the High Level Segment; for the two weeks of COP, the Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group, acted as the Delegation Manager and was supported by a Coordination Team. The full list of IUCN's Delegation can be found in **Annex 1**. See also **Annex 3** for pictures of the IUCN Delegation in action in Egypt.

Onsite, IUCN's Delegation worked closely with members of various delegations including from IUCN's constituencies – Member organisations (Governments and NGOs), Commissions, and Councillors. Some of them even attended IUCN's Delegation meetings every morning which allowed for extensive coordination among different positions and advocacy strategies throughout the course of the meeting.

Position papers and information briefs

IUCN prepared three position papers with our key messages in relation to the COP's agenda which were the basis for our policy interventions through the Conference. They were widely distributed before the meeting not only to IUCN Members and Constituencies but also to the National Focal Points of the CBD Parties. These papers are [available online](#) in English, French and Spanish.

In addition, IUCN produced and contributed to a number of Information Papers and prepared a series of briefs which are available both at the [CBD](#) website and in the [IUCN dedicated webpage](#). The IUCN dedicated webpage featured updates and highlights from the meeting as well as a series of blog entries from IUCN Delegates onsite.

IUCN Exhibition Stand

Thanks to the good relationship between our Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) and the host government, IUCN had a dedicated exhibition stand for the duration of the UN Biodiversity Conference. The stand, which was very well located (just across the hall from the main plenary room) turned into a key meeting point where IUCN delegates met with other delegates and exchanged about various issues in the agenda of COP, presented the Union's work, publications, videos, among others. The IUCN stand was also used for small meetings and side events. (See Photo gallery in **Annex 3**)

Parallel Meetings and Side events

IUCN took part in almost all the parallel meetings organized in conjunction with the UN Biodiversity Conference. Highlights are presented below of the main events. In addition, IUCN organized or was involved in over 30 side events throughout the duration of the COP in Sharm El-Sheikh. Information about parallel meetings and side events in which IUCN was involved can be found [here](#). Reports of a few side events is presented in **section c** below.

Release of the Protected Planet Report 2018

IUCN, UNEP-WCMC and National Geographic launched the Protected Planet Report 2018 at the commencement of the COP, including through a joint Press Conference attended by the Executive Secretary. The press release is available [here](#).

The report indicates that the world is on track to achieve coverage targets for terrestrial and marine environments, but that performance on quality aspects falls short. The side event presenting the report was covered by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin [here](#).

The 2018 IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Awards

At an event at the Ras Mohammed National Park, presided over by the Ministers of the Environment, and of Tourism of Egypt, and the Executive Secretary of the CBD, IUCN conferred Green List status on 15 new sites, and recognised the commitments of 35 countries towards implementing the Green List Programme worldwide. The event signalled a strong increase in activities in the Middle East, West Asia and North Africa region, with commitments from several countries, a strong list of nominated sites, and six sites listed, among them sites in Lebanon, Jordan, UAE and Egypt. See [here](#). See also **Annex 3** for the Photo Gallery.

The inaugural Pathfinder Award 2018

IUCN together with UNDP and the PANORAMA partnership conferred the inaugural Pathfinder Award in the opening plenary of the COP14, officiated by the Ministers of the Environment of Egypt, and of Costa Rica, and the Executive Secretary of the CBD. Coverage of the award ceremony is available [here](#). During the COP, UNDP also announced that it would join the PANORAMA partnership. See [here](#).

IUCN WCPA launches two new Best Practice Guidelines

During COP14, IUCN WCPA launched two more volumes in the Best Practice Guidelines Series for Protected Area Managers.

- Mitchell, B.A. et al. (2018). *Guidelines for Privately Protected Areas*. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series, No. 29. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47916>

The IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas launched best practice guidelines on privately protected areas at a side-event at the COP. *Guidelines for Privately Protected Areas* by Brent Mitchell et al. is the 27th in the WCPA best practice series and marks an important contribution to the encouragement and strengthening of the world's privately protected area system, directly supporting attainment of Aichi Target 11.

- Leung, Yu-Fai, et al. (2018). *Tourism and visitor management in protected areas: Guidelines for sustainability*. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 27, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47918>

a) Parallel Meetings

The [African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity](#), held on 13 November, hosted by the Government of Egypt in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) under the theme “*Land and ecosystem degradation and restoration: Priorities for increased investments in biodiversity and resilience in Africa*”.

IUCN was represented by our Director General, Inger Andersen, the Global Director, Programme and Policy, Cyrie Sendashonga, and Charles Karangwa from ESARO. The Conference was well attended and well prepared. The focus was clearly on land and ecosystem degradation and restoration – a focus which places the confluence of the priorities of the three Rio Conventions and Ramsar. It was particularly powerful to see the four convention Executive Secretaries stand shoulder to shoulder providing strong leadership on synergy and mutual support.

During the summit each African minister made a pledge on land restoration. Many ministers made reference to IUCN’s work on science, capacity building, restoration and biodiversity conservation. References to the Bonn Challenge and to the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (Africa100 which aims to bring 100 million ha into restoration by 2030) were also frequent. Clearly, IUCN is in high standing with the African Ministers. The meeting saw half a billion US\$ from GEF earmarked for restoration announced by GEF CEO.

The Summit endorsed the “[Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration](#) for increased Resilience” covering a period of 12 years (2019-2030), a framework to conserve and sustainably manage African land and ecosystems and adopted the African Ministerial Declaration on Biodiversity which can be found [here](#).

The High-level segment (HLS) was organized by the Government of Egypt on 14-15 November. The HLS was to provide a platform for discussions on ways and means to mainstream biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health, within the broader context of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The HLS also provided political lead to the negotiations of the UN Biodiversity Conference.

IUCN was represented by our Director General and the Global Director, Programme and Policy. IUCN’s DG was accorded a number of formal speaking roles in addition to making interventions in the Ministerial Roundtable. These were very well received and appreciated – again a function of IUCN’s good name and strong performance.

A highlight of the meeting was the launch of the ‘[Sharm El Sheikh – Beijing Action Agenda for Nature](#)’, co-sponsored by Egypt and China as the hosts of COP14 and COP15, respectively. This initiative is meant to galvanize momentum and strengthen political will in the lead up to COP15 to ensure the preparation and adoption of a strong post 2020 ‘New Deal for Nature’.

The HLS report can be found [here](#) and the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration can be found [here](#).

The Business and Biodiversity Forum, was organized in parallel with the HLS on 14-15 November. The Forum featured the mainstreaming topics of energy and mining, infrastructure and manufacturing and processing as well as other key topics such as, finance, access and benefit sharing, eco-innovation, partnerships and effective business engagement.

IUCN was present at the Forum with a small delegation comprised of our Director General, colleagues from the Business and Biodiversity Programme – Steve Edwards and Leigh-Ann Hurt, and from PACO’s business programme, Sareme Gebre.

The Forum conclusions can be found [here](#) as delivered by Minister Carlos Manuel Rodriguez of Costa Rica to the COP Plenary.

The [Nature and Culture Summit](#) was held on 23-24 November under the auspices of the Joint Programme of Work between the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNESCO on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity (2001-2020). IUCN and other organizations partnered with the CBD to support the organization of the summit and contributed to the agenda, presentations, etc. IUCN was represented by Peter Shadie (World Heritage Programme) and Dr. Jane Smart participated to the opening of the Summit. IUCN's Council member, Ramiro Batzin was also present and had a key role at the Summit. The Summit adopted a [declaration](#) on nature and culture.

The **4th Science Forum** also took place from 23-24 November. The aim of this science-policy dialogue was to bring together and engage scientists and policy makers to discuss what scientists could offer to the preparation of the post-2020 agenda, on the role of scenarios and pathways, framing the post-2020 targets, and on restoration and nature-based solutions as tools to reach biodiversity targets. IUCN was represented by Tom Brooks, Chief Scientist. The report of the forum can be found [here](#).

6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments was organized on 23-24 November. The Summit aimed to accelerate and further enable the mobilization of local and subnational governments to contribute to the achievement of the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It aimed also to provide a platform for discussing the role of local and subnational governments in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Taking place in Africa, the Summit gave special attention to the challenges of urbanization in the region.

