



Evaluation of the TRONDHEIM CONFERENCES ON BIODIVERSITY

EVALUATION TEAM:

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List of abbreviations

CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity Secretariat
CHM	Clearing-House Mechanism
COP	Conference of the Parties
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GBO	Global Biodiversity Outlook
LMO	Living Modified Organisms
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NEA	Norwegian Environmental Agency
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TC	Trondheim Conference
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

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Executive Summary

Norway has funded and hosted the Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity every 3-4 years since 1993. This external evaluation was commissioned by the Norwegian Environmental Agency to assess the quality of the venue, the relevance to the CBD agenda, and the degree of achieved conference objectives. The data to produce findings for the evaluation were gathered through 22 in-depth interviews with different stakeholders and a web-based survey that received responses from 131 conference participants.

Because of the informal nature of the linkages between the Trondheim Conferences and the Convention of Biodiversity, the impacts on the CBD agenda are non-attributable. Nevertheless, the Trondheim Conferences are found to be highly relevant to the CBD Agenda. Participants have used the Trondheim Conference program, resources, new insight gained, and outcomes to participate broadly in the international biodiversity agenda. The Trondheim Conferences are said to lay the foundations for subsequent discussions in COP meetings, and the co-chairs summary is said to be prominently referenced during negotiations at CBD meetings, even though not cited. The outcomes of the conferences are found to be among the best reference material during negotiations in COP or SBSTTA.

The majority of participants have gained useful new insight that has later been actively used in their professional environments. Many participants not only used the resources provided to prepare for the conferences, but also used the conference homepage on a day-to-day basis for agenda setting, policy making, teaching, and more. On the Trondheim Conferences homepage, one respondent said: "It provides a one-stop shop for thematic issues on intersection between food and biodiversity." The fact that over three quarters of participants say they further disseminate the conference documents indicates that it is considered useful knowledge. The evaluation found that the impact of the Trondheim Conferences in individual countries goes far beyond capacity building. Respondents give many examples of Trondheim Conferences' outputs having directly contributed to, for example, national policies, a national reporting format, national development planning, national action program, cross-sectoral policy, national agricultural strategy and more.

A large proportion of the responding participants believe that the Trondheim Conferences contribute towards the implementation of the objectives of the CBD. The focus has predominantly been on "Conservation of biological diversity" and to a somewhat lesser extent on "Sustainable use of biological diversity components", and much less towards the "Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources". However, the latter two objectives are the most relevant from the developing countries' perspective that are often characterized by being resource rich but income poor.

The Trondheim Conferences have made an earnest attempt and have to a large degree succeeded in bringing different sectors together to inquire into new ways for these sectors to understand each other and find common ground. This is especially true for agriculture and food-security.

The Trondheim Conferences are found to have created an arena for open dialogue that is transparent, inclusive and without hidden agendas. The atmosphere in the Trondheim Conferences is very positive and welcoming. Sponsored (from developing countries) and non-sponsored participants feel equally welcome and respected. Most participants stated that the Conferences provided professionally valuable networking opportunities, but sponsored participants found such opportunities to a lesser extent than the non-sponsored. The question whether participants would want to participate in the Conference again, received overwhelmingly enthusiastic responses, like “This is one of the greatest platforms in the world for knowledge sharing, learning and networking. Key environmental global issues that impact on national development agendas are discussed here”. The positive reactions to the Trondheim Conference cannot be interpreted differently than that the NEA has succeeded in making a conference where participants have acquired new insight, listened to interesting presentations, participated in interesting and useful discussions, networked with interesting and useful people and generally spent a professionally inspiring moment.

The Trondheim Conferences were found to have achieved all the following conference objectives:

- Provide input to the decision-makers of the Convention
- Provide an arena for open dialogue among stakeholders on the biodiversity agenda
- Provide capacity enhancement for policy makers, managers, and scientists
- Create a constructive, transparent and scientifically sound basis for addressing key issues under the CBD
- Provide an inclusive arena where representatives from both developing and developed countries have the opportunity to meet and present their perspectives on equal terms

Norway is not found to have any special influence on the CBD process as a result of being the host of these conferences.

The evaluation offers nine recommendations to the organizers to maximise future conferences

- 1) Continue to organize these conferences!
- 2) Look into ways of formalising a linkage between the conference program and the CBD agenda, i.e. through an MoU or a ToR for the conference organizers.
- 3) Look into how to pay attention to the CBD objectives number two and three; Sustainable use of biological diversity components”, and “Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources”.
- 4) Reach out to more people by spreading the reports and open up for online participation.
- 5) Enhance the mainstreaming process and include new participant groups

- 6) Be brave, innovative and challenging and dare to open up more for “hot” topics where compromise and consensus might not seem evident!
- 7) Study the possibilities to get contributions to the program from invited participants before the conference as a means to get more effective participation during the conference and possibly more exchange of country-level information (see recommendation 8).
- 8) Maximize the participants’ outcome by facilitating round tables for regional/neighbouring country participants belonging to regions where there are no formalized common biodiversity discussions taking place elsewhere.
- 9) Monitor participants’ outcome by requesting all to fill in evaluation survey/s

Glancing into the future, the evaluation team sees four arenas where the Trondheim Conferences could position itself to play a role:

- Mainstreaming of biodiversity in economic sectors
- The energy transition
- Climate change adaptation
- Sustainable Development Goals

Chapter 1: Background and Introduction

1.1 The Trondheim Conferences

The “Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity” are a result of collaboration between the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and the Norwegian Government.

Norway has funded and hosted the Trondheim Conference every 3-4 years since 1993, with the most recent, the eighth conference, having taken place in May/June 2016. The Trondheim conferences seek to provide an arena for open dialogue and capacity enhancement among stakeholders engaged with the biodiversity agenda, such as policy makers, managers, and scientists seeking to create a constructive, transparent and scientifically sound basis for addressing key issues under the CBD.

Participation in the conferences has been by invitation only. In addition to specially invited experts and speakers, each UN country has been invited through their national CBD focal points to nominate one or two participants from the biodiversity sector and other relevant sectors. The conference has had over 120 participant countries.

1.2 What is CBD?

The **UN Convention on Biological Diversity** was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio "Earth Summit"). The Convention entered into force on 29 December 1993. The Convention was inspired by the world community's growing commitment to sustainable development. Its three overarching objectives are (i) the conservation of biological diversity, (ii) the sustainable use of its components, and (iii) the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

The Convention on Biological Diversity provides a global legal framework for action on biodiversity. It brings together the Parties in the **Conference of the Parties (COP)** which is the Convention's governing body. The COP meets every two years, or as needed, to review the progress in the implementation of the Convention, to adopt programs of work, to achieve its objectives, and to provide policy guidance. Currently the convention has 196-member parties.

The COP is assisted by the **Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)**, which is made up of government representatives with expertise in relevant fields, as well as observers from non-Party governments, the scientific community, and other relevant organizations. The SBSTTA is responsible for providing recommendations to the COP on the technical aspects of the implementation of the Convention. The COP has also established other subsidiary bodies to deal with specific issues as they arise. These are called “ad hoc open-ended Working Groups”. Presently there are five such working groups.

The COP **decisions** usually have a preparatory trajectory, varying for each topic, in which Parties, research institutes, consultants, NGOs, donors, and a suite of other organizations can play a role in writing preparatory documents, participating in workshops, organising consultations, etc. This process leaves a significant paper trail of information and consultation documents, draft decision texts, etc. before a text is submitted to the SBSTTA for technical review and finally to the COP for decision making. All these documents can be retrieved from the convention website, and provides a wealth of relevant information for countries, with limited means, to develop their in-country capacity on biodiversity.

The **Secretariat of the Convention** was established (Article 24) to support the goals of the Convention. Its principal functions are to prepare for, and facilitate, meetings of the COP and other subsidiary bodies of the Convention, and to coordinate with other relevant international bodies.

In Decision XII/12, the COP established the **Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)** to replace the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, with the terms of reference contained in the annex to decision XII/26. The first meeting of the SBI was held on 2-6 May 2016 in Montreal, Canada. The work of the SBI consists of: (a) review of progress in implementation; (b) strategic actions to enhance implementation; (c) strengthen the means of implementation; and (d) operations of the convention and the Protocols.

The convention has two protocols:

The **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** (170 parties) is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health. It was adopted on 29 January 2000 and entered into force on 11 September 2003. The Biosafety Clearing House is an information exchange mechanism that provides open and easy access to key information about LMOs.

The **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing** is an international agreement, which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and now has 96 Parties.

CBD publication:

The **Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO)** is the flagship publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is a periodic report that summarizes the latest data on the status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions relevant to the further implementation of the Convention.

Implementation mechanisms:

- **National Focal Points:** each ratifying party has to assign a national focal point for the convention.
- **National reports:** Article 26 of the Convention states that the objective of national reporting is to provide information on measures taken towards the implementation of the Convention, and the effectiveness of these measures.
- **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention at the national level (Article 6). The Convention requires countries to prepare a national biodiversity strategy, (or equivalent instrument), and to ensure that this strategy is mainstreamed into the planning and activities of all those sectors whose activities can have an impact (positive and negative) on biodiversity. To date, a total of 189 of 196 (96 per cent) Parties have developed NBSAPs in line with Article 6.
- **Cooperation and partnerships.** The COP has consistently recognized the need for collaboration, and adopting decisions on cooperation at each of its meetings. In light of this mandate, the CBD has developed partnerships with a number of conventions, organizations and initiatives.
- The **Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)** (Article 18.3 and decision X/15): its mission is to contribute significantly to the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, through effective information services to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, knowledge sharing and information exchange.
- **Financial mechanisms and Resources.** The Memorandum of Understanding between the COP to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, contained in decision III/8, provides legal basis for the relationship between the Convention and the Facility, including the role and responsibilities of each institution.

Chapter 2: Methodology

This chapter looks at the purpose of the evaluation, and explains the methodologies used for the data-gathering, which in turn is used for our findings and conclusions. It also outlines the structure of the report.

2.1 The Purpose and Scope of the evaluation

The lessons learned from the 2016 conference indicates that there is a need for better groundwork, independent scoping, and a stronger basis for the administrative decisions, political processes and budgetary commitments in order to start planning the next conference, which will be held in 2019.

In addition, the Norwegian Environmental Agency (NEA) states that the planning and implementation of the conference is resource intensive for the Norwegian environment institutions. To be able to make decisions on these kinds of resource commitments in the future, it is crucial to obtain independent information and assessments of the demonstrable and experienced results, effects and usefulness of the conference.

