



XI Conference of Parties  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012

## Press Brief

# Resource Mobilization

### Why is this important?

During the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, governments committed to substantially increasing resources (financial, human and technical) from all sources, balanced with the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, against an established baseline.

Globally speaking, official development assistance marked for biodiversity has been increasing since 2008, reversing the downward observed trend since the adoption of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in 2008. This has occurred against the backdrop of a global economic recession. Further, some countries, both developed and developing, have seen significant increases in their domestic budgetary support to biodiversity objectives. Several countries even reported ten-fold increases. However, global spending on biodiversity objectives is still well below 0.1% of the combined global gross domestic product. Further implementation gaps include the development of country specific resource mobilization strategies as part of the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.



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## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

COP 11 provides the first opportunity for Parties to review earlier progress made in financing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Further, as a major follow-up to the previous decisions on resource mobilization and the financial mechanism, Parties are expected to clarify the level of their funding ambition by adopting targets and associated baselines and reporting framework. Parties will also consider funding requirements for the financial mechanism during the GEF-6 replenishment period.

Parties are also expected to take measures to improve the effectiveness of resource utilization by considering the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund and agreeing to a new four-year framework of programme priorities for GEF-6 and additional guidance.

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## Press Brief

# Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

### Why is this important?

During its tenth meeting the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Strategic Plan is comprised of a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 20 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Strategic Plan promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

As part of the Strategic Plan, Parties have committed themselves to establishing their own national targets using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets, as a flexible framework. They have also committed to develop, update or revise, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan.



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## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

At COP11, Parties will review the progress which has been made to date in implementing the Strategic Plan. As part of its discussions the COP will examine the progress in developing and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national target setting as well as early indications regarding the fulfillment of selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Conference of the Parties will also review the progress in providing support to Parties for the implementation of the Strategic Plan. As part of these discussions a number of specific issues will be addressed, including:

- Ways to facilitate the continued exchange of best practices and lessons learned from the preparation, updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans
- Ways to promote and facilitate activities to strengthen implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- The need for and possible development of additional mechanisms to enable Parties to meet their commitments under the Convention and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- Collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

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## Press Brief

# Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

### Why is this important?

Oceans include highly diverse habitats — such as coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrass beds, estuaries, open-ocean and deep-sea habitats — that are both ecologically and economically important.

Oceans cover 70% of our planet but their tremendous wealth of biodiversity and ecosystem services are not infinite. More than just a valuable source of food, oceans play a key role in regulating the global climate as they store over 15 times more carbon dioxide than the terrestrial biosphere and soils.

Meanwhile, the rich variety of life in deep-sea habitats, such as seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold-water corals, plays a major role in global fishery production and provides a valuable source of marine genetic resources.

The oceans and coastal areas, however, face many threats from overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution and waste disposal, agricultural runoff, invasive alien species, and habitat destruction. Climate change will only make the situation worse.

Concern is also growing about the impacts of ocean acidification, as a direct consequence of increased carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere. Increasing acidity of sea water will reduce the availability of carbonate minerals in seawater, important building blocks for marine plants and animals, thereby potentially disrupting large components of the marine food web.

Yet, oceans are seriously under-protected, with just over 1% of the ocean surface designated as protected areas, compared to nearly 15% of protected area coverage on land.



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## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

COP 11 will consider endorsing the first reports on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) as a reference for States and intergovernmental organizations in their future conservation efforts, and that:

The endorsed reports be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly and the UN working group on biodiversity conservation beyond national jurisdiction, as well as to Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations

The EBSA repository and an information-sharing mechanism for storing data and tracking data sets used for regional workshops be further developed

Adequate, timely and sustainable support for training and capacity-building be provided

Additional workshops on the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria be organized

Guidance on integration of traditional knowledge in the EBSA description be used

Social, cultural criteria for biodiversity conservation be developed and enhanced management measures be noted

COP 11 will consider endorsing the voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas and call for further assistance to promote capacity-building on the applications of these guidelines.

COP 11 will consider calling on fisheries bodies to ensure that biodiversity considerations are a part of their work.

COP 11 will consider requesting that a review document on the impacts of ocean acidification and its implications for marine and coastal biodiversity be prepared, building upon the Secretariat's previous efforts.