ICLEI, through its Global Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC), organized the Summit, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) and the Government of Egypt. Local and subnational governments, through a variety of interactive sessions, workshops, roundtables, panel discussions and plenary sessions showcased the multiple examples of action already being taken at the local and subnational level, community-level driven innovation and localized solutions to complex and systemic global sustainability challenges. IUCN contributed to various round tables and focus sessions and had several representatives at the meeting:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable energy solutions in local and subnational governments (Russell Galt)
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into infrastructure at local and subnational level (Luc Bas)
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into health and wellbeing for the world's growing urban populations (Trevor Sandwith)
- From global decisions to local actions (Jonathan Hughes)
- A roadmap for collective subnational action in support of a new Action Agenda for Nature (Jonathan Hughes)
- Emerging trends and innovations, including innovative financing to support mainstreaming of nature-based solutions at the city and subnational level (Chantal van Ham)

The statement with the outcomes of the Summit presented to the CBD COP 14 Plenary can be found [here](#) as well as the Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People 2018 and call on Parties to:

- strengthen the catalytic role of all levels of government to contribute nature-based solutions,

- accelerate and enable our full participation in preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and associated action plans,
- unlock available resources, capacity building and knowledge transfer to support, mainstreaming biodiversity actions in our regions and our cities,
- enable and promote the implementation of the previous COP decisions related to local and subnational governments and to ensure the flow of decisions continues in future COPs,
- increase efforts to collaborate with the other global governance processes such as Rio, the New Urban Agenda, SDGs, and
- support the efforts of the UN Secretary General's 2019 UN Climate Summit's work stream on nature-based solutions.

The Communiqué mentions [CitiesWithNature](#), a game changing new global initiative by founding partners ICLEI, TNC and IUCN. CitiesWithNature is a shared platform for all cities, regions and other subnational authorities to connect and engage in mainstreaming nature into cities and regions in ways that benefit both people and nature. It serves as the 'one stop shop' for all levels of subnational governments to share and report on their actions in contributing to making progress on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets and shaping the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Technical Group Meetings of the Egyptian Initiative to ensure synergies between the three Rio Conventions took place on November 18 and November 28. Following the launch of the initiative by the Egyptian President, IUCN was invited among a selected group of organisations by the Minister of Environment to participate in these meetings to discuss the initiative's overview, objectives and a proposed way forward. Cyrie Sendashonga, Jane Smart and Hany El Shaer attended the meetings on behalf of IUCN.

The Rio Conventions Pavilion was organized from 17-28 November in conjunction with the COP and MOPs. Details of IUCN's participation are presented in **section d** of this report.

The Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Fair, took place from 17-29 November in conjunction with the COP and MOPs and featured a very rich [agenda](#). The CEPA Fair included two components: 1) an exhibition of outreach materials (kiosks) showcasing outreach materials such as posters, brochures, audio visual, etc., and 2) thematic side-events (presentation and/or performances), where Parties and Organizations demonstrated their activities related to the relevant themes. IUCN's Commission on Communication and Education (CEC) was actively engaged in the CEPA Fair.

b) Highlights: Decisions and key agenda items

Below are some highlights from key agenda items for IUCN and the decisions taken by the COP. Links to the decisions are provided, in some cases, to the final edited decision as posted in the CBD website with its final number or to the latest version of the text as available at the time of finalisation of this report.

Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan: Assessment and review towards selected Aichi Targets (Agenda Item 8)

In line with the IUCN position paper, this COP decision highlights the fact that, despite many positive actions by Parties and others, most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are not on track to be achieved by 2020. This will also jeopardize the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This finding results from the analysis of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); national reports; IPBES regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia; the IPBES Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration; updated scientific information on progress towards the Aichi Targets; and data from indicators (many of which are developed by IUCN with its partners).

[Decision 14/1](#) urges Parties to significantly accelerate actions to advance towards meeting the Aichi Targets, and to consider undertaking national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. The decision includes an annexed list of possible options to accelerate progress towards the Aichi targets. In the negotiations, there was a focus on resource mobilization, through capacity building, financial support, and technology transfer. Parties recognised the need to include non-state actors in implementation of the Aichi Targets, highlighting the role of private sector and indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. There were also links made to the progress made to the implementation of Aichi Target 16 (Nagoya Protocol). The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlighted the global country-driven assessment of the “State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture” report – for which IUCN provided input on the contribution of Protected Areas.

Capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation (Agenda item 10)

In the discussion that preceded the adoption of [Decision 14/24](#), Parties debated around the need for open-source tools, additional financial resources to allow for adequate delivery of capacity building, in particular to developing countries, the need to go beyond traditional approaches to capacity development, and expressed concern about the impact of the lack of capacities in advancing in the implementation of the Aichi targets. Many Parties alluded to the importance of ensuring full alignment between the long-term strategic framework for capacity building and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Parties highlighted specific priority areas for capacity building in line with national assessments of capacity needs including training in taxonomy, biosafety and biosecurity, ABS, among others.

IUCN, through Commissions and Secretariat programmes, has extensive experience in capacity building tools and approaches. In many cases, IUCN has worked hand in hand with Parties and the secretariats on the biodiversity-related conventions in delivering training workshops and advancing in the development of training materials. In its intervention under this agenda item (see **Annex 2**), IUCN highlighted the results of a survey carried out among its Members where three capacity building priority areas were identified: 1) fundraising; 2) cooperation with stakeholders; and 3) networking and communication.

In the COP Decision, Parties ask the Secretariat to submit a draft long-term strategic framework for capacity building beyond 2020 aligned with the draft post-2020 framework and the 2030 Agenda for consideration by SBI 3 and by COP 15 and identify synergies and areas of cooperation with the Rio

Conventions and biodiversity-related conventions in order to support joint capacity-building activities for consideration in the development of the post-2020 framework. The COP further decided to consider establishing, at COP 15, an informal advisory committee on technical and scientific cooperation. IUCN will continue to support this effort not only through its submissions with inputs for the strategic framework but also through specific collaborative efforts with the Secretariat and other partners in areas identified by Parties and stakeholders where IUCN is particularly strong or has significant expertise (e.g. protected areas; Red Listing; NBSAPs; communications and outreach; among others). For information, the final analysis resulting from the survey of IUCN Members mentioned above can be found [here](#).

Mechanisms for national reporting, assessment and review (Agenda Item 12)

[Decision 14/27](#) (CBD/COP/14/L.7) relates to: the process for aligning national reporting, assessment, and review; tools to evaluate the effectiveness of policy instruments for implementation of the Strategic Plan; and review mechanisms. There was no significant discussion on this agenda item however the decision includes the instigation of synchronized reporting cycles for the Convention and the Protocols in 2023, which IUCN had supported in its position paper, in order to reduce the reporting burden on Parties. IUCN is also concerned about the cost implications of reporting cycles, and in its submission on the post-2020 framework, IUCN suggested greater synergies on reporting and an assessment of reporting tools for the sixth national report and national reports under the CBD and its Protocols. In this regard and to assist Parties, prior to COP14, IUCN sent a copy of the relevant national IBAT Country Profile to each CBD National Focal Point and CBD SBSTTA focal point, in order for Parties to use the information contained as in input to sixth national reports and, unlimitedly, to the GBO5 (see also [Decision 14/35](#) (CBD/COP/14/L.17)). Furthermore, IUCN continues to develop indicators that can be used to track progress across multiple MEAs and the SDGs, in order to advance synergies and reduce reporting burdens and costs.

Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives (Agenda item 14)

Parties discussed modalities and approaches in relation to capacity building to enhance synergies amongst conventions, references to availability of resources to undertake workshops on the contribution of other conventions to the post-2020 biodiversity framework, as well as availability of resources to consider collaboration opportunities with specific conventions and references to specific Declarations such as the Florianapolis Declaration.

Regarding cooperation with international organizations, there were additions made to highlight FAO's work on the indicator on the proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture as well as proposals to highlight the need to work with the World Health Organization with respect to the Nagoya Protocol and UN Environment's work on microplastics.

On cooperation with inter-agency and coordination networks, there was a proposal to call for these networks to raise funds for the implementation of the convention although this was finally not included. Importantly, South Africa's proposal to add reference to the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation was agreed by Parties as was Bolivia's reference to alternative mitigation and adaptation approaches contributing to forest restoration. Finally, El Salvador proposed to add a paragraph where the COP "invites the United Nations General Assembly to designate the decade 2021 to 2030 the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration", which was supported by GRULAC, the African Group, and the EU. IUCN supported this proposal, having bilateral meetings and backstage conversations during the two weeks of COP with country delegates as well as with UN Environment and FAO officials supporting this initiative. In its intervention (See **Annex 2**), IUCN

emphasized the importance of advancing on the synergies agenda and highlighted ongoing efforts to which the Union is contributing including in relation to Nature-Culture, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Bonn Challenge.