At its inception in 1993, the most important aspect of this conference was to provide a scientific basis for developing countries. This was due to the lack of both resources and competence to devote to forming a scientific basis for their approach to the CBD in developing countries. (The objectives of the Trondheim Conference at its inception were: (1) to discuss and develop scientific basis for CBD, (2) to invite all developing countries to build competence on the subject, (3) to develop a link between CBD and sustainable development, and (4) to dedicate resources to an important cause, as Norway is a rich country and CBD an important cause.) The current organizers of the Trondheim Conferences, who commissioned this evaluation, asked that the following objectives be assessed:

1. The relevance of the conferences
2. The value of the conferences as providers/disseminators of knowledge
3. Perspectives and expectations from participants
4. Norway's role and influence in the CBD process
5. To what extent the Trondheim conferences have achieved their objectives:
 - Provide input to the decision-makers of the Convention
 - Provide an arena for open dialogue among stakeholders on the biodiversity agenda
 - Provide capacity enhancement for policy makers, managers, and scientists
 - Create a constructive, transparent and scientifically sound basis for addressing key issues under the CBD
 - Provide an inclusive arena where representatives from both developing and developed countries have the opportunity to meet and present their perspectives on equal terms

2.1 Survey

The evaluation has used two data-gathering methods: a web-based quest-back survey to participants, and in-depth telephonic Interviews.

Response rate and confidentiality of survey

The survey was sent out from the NEA to approximately 550 persons, of which approximately 210 e-mail-addresses were no longer in active use. For many of the recipients, the sender was new, and since this was a mass-mail, it is likely that between 10 and 20 have ended up as spam. The NEA therefore estimates that the maximum realistic number of recipients of the invitation to participate in the survey was 330.

The survey received 131 completed answers. This response rate gives a confidence interval (margin of error) of 6.66 per cent with a confidence level of 95 per cent. This means that if 50 per cent of the respondents have chosen one answer, it is 95 per cent sure that between 43,34 per cent and 56.66 per cent of the entire population (all participants) would have picked this same answer. This is a rather good response rate that gives the evaluation team access to not only read the responses as such, but also to analyse statistical trends from the survey's raw material.

The response rate is not only good seen from a statistical point of view, also rather impressive that so many people have taken the time to respond to a relatively long survey without any specific incentives, regarding a conference that many of these people probably attend quite often. Respondents used on average 14 minutes to respond to the survey.

Respondents to the survey

The respondents represented all the categories apart from the private sector. Nearly half of the respondents were country representatives.

Representative	Male	Female	Total	Total %
Nominated as a country representative	39	23	62	47,33 %
Invited as a speaker	15	8	23	17,56 %
International organization representative (UN, World Bank, EU etc)	12	10	22	16,79 %
Non-governmental organization (NGO) representative	4	3	7	5,34 %
Academic institution representative	4	3	7	5,34 %
Private sector representative	0	0	0	0,00 %
CBD Secretariat	1	0	1	0,76 %
Conference organizer/host	3	2	5	3,82 %
Other	2	2	4	3,05 %
TOTAL	51	80	131	100,00%

Of the respondents, 51 (42 per cent) were female and 80 (58 per cent) were male. The representativeness within the different participant groups is fairly evenly distributed. Going through the responses with a gender lens, we see some differences. Males have tended to respond more often "to a large extent" and females more often "to some extent" on the importance of the Trondheim conference for the participants, whilst it is the other way around regarding the questions on the outcome of the Trondheim conferences on the global CBD agenda. A higher percentage of females than males said that the preparatory document prepared them to actively participate in the discussions, while a larger percentage of males than females had accessed Trondheim conference resources from the conference webpage. Male respondents responded more "to a large" extent and female responded more "to some extent" on the networking questions, whilst more females than males reported to a large extent find the conference program relevant for other sectors. 84 per cent of the males and 69 per cent of the females felt that they to a large extent

felt welcome to participate in the discussions. Other than that, there are only minor differences in the way males and females perceived the Trondheim conferences.

- The 131 representatives came from across the whole world.
- 14 per cent of the respondents were national CBD focal points in their country.
- 25 per cent of the respondents were invited to give a presentation.
- 42 per cent of the respondents had participated in a national delegation in the CBD COPs.
- 83 respondents had participated at the 2016-conference, 65 participated in 2013, 29 in 2010, 14 in 2007, 12 in 2003, 8 in 1999, and 2 in 1996.
- On the voluntary question of country of origin, 121 answered, and these respondents came from 61 different countries¹.

The Trondheim conference offers sponsorships to representatives from least developed, low income, lower and upper middle-income countries. 99 respondents answered the question regarding sponsorship, and of these, 53 per cent answered that they had received sponsorship, and 47 per cent had not. In a comparative analysis between these two respondent groups, we see the following differences: 88 per cent of the sponsored participants belonged to the group “nominated as a country representative, while only 28 per cent of the non-sponsored belonged to this group. 30 per cent of the non-sponsored belonged to international

¹ Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Territories, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

organizations and the rest were spread across the other participant categories.

Additionally, we see differences in the way people perceive the usefulness of the Trondheim Conferences. We believe this has to do with the different participant categories rather than whether the participant was sponsored or not. For instance, 98 per cent of the sponsored said they, to some or to a large extent, have utilized the insight from the conference to shape the national biodiversity agenda, whilst only 53 per cent of the non-sponsored participants answered the same.

2.2 Interviews

To gain in-depth understanding of the different evaluation questions, a series of interviews with key individual stakeholders was arranged. Most interviews were conducted by phone, Skype, or in writing, using e-mail. The interviews were, to a large extent, conducted simultaneously as the survey. A small number of interviewees stated that they had also completed the survey.

Upon acquiring the list of participants for the last three Trondheim Conferences from the NEA, interviewees were divided into five groups and a specific set of questions were developed for each group.

Group 1: The team contacted and interviewed three people from the NEA or associated with the Trondheim Conferences to develop a better understanding of the background and objectives of the Conferences.

Group2: The team contacted around 10 people from the CBD Secretariat, the SBSTTA, and the COP bureaus. The team corresponded with six, and was able to interview four.

Group 3: The team reached out to over 100 participants from the last three conferences with different profiles such as industrial versus developing country, country delegations versus multinational

organization participants, technical CBD background versus other technical background, presenters and researchers. Unfortunately, the response rate for this group was very low and the team was only able to interview 14 individuals. These individuals represented 12 countries and two international organizations. This group was further divided into sub-categories which included, two delegates from CBD COP hosting countries, two representatives from international organizations, four country delegates from developing countries, three country delegates from developed countries, and three scientists, researchers, or presenters at the conferences.

Group 4: The team identified 22 countries that are on the List of Parties for the CBD but were not participants in the Trondheim Conferences, and contacted 17 representatives from this group to determine their reasons for not participating in these Conferences. Unfortunately, the team did not receive any responses from these representatives, which might not be all that surprising.

Group 5: The team also randomly selected people who work with, or are otherwise engaged with, the CBD but have not participated in the Trondheim conferences, to provide opinions on the need for such conferences. However, the team was only able to interview one such individual.

The low response rate for the interview requests can be attributed to various factors. Firstly, for many of the recipients, the sender was new, and despite the best efforts to reach each recipient individually, it is likely that some of the e-mails have ended up as spam. Secondly, most of the recipients were contacted between June and September, when many people are on vacation. Lastly, as with surveys, interviews can be also positively biased. People who are indifferent or negative towards the Trondheim conferences were more likely not to volunteer to spend time being interviewed. Additionally, the team believes that people, who were contacted to talk about a conference they had not participated in, might have found the request rather odd and would not justify spending their time on that.

All in all, as the response rate to the survey was rather overwhelming, and the findings from the interviews to a large extent triangulate with the findings from the survey, the team finds that it has enough data to conduct solid analysis as a basis for the conclusions.

2.3 The structure of the Report

This Evaluation Report follows the following structure:

- Chapter 3 looks at the relevance of the conferences for the CBD agenda.
- Chapter 4 looks at the degree to which the Trondheim Conferences have provided input to the decision-makers of the Convention.
- Chapter 5 assesses the conferences as providers and disseminators of knowledge.
- Chapter 6 assesses the type of arena the Trondheim Conferences have managed to create.
- Chapter 7 assesses how the Trondheim Conferences have brought biodiversity into other sectors.
- Chapter 8 looks at the perspectives and expectations from the participants.
- Chapter 9 looks at Norway's roles and influence in the CDB process.
- Chapter 10 provides conclusions and recommendations.

Chapter 3: Relevance of Trondheim Conferences for the CBD agenda

This chapter assesses the relevance of the Trondheim Conferences by looking at the linkages between the Trondheim Conferences and the CBD, the relevance of the conferences for the preparation of the CBD negotiations as well as for the on-going CBD discussions. It also looks at the need for the Trondheim Conference in light of the established Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

3.1 Linkages between the Trondheim Conferences and the CBD

The team has found the past conferences' programs and agendas to be closely aligned with the scheduled CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings. The Trondheim Conferences are also found to provide significant input to these meetings. The input from the conferences, however, are not in the form of direct and traceable contributions, but rather by exposing its participants who are also generally participants for the COP meetings, to different aspects of the topic under discussion. There is no formal input from the conference to the decision-makers of the convention, but a mutually beneficial informal relationship.

In the absence of a formal memorandum of understanding between the Convention and the Conference, there are no formal requests from the CBD to the conference, nor is there a formal submission of the conference report to the CBD bodies. However, given that there is significant overlap in the community, where representatives of officials from CBD bodies like the SBSTTA and the COP organizers are also part of the Trondheim Conferences, the exchange of ideas and overlap of agendas is inevitable. One obvious example of this is the fact that Mr. Peter Johan Schei, the person who

chaired the first few Trondheim Conferences, was also a Co-Chair in SBSTTA at the same time.

Similarly, according to a SBSTTA official:

“the way the agenda is taken up by the Trondheim Conferences from SBSTTA is not done in a formal way, but instead, because of the overlap in the community, the gaps identified in the GBO [Global Biodiversity Outlook] are taken up by the conference during the development of the conference agenda.”

According to another SBSTTA official, the outputs and the inputs are interrelated from the conference to the CBD and from the CBD to the conference. Furthermore, according to this official:

“SBSTTA is very involved, plays a specific role, and has a high level of interface with the conference organizers. The CBD is very well represented in the conference from the organization, development, and participation aspects.”

A former SBSTTA chair suggested: *“The only improvement can be if there is a formal MOU between the CBD and conference and a more structured interface.”*

The Trondheim Conferences have evolved over time, and one observation is that the last two conferences were not as closely linked to the CBD agenda as the ones before. Earlier conference summaries targeted their outputs to concrete CBD articles and upcoming SBSTTA meetings. However, neither the workshop program nor the Co-Chair summary of the 8th conference refer to any specific CBD decisions or program of work, other than reaching the Aichi targets (not specified which) and providing input for the upcoming CBD COP, in particular to the High-Level Segment. In 2013, there seems to have been a shift, when the Finance sector was brought in, followed by the 2016 conference where the agriculture was brought in. Some participants that were interviewed stated frustration over the lack of clarity of the objectives for the last two conferences.