COP 11 will consider setting up a process for addressing important issues, including:

Updating the specific work plan on coral bleaching to address the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification

Addressing the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine biodiversity within the Convention through an expert workshop to develop practical guidance and toolkits for minimizing and mitigating these impacts

Addressing the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity through the compilation of information on these impacts and an expert workshop to provide practical guidance on preventing and mitigating these impacts

Applying marine spatial planning within the Convention through a web-based information-sharing mechanism, compilation of experiences, an expert workshop and toolkit, and training workshops.

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## Press Brief

# Climate Change and Biodiversity

## Why is this important?

Climate change due to greenhouse-gas emissions is becoming increasingly important as a driver of biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services.

The continued increase in greenhouse gases not only has profound implications for average temperatures, but also for precipitation, sea-level rise, ocean acidification and the frequency and magnitude of extreme events such as floods, droughts and wildfires. Future climatic perturbations will inevitably have major consequences for natural and human systems, severely affecting biodiversity and incurring very high socio-economic costs. Least developed countries and small island developing States are among the most vulnerable.

Climate change poses a range of threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, greatly increasing the risk of species extinctions and affecting vital ecosystem services, such as air and water purification, pollination, food production, and global nutrient and carbon cycles.

Biodiversity can, however, also help reduce the effects of climate change. Intact ecosystems are usually better able to provide ecosystem services to support adaptation, and the conservation of such ecosystems and the restoration of degraded ecosystems is an important element of ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation. Ecosystems also play an important role in protecting infrastructure and enhancing human security, especially from the negative impacts of extreme climatic events. For example, the conservation and restoration of coastal habitats such as mangroves can be a particularly effective measure against storm-surges and coastal erosion, and the diversity of crops and their wild relatives can help farmers to adapt to climate change by switching to drought or flood resistant varieties.

The conservation of habitats such as forests can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. If we act now to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and identify ecosystems-based adaptation priorities, we can reduce the risk of biodiversity loss and limit damage to ecosystems. We can preserve intact habitats, especially those sensitive to climate change, improve our understanding of the climate change-biodiversity relationship, and view biodiversity as a solution to climate change.



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## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

At COP 11, Parties will discuss three different issues related to biodiversity and climate change:

- Advice on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity with regard to REDD+ ;
- Climate-related geoengineering ;
- Other matters related to biodiversity and climate change (scientific knowledge, case studies, analyses and knowledge gaps on issues related to biodiversity-climate change links).

Parties will consider proposals on advice on the application of relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity. Parties will discuss ways and means to promote the contribution of REDD+ activities towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and provide benefits for biodiversity and to indigenous and local communities. To achieve this, collaboration with other organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as with the REDD+ Partnership, will be essential.

Parties will also review recommendations on technical and regulatory matters on geoengineering in relation to the CBD. Given that there remain significant gaps in the understanding of the impacts of geoengineering on biodiversity and that there is currently no comprehensive science-based, global, transparent and effective framework for geoengineering, Parties will discuss the potential need for updated information on the impacts of geoengineering on biodiversity, and on the regulatory framework of geoengineering relevant to the CBD, while noting the relevance of other treaties and organizations for filling such gaps.

Finally, building on the decisions at the last meeting of the COP, Parties will seek to advance efforts on integrating biodiversity considerations into climate-change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information and encouraging research to strengthen knowledge on how the impacts of climate change on biodiversity affect the delivery of ecosystem services. Parties are also expected to take note of the progress report on biodiversity and climate change activities in response to decision X/33. In the same progress report, Parties will note progress on activities related to the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

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## Press Brief

# Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) further advances the implementation of one of the three objectives of the Nagoya Protocol: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

## About access and benefit sharing

What are genetic resources? All living organisms; plants, animals and microbes, carry genetic material that could be potentially useful to humans.

What does “using” genetic resources mean? Using or utilizing genetic resources refers to the process of researching their beneficial properties and using them to increase scientific knowledge and understanding, or to develop commercial products. Users of genetic resources may include research institutes, universities and private companies operating in various sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, horticulture, cosmetics and biotechnology.