Through [Decision 14/30](#), the COP urges Parties and others to consider possible new areas and approaches to advance the implementation of biodiversity commitments through enhanced cooperation as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process, taking into consideration lessons learned from existing cooperation. The COP also requests the Executive Secretary to share the results of the work of the informal advisory group with relevant organizations and others and invites the UN General Assembly to designate 2021-2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols (Agenda Item 15)

This agenda item addressed the challenges of concurrent meetings of the Convention and its Protocols, and procedures for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups. While concurrent meetings can lead to better integration between the Convention and its Protocols, and better coordination of national positions, it may also result in conflicting contact groups, which can be problematic for smaller delegations. In the [decision 14/32](#) (CBD/COP/14/L.18), the COP reiterates the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of developing countries, including by making funding available. In [decision 14/33](#) (CBD/COP/14/L.29), on the conflict of interest in expert groups, the COP approved a procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on its implementation.

Long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and preparation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Agenda item 17)

Alongside issues related to emerging technologies in the agenda of COP (synthetic biology, digital sequence information, genome editing), this agenda item was the main substantive area of discussion and one in which all Parties and stakeholders placed particular attention as outcomes of the deliberations on the 2050 Vision and the post-2020 framework would shape the Convention's work for the next two years and beyond. For IUCN, agenda item 17, and in particular issues related to the process and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, constituted the main priority area for the work of the delegation in Sharm El-Sheikh.

Long-term strategic directions and 2050 Vision

As regards the long-term strategic directions to the 2050 vision and approaches to living in harmony with nature, Parties debated around the SBSTTA and SBI recommendations on scenarios and after participating in an interactive plenary dialogue on approaches to living in harmony with nature, launched into discussions on whether references to technology developments relating to DSI, synthetic biology and living modified organisms (LMOs) should be included. These deliberations continued through informal consultations. Another particular area which generated somewhat "heated" exchanges was reference to the consideration of potential positive or negative impacts of productive sectors on biodiversity, and more specifically, reference to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Argentina supported by Brazil preferred to leave the reference to all productive sectors rather than singling out specific ones. Agreement was reached after the COP President, Minister Fouad, proposed to note Argentina's position in the meeting report and leave the reference to those three sectors in the Decision as it was supported by the majority of Parties.

In [Decision 14/2](#) (CBD/COP/14/L.30), the COP welcomes the SBSTTA conclusions regarding scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, annexed to the decision. It further invites the scientific and other relevant communities working on scenarios, "to take into account the underlying drivers and systemic and structural issues related to biodiversity loss; the contributions of the collective action of

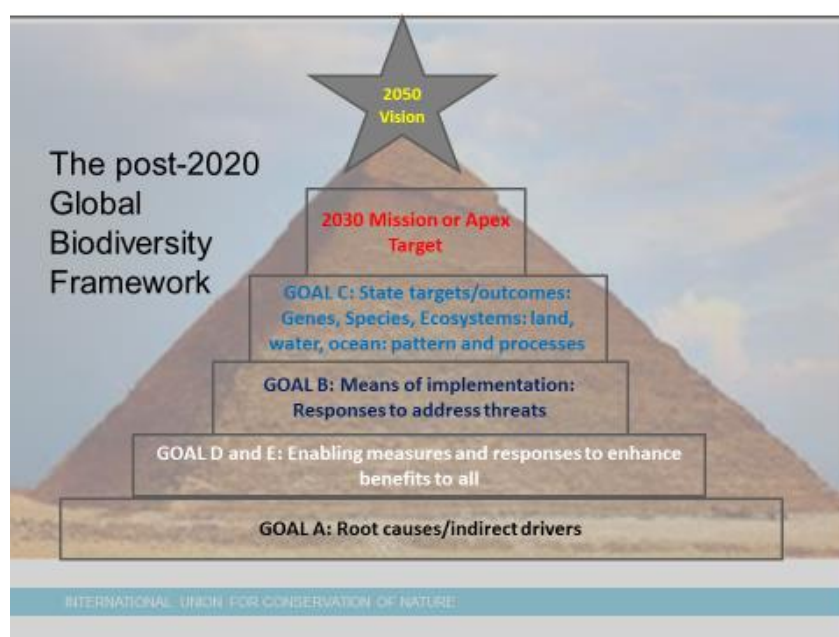
IPLCs; scenario analyses on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources; the potential positive and negative impacts of productive sectors on biodiversity, such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; technology developments, such as in data analytics, DSI, LMOs, and synthetic biology, and their potential positive or negative impacts on the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention; and the importance of enhancing communication and increasing awareness about the multiple values of biodiversity.”

Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

COP14 also [decided](#) to establish a process for the post-2020 framework, over the coming two years. Discussions under this item focused on a range of issues related both to process but also content. Parties called for a flexible, inclusive, gender-responsive, party-led process resulting in a truly global framework which is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and which brings along the three Rio Conventions as well as the biodiversity-related conventions and others. The EU in particular, called for ambitious, realistic, measurable, time-bound targets. A contact group was established and met throughout the duration of the meeting, and mostly focused on resource and logistical requirements as well as communications and outreach.

Discussions focused also on whether or not to establish an open-ended working group to drive the process forward in a dedicated manner and on the modalities of such working group, or if to rely on existing bodies already established under the convention (i.e. SBSTTA, SBI), as well as on the development of so called “voluntary biodiversity commitments” that contribute to an effective post-2020 framework. Under this agenda item, there was also discussion around how to address benefit-sharing from the DSI of genetic resources and at times, negotiations stalled because of DSI references in various paragraphs addressing elements of the process and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

IUCN’s intervention (see **Annex 2**), developed after extensive consultations with IUCN delegates on-site, highlighted numerous elements which are essential for the process as well as key issues for the design, scope and content of the global biodiversity framework. The figure below, presented by IUCN during COP14, reflects IUCN’s views as explained in its intervention from the floor on agenda item 17.



IUCN’s visual representation of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework/ Figure: Jane Smart

While many details of the framework remain to be negotiated, one issue on which there already appears to be consensus is that the new post-2020 mission should be structured as a planetary

“science-based target” – an equivalent for biodiversity of the Paris Agreement to limit climate change to <1.5/2-degrees C.

IUCN’s position paper proposed that “stabilising trends in species and ecosystems by 2030” would be an appropriate framing for such a new mission, and many similar formulations were under discussion by IUCN Members in COP 14, including “bend the curve”, “retention targets”, “no net loss”, and a “global mitigation hierarchy”. Given this momentum towards such a new post-2020 mission, method development to support determination of the *_actions_* necessary not just by CBD Parties but by all sectors of society (cities, sub-national governments, indigenous peoples & local communities, the private sector, etc) becomes an urgent priority. COP 14 provided a fertile forum for advancing such ideas.

The SSC post-2020 taskforce convened a side-event on the subject (see **section c**), which stimulated interventions from countries as diverse as China, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, and Grenada, with much discussion of potential national pilots for assessment of such specific “science-based targets”. Meanwhile the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation is exploring similar methods development with the financial sector, while Conservation International is in the process of developing a project to include testing of such methods for cities and companies. Across this diversity of sectors, the intent would be to have a suite of proof-of-concept specific “science-based targets” ready for release at the 2020 Marseilles World Conservation Congress, helping to build momentum towards the final negotiations at COP 15 later that year.

Through its [decision 14/34](#), COP adopts the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 framework and decides to establish an open-ended intersessional working group to support the framework’s preparation, including consideration of DSI. The COP urges Parties and invites others to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 framework; facilitate dialogues on the post-2020 framework and make the results available through the CHM; consider the advice to enable a gender-responsive and gender-balanced procedure in their processes on the post-2020 framework; and provide timely financial contributions and other support to the process, including by offering to host global, regional, sectoral, or thematic consultations.

The COP further requests the Secretariat to support the OEWG and the Co-Chairs, Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada), set up a high-level panel, and bring the preparatory process for the post-2020 framework to the attention of the UN General Assembly; SBSTTA 23 and 24 to contribute to the development of the post-2020 framework; the Article 8(j) Working Group at its eleventh meeting to provide recommendations concerning the potential role of traditional knowledge, customary sustainable use, and the contribution of the collective actions of IPLCs to the post-2020 framework; SBI 3 to contribute to the development of the post-2020 framework and to complement it with elements related to means of support and review implementation; among others.

Undoubtedly, IUCN’s engagement in the process moving forward in shaping the post-2020 framework will be essential. Institutionally IUCN is well prepared and coordination across the Union to provide coherent and robust inputs will be ensured through various mechanisms, namely the Post-2020 Task Force established by the Programme and Policy Committee of Council, and the task forces under the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Species Survival Commission, among others.

Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) (under Agenda Item 17)

The fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO5) is a basis for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and will be considered by COP15. Key inputs to this important policy document include sixth national reports (due by 31 December 2018), and the IPBES global, regional and thematic assessments. The discussion on the report included additional inputs for the compilation of the report, such as that of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, on progress on the

implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and other assessments on plant conservation. [Decision 14/35](#) (CBD/COP/14/L.17), notes the inputs to GBO5, and importantly for IUCN, urges parties to make available, in an open manner, accurate and reliable biodiversity-related data. IUCN continues to make data readily available on key indicators through various means, including the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT).

Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources (Agenda Item 18)

This agenda item was discussed at length at a contact group that met throughout the meeting. The main contention was around whether Digital Sequence Information (DSI) falls within the scope of the Convention and its Protocols, and whether benefit sharing should arise from its use. There were divergent views in the contact group, which also focused on: the contribution of DSI to scientific research; benefit-sharing from commercial and non-commercial use; and the establishment of an intersessional process, including an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on this issue. As Parties were unable to resolve differing views, [Decision 14/20](#) (CBD/COP/14/L.36), recognizes the divergences: that access to and use of DSI contributes to scientific research, and that further capacity to access, use, generate, and analyse DSI is needed in many countries. The Decision also recognised that there are varying national approaches to regulate the access to and use of DSI as part of national ABS frameworks. It further notes the divergent views among Parties regarding benefit-sharing from the use of DSI.

The COP decided to establish a science and policy-based process, to, *inter alia*, clarify domestic ABS measures on benefit-sharing arrangements from use of DSI and explore capacity-building needs. The process will include the establishment of extended AHTEG. The CBD Secretariat will collate submissions from Parties and other stakeholders on DSI, and will commission studies on: the concept and scope of DSI; traceability in public and private DSI databases; and how domestic ABS measures address benefit-sharing arising from use of DSI. The AHTEG will consider the synthesis of views, develop options for operational terms to provide clarity, identify areas for capacity building, and submit the outcomes to the working group on the post-2020 framework.

IUCN would need to keep a “watching eye” on the evolution of this issue, not only as it relates to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, but also in its relation to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and its linkages to the overall management of emerging technologies, including synthetic biology, within the Convention frameworks.

Biodiversity and climate change (Agenda item 21)

Although the main objective of this item was the adoption of the voluntary guidelines for the design and implementation of ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, parties discussed the preambular part and made important remarks on the importance of the linkages between biodiversity and climate change, especially after the presentation of the last IPCC 1.5°C report.

Several Parties and other organizations including IUCN made reference in their statements (See **Annex 2**) on the relevance of fostering enhanced collaboration between IPBES and IPCC secretariats, as well as the scientific, stakeholder and policy communities interested in these interlinkages. Parties also urged the prioritization of this item in the post-2020 framework.

Additional discussions emphasized the impact of climate change in scenarios of 2°C not only on species and ecosystems, but also on indigenous peoples, local communities and rural women. There were also concerns that escalating destruction, degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems would

increase greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the resilience and stability of land and forest carbon stocks, and make the climate crisis even more challenging.

At the end, Parties agreed to add references to strengthening ecosystem integrity for the conservation of natural ecosystems, showing how the achievement of the SDGs, the Strategic Plan and the Paris Agreement depend on the environment in all its diversity and complexity. There was also an agreement to consistently refer to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Importantly, through its [decision](#), COP14 notes with concern the findings of the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5° above pre-industrial levels and adopts the guidelines, including some specific actions which are important for the work of IUCN, such as:

- Support Parties in undertaking ecosystem-based to climate change adaptation (EbA) and disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) in making use the voluntary guidelines: providing capacity building; promoting awareness raising, supporting the use of tools, including community based monitoring and information; supporting the development and implementation of pilot projects and upscaling existing projects;
- Update the guidance, tools and information on initiatives available;
- Compile case studies at national, regional and international levels on the implementation of the guidelines.

Moving forward, IUCN could also contribute to the request made to the Secretary, of reviewing new scientific and technical information including by taking into account traditional knowledge and the findings of Global Warming of 1.5°, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above preindustrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, with respect to: Impact of climate change on biodiversity and on communities that depend on ecosystem services and functions; the role of ecosystem integrity for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction and ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management, among others.

Spatial planning, protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (Agenda Item 24)

COP14 adopted a comprehensive decision ([Decision 14/8](#)) to recognise the definition of other effective area-based conservation measures, as well as criteria for their identification. It also adopted technical and scientific advice for Parties on these measures. The phrase “other effective area-based conservation measures” is a component of Aichi Target 11, which sought to include areas that are not protected areas, but which nevertheless have biodiversity conservation as an outcome. It offers a huge opportunity to recognise and support areas voluntarily conserved through the governance of a range of actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and private actors, safeguarded by the application of principles of free, prior and informed consent. The Decision also calls upon IUCN together with UNEP-WCMC to include information on these areas into the World Database on Protected Areas.

It is worth noting that the text of the final Decision was approved largely as agreed at the February workshop and reviewed at SBSTTA. The approval of the Annexes to the Decision provide a clear pathway forward to ensure that spatial measures applied by sectoral agencies can be considered as OECMs and including in reporting on Target 11. The Decision clearly endorses that evaluations of individual areas should focus on the *outcomes* of the application of spatial measures, and not simply on the type of measure applied. A specific area should be considered an OECM appropriate for Target 11 reporting if the area provides benefits to a broad range of biodiversity and not solely to the target species of a fishery, for example, although of course no area can benefit *all* types of biodiversity that may be found in an area.

IUCN has been very active in preparations for the OECM Decision. In particular, the February 2016 workshop on OECMs was co-organized by IUCN along with the CBD Secretariat, Canada and Norway. The two key Background Papers for that workshop were drafted by a Task Group from the IUCN Protected Areas programme and by members of the CEM-Fisheries Expert Group. Aspects of both Background Papers were carried directly into the final Decision language

The Decision also adopted voluntary guidelines on topics that are crucial elements of the agenda for protected and conserved areas, long deliberated by IUCN, and supporting several IUCN resolutions:

- Voluntary guidance on the integration of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures into wider land-and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the sustainable development goals
- Voluntary guidance on effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity, taking into account work being undertaken under Article 8(j) and related provisions
- Scientific and technical considerations in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in marine and coastal areas

Following this landmark Decision, IUCN and partners will be considering ways in which to capitalize on this good progress in the run-up to 2020, and in providing input into the post-2020 biodiversity strategy.

Marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 25)

EBSAs – Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas

This was by far the most complex and difficult issue in relation to marine biodiversity. Key issues in the negotiations were UNCLOS, national jurisdiction and when it comes to the description of new EBSAs or modifying existing EBSAs: in consultation/ collaboration; coastal (and/or/including) archipelagic; for consideration by or for information to SBSTTA and COP. After long and difficult negotiations in four contact groups, one friend of the chair, four Working group meetings and plenary the COP finally approved the very last minute a decision on the EBSAs. In the final [Decision 14/9](#) (CBD/COP/14/L.34) a compromise was found where Turkey, Colombia and Venezuela requested a foot note to be added with reference to UNCLOS noting that to their understanding UNCLOS is not the only legal framework governing activities in the seas and oceans. The decision includes an Annex of new candidate EBSA descriptions from regional workshop covering the Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Baltic Sea. The process for modifying the EBSAs already in the EBSA repository, a difficult topic since the last COP remains unresolved. The decision welcomes the report of the Expert Workshop to develop options for modifying EBSA descriptions, describing new areas and strengthening the process held in Berlin December 2017. However, the whole Annex II containing the various options remains in brackets despite extensive discussions. Following concerns by several Parties for not losing the work done since the Berlin workshop, a new paragraph was added the last minute in the decision requesting the executive secretary, subject to available resources to identify options for the description of new and modifying existing EBSAs, noting the Annex II of the decision and for considering the Annex III on the TORS of the Informal Advisory Group as amended. To note that new Annex III weakened considerably the mandate of the Advisory Group. Several parties while not wanting to block consensus requested their statements be included in the report. (Korea put on record that it requests the secretariat to take into account the ongoing discussion and concerns raised by Parties regarding the process of national submissions to the EBSA repository. Singapore also in the decision cannot detract from existing state obligations under international law including UNCLOS and the EU with Ghana and Japan emphasized the universal character of UNCLOS). In closing the difficult debate Argentina suggested that the main reason for the difficulties in the discussion was the lack of legal experts in the delegations and encouraged parties to include such experts and South

Africa suggested that parties start with modifications in their EEZ first before going to multiple EEZ and ABNJ.