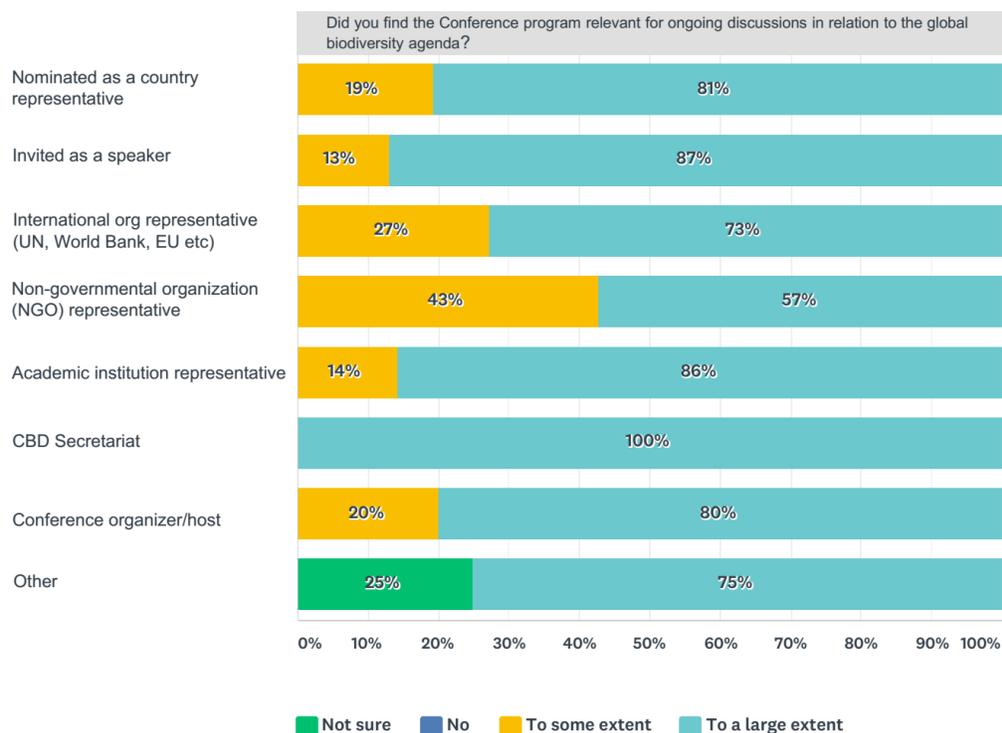
The programs for the Trondheim Conferences are developed through extensive discussions among various entities, which include but are not limited to,

the Secretariat of the CBD, various UN agencies such as the UNDP and UNEP, and relevant individuals within the NEA closely involved with the CBD negotiations. The Secretariat advises on the topics that will be discussed in the next COP meeting, the ministry officials involved with CBD negotiations inform the group on the importance given to the various issues to be discussed, representatives from the host country for the up-coming COP meeting weigh in on the subject, as well as the facilitator for the next CBD negotiations. These individuals then extensively discuss the topics to be included in the Trondheim Conference.

For example, for the last conference, the Secretariat had provided the four topics that were going to be discussed in the next COP meeting. After discussions, it was decided that the Trondheim Conference would only include two of the four topics.

The survey found that an overwhelming majority of the respondents thought the Conference program was relevant for on-going discussions in relation to the global biodiversity agenda, see figure 3.1.

(Figure 3.1: Relevance of Trondheim Conference program for on-going discussions in relation to the global biodiversity agenda)



There is a group at the Trondheim Conferences known as “the friends of the Co-Chairs” which typically consists of 10 to 15 individuals that represent various organizations that take part in organizing the conference, including but not limited to, the UN agencies, CBD, and country delegates that are heavily involved in the CBD agenda. This group is responsible for focusing on what they consider the

important issues and conclusions that are being discussed during the conference which is then summarized in the form of the Co-Chairs’ summary, written by the Conference rapporteur. This report draws attention to the important issues covered during the conference and focuses on the impact of these discussions. The report is then presented on the last day of the conference and thoroughly

discussed among the participants. The main function of the summary is to create further conversation about certain topics that are considered important. According to several participants interviewed, the Co-chairs' report is heavily referenced during CBD and SBSTTA meetings.

In conclusion, the linkages are plentiful between the Trondheim Conferences and the convention decision-makers. These linkages are not formal, but it works well because of extensive communication between relevant communities and a strong overlap of participants. There is strong collaboration between relevant actors during the organization of a conference. The last two conferences have shown less coherence with the CBD agenda resulting in lack of clarity for a few participants. The co-chair's summary is an influential, but non-formal document; it is influential in the sense that it is highly participatory (conference participants are 'owners') and it is often referred to in formal CBD meetings. Due to the informal nature of these linkages the Trondheim Conferences' impact on the CBD agenda are non-attributable.

3.2 The Trondheim conferences in light the establishment of the IPBES

When the conferences began in 1993, the aim of the conference was to provide a platform for knowledge relevant to the CBD. The conferences normally reported to the scientific advisory body of the CBD (SBSTTA). Although more recently this role has been somewhat taken over by the IPBES, which was established in 2012, the Trondheim Conferences' contribution to the broader CBD discourse has also evolved. Being an intergovernmental body, IPBES is committed to "assessing the state of the planet's biodiversity, its ecosystems and the essential services they provide to society" and reviewing "of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to [COP] Parties".

This function is however very different from the way in which the Trondheim Conference contributes to the CBD agenda. The Trondheim Conferences, first and foremost are organized to provide an informal platform for dialogue and discussion (see elaborations in Chapter 6) rather than a formal assessment of status of biodiversity around the Planet, which is then partly fed in to the CBD's Global Biodiversity Outlook. The informal, non-negotiating atmosphere of the Trondheim Conferences contributes to their status of being unique and influential "without a trace". This is supported by an overwhelming number of interviewees and survey respondents. IPBES in contrast is a formalized intergovernmental platform where participants take formal country positions.

Additionally, the Conferences have also served as an important venue where emerging issues of importance for the CBD are identified and discussed. The ad hoc nature of the Trondheim Conferences allows for invitations of renowned experts on certain issues from the academia, NGO community, private sector, or other background. The freedom of agenda is unique and provides room to create the future agenda on emerging issues.

One CBD Secretariat official interviewed expressed that the two bodies, IPBES and Trondheim Conferences, perform different functions and significantly contribute to different aspects of advancing the CBD agenda. Although two respondents to the survey recommended that the Trondheim Conferences interact more with the IPBES, this evaluation finds that the Conferences and the IPBES are rather different arenas and the Trondheim Conference ought to remain as it is, in order not to lose its uniqueness as an independent platform.

In conclusion, the IPBES and the Trondheim Conferences are incomparable; the Trondheim Conferences have a unique position as a platform of dialogue because of its informal character.

3.3 Relevance of Trondheim Conferences for preparations for CBD negotiations

According to several participants who were interviewed, the Trondheim Conference is the single best preparatory exercise for its participants for the CBD negotiations. Even the participants who are not the country focal points and do not participate in the formal CBD negotiations, stated that they often brief their respective country focal point on the outcomes of the conference. For instance, one interviewee stated that using the knowledge and the material he acquired during the conference, he helped write the speech for the director of his agency to the CBD negotiations. Similarly, another participant stated that one of the most important impacts of the conference was that it provided her with the opportunity to organize her thoughts regarding the subject that was being presented given the level of experts that were present at the conference. She never had the opportunity before to be exposed to such a wide range of audience. This in turn was very

beneficial for her country, because they had a stronger position in the SBSTTA meetings and other meetings because of the attendance in the Trondheim Conference. Her participation in the conference also helped frame a view about indigenous knowledge to help build participation in various articles in the SBSTTA and added significantly to the components of the work plan for the communities that she's involved in, in her daily work. One respondent belonging to an international organization said that: *"I think the Trondheim conference provides an opportunity to crystallize positions on important biodiversity issues. It provides early exposure to trending or priority biodiversity issues so that parties, scientists are better informed and have the opportunity to develop well thought out strategies that they can bring to the COP and to SBSTTA."* Another respondent who was invited as a presenter said: *"The timing of the Trondheim conferences is helpfully positioned between the main forums of the CBD allowing useful discussions to be held between key actors".*

(Table 3.1: How participants have used the resources provided by the Trondheim Conferences towards the negotiations at COP/SBSTTA)

"The material was easy-reference materials for my preparation to the CBD COP 13 in Cancun Mexico."

"As the theme of Trondheim Conference and CBD COP were same the Trondheim conference helped prepare us for the CBD COP. "

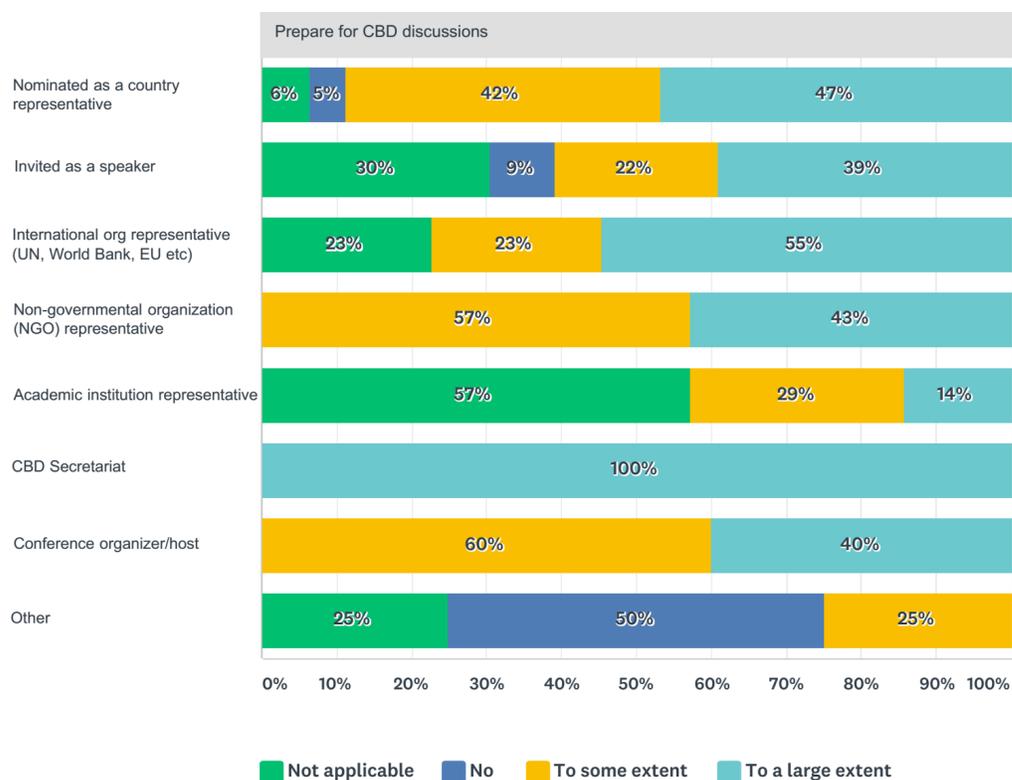
"They have assisted a lot in preparing for COP meetings."