What is access and benefit-sharing? ABS refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how users and providers reach agreement on the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that might result from their use.

A person or institution seeking access to a genetic resource (user) should obtain the prior informed consent of the country in which the resource is located. Moreover, the user and country providing the genetic resource need to agree on the terms and conditions of access and use of this resource (mutually agreed terms). This includes the sharing of benefits arising from the use of this resource, with relevant authorities in the provider country.

Benefit-sharing with providers will take various forms, ranging from royalties to joint ventures, technology transfer, capacity-building, etc. It will thus contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries. In return for these benefits, providers of biodiversity will enable access to their genetic resources for research or other purposes. This can contribute to the advancement of science and to human well-being through the use of genetic resources in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture and other sectors.

## About the Nagoya Protocol

What is the Nagoya Protocol? Adopted on 29 October 2010 as a supplementary agreement to the CBD, the Protocol provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

When will enter into force? The Protocol will enter into force 90 days after the fiftieth instrument of ratification.



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Why is the Nagoya Protocol important? The Protocol will create greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources by establishing more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources and by helping to ensure benefit-sharing when genetic resources leave the contracting Party providing the genetic resources. By helping to ensure benefit-sharing, the Protocol creates incentives to conserve and sustainably use genetic resources, thus enhancing the contribution of biodiversity to development and human well-being.

What does the Nagoya Protocol cover? The Protocol applies to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that are covered by the CBD, and to the benefits arising from their utilization.

What are the core elements of the Nagoya Protocol? The Protocol sets out core obligations for its contracting Parties to take measures in relation to access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and compliance.

How does the Nagoya Protocol address traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and genetic resources held by indigenous and local communities? In some cases, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that comes from indigenous and local communities (ILCs) provides valuable information to researchers regarding the particular properties and value of these resources and their potential use for the development of, for example, new medicines or cosmetics. The Protocol addresses traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources with provisions on access, benefit-sharing and compliance. Contracting Parties are to take measures to ensure these communities' prior informed consent, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing, keeping in mind community laws and procedures as well as customary use and exchange.

What happens until the Protocol enters into force? COP 10 decided to establish an Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (the Intergovernmental Committee) with a view to undertaking the preparations necessary for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP). The Intergovernmental Committee met twice: in Montreal, Canada, 6-10 June 2011, and, in New Delhi, India, 2-6 July 2012.

## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

COP 11 will have before it the reports of the first two meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee and a progress report on the Protocol. In light of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee, the COP will need to consider if a third Intergovernmental Committee meeting is warranted prior to COP 12 and the first meeting of the COP-MOP.

COP11 will also consider:

- Capacity-building and development initiatives as well as awareness-raising activities to support ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol
- Possible inter-sessional activities in relation to the need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism, as well as activities related to measures to assist in capacity-building and development
- Guidance to the financial mechanism (to be considered under item 4.3)
- Resource mobilization for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (to be considered under agenda item 4.1)
- Report on progress in the implementation of the pilot phase of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, as well as the establishment of an informal advisory committee to assist in its development
- Possible additional issues that may need to be addressed in preparation for the first COP-MOP.

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## Press Brief

# Health and Biodiversity

## Why is this important?

Health is often considered as a basic human right. It is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not simply as being free from illness.

Biodiversity can be seen as the foundation for human health, as it underpins the functioning of the ecosystems upon which we depend for many aspects of our health. Agricultural biodiversity contributes to diverse diets, and there are many synergies between biodiversity, nutritional diets and human health. Ecosystem services can provide clean, fresh water crucial to healthy populations. There are many recreational benefits to biodiversity, which can contribute to aesthetic and spiritual enrichment, as well as overall well-being. Traditional medicine relies on a diversity of biological components, and many modern medical discoveries have been the result of studying genetic diversity. Biodiversity can also provide options for adaptation to climate change, and can help mitigate the effects of floods and disease.

The current rate of biodiversity loss may potentially have grave consequences and hamper efforts to meet a range of sustainable development goals, including those related to poverty, hunger and health, by increasing the vulnerability of the poor and reducing their options for sustainable development. The poor and the marginalized, in particular children, will suffer first and most severely as they rely directly on biodiversity and associated ecosystem services for their very survival.