This impasse is unfortunate but at the same time may present an opportunity. There are now over 300 EBSAs described in the global oceans with national and regional processes now over 75% of the ocean and continue to grow. With the possibility for re descriptions and additions to repository now stalled there was discussion in the “corridors” of the contact group about beginning to talk with marine sectors and States about the conservation of areas that have been described and entered in the repository, and develop guidance for ensuring an appropriate level of risk aversion in management of these areas. This would present substantial opportunities for IUCN to take a leadership role in marine and coastal sustainable use of biodiversity blended with full protection where most appropriate, provided there are available resources.

Other matters related to Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

The draft decision CBD/COP/14/L.24 ([Decision 14/10](#)) was adopted after little discussion in paragraph 1.c) on cold water ecosystems with an addition by Canada to add ‘noting in particular the finalizations of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean’. A second significant amendment was on the reference to the International seabed authority (ISA) in paragraph 3 not simply welcoming the draft regulations on explorations of marine resources. This was proposed by the EU. The second of the two interventions is of greater importance as the activities of the ISA are still controversial and not as precautionary as the IUCN advises for Deep Sea Mining, so noting the draft regulations is better than welcoming the authority without constraints. At some point IUCN can and should bring up the point in this document on marine debris from the ocean and coastal zones. IUCN has and is continuing to do much work on this topic so a future addition to the text should be welcome to give context to the work of a few Nature –based solutions programmes. Additionally, the same can be said for Deep sea mining and marine underwater noise- both of which are already or upcoming serious threats to marine biodiversity.

Lastly, IUCN’s CEM Fisheries Expert Group is explicitly mentioned in this decision – welcoming its cooperation with the UN’s Food and Agricultural Organisation with relation to reporting and supporting on Aichi Target 6.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) (Agenda item 26)

Parties discussed the recommendation from SBSTTA, including 2 annexes on Supplementary voluntary guidance for avoiding unintentional introductions of invasive alien species associated with trade in live organisms and the terms of reference for an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) to provide advice on achieving Aichi Target 9, and address matters not covered by the work of IPBES on invasive species.

Thanks to the government of Egypt, the [final decision](#) takes note of, among others, the report presented by IUCN’s Invasive Species Specialist Group on the application of classical biological control for the management of established invasive alien species causing environmental impacts ([CBD/COP/14/INF/9](#)) and the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) developed by the GIASI Partnership. The COP also encourages Parties to support the development of IUCN’s Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa and encouraged further work by IUCN on the classification of the impact of IAS on social aspects and economic and cultural values.

Finally, Norway committed USD60’000 to the work of the AHTEG.

Synthetic Biology (Agenda item 27)

Two of the most controversial agenda items in COP 14 addressed Synthetic Biology and Digital Sequence Information (see above). These are deeply divisive topics in conservation generally, with the challenge exacerbated by political issues of the degree to which they are already addressed under existing CBD mechanisms (specifically, the degree to which synthetic biology is addressed under the Cartagena Protocol, and the degree to which digital sequence information is addressed under the Nagoya Protocol). Decisions were reached on both issues at COP 14, but the rather ambiguous, negotiated text used will doubtless mean that the topics remain items of debate in coming months and years.

In particular, the [decision](#) leaves IUCN well-placed to help guide the way forward in consideration of both the positive and the negative interactions between biodiversity conservation and synthetic biology, with the IUCN assessment of the subject, mandated by RES 086 from the 2016 Hawai'i World Conservation Congress set to be published in early 2019. Building from this basis, IUCN Council will lead the process of development of an IUCN policy on the subject, which will benefit from consultation through the IUCN Regional Conservation Fora over 2019, building up to consideration for adoption by IUCN's Membership in the 2020 Marseille World Conservation Congress.

c) Side events

Highlights of some of the side events in which IUCN was involved (as organizer or otherwise) are presented below.

Saturday 17 November

Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures: Meeting Aichi Target 11 and the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, hosted by IUCN and the CBD Secretariat

A definition for Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs, or “conserved areas”) was adopted by Parties at COP14. This represents a huge step forward in terms of spatial land and sea protection under global goals such as Aichi Target 11. Recognition of OECMs will contribute not only to coverage targets but also to ecological representation, and important areas for biodiversity and connectivity. Government agencies, private entities and Indigenous Peoples and local communities all govern and manage a diversity of areas that may not be designated protected areas but nevertheless support effective biodiversity conservation. These areas can now be recognized as conserved areas and reported to at the global and national level.

IUCN and partners have been working on the concept of OECMs. This side event outlined the process facilitated by IUCN and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) from 2016, to generate technical advice on the definition and criteria for OECMs. The session was chaired by Kathy MacKinnon (Chair, WCPA), with speakers outlining the situation for OECMs in four project countries (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru), as well as work in South Africa and Canada.

Soft launch of the IUCN Assessment on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation, IUCN

IUCN convened a side-event to share the key findings of the assessment at COP 14, which attracted ~130 participants and intensive debate, illustrating the depth of interest in the IUCN process from the CBD constituency.

Sunday 18 November

IUCN- Celebrating 70 years of vision and impact, IUCN

The 70th Anniversary “side event” was very well attended in spite of a number of clashes with other events, some even organized by IUCN. We had dynamic line up of speakers who, after the celebratory video and Jane Smart’s “corporate” presentation, provided warm remarks about IUCN and its impressive track record, evidencing how relevant the Union is for many and how much the environmental community counts on us to keep on living long and flying high! (See pictures in **Annex 3.**)

Monday 19 November

On Target! Galvanising long-term action for nature, IUCN with the support of the Government of France

IUCN presented its evolving position on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, shared ideas on the elements and content of the framework and presented ongoing work on mapping of coalitions to enhance action for biodiversity. The Director of the Science Division of the CBD Secretariat participated in the event and provided feedback and additional views on the process moving forward with the development of the post-2020 framework.

Bridging Aichi Targets 5, 11 and 15 with the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) and the World Atlas of Desertification, led by EC, UNEP-WCMC, GBIF, IUCN and BirdLife International

The Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) has been developed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission in collaboration with the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), IUCN, and BirdLife International. The Digital Observatory on Protected Areas (DOPA) is a data platform that provides indicators, based on global reference data sets. The platform includes information provided by IUCN and its partners, in particular from The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, the World Database on Protected Areas, and from the World Database on Key Biodiversity Areas. There are increasing number of data platforms that are marketed as aids for decision-making and reporting under the CBD and other MEAs, many of which use data from the above-named datasets, mobilised by IUCN and its partners. IUCN provided an overview of its activities with the EU Joint Research Centre, to support data delivery through the newly developed DOPA Explorer 3.0.

Tuesday 20 November

The Road Ahead: Toyota and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, IUCN in partnership with Governments of Thailand and Egypt, BirdLife International and CI

IUCN and Toyota will continue providing knowledge on the conservation status of species in order to trigger conservation action for Aichi Target 12. In the event, Toyota explained how this work contributes to the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050, which embraces not only biodiversity conservation (through innovative technology) but also climate change as two sides of the same coin.

The side event highlighted the importance of working with the private sector in investing in biodiversity for people and planet through the provision of knowledge to undertake action for tackling the extinction crisis, emphasizing how such action needs to be ramped up post 2020 as an underpinning to sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs.

A new web-based platform for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and featured species from the latest update of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (on the 14th November 2018) was unveiled at the event and the Thailand Bio-Diversity Network Alliance (B-DNA) platform was “soft-launched”. A ceremony was convened through which car keys were handed over by TMC to BirdLife International and Conservation International, which undertake IUCN Red Lists assessments, field research work and conservation activities.

IISD Reporting Service’s coverage including photos and a video can be found [here](#); and IUCN’s web story [here](#).

Ensuring effective indicators for the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, led by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, with representatives from UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, EU, GBIF, NatureServe.

The preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will consider the identification of indicators for the framework’s elements at the same time as the framework is being developed according the CIOP14 decision. Such a process to discuss possible targets and indicators together would create new demands for accessible information on available indicators. These discussions would also benefit from evidence on the factors for effective indicators. This side event presented the views of members of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership on indicator development and use in support of the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, followed by a discussion aiming to generate some ideas and suggestions for identifying effective indicators for the post-2020 framework. IUCN put forward its views on streamlining indicators for the post-2020 framework, and the importance of ensuring adequate resources for providing indicators across the timeframe of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Wednesday 21 November

The Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP): An innovative mechanism to help countries achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Ministry of Environment Republic of Korea; Korea National Park Service; IUCN

This side event was organised to share some of the lessons learned from the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) and to explore its role in helping to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Some 60 participants attended.

The event began with an overview of APAP's history, objectives and current status, provided by the IUCN Asia Regional Office (in its capacity as the APAP Secretariat). This was followed by presentations by representatives from several APAP Member Countries (Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan), who spoke about the development of the protected area systems in their respective countries, their reasons for joining APAP and their expectations from the Partnership in the future. Representatives from the Japan Ministry of the Environment and the Korea National Park Service spoke about APAP's technical workshops on collaborative management and managing protected areas effectively.