"Trondheim Conferences play an important role in management of biological diversity globally. The year it was attended by yours truly was 2013, immediately after landmark, flawless eleventh Conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-11 to CBD) at Hyderabad India. Many of the decisions arrived at COP-11 got discussed in more informal settings at Trondheim after formal biodiversity summit (COP to CBD)."

Figure 3.2 below shows that 47 per cent of the country representatives and 55 per cent of the representatives of international organizations

believed the Trondheim Conference had helped them to a large extent to prepare for CBD discussions.

(Figure 3.2: How Trondheim Conference helped participants to prepare for CBD discussions.)



A consensus among most participants that were interviewed was that the conference agenda, the participants, the setup, and the Co-Chairs' report all serve as preparatory methods for the COP meetings. So even though there are no formal negotiations in the conferences, there is an obvious continuation of the events. According to several participants, the primary benefit of the Trondheim Conferences is that it provides a platform for the participants to engage on issues that are likely to be a part of the CBD agenda in a non-negotiation environment and exchange ideas that would better prepare them in the CBD negotiations.

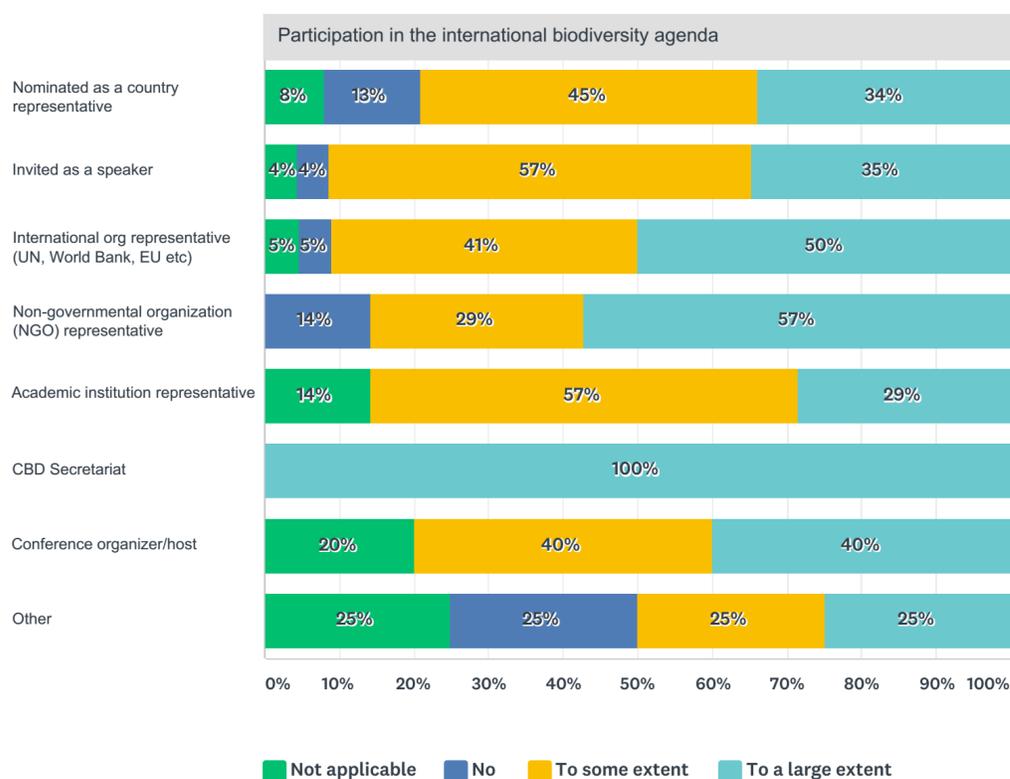
The Trondheim Conference played an important role in preparing delegates that participated in the last COP meeting held in Mexico. According to the organizers of that COP meeting, Mexico chose mainstreaming biodiversity for wellbeing as the main topic for that meeting being part of the Strategic Plan For Biodiversity 2011-2020 (para 10a & b). The mainstreaming agenda was focused on four biodiversity-dependent sectors, agriculture, fishery, forestry, and tourism. With advice from the COP organizers, the Trondheim Conference organizers focused on Agriculture to discuss mainstreaming conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use into the agriculture sector. This provided an opportunity

to discuss the subject in an open conference before the COP. In conclusion, the Trondheim Conferences provide significant assistance to country delegates to prepare for formal CBD meetings and negotiations.

3.4 Relevance of the Trondheim Conferences to the ongoing CBD discussions

Most respondents to the survey reported to have used new insight gained at the Trondheim Conferences to participate in the international biodiversity agenda, see figure 3.3 below.

(Figure 3.3: Utilization of new insight gained at the Trondheim Conferences to participate in the international biodiversity agenda)



One respondent to the survey said: *“I find the principles of the Conferences being complementary to the CBD and, in my view, the Conferences lay the foundation for discussions at COP meetings.”* Another said: *“The conference was found very productive to address some of the challenges and issues of ecology and economy, human well-being, biodiversity and sustainable and green and smart*

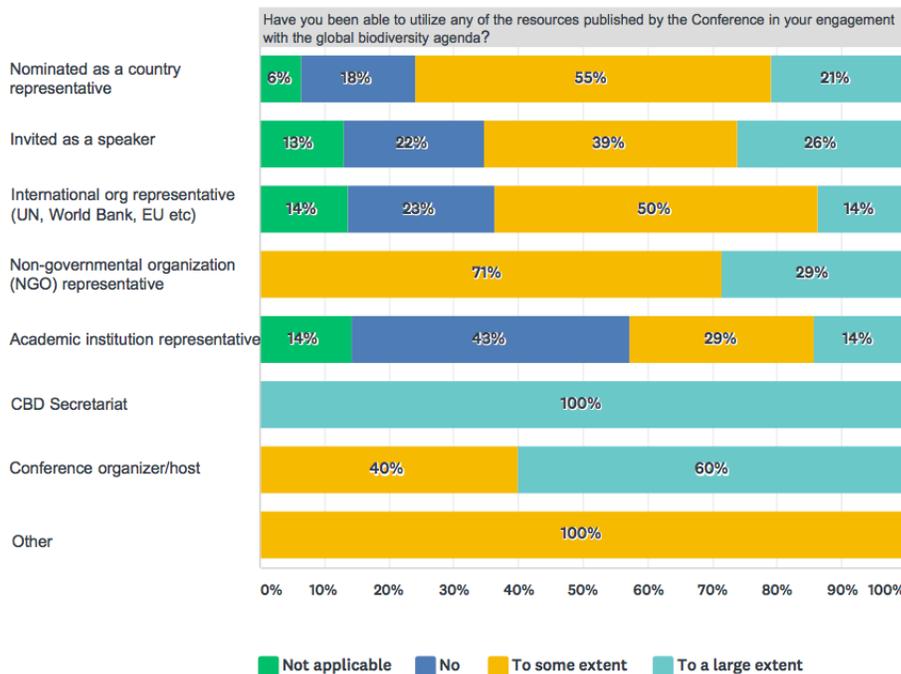
development to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for a sustainable society and sustainable development goals.” And yet another respondent said, *“There is no equivalent to the Trondheim Conferences in terms of the size, participation and agenda”.*

Apart from being prepared to the next meeting, a representative from an international organization

emphasized that Trondheim Conferences contribute to understanding the longer-term issues. He stated that participants in convention meetings “...do not have the luxury of stepping out and thinking about the post-2020 agenda and the key issues and the main stakeholders. So, the only group that is doing this in a consistent way is the Trondheim Conference. For our organization, the most important forum for any conversation of the post-2020 conversation in this field is going to be the next Trondheim Conference. There is no collective effort to come up with innovative way to move forward, and the Trondheim Conference is the only venue that does that”.

Figure 3.4 below shows that nearly all the participants have utilized resources provided by the Trondheim Conference to engage with the global biodiversity agenda to some or to a large extent. In conclusion, the discussions at the Trondheim Conferences are complimentary and relevant to the CBD. An advantage of the Trondheim Conferences is that they provide freedom to discuss the implications of issues on the longer term, beyond plan horizons, something that is missing in formal meetings and negotiations. Evidence gathered for this evaluation shows that participants have used the Trondheim Conference program, resources, new insight gained and outcomes to participate broadly in the international biodiversity agenda.

(Figure 3.4: Participants utilization of Trondheim Conferences’ resources in their engagement with the global biodiversity agenda.)



Chapter 4: Impact of the Trondheim Conferences

This chapter looks at the extent to which the Conference Objective “Provides input to the decision-makers of the Convention” has been reached. Specifically, it assesses the Trondheim Conferences impact on the CBD negotiations, the impact on individual countries and the implementation of the overall CBD objectives. Lastly, it looks at how the Trondheim Conferences are bringing biodiversity into other arenas and sectors.

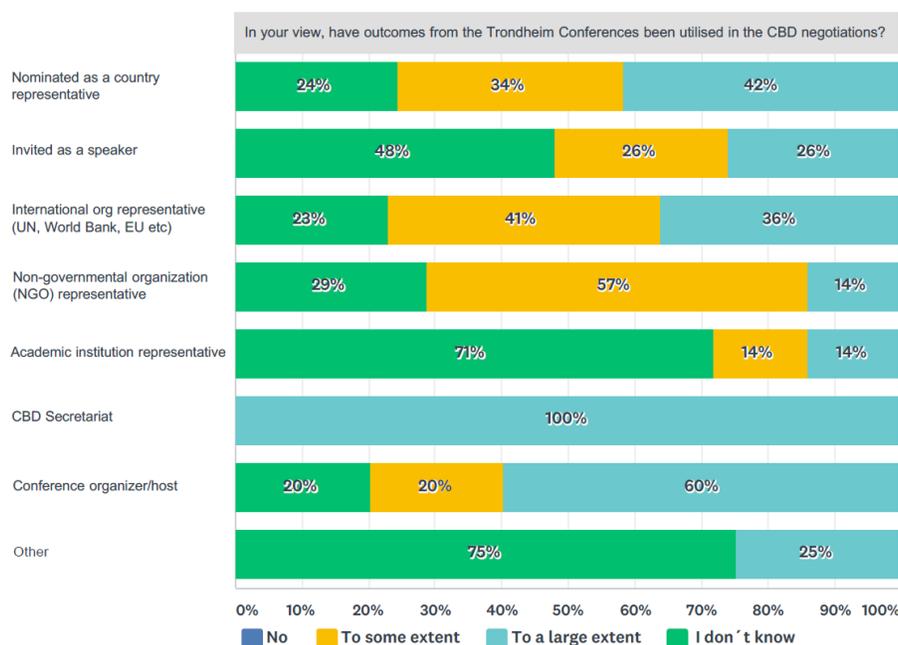
4.1 Trondheim Conferences impact on CBD negotiations

According to one participant, who has participated in several Trondheim Conferences, the conference Co-Chairs’ summary is very balanced and thought through, and this is due to the layout of the conference that includes stakeholders, NGOs, developing and developed countries. In the

participant’s point of view, around 70 to 75 per cent of the Co-Chairs’ summary is adopted by the SBSTTA or the COP. In addition to the information gathered through formal and informal discussion during the conference, several participants stated that they have used the Co-Chairs’ summary in their formal CBD negotiations. According to one non-country delegate, “people draw a lot from the summaries without actually quoting them, but you could very easily tell that the governments that were presenting their material was coming from the Trondheim Conference.”

