Research for the High Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Introduction and emerging findings

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Terms of reference for research

- Draw and build upon a range of evidence, including from initiatives at smaller geographical scales to answer a series of research questions set by the HLP:

  - Benefits

  - Investment needs

  - Resource Requirements

  - Policy Alignment and Development

  - Cost Effectiveness

  - Balance of Costs and Benefits

HLP report to COP11

- Presented a global assessment of the resources needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020

- Estimated that between US$ 150 billion and US$ 440 billion per year required to implement the 20 Targets

- Emphasised the need for an appropriate and coherent institutional framework and strong political will

- Emphasised that meeting the Targets will deliver significant co-benefits for sustainable development, and that there are strong synergies with development goals

- Highlighted the need for further research to refine the estimates, including through more "bottom-up" analysis

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Building on previous work of the HLP

- **Overall scope** – Benefits, costs and cost-effectiveness, taking forward HLP's work for COP-11 (focused on resource needs)

- **Sources of evidence** – Much greater "bottom-up" (country and project) focus, to compare with and refine the estimates from the previous global research

- **Synergies and Cost effectiveness**- Assessing linkages and co-dependencies between targets and sequencing to maximise cost effectiveness

- **Policy alignment** – Alignment with wider policy agenda including the Post 2015 UN Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- **No global aggregation** – but evidence should enable us to validate/ review findings of previous HLP report

Progress so far

- Scoping and definition of research programme and methodology

- Commission and ongoing review of 6 regional research projects

- Global analysis

- Engagement with other processes (e.g. BIOFIN, GBO4)

- Preparation of first draft report

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Emerging findings - Benefits

1. Meeting the Aichi Targets will deliver huge benefits for people, the economy and the environment

2. The strength of evidence on benefits varies between regions, ecosystems and Targets

3. Ecosystems deliver a wide range of provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services, and these have been valued at many billions of dollars at national and regional scale

4. There is strong evidence of the value of protecting particular ecosystems, especially forests, mangroves, wetlands and coral reefs

5. The value of the services delivered by ecosystems varies widely between locations, due to a range of socio-economic and environmental factors

Emerging findings - Benefits

6. The value of benefits varies between the different Aichi Targets

7. Meeting the Aichi Targets will help to support jobs and livelihoods and deliver positive economic outcomes

8. Everyone will benefit from achieving the Targets, but some will benefit more than others

9. The distribution of the benefits of biodiversity conservation has important implications for the incentives of biodiversity conservation

Emerging Findings - Investment needs

1. There has been more progress on some of the Aichi Targets than on others

2. Barriers to meeting the Aichi Targets may have as much to do with a lack of the appropriate institutions and/or political will as with a lack of resources

3. There are a wide range of potential investment needs required to meet the Aichi Targets

4. Different regions require prioritisation of different investment needs

5. The types and scale of upfront versus on-going expenditure will potentially be different in different regions

Emerging Findings – Investment Needs

6. Overlaps between the different targets mean that there are synergies between different investment needs

7. The findings of the regional research appear to largely support the conclusions of the first phase of the HLP research, although there are some key points to note and more systematic analysis needs to be conducted

Emerging Findings - Resource requirements

1. In most regions the resource needs will be substantial, although in some cases there may be less need for additional funding if the focus of the currently available resources were to shift accordingly

2. In many areas there are significant shortfalls between the current allocation of resources and the resource needs

3. The findings of the regional research largely support the conclusions of the first phase of the HLP research, although there are some key differences and points to note

4. There appears to be considerable scope for using innovative financing mechanisms

Emerging findings - Policy alignment and development

1. Investment in delivery of the Aichi Targets will deliver significant co-benefits for sustainable development and movement towards a Green Economy

2. Synergies between the Aichi Targets and the current and post-2015 sustainable development agenda offer opportunities for joint delivery

3. However, synergies are not fully appreciated. Biodiversity remains, in many cases, poorly integrated into wider development policy and into national accounts, and improvements in this are a high priority

Emerging findings - Policy alignment and development

4. Synergies across the biodiversity Conventions, and with other MEAs could provide increased opportunities for delivering the Targets

5. More strategic use of existing resources, both within the biodiversity sector and in other policy areas could help deliver biodiversity objectives

6. Despite this, significant additional resources will be needed to deliver the Aichi Targets, particularly in developing countries

Emerging findings - Policy alignment and development

7. Improvements in governance, institutional and policy development will improve synergies with other agendas and help achieve the Aichi Targets. This is the case in both developed and developing countries

Emerging findings - Cost effectiveness

1. Delivery of the Targets will be accomplished at least cost if synergies across Targets, and across wider policy agendas, are taken into account

2. Sequencing of Targets will have an important influence on their overall costs

3. Ecosystems provide key services cost-effectively compared to man- made alternatives. Maintaining ecosystems and their services is likely to save costs compared to allowing them to decline

Emerging findings - Cost effectiveness

4. There are limitations in the evidence on cost-effectiveness of different conservation actions. Some types of investment are more likely to be cost effective in delivering the Targets than others

5. Cost effectiveness of actions will depend on a number of different factors including geographical context and scale, and impacts of climate change.

6. Greater cost effectiveness will be achieved through investment in preparatory actions and good planning and at all levels. However, there is also a risk that delaying action will reduce cost effectiveness

Emerging findings - Costs and Benefits

1. Evidence of the benefits and costs of relevant biodiversity actions is variable. Most evidence suggests that the benefits of conservation action outweigh the costs, but this is not always the case

2. For a range of Aichi Targets, there is evidence that the benefits of conservation action will exceed the costs

3. Many examples show that biodiversity conservation delivers net benefits, but that biodiversity continues to be lost because the costs of conservation exceed the benefits for local users

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Work to do

- More analysis to compare estimates from regional evidence with HLP1 findings (especially investments and resource needs)

- Oversee review and completion of regional reports

- Additional analysis to fill in gaps and refine and strengthen findings

- Refine structure and presentation on basis of panel comments

- Development of panel key messages