APAP was recognized as a successful platform for sharing best practices and lessons among PA agencies in Asia. Despite its relatively young age (APAP was only founded in 2014), the Partnership has grown rapidly and has considerable potential to help countries within the region to achieve the Aichi Targets. APAP Members expressed their hope that the Partnership would continue to develop and strengthen its role. More details about the side event can be found [here](#).

Sunday 25 November

Sustainable Rangeland Management strategies and practices under the umbrella of Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD), IUCN ROWA

In cooperation with UN Environment and national partners and with support from GEF, the event aimed at inspiring collective action to put forward a global agenda on sustainable rangeland management to save the remarkable biodiversity of global rangelands. The event was attended by representatives of various countries attending the CBD COP 14.

Local biodiversity actions towards implementing the subnational Plan of Action (2011 - 2020), ICLEI-led side event

Biodiversity and healthy, functioning ecosystems are essential for the well-being of urban communities and economies. The decisions that local and subnational governments take, can have major impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. To support the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan, ICLEI, the SCBD, and other partners, such as the IUCN have, since 2006, initiated and implemented various programs and initiatives and COP decisions to improve and enhance biodiversity mainstreaming and ecosystem management at the local and subnational level. As we move towards the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, it is appropriate to reflect on and review progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 over the past decade.

This side event showed how the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (COP 10 Decision X/22) has landed at the local level by showcasing a few cutting edge and transformative programs and projects implemented in cities and city regions across the world:

- [Urban Natural Assets for Africa \(UNA\): Rivers for Life](#), implemented by ICLEI to support local governments in Africa in addressing daily challenges around protecting and revitalising their

urban natural assets, particularly river systems, and aims to integrate nature-based solutions into land use planning for increased resilience;

- [INTERACT Bio](#) - integrated action on biodiversity, implemented by ICLEI in fast growing cities in Brazil, India and Tanzania to support all levels of government integrate their efforts for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into core subnational government functions such as spatial planning, land-use management, local economic development and infrastructure design;
- [Local Protected Areas Project in Latin America](#) implemented by ICLEI in partnership with GIZ and the IUCN in Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, to contribute to improving local governments' capacity building and governance to conserve biodiversity through the effective and equitable management of protected areas and other conservation measures
- [IUCN and the National Natural Parks of Colombia are working](#) together to integrate climate change and biodiversity concerns into spatial planning frameworks. The project aims to increase capacity to optimize planning to support biodiversity and climate change adaptation objectives, including through the effective engagement of protected area systems. Through a combination of global reviews and in-country assessments, target countries will be provided with advice, guidance, and assistance in demonstration activities
- The [Wild Guayaquil initiative](#) in Ecuador, inspires citizens and visitors to reconnect with biodiversity by promoting protected areas, research and knowledge sharing, and strengthen action, working with social media and photography.

Regional governments: a cross-sectional approach to accelerate global ambitions in Climate Change, Biodiversity and SDGs, led by nrg4SD

The objective of the side-event is to showcase regional experiences, tools and lessons learned in the integration of agendas. The experiences will point to the important role of regions in promoting multi-stakeholder participation and multi-level partnerships. Different experiences at the subnational level show a commitment implement innovative solutions for a more efficient use of land, water, energy, and materials, generating necessary changes to development models.

The region of Quebec recalled the impact of climate change to biodiversity and vice-versa, and shared examples on how this integration is reflected in their policies. The Plan of Action on Climate Change considers the SDGs and biodiversity and the three agendas are mutually referenced and integrated. The State Government of Sao Paulo shared the lessons learnt and the challenges they are facing on forest restoration and highlighted the importance of including all levels of government in the implementation of actions. The georeferenced scenarios on climate change allow them to create maps of the ecosystem services available in the region, and they consider pollinators as an efficient indicator for climate change. The Government of Catalonia shared their recently approved Biodiversity Strategy and how it considers the integration between biodiversity, climate change and agriculture, and their integration of the SDGs.

Representing IUCN, Luc Bas, Director the IUCN European Regional Office, highlighted the high potential of Nature-Based Solutions to accelerate global ambitions in an integrated agenda that considers climate change, biodiversity and the SDGs and the need to find common ground for subnational governments to strengthen their actions.

Developing a strategic approach to accelerate progress towards Target 12, IUCN SSC-CBD

Participation was designed to build upon engagement at SBSTTA22/SBI2 in July 2018 and centred on a side event "[Developing a strategic approach to accelerate national progress towards Target 12](#)", which was well attended. This reflected comments made by Parties and the CBD Secretariat in July and began the process of co-creating an approach that would allow ways of making significant progress towards Target 12. The central message that we presented was the need to increase

conservation responses substantially and to ensure that the impact they are predicted to have of reducing overall species extinction risk is well understood. We proposed a way to start that process and sought input on the potential of the methodology/decision-support tool to assist Parties. The event included national perspectives from Grenada, Cameroon, Brazil and China on progress and challenges towards meeting this target. The draft approach presented was well received and follow up discussions were held with a range of Parties, including those above, but also others. Next steps are to work with several Parties, carefully selected, to explore the potential of our approach within their national contexts, with a view to presenting a more rounded decision-support tool at SBSTTA23 in November 2019.

Monday 26 November

Towards the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in the Arab countries, IUCN ROWA

This side event discussed the progress towards the implementation of each country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the principal instrument for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level. Initiatives on biodiversity conservation in the Arab region presented to showcase progress in the mainstreaming of biodiversity and in implementing the Aichi targets at the national level. The meeting also addressed synergies between biodiversity-related conventions and provided a platform to discuss joint technical coordination among Arab countries in the region for effective participation in the 14th and 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the CBD convention. The key outputs of this event called for better mainstreaming of biodiversity into the economic and industrial sectors, as well as for the development of specific indicators for measuring the progress towards achieving national targets stated within the NBSAPs. Finally, the side event called for forming a voluntary regional taskforce to follow up on key actions and recommendations before, during and after the CBD COP14. For more information <https://twitter.com/iucnrowa?lang=ar>

Towards a New Deal for Nature and People: An Action Plan for Cities and Subnational Governments, ICLEI-led side event

Globally, many diverse networks, agencies and initiatives (ICLEI, nrg4SD, IUCN, TNC, and others) are working towards supporting and mobilising local and subnational governments in their efforts to protect Nature's benefits, through supporting research, advocacy, implementation, governance and access to financing. This session discussed how the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implies a transformational shift in the way we work and contribute. How can we align our efforts to ensure enhanced benefits from nature in and around our cities?

Cities and subnational governments are recognised as key role players in the protection and restoration of urban nature and driving local action to support national and global biodiversity achievements. During the discussion the importance of collaboration among the different levels of governments was highlighted as well as the role of scientific knowledge and the lessons learned from the role of non-state actors and communication used in the climate change debate. As part of the panel of this session Chantal van Ham presented various IUCN tools and knowledge products that can strengthen the actions of local and subnational governments, such as the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, CPIC, IUCN WCPA Urban Protected Areas Guidelines, NatureForAll and the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions which is under development.

Launch of Nature in the Urban Century Assessment (NUCA)

[Nature in the Urban Century](#), a new report authored by The Nature Conservancy, Future Earth and The Stockholm Resilience Centre, finds that if current trends continue over the next two decades, urban growth will threaten more than 290,000 km² of habitat—an area larger than New Zealand. And

protected lands are increasingly in close proximity to cities, with 40 percent of strictly protected areas anticipated to be within 50 km of a city by 2030.

Released in advance of the 2018 UN Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties meeting, the report calls for global action to conserve habitat for nature and for human well-being as global leaders work to revise goals for biodiversity protection within the convention. “Nature in and near cities is crucial for maintaining biodiversity, but also for the people who depend on the benefits that nature provides,” said Dr. Rob McDonald, lead scientist for Global Cities at The Nature Conservancy and the report’s coordinating lead author. Urbanization has been a major driver of habitat loss over recent decades, but this trend can be shifted with better planning for sustainable urban growth and use of natural solutions, careful management of protected areas near cities, and integration of habitat into cities, the report finds.

Tuesday 27 November

Effective Use of Knowledge for Developing a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, led by IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, UK Government, UNEP, BirdLife International, RSPB and CBD Secretariat.