36 per cent of the respondents to the survey believed that the outcomes from the Trondheim Conference have been utilized in the CBD negotiations to a large extent, hereunder the representative from the CBD secretariat, while 42 per cent of the country representatives believed the same. See figure 4.1 below on how the different participants group responded.

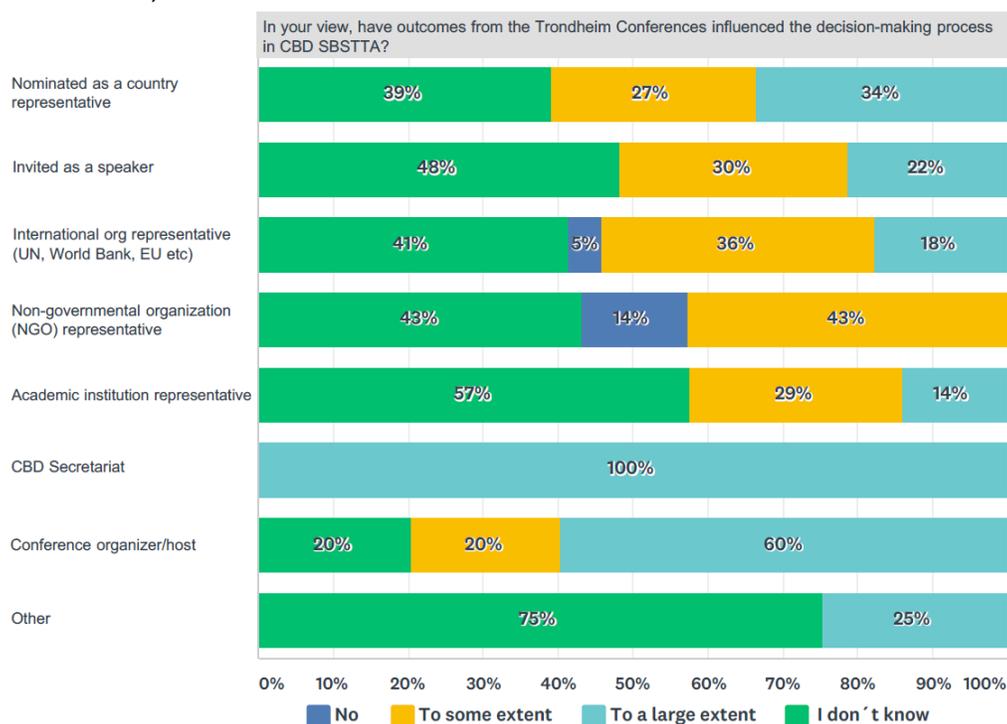
(Figure 4.1: The extent to which conference participants believe the outcomes from the Trondheim Conferences have been utilized in the CBD negotiations)



One example given on the impact of the conference on the CBD was the agenda of invasive alien species. The outcomes of the conference, according to one participant, had a very positive impact on the subject, which were fed into the CBD negotiations, which then came up with a number of ways to deal with this issue.

34 per cent of the country representative respondents to the survey believed the Trondheim Conferences have influenced the decision-making process in the CBD SBSTTA to a large extent, and this is echoed by the representative from the CBD secretariat, see figure 4.2 below.

(Figure 4.2: The extent to which outcomes from the Trondheim Conference have influenced the decision-making processes in CBD SBSTTA)

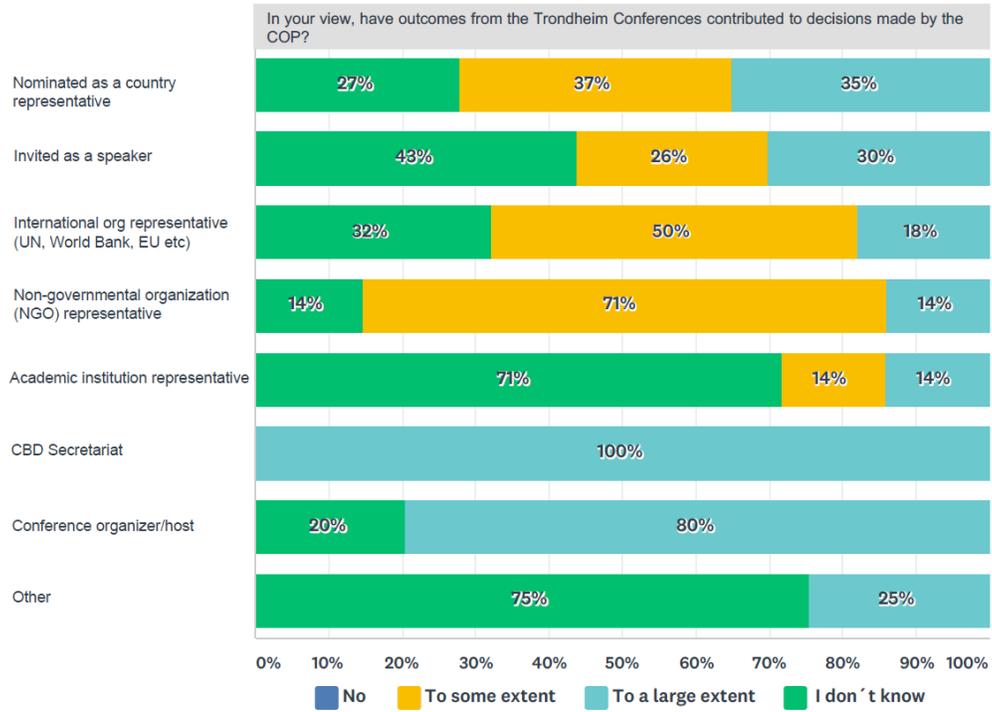


35 per cent of the country representative respondents to the survey believed the Trondheim conferences have contributed to decisions made by the COP to a large extent, and this is again echoed by the representative from the CBD secretariat, see figure 4.3 below.

participants to a large degree have used the Trondheim Conference program, resources, outcomes and new insights gained to prepare for and conduct CBD negotiations, and that there are clear linkages between decisions made by the SBSTTA and the COP and the outcomes of the Trondheim Conferences.

In conclusion, this evaluation has found that

(Figure 4.3: The extent to which outcomes from the Trondheim Conference have contributed to decisions made by the COP)

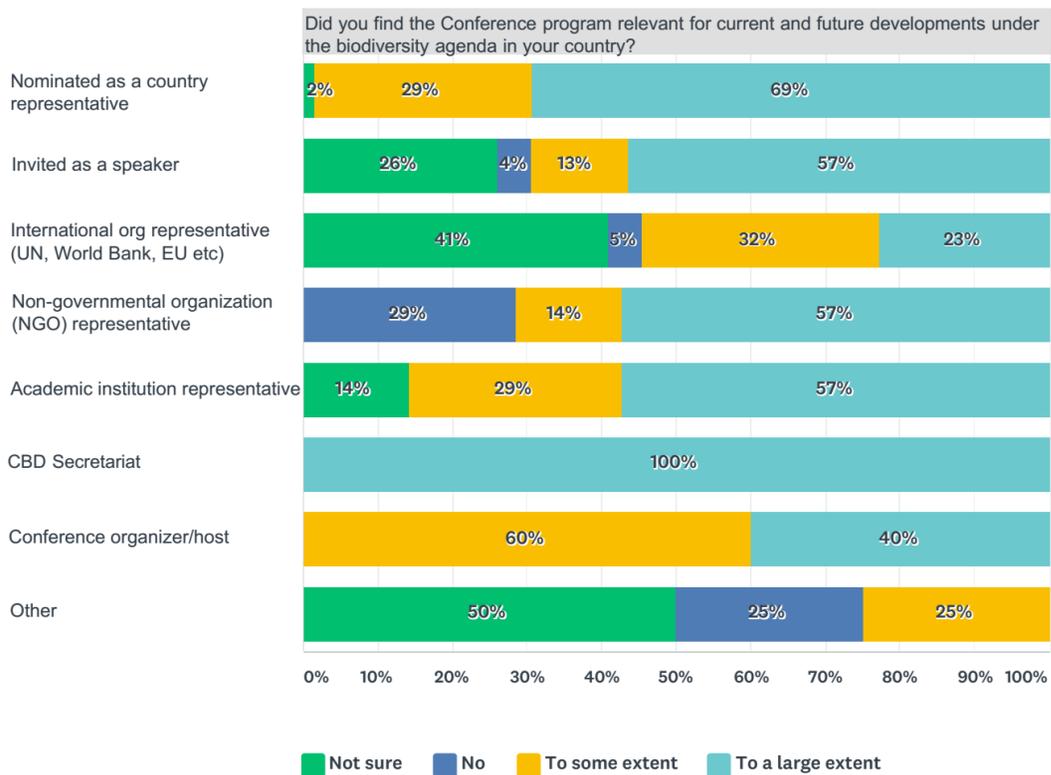


4.2 Impact on individual countries

A majority of the respondents to the survey found the Trondheim Conference program highly relevant

for current and future developments under the biodiversity agenda in their country. Amongst the country representatives, as many as 69 per cent found the conference program relevant to a large extent, see figure 4.4.

(Figure 4.4: How different participant groups found the Trondheim Conference program relevant for current and future developments under the biodiversity agenda in their countries)



The interviews and the survey provide examples of new national policies being influenced by information provided at the Trondheim Conferences,

or an exchange between countries on a common topic that was created at the conference, table 4.1.

(Table 4.1: How participants have used the resources provided by the Trondheim Conferences towards the Implementation of the CBD agenda in their countries)

“The knowledge and experience acquired during the Seventh Trondheim conference on Biodiversity, was very helpful and was fully utilized while preparing the National report on Economic valuation of Natural resources in (my country).”