All human health ultimately depends on ecosystem services that are made possible by biodiversity and the products derived from them. Our fundamental reliance on biodiversity and ecosystem services offers significant opportunities to more consistently recognize and manage biodiversity's services for human health and to contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at all scales. We can improve our understanding of the complex linkages between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human health, as well as promote co-benefits through joint policies and implementation activities, by strengthening collaboration with the health sector, and better integrating biodiversity into national health strategies and programmes and health into national biodiversity strategies and activities.



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## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

In May 2012, the sixteenth meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-16), recommended that COP 11 take action to further raise awareness of the inter-relations between health and biodiversity and collaborate with the health sector to improve mainstreaming of biodiversity into national health policies and plans. In particular, SBSTTA recommended to COP 11 that cooperation be further strengthened with the World Health Organization and that a joint work programme be established with the WHO, and with other appropriate organizations and initiatives, focused on human health and biodiversity. Finally, SBSTTA recommended the further development of indicators related to health and biodiversity and encourages that they be used.

At COP 11, several side events related to human health and biodiversity will be held. These will explore the potential for co-benefits and for increased collaboration between the health and biodiversity sectors. Updates regarding the recent 1st regional workshop on the inter-linkages between human health and biodiversity held in Manaus, Brazil and plans for future workshops will be discussed at the side events. In addition, the outline of a CBD [Technical Series](#) will also be discussed. This Technical Series will serve as a state of knowledge review for all topics related to the inter-linkages between human health and biodiversity, and is planned for launch in 2013.

A Good Practice Guide on Human Health and Biodiversity, along with a Good Practice Guide on Food Security, will be launched at COP 11 during a side event held in collaboration with the Biodiversity for Development programme. These Guides will aid in the cross-sector support for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and in mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the health sector, with a focus on development and poverty reduction.

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## Press Brief

# Global Platform on Business and Biodiversity

## Why is this important?

Nested in the supply chains of virtually all businesses, across all industries, are components that rely on nature – and therefore on biodiversity. One example of this is in the agriculture industry, where pollination from insects is valued at over \$US190 billion annually. Another example is that 25-50% of the \$US640 billion pharmaceutical market is derived from genetic resources, which are obtained from living libraries such as forests. These are both examples of Ecosystem Services (ES). Although the ES' are free (from a traditional business point of view), they often represent essential parts of a supply chain, without which the end product could not profitably be produced or sold at current price points. When the biodiversity of a particular ecosystem is affected, the industries and companies relying on parts of that ecosystem (directly or through their supply chains) are also affected, often with adverse results.

In addition, those companies that take the lead in acting sustainably may also see benefits such as: an enhanced market share; smoother relations with local communities, regulators and other stakeholders; access to environmental/ethical funds and lower insurance premiums; assurance of long term viability of the supply of raw materials; and lower overall costs associated with production, packaging and other elements due to enhanced efficiencies. Conversely, those companies that lag behind may find all of these potential opportunities turn into risk factors that have to be managed, draining away resources and reputation.

While there is no doubt that there are some up-front costs and risks associated with becoming eco-friendly, these can be seen as the cost of doing business. After all, the IT revolution, with all of its attendant benefits for business, also came with an up-front price tag and some uncertainties.

Becoming ecofriendly is something that all of us will have to do in order to ensure that we can continue to survive and thrive on this precious planet. The fact that it also makes good business sense is just a bonus.



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## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

COP 11 will build upon the important business decision that was issued at Nagoya (COP 10). Issues of particular relevance in this area to be discussed at Hyderabad include:

Ongoing development of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity

Consideration of best practices for standards

Sustainable public procurement and how it relates to biodiversity mainstreaming

Ongoing compilation and dissemination of best practices and case studies

Consideration by business of the drivers of biodiversity loss and how these can be assessed and addressed.

Several side events and other activities are planned by the Secretariat, and partner organizations, that will further elaborate these important topics and help set the agenda for action beyond 2012.