In April 2018, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC and other partners of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, along with the CBD Secretariat, hosted an international expert workshop on the use of evidence to develop the post-2020 framework, involving SBSTTA Bureau Members and invited experts. Participants at the workshop identified a range of key options for improving evidence uptake, use and accessibility, and ways in which the evidence base itself could be enhanced. The side event considered three of the examples of the evidence types identified as being key for supporting development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework including: the value of scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (SBSTTA recommendation 22/1); the development and use of indicators throughout development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework (SBI recommendation 2/19); and the use of the IPBES global, regional and thematic assessments (SBSTTA recommendation 22/4). A supporting report of the international expert meeting is available (CBD/SBI/2/33).

Wednesday November 28

Accelerating progress on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and improving reporting with Forest Landscape Restoration: Evidence from 26 countries, IUCN and CBD

In this side event, IUCN presented the key findings of [CBD/COP/14/INF/18](#). Country delegates from Myanmar, Malawi, Colombia, El Salvador, and Honduras provided insights of their progress to date and expectations of integrating FLR activities into the implementation of their NBSAPs and the submission of their 6th National Report. The CBD Secretariat provided guidance as to how to improve the integration between FLR opportunities assessments and what countries are reporting as progress. This information was especially relevant as parties recognized the need of increasing ambition and accelerating progress through 2020 in order to build a robust and high-reaching biodiversity framework post 2020.

d) Rio Conventions Pavilion

PANORAMA inaugurates the Business Engagement thematic community

IUCN's Business and Biodiversity Programme inaugurated a new thematic community of solutions that address business engagement. The PANORAMA business engagement theme is part of IUCN's BioBiz Exchange, a project backed by Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) that provides training and capacity building to CSOs on business engagement. The PANORAMA initiative documents the key success factors or approaches used for achieving the "solution" – which then can inspire others. This was launched at an event in the Rio Pavilion. See [here](#). The full set of Business Engagement Solutions can be accessed on the PANORAMA web platform [here](#).

Protected Area Day at the Rio Pavilion

The Protected Area Day was co-organized by a network of partners including the CBD Secretariat, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (GPAP) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), with support from the European Union. It was focused on showcasing progress with the implementation of Aichi Target 11, and the efforts to promote further achievement in the lead-up to 2020. In the evening, a reception took place to celebrate the formal launch of the Global Partnership on Aichi Target 11, which includes IUCN and WCPA, working with all of IUCN regional offices around the world. Several multilateral and bilateral donors have discussed follow-up actions with IUCN and IUCN WCPA. The day was covered by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin [here](#).

Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Day

The Day was co-organized by SwedBio, Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA), Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR).

The first session of the day was consecrated to presenting a range of experiences with ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) policy making, as well as lessons learned from implementing EbA projects and related nature-based approaches; and to discussing effective design and implementation of EbA and Eco-DRR, based on information contained in the recently adopted voluntary guidelines on ecosystem-based approaches and its integration into across multiple sectors such as humanitarian, forestry and planning.

In the afternoon, the 4th EbA Knowledge Day gave the opportunity, under a novel market place format, for a dialogue on experiences, sharing of successful practices on nature-based solutions and how to better align them to engineering-based solutions for disaster and climate resilience. The day ended with an interactive expert dialogue with participants in which it was underlined the multi-benefits that nature-based solutions provide and the importance of integrating them into other sectors through the establishment of multi-stakeholder's dialogues. This would foster the mainstreaming of EbA and Eco-DRR approaches into legal and policy frameworks while Leveraging partnerships to accelerate progress in raising the profile of the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services.

Given the inevitable role future generations will play in climate change, all participants agreed on bringing key messages raised during the Day to the UNFCCC COP 24 in Katowice, Poland, to build stronger connections between Rio Conventions in order to tackle increasingly complex challenges. As Mahlodi Tau (SANBI) expressed taking the words of Nelson Mandela, "sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great and you can be this generation. If a generation is going to bring a change, it is us".

Forest and Ecosystem Restoration [Day](#)

This day was organized by the CBD Secretariat and by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). IUCN presented in two sessions: "Taking stock of global opportunities for Forest Landscape

and Ecosystem Restoration” (from 9:30 to 11:00) and “Cooperation for efficient action on forest landscape and ecosystem restoration” (from 14:00 to 15:30), as well as contributed with the design of some sessions and with facilitating the participation of delegates from El Salvador and from Rwanda. In the first session IUCN presented the key findings of [CBD/COP/14/INF/18](#) “Accelerating biodiversity commitments through forest landscape restoration Evidence from assessments in 26 countries using the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)”. For the second session, IUCN, FAO, UN Environment and UNDP jointly presented on the CPF Joint Initiative of Forest Landscape Restoration as well as provided an overview of The Restoration Initiative.

Building capacity beyond 2020 (morning session)

Capacity building is a cross-cutting issue that underpins the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, the achievement of global environmental goals and the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the CBD context, Decision XIII/23 gave the mandate to initiate the preparation of the long-term framework for capacity building beyond 2020, which would consider the existing gaps while complementing other global processes, including the SDGs.

The objective of the event was to bring together key actors that engage in capacity building in biodiversity issues, with a twofold purpose: 1) to introspect and look back at the past decade of implementation and critically understand the success, the failures, and the key takeaways; and 2) to identify and inform future action to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and more specifically, the long-term strategy for capacity-building which would be adopted at the 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference in Beijing, China.

UN Environment led the organization of this dynamic event in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the African Elephant Fund (AEF), the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

IUCN made a short presentation highlighting the main findings of the survey carried out with its Members on capacity building needs for the implementation of biodiversity commitments under the biodiversity-related conventions and participated in a panel discussion.

Highlights and pictures from the event can be found [here](#).

Annex 1: IUCN Delegation

| | Name | Title/ Programme/Unit |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | Inger Andersen | Director General |
| 2 | Jane Smart | Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group |
| 3 | Cyrie Sendashonga | Global Director, Programme and Policy Group |
| 4 | Sonia Peña Moreno | Coordinator, Global Biodiversity Policy and Governance, GPU |
| 5 | Victoria Romero | Project Officer – Biodiversity and Climate Change Policy Tools, GPU |
| 6 | Dao Nguyen | SSC Network Support Officer, GSP |
| 7 | Natasha Ali | Programme Officer, Protected Areas and Policy, GPAP |
| 8 | Trevor Sandwith | Director, GPAP |
| 9 | Marie Fischborn | Lead, Protected Area Solutions, GPAP |
| 10 | Hany El Shaer | Regional Programme Coordinator, ROWA |
| 11 | Jean-Yves Pirot | Regional Director a.i. ROWA |
| 12 | Anwar Abu Sakieneh | Regional Documentation and Communication Officer, ROWA |
| 13 | Samar Taha | Programme Manager, Drylands, Livelihood and Gender Programme, ROWA |
| 14 | Tom Brooks | IUCN Chief Scientist, SKU |
| 15 | Philippe Puydarrieux | Lead Natural Resource Economist |
| 16 | Adriana Vidal | Forest Policy Officer, GFCCP |
| 17 | Arturo Mora | Senior Programme Officer, IUCN SUR |
| 18 | Ann Moey | Head, Communications, IUCN ARO |
| 19 | Scott Perkin | Head, Natural Resources Group, IUCN ARO |
| 20 | Minsun Kim | Programme Officer, Protected Areas, ARO |
| 21 | Veronica Ruiz García | Programme Officer, Nature-based Solutions, GEMP |
| 22 | Raphaëlle Flint | Marine Programme Officer, GMPP |
| 23 | Boris Erg | Director, IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, ECARO |
| 24 | Steve Edwards | Senior Programme Manager, BBP |
| 25 | Leigh Ann Hurt | Communications and Knowledge Manager, BBP |
| 26 | Maria Pia Hernandez | Coordinator, Biodiversity and Rights Unit, ORMACC |
| 27 | Melesha Banhan | Project Coordinator, Advancing the Nagoya Protocols in Countries of the Caribbean Region Project, Biodiversity and Rights Unit, ORMACC |
| 28 | Chantal van Ham | EU Programme Manager Nature Based Solutions, European Regional Office |
| 29 | Peter Shadie | IUCN Senior Adviser, World Heritage Programme |
| 30 | Antonio Troya | Director IUCN Mediterranean Cooperation Centre |
| 31 | Kaori Yasuda | Strategic Partnerships and Programme Development Coordinator, ESARO |
| 32 | Charles Karangwa | Regional Forest Landscape Restoration Coordinator, Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), ESARO |
| 33 | Deviah Aïama | Community Manager, IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas |
| 34 | James Hardcastle | Programme Developer, GPAP |
| 35 | Sareme Gebre | Coordinateur Régional Business et Biodiversité, PACO |
| 36 | Luc Bas | Director, IUCN European Regional Office |
| Commission Members/Councillors | | |
| 37 | Angela Andrade | Chair, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management |
| 38 | Kathy MacKinnon | Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas |
| 39 | Harvey Locke | Chair of the WCPA Beyond the Aichi Targets Task Force |
| 40 | Despina Symons | Coordinator CEM-FEG, Director EBCD |
| 41 | Louise Mair | Member of the IUCN SSC Post 2020-Task Force |
| 42 | Phil McGowan | Chair of the IUCN SSC Post 2020-Task Force |

| | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 43 | Imen Meliane | WCPA Regional Vice Chair North Africa, Middle East and West Asia |
| 44 | Brian O'Donnell | Member, IUCN WCPA Beyond Aichi Task Force |
| 45 | Kent Redford | Chair, IUCN Task Force on Synthetic Biology and Biodiversity Conservation |
| 46 | Stephen Woodley | Vice-Chair for Science and Biodiversity, IUCN WCPA |
| 47 | Jake Rice | Vice Chair CEM FEG |
| 48 | Sean Southey | Chair, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication |
| 49 | Katalin Czippan | Deputy Chair, CEC |
| 50 | Nigel Dudley | IUCN Commission Member – WCPA/CEESP |
| 51 | Sue Stolton | IUCN Commission Member – WCPA/CEESP |
| 52 | Marc Hockings | Vice-Chair Science and Management, IUCN WCPA |
| 53 | Russell Galt | IUCN Urban Nature Alliance |
| 54 | Jonathan Hughes | IUCN Regional Councillor |
| 55 | Piero Genovesi | Chair, SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group |
| 56 | Shyama Pagad | SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group |

Annex 2: IUCN Statements

November 19, 2018

Capacity-building and scientific and technical cooperation (Agenda item 10)

Delivered by: Sonia Peña Moreno

Thank you Chair,

IUCN stresses, as we heard from the EU, Cameroon, Colombia and other Parties, that the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 must be constructed in full alignment with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Chair, IUCN would like to inform Parties that as part of UN Environment's project "*Environmental Treaties Programme – realizing synergies for biodiversity*" supported by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland, and as a contribution to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, IUCN conducted a survey among its Members which gathered views on capacity- building gaps to implement the biodiversity-related conventions (BRCs) and strengthen synergies.

The survey responses confirm that capacity-building tools and materials must be tailored to nationally defined needs. Interestingly, our Members highlighted three areas where capacity is mostly needed: 1) fundraising skills; 2) cooperation with other actors and sectors; and 3) networking and communication skills. Finally, Chair, IUCN supports the draft decision for this agenda item and commends the establishment of an informal advisory committee at COP15, with a mandate to focus on technical and scientific cooperation.

November 19, 2018

Biodiversity and climate change (Agenda item 21)

Delivered by: Angela Andrade

IUCN provided expert advice on the development of the voluntary guidelines and strongly supports the decision by the Conference of the Parties to adopt them. We urge Parties to make use of this guidance when designing and implementing ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

We would also like to applaud the efforts made by the Executive Secretary and the secretariats of IPBES and the IPCC to foster enhanced collaboration between the scientific, stakeholder, and policy communities concerned with biodiversity–climate change interlinkages.

In addition, we wish to endorse the key messages from the workshop convened by these bodies highlighted in the information note by the Executive Secretary, CBD/COP/14/INF/22.

IUCN welcomes the invitation made to Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) to support the Parties in their efforts to promote ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. We suggest that Parties utilize FEBA as a partnership platform through which to provide, on a voluntary basis, information on activities carried out to implement the voluntary guidelines and the results produced. Parties are invited to nominate relevant agencies or ministries to obtain FEBA membership in order to effectively engage with this network.

November 20, 2018

Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Agenda item 17)

Delivered by: Sonia Peña Moreno

Thank you Chair

IUCN urges continuing efforts towards the Aichi Targets. The conservation imperative remains. While many actions are reducing biodiversity loss, they are not commensurate with the challenge, particularly given catastrophic climate change.

What we start discussing tonight is pivotal to the future of life on Earth. This should be a global biodiversity framework, not just a CBD framework, and aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A new Mission (or Apex Target) for 2030 should be a planetary science-based target for biodiversity, in its own right and as a foundation for human well-being; a Mission which is succinct, action-oriented, bold, measurable, and focusing on all biodiversity components.

Chair, IUCN has proposed such an Apex target in our position paper for this meeting, as: "Implement actions necessary to, by 2030, stabilise or improve trends in species, ecosystems, and genetic diversity, as a contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity".

The post-2020 framework should express necessity as well as feasibility. It should be framed positively. All parts of the framework - Vision, Apex Target, and inheritors to the Aichi targets - should allow for inputs from countries, non-state actors, and even individuals.

The transformational change required should be expressed in terms of outcomes; thus, through achievement of a series of targets for the state of biodiversity (current Goal C), the 'Apex target' would be reached.

These targets should in turn be delivered by targets for supporting measures, addressing drivers of loss (Goals A, B and D), and enabling targets (Goal E).

As such, the current Strategic Goals could be retained, while the current Aichi Targets, albeit modified, would be recognisable within the framework.

IUCN considers that the measurability of all targets needs to be improved; they should serve a global vision, and be able to be disaggregated into contributions by individual sectors.

Chair, we support increasing ambition for in-situ conservation. We must retain remaining natural ecosystems, species and genetic diversity in terrestrial, marine, and freshwater environments. This will need to be supplemented with extensive ecological restoration.

Quality as well as quantity is critical. Achieving such bold conservation targets will require numerous tools, for example, effectively managed and carefully located protected areas and OECMs (safeguarding KBAs and EBSAs); and areas providing ecological connectivity and sustainable use. Management and governance must be effective and equitable.

NBSAPs remain essential; they should be strengthened as vehicles for the Rio Conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions.

IUCN calls on Parties to enable National Focal Points to work closely together; and salutes the Government of Egypt's initiative to achieve this for the Rio Conventions.

Chair, developing a system to showcase and add-up national commitments for biodiversity should be further advanced.

We must not forget enabling conditions: resource mobilisation, capacity-building and awareness raising, for example.

To conclude, the loss of biodiversity is a hidden terror- prevalent but rarely understood.

Chair, we call on Parties to find the necessary political will and courage to secure life on Earth.

Thank you

November 21, 2018
Cooperation and synergies (Agenda item 14)
Delivered by: Adriana Vidal

Thank you Chair,

IUCN fully supports the synergies agenda. There is a need to substantially enhance coherence and cooperation between the CBD and the other two Rio Conventions, and the other biodiversity-related conventions. Commitments that countries have made across other Conventions which, if implemented, could also positively influence biodiversity [need to be taken account of in NBSAPs, and ultimately at the global level.

IUCN welcomes the continuation of the work of the advisory group on synergies given its fundamental role for the implementation of international biodiversity goals and targets, and in the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

IUCN engages with all three Rio Conventions and the biodiversity related conventions. We would like to particularly applaud the collaborative work between UNESCO and the CBD that is highlighting the links between nature and culture. IUCN supports enhancing these efforts beyond 2020, and is partnering with others to launch the International Alliance on Nature and Culture.

IUCN commends ongoing engagement between the CBD and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, of which IUCN is a member. We urge that opportunities for the implementation of forest-related targets are seized. We would like to highlight the potential of Forest Landscape Restoration to advance and accelerate biodiversity conservation, given its potential to further generate significant biodiversity gains. This is of paramount importance given the need to accelerate the achievement of the Aichi Targets through effective action.

Finally, we invite parties to consult information document 18, where IUCN presents evidence from 26 countries, many of them members of the Bonn Challenge, who have identified specific areas where restoring landscapes could generate concrete benefits. This information can support the current reporting cycle and implementation of the Short-Term Action Plan of Ecosystem Restoration.

Thank you Chair

Annex 3: Photo Gallery



IUCN Delegates (Top); Singing for the Earth (Middle left); Egyptian traditional dance (Middle right- Credits: Harry Jonas); Last IUCN Delegation meeting (Middle right); “Thumbs up for the adoption of the OECMs Decision” (Bottom)



IUCN Delegation members





The IUCN Stand- The place to be!



IUCN Delegates meet with COP President, Minister Yasmine Fouad



Kathy MacKinnon and Jane Smart with CBD Executive Secretary, Cristiana Pasca Palmer in Ras Mohammed National Park



WCPA Chair, Kathy MacKinnon awarded with the Midori prize



Minister Fouad hands in the Pathfinder Award



Victoria Romero and Sonia Peña (Top left); IUCN's Beduin tent at the Peace Park (Top right); Ras Mohammed National Park (Middle left); Full house at the Synthetic Biology side event (Middle right); Diaporama of IUCN's 70th Anniversary side event (Bottom left); IUCN's intervention on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Bottom right).