“I submitted recommendations to the CBD Focal Point based on ideas learned at the conference. For example, I acquired some useful tools on the economic gains of biodiversity that aided me as a policy consultant for the updating of the NBSAP in my country. This was from the 2013 Trondheim Conference. Furthermore, I advised the CBD Focal Point NBSAP on the need to be more analytical of the potential critical of the impact of organized agriculture on the nation's biodiversity. There were many examples from other nations demonstrated in presentations at the Trondheim Conferences in 2016. I pointed to the CBD Focal Point some of these examples.”

“Served as references in the drafting of country report on biodiversity. Also, in the drafting of country policy on mainstreaming biodiversity friendly agricultural practices in protected areas and key biodiversity areas.”

“The Ministry of Economy is responsible for the formulation of 5 year and 20 year national development plans. The resources from the conference have been useful in identifying key areas of biodiversity that needs to be incorporated into the national developments plans.”

“They have assisted a lot in policy development at national level.”

“I have referenced many of the agro-ecological systems documents that came out of the workshop. They were used to inform the design of Palau's National Action Programme to combat desertification update. “

“The Trondheim Conferences has helped my country in the development of cross-sectoral policy that address the issue of biodiversity loss.”

“Liberia is very rich in biodiversity but very low on agriculture productivity and we just updated our strategy using what we learned from the Trondheim Conference.”

“The Trondheim Conference outputs were taken and used to build their research program on indigenous knowledge.”

“Mexico's national accounting which was a great bi-product from the attendance in Trondheim Conference.”

Participants have used the conference outputs, summaries, and presentations in framing their own products and research programs.

One participant cited his use of a presentation by a Zambian representative on how to improve crop production, which his country then adopted, and by using what he learned from the Trondheim Conference, updated their strategy. However, that specific presentation provided significant input for this strategy.

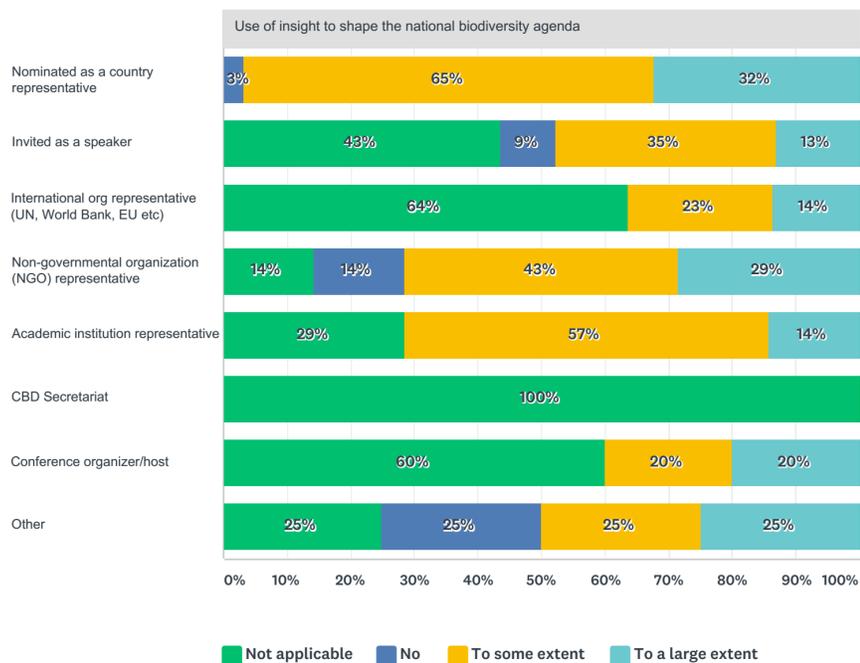
Another participant cited the valuable input her team received from participants from the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting during the conference, to experiment with some strategy which was put into practice later and has now become a part of her country's national accounting which according to her is a *"great bi-product from her attendance in Trondheim Conference."* The knowledge that the participants gain from interactions with other country representatives and groups helps build capacity their own capacity. For instance, one participant found a conversation

regarding budget allocations for environmental issues with participants from different sectors, such as finance and economy, very helpful in recommending budget requests in their own country.

32 per cent of the country representatives and 29 per cent of the NGO representatives have claimed to use the new insight gained at the Trondheim Conferences to a large degree to shape the national biodiversity agenda in their countries, see figure 4.5 below.

In conclusion, this evaluation shows that a significant number of participants at the Trondheim Conference have used new insights gained, the program, the resources, the conference outcomes as well as experiences presented by other participants to shape and/or implement the CBD in their countries.

(Figure 4.5: How participants have utilized new insight from the Trondheim Conferences to shape the national biodiversity agenda in their countries)



4.3 Implementation of the overall CBD objectives

The three overarching objectives of the convention for biodiversity are:

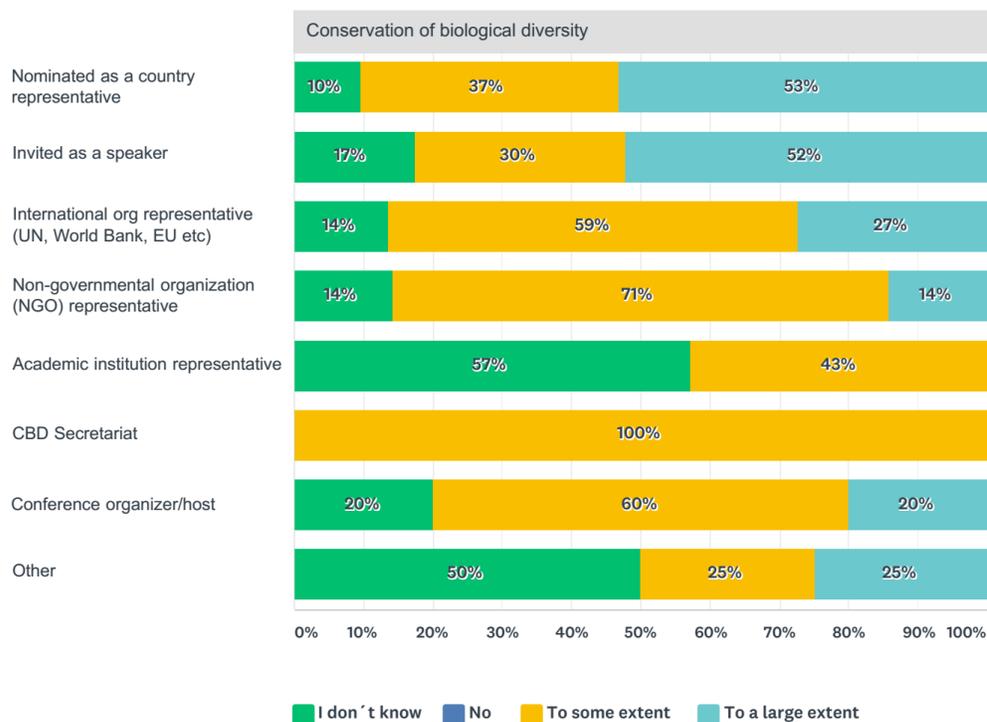
1. *Conservation of biological diversity*
2. *Sustainable use of biological diversity components*
3. *Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources*

It might be farfetched to expect that a conference can contribute to the implementation of the three overarching objectives of the global convention of

biodiversity, but nevertheless, both interviewees and survey respondents have indicated that this is likely to be the case, at least in regards to the first two.

More than half of the country representatives and the presenters that responded to the survey believed that the conferences have contributed to a large extent towards the conservation of biological diversity, whilst 27 per cent of the representatives from the international organizations and 14 per cent of the NGO representatives believed the same. The representative from the CBD secretariat thought this was true to some extent, see figure 4.6 below on the responses from the different participants group.

(Figure 4.6: Contribution towards the implementation of the objective of “Conservation of biological diversity”)



One respondent said that: *“The conference had overarching impact on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components, but stressed less on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.”*

Another participant repeated the same viewpoint: *“The conference provided insights on the use of innovative economic instruments in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources. However, the conference needs to do more on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. This is of importance to developing countries that are rich in biodiversity but income poor”,* and a third respondent said: *“There is still a huge emphasis on contributing to the 1st objective of the Convention. This should be balanced in the*

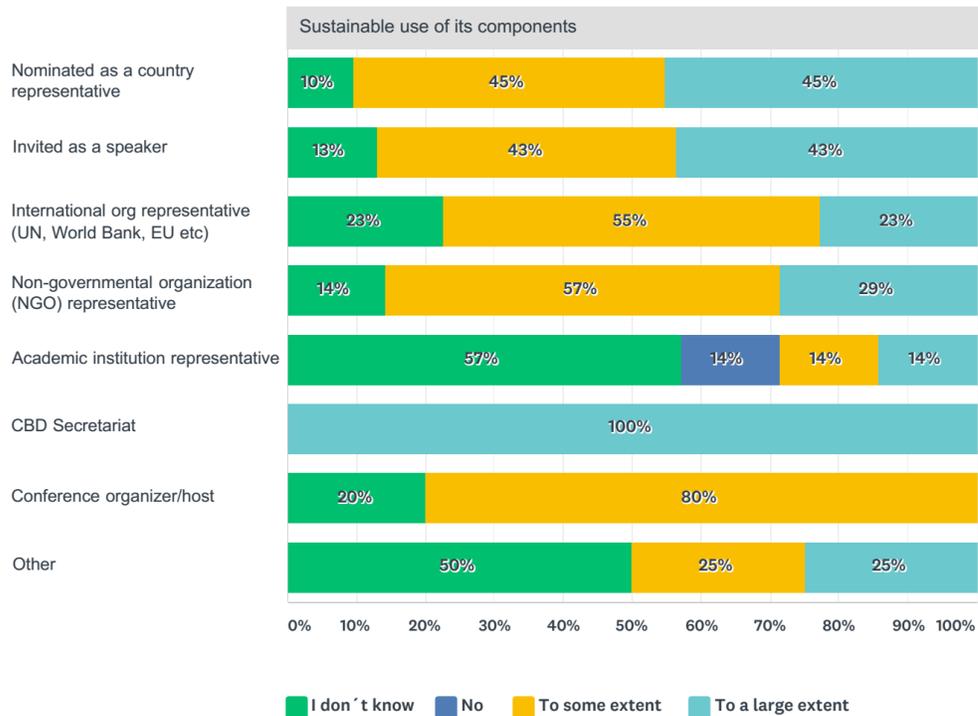
future”. Another respondent commented: “Trondheim conference plays a pivotal role in converging minds and thoughts of a whole range of people representing different themes and backgrounds surrounding biodiversity and agriculture. It certainly injected a wealth of knowledge to all the participants that will go a long way in biodiversity conservation and agriculture growth at national, regional and global level.”