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## Press Brief

# Inland Waters Biodiversity

## Why is this important?

Water supports all life on Earth. Fresh water is the most important natural resource on the planet and is essential for sustainable development, as well as supporting all terrestrial biodiversity. Ecosystems not only depend on water but also play an important role in regulating its supply (including in particular the extremes of drought and flood) and its quality. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) recognized water is relevant to most areas of the work of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and in particular referenced water in Aichi Biodiversity Target 14.

COP 10 also requested that further scientific work be undertaken on the role of biodiversity (ecosystems) in sustaining the water cycle. The progress in that work was considered at the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 15) and is reported further in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/30 – with the detailed report available as information document 2 (UNEP/CBD/COP/INF/2). This confirms the importance of the water-related services supported by ecosystems and that ecosystems can be considered as “natural water infrastructure” to achieve water management goals: examples include using wetlands to regulate floods and restoring catchments to improve water quality (hence providing alternatives, or enhancements, to build infrastructure).



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## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

COP 11 will consider ways and means to strengthen implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in areas that involve sustaining or restoring water related ecosystem services as a major contribution to sustainable development. Many stakeholders are already working on managing natural infrastructure as solutions for water management, although often using different terms. Even more stakeholders are interested in ecosystem based solutions for meeting water-related challenges. A key opportunity, therefore, is ways and means of building effective partnerships for implementation.

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## Press Brief

# Protected Areas

## Why is this important?

Protected areas are the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation; they maintain key habitats, provide refugia, allow for species migration and movement, and ensure the maintenance of natural processes across the landscape. Not only do protected areas secure biodiversity conservation, they also secure the well-being of humanity. Protected areas provide livelihoods for nearly 1.1 billion people; are the primary source of drinking water for over a third of the world's largest cities and are a major factor in ensuring global food security by protecting fisheries, wild crop relatives, and the ecosystems services upon which agriculture depends.

Well-managed protected areas harbouring participatory and equitable governance mechanisms yield significant benefits far beyond their boundaries. These can be translated into cumulative advantages across a national economy and contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development, including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As climate change threatens the planet, protected areas provide a convenient solution to an inconvenient truth. Better managed, better connected, better governed and better financed protected areas are recognized as the key to both mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change.

In February 2004, the CBD Parties made the most comprehensive and specific protected area commitments ever made by the international community by adopting the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). The PoWPA enshrines development of participatory, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional systems of protected areas, where necessary stretching across national boundaries. From designation to management, the PoWPA can be considered as a defining framework or "blueprint" for protected areas for the coming decades. It is a framework for cooperation between governments, donors, NGOs and local communities. Without such collaboration, programmes cannot be successful and sustainable over the long-term. To date, there are many signs of progress and there is much to celebrate. Political will and commitments are clearly being catalyzed.

A recent summary of global implementation found that from 2004 to 2011, coverage for terrestrial protected areas increased by over 1,29 million sq km and marine protected area by 3,97 million sq km. Currently some 13% of the world's terrestrial surface and 4% of marine areas (0-200 nautical miles) is protected.

However, there are still areas that lag behind. The social costs and benefits of protected areas, the effective participation of indigenous and local communities and the diversification of various governance types need more commitment and resolute actions. The evaluation and improvement of management effectiveness, and the development and implementation of sustainable finance plans with diversified portfolios of traditional and innovative financial mechanisms need enhanced measures. Climate change considerations for both mitigation and adaptation responses need to be incorporated.

Strengthening implementation of PoWPA will require concerted efforts and the combined strength of all sectors of society, as well as alliances at national, regional and international levels between policy makers, civil society, indigenous and local communities and business and the private sector.



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## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

Successive decisions of COP 7 to 10 established the policy environment fostering implementation of the PoWPA. As the elements of Aichi Target 11 incorporate the tenets of the PoWPA, furthering PoWPA implementation will be key in achieving Target 11. PoWPA implementation will also help to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 18.

To strengthen implementation of the PoWPA and to align implementation with available funding and technical support, the COP in decision X/31 invited Parties to develop a long-term action plan for the implementation of the PoWPA (or to reorient relevant existing plans), contributing to implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to use these PoWPA action plans as the basis for timely and appropriately accessing their protected area biodiversity allocations of the GEF 5, as well as other relevant financial support. The COP also requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the preparation of these PoWPA action plans by Parties for consideration at COP 11. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary prepared a report "Protected Areas: Progress in the implementation of the programme of work and achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11" for consideration by COP 11 meeting in Hyderabad based on PoWPA action plans submitted by 105 countries. These action plans are available at [HYPERLINK "http://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/"](http://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/) [www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/](http://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/).