With regards to the second CBD objective “to secure sustainable use of biological diversity components”, 45 per cent of the country representatives and 43 per cent of the presenters responded that they believed the conferences have contributed towards the implementation of this objective to a large extent. 23 per cent of the representatives from the

international organizations and 29 per cent of the NGO representatives and 14 per cent of the academics believed the same. It is worth mentioning that the representative from the CBD secretariat also

thought this was true to a large extent, whilst 14 per cent of the academics answered “no”. See figure 4.7 below on the responses from the different participants group.

(Figure 4.7: Contribution towards the implementation of the objective of “Sustainable use of biological diversity components”)



As for the last objective, “Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources”, the representative from the CBD secretariat answered “no” to the question whether the conferences have contributed toward the implementation of this. Fewer participants believed

the conferences had contributed to this objective than the other two, see figure 4.8 below of the responses by the different participant groups.

(Figure 4.8: Contribution towards the implementation of the objective of “Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources”)



In conclusion, a large proportion of the respondents think the Trondheim Conferences contribute towards the implementation of the objectives of the CBD. However, the focus has predominantly been on “Conservation of biological diversity” and to a somewhat lesser extent on “Sustainable use of biological diversity components”, and much less towards the “Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources”. However, the latter two objectives are the most relevant from the developing countries’ perspective that are often characterized by being resource rich but income poor.

Chapter 5: Knowledge provision and dissemination

This chapter looks at the evaluation objective “To assess the value of the conferences as providers/disseminators of knowledge” and also looks into the extent to which the Trondheim conferences have achieved their objective “To provide capacity enhancement for policy makers, managers, and scientists”.

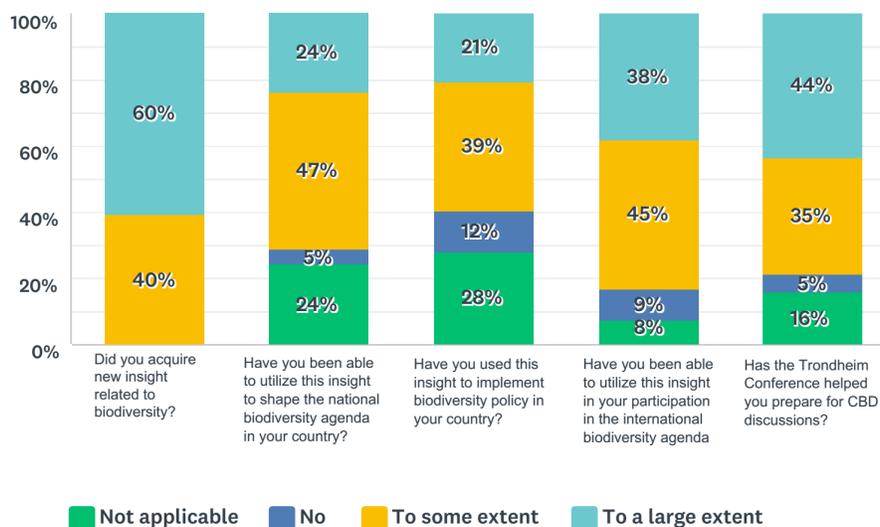
5.1 Gaining new insight

Although one of the objectives of the Trondheim Conference is to provide capacity enhancement for policy makers, managers, and scientists, the conference is not designed as a formal capacity building exercise. Participants are not provided with any tools or guidelines by the conference to implement CBD related measures in their respective countries. However, the conference outlines biodiversity priorities and increases knowledge of its

participants regarding certain issues, and also raises the knowledge and capacity of organizations such as UN bodies, which then helps with the implementation of measures in developing countries. For its participants, the conferences serve as a disseminator of knowledge and a platform for the exchange of ideas which has been largely utilized by its participants as preparatory exercise for formal negotiations and to influence the agenda and implementation of CBD measures in their home countries.

A majority of the 131 respondents to the survey said that they, to a large extent, had acquired new insight related to biodiversity, and the remaining had done so to some extent. No one said that they had not gained any new insight, see figure 5.1.

(Figure 5.1: Responses from participants regarding new insight provided by the Trondheim Conference, and the utilization of this by the participants.)



The presenters' at the Trondheim Conference also appeared to be satisfied by the professional outcome of their participation at the Conferences (see further discussion under section 8.2).

As seen in section 4.2, participants also learnt from each other. Participants hold up exposure to different countries' lessons learnt as a valuable way of knowledge transfer resulting from the Trondheim Conferences.

In conclusion, the majority of participants have gained useful new insight related to biodiversity during the Trondheim Conferences, insights that have later been actively used in the professional environment of most participants.

5.2 The use of resources provided by the Trondheim Conferences

Resources provided by the Trondheim Conferences appear to both be used and found to be useful.

49 per cent of the respondents to the survey answered that they found the preparatory documents to be useful to a large extent, while 49 per cent said the documents to a large extent enabled them to prepare for the conference, and 48 per cent felt the documents to a large extent enabled them to actively participate at the conference and in the group discussions. 80 per cent of the respondents had to some or a large extent accessed resources at the conferences homepage, whereas 19 per cent had not. All in all, this shows an active use of the resources by the participants.

(Table 5.1: Usefulness of resources provided by the Trondheim Conferences)

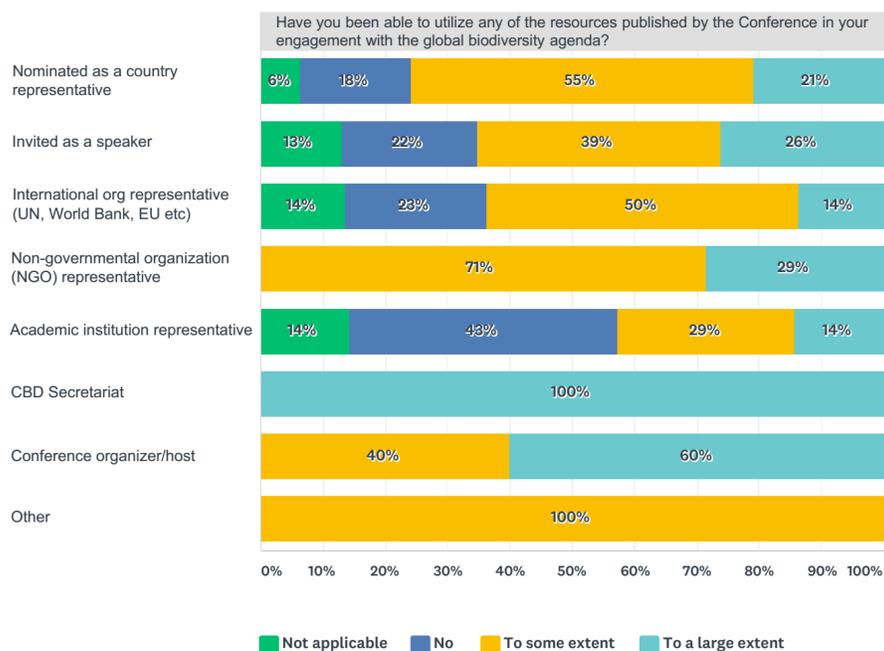
	NOT APPLICABLE	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT
Did you find useful insight in the conference themes in the preparatory documents for the conference?	5 %	2 %	44 %	49 %
Did the preparatory documents enable you to prepare yourself for the conference?	5 %	4 %	43 %	49 %
Did the preparatory documents enable you to actively participate at the conference, including in the group discussions?	7 %	8 %	37 %	48 %
Have you accessed any of the resources published at http://www.trondheim-conference.org ?	1 %	19 %	43 %	37 %

Many participants made highly positive comments and provided stories of how they had not only used the documents to prepare for the conferences, but also used the conference homepage on a day-to-day basis for agenda setting, policy making, teaching, and more, which is an interesting finding that shows positive value added by the conference. On the Trondheim Conferences homepage, one respondent

said: *"It provides a one-stop shop for thematic issues on intersection between food and biodiversity."*

Figure 5.2 (below) shows that the various different participant groups have utilized resources from the Trondheim Conference to engage with the global biodiversity agenda to some or to a large extent.

(Figure 5.2: Participants utilization of Trondheim Conferences' resources in their engagement with the global biodiversity agenda)



On the other hand, participants did not use the resources to the same extent to help them influence the national biodiversity agenda in their own countries, although 23 per cent of the CBD country representatives did this to a large extent, and interestingly, as many as 29 per cent of the representatives of NGOs have used the resources from the Trondheim conferences to a large extent to influence the biodiversity agenda in their own country.

The number of participants that have found the preparatory documents useful, and have used the resources in their professional life are substantially

higher among the sponsored participants than the non-sponsored. The reasons for this *might* be that the sponsored participants come from places where information is more difficult to obtain and resources are limited.

See Textbox 5.1 (next page) on accounts on how different participants have utilized the conference resources in their professional life.

In conclusion, the participants have used the resources provided by the Trondheim Conference to a large extent, and in a variety of ways.

(Textbox 5.1: How resources provided by the Trondheim Conferences have been used for capacity building.)

NOMINATED AS A COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

- Resources from the conference have broadened my knowledge and understanding on the inter-relationship between biodiversity and agriculture.
- The conference served as international benchmarks especially for emerging issues in national dialogue.
- We used some of the presentation on relation between the biodiversity protection and agriculture also as information materials for our colleagues at the Ministry of Agriculture, who for the first part time participated on the conference with us (MoE SR). From the MoA SR we had with us a representative, who is also the FAO national focal - links to the CBD national focal point.
- Resources from the conference are useful because they are being used even today as means of biodiversity conservation in the country.
- Trondheim Conference has been helpful in utilizing communication between us as a group that represent our country.
- I use these documents in my research work, writing policy documents and reports. I use them to inform the preparation of my presentations.
- A better understanding to be able to discuss about this subject at the national level. To be aware about the subject. I can teach my university students about this issue. To incorporate this knowledge in future research projects.
- Resources provided by the Trondheim conference are quite useful, providing a helpful review on the particular topics including new and emerging issues.
- The conference gave an insight on the importance of linkages between sectors and how these sectors depend on each other.
- New insights, latest developments.
- Land use. Agriculture and Biodiversity Small holders indigenous right Nagoya protocol and so many others
- Gained additional knowledge on sustainable and participatory biodiversity conservation and wise use of natural resources for socioeconomic development of dependent people and to generate wider public support for sustainable biodiversity conservation at large.
- For the development of my work, my participation in the Conference has been very helpful for the synergies between the sectors that manage Biodiversity and agriculture.
- Trondheim Conference (TC) plays an important role in management of biological diversity globally. It is more significant as the host of TC is a developed country and gives participants an opportunity to understand perspective of the developed world in their own setting. Unfortunately, most of the biodiversity rich areas in the world have remained relatively under developed and need better understanding in the context of biological diversity. TC provides a platform to introspect on this aspect outside CBD, yet in close collaboration of CBD and UNEP. As National Focal Point of CBD in a mega-diverse country, it did help me professionally in many ways.
- In planning and implementation of climate smart agriculture. Aligning research priorities to food security founded on farmers' problems

INVITED AS SPEAKER

- Some key points from the conference were used while framing Outlook 2033 on conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA in Bhutan. This outlook is for a period from 2017 to 2033 covering 12th five year plan (2018-2023), 13th five year plan (2023-2028) and 14th five year plan (2028-2033).
- Useful primarily in professional publications and in governmental agency discussions.
- The conference was good and still recommend it as it prepares someone on different topics even those that you may not be able to attend in COP. This is because it selects topics which are well researched by selected experts. It's a good opportunity to also discuss and at the end the recommendations help shape the COP. For me even though I have not attended I still check out on them as I know I will learn a lot and help open my mind to discussions
- It has useful to access PPTs of presentations as well related documents.
- I cannot remember the preparatory documents or their usefulness (4 years ago)
- More broadly thinking about the big picture of biodiversity conservation related to agriculture, sustainable development and ecosystem services
- On the discussion of the issue of small farmers and good practices of conservation of Biodiversity on Goias State in Brazil mainly on building a new method of extension service named Innovation Network.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE (UN, WORLD BANK, EU ETC)

- It provides a one-stop shop for thematic issues on intersection between food and biodiversity.
- I have referenced many of the agro-ecological systems documents that came out of the workshop. They have actually been useful beyond biodiversity considerations.
- Documents prepared for Trondheim are always a good source of background and relevant information and constitute an excellent basis for preparation to CBD-related meetings.
- I had very productive discussions during the preparation of the program with the organizing team

ACADEMIC INSTITUTION REPRESENTATIVE

- Related information can be used for research and teaching, very useful.
- As the topics change for every conference, I remember the material to be helpful if the topic was not in the core of my expertise.
- I am professor and I frequently used resources from this Conference in my classes. Also, I work with many regional governments in Mexico, where I have participated in the regional regulations related biodiversity conservation.

CBD SECRETARIAT

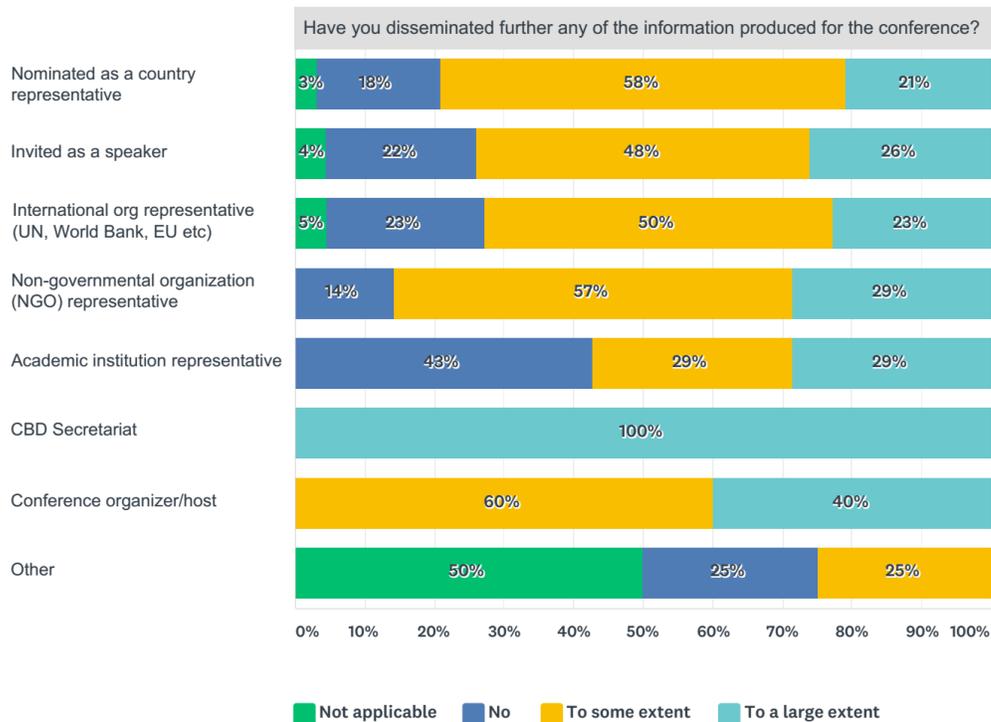
- Inputs to discussions at COP 13

5.3 Dissemination of Trondheim Conference resources

A number of participants interviewed observed that the Conference organizers could do a better job of disseminating the Conferences’ outputs. They stated that although the Conference materials are available on the Conference website, only participants of the Conference or those very familiar with the Conferences know where to access these materials. On the other hand, the majority of the participants stated that they have disseminated some or several of the resources provided by the Trondheim Conference. For instance, according to one participant from an international organization, they have a “serve-list” containing over 100,000 email addresses that have subscribed to receive reports such as the Trondheim Conference outputs.

Additionally, the Trondheim Conference reports are also made available on their website which can be accessed by their subscribers as well. According to this participant, most of their recipients that request the Trondheim Conference outputs are government representatives who were unable to attend the Conferences. See figure 5.3 and textbox 5.2 on how participants disseminate the resources provided by the Trondheim Conferences.

(Figure 5.3: Participants’ dissemination of Trondheim Conference resources)



The table below is describing the participants' dissemination of the Trondheim conference resources.

In conclusion, most participants value the resources provided by the Trondheim Conferences, and they use them in a variety of ways, and disseminate them to other relevant parties.

(Textbox 5.2: Participants' dissemination of Trondheim conference resources)

NOMINATED AS A COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

- I always refer to the "Voluntary guidance for mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors including agriculture, forestry and fisheries: tools, guidance, frameworks, standards and platform to move towards more sustainable practices" prepared by the CBD.
- It has guided opinion pieces and policy briefs and influenced to a certain extent amendments to legislation.
- I have shared with my colleagues during national workshops.
- The proceedings of previous conference helped us mainstreaming CBD in Agriculture, Forestry and fisheries sector.
- I have advised the head of my country EPA on some global biodiversity issues based on accessing the information link made available on the Conference website. Furthermore, I have recommended to the CBD Focal Point to access the Trondheim Conference website and use the information available for research.
- Yes, we have been disseminating the materials to all relevant partners, who are involved in our national biodiversity platform. Although, we have to further communicate and work with these results, as there is too much information available also from other sources and it is difficult to keep the attention to important materials.
- Forwarded to a colleague for use in setting the biodiversity-food research agenda.
- To aware my agriculture colleagues. To advise the national agriculture authorities.
- I have used resources provided by the Trondheim conference also for teaching at the university.
- I have had opportunity to be a speaker at various fora related to crop production and I informed the participants about how to practice our agriculture in a sustainable manner in order not to destroy the fauna and flora in the ecosystem thereby destroying the agro-biodiversity
- Harmonization of Aichi targets to national targets - Mainstreaming biodiversity into national sectoral plans - implementing the SDG'S at the national level - Updating and mainstreaming of the NBSAP - Applications of biosafety regulations and how to deal with LMO's
- The published documents which were made available to the participants in the conference were brought in the country and handed over to the ministry for future use.
- I have disseminated the theme of the conference taking advantage of the fact that it was prior to the COP 13 of biodiversity, being one of the central themes of the COP 13.
- The mainstreaming documents and all information related with SEEA.

- The entire Trondheim Conference was very useful particularly at a time when my country was the President of the COP. Deliberations at the Trondheim Conference helped us in getting the Nagoya Protocol in place, which led to achieving one of the 20 Aichi targets well before the timeline of 2015. Professionally, it was very satisfying for me as National Focal Point of the CBD in India and it was a privilege for my country to Chair the first meeting of the parties of the Nagoya Protocol at COP-12 to CBD. India is the first Country to implement the Nagoya Protocol in letter and spirit by filing the first IRCC (India leads it even today by publishing 62 IRCCs out of 72 published so far as of July 2017). Apart from Nagoya Protocol, achieving Aichi Targets and Mobilisation of Resources in the context of TEEB and High Level Panel on Assessment of Resources for meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets has always been our priority.
- The summary of the discussions/presentations/conference was very useful and very well elaborated. I disseminate it to my colleagues. Moreover, the contact I've made during the Conference was very useful because it has increased my network. Indeed, I've launched a study with contacts from this conference.
- Presentations made by the presenters/speakers were shared with my fellow researchers.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE (UN, WORLD BANK, EU ETC)

- It was used to inform the development of a project that sought to increase community resiliency to the impacts of climate change. One of the strategies of that project was to make agriculture more sustainable by ensuring ecological and food security outcomes. The FAO materials as well as some of the examples of the presentations from Small holder farmers in Africa were useful in the design of that project. That particular project is aligned with Palau's Climate change policy
- Sent around chair's summary to all colleagues, used it to think about WB priorities for CBD COP We disseminated widely in our team and networks the work done using global input-output models to describe impacts of international commodities trade flows on biodiversity

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO) REPRESENTATIVE

- We disseminated the summary findings of the report of the Co-Chairs to our mailing lists.

Chapter 6: The arena created at the Trondheim Conferences

This chapter looks at three of the objectives of the Trondheim Conferences:

- Provide an arena for open dialogue among stakeholders on the biodiversity agenda
- Create a constructive, transparent and scientifically sound basis for addressing key issues under the CBD
- Provide an inclusive arena where representatives from both developing and developed countries have the opportunity to meet and present their perspectives on equal terms

6.1 An arena for open dialogue

One of the main objectives of the Conference from its inception was to provide a platform for participants to discuss and exchange ideas relevant to the CBD discourse. Since the CDB Conference of the Parties (COP) and the SBSTTA meetings have stricter perimeters for its participants, and the participants have their own limitations on what they can and cannot say, the Trondheim Conferences provide the ideal platform for informal discussions. Nearly all the individuals interviewed, stated that one of the best things about the conferences is its unique and informal format, whereby participants can freely discuss biodiversity-related issues without the added pressure that comes with formal negotiations. Furthermore, since the outcomes of the conference are not binding, it allows people to be freer in expressing their opinions and have non-controversial and non-adversarial conversations.

The conference program, format, and diverse participation have allowed the organizers to achieve their stated objective of facilitating meaningful discussions on biodiversity related issues. According to one of the interviewees, *“the Conferences are extremely popular among folks interested in the subject because of the platform it provides, that is, it*

covers the most relevant topics, it does not include any negotiations, and it includes the same actors that would participate in the normal negotiations. So, there is less pressure on the participants from the respective countries to toe the party line.”

The following quotes from both survey and interviews carried out during this evaluation emphasise the good reputation of the Trondheim Conferences:

- *Trondheim Conferences have a very good reputation*
- *Being invited is considered an honour!*
- *Trondheim Conferences are perceived as