The report includes suggested recommendations tailored to directly address barriers to implementation in a practical manner, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

Decisions that could be adopted at COP 11 would lead to practical actions such as:

PoWPA action plans integrated into updated, revised NBSAPs

Parties using their PoWPA action plans as policy instruments and the primary framework of action for implementation of the PoWPA

Parties using their PoWPA action plans to obtain funding from national, bilateral, multilateral and other sources

Alignment of protected area projects of the GEF 4, 5 and 6 with actions identified in PoWPA action plans for systematic monitoring and reporting

Major efforts made to achieve all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 with emphasis on improving marine protected areas

Improved coordination for mainstreaming protected areas and integrating protected areas into wider land- and seascapes, including enabling policy requirements

Strengthened recognition and support to community based approaches for biodiversity, including community conservation areas

Technical support networks of relevant partners are established to support implementation of the PoWPA.

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## Press Brief

# Cities, Local and Sub-national Authorities and Biodiversity

## Why is this important?

More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and it is estimated that this will rise to 60% by 2030. For nature and biodiversity, this trend can bring both threats and solutions, and this means local authorities (such as mayors and governors) have a vital role to play to complement the actions of the CBD's main players, national governments. Urbanization can have major impacts on biodiversity, as when natural habitats are cleared to make way for housing and infrastructure or are polluted by urban industry or households. When people move to cities, they also consume more than before, due to the improvements in their quality of life – these more intensive consumption patterns also cause impacts, sometimes far away, due to the corresponding increase in the use of natural resources (so-called ecological footprints). At the same time, cities are the source of many policies, processes and technologies that can serve as solutions to biodiversity-related problems in urban settings.

Sustainable urbanization, through the creation of compact and ecologically-friendly cities, can promote the more efficient use of natural resources, and reduce consumption of water, energy and— ultimately —impacts on biodiversity.

To help achieve this, Parties to the CBD can facilitate collaboration between all levels of government and support local and sub-national authorities in implementing the Convention locally. Indeed, mayors and governors, and their staff, can play a crucial – and growing – role in bringing biodiversity back into the urban agenda.



Convention on  
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## What news to expect in Hyderabad?

The mobilization of sub-national governments (municipal, State/Provincial/Regional authorities, autonomous and semi-autonomous regions, overseas entities, etc) in support of Parties since 2007 has opened new avenues for the implementation of the CBD's Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

Indeed, the ambitious Aichi targets can only be achieved by harmonizing efforts of national governments with their corresponding sub-national and local authorities, and exploring synergies between all levels of government. Local and sub-national authorities invest more, in aggregate, in biodiversity than national governments, but often such investments are not harmonized with CBD policies and activities at the national and global levels. At COP 10, Parties adopted a Plan of Action for Sub-national Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities through decision X/22, and significant progress can be reported by the Global Partnership on Sub-national and Local Action for Biodiversity, for instance through national guidelines for sub-national and local strategies on biodiversity, awards for best practices at local level, decentralized cooperation, public procurement programmes and support to networks of sub-national authorities.

COP 11 will mark new steps to scale up lessons learned in the past five years:

The Cities for Life Summit on 15 and 16 October, bringing together more than 250 sub-national and local authorities, will contribute to negotiations with a view to the harmonization of policies, strategies and action plans across all levels of government (vertical mainstreaming), and increased support from Parties and traditional donors to sub-national and local action on biodiversity, for instance through thematic or geographic networks

The launch of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook, a reference publication on the links between biodiversity, urbanization and ecosystem services developed in collaboration with the Stockholm Resilience Center, involved more than 120 scientists and experts from around the globe

The "Cities and Biodiversity" Exhibit and stands of the Advisory Committee of Cities of the Global Partnership, with images from Mexico City, Bonn, Montreal, Singapore, Nagoya, Montpellier, Hyderabad, and Curitiba. One of the exhibition's messages is that the battle for biodiversity will be won or lost in the cities of the world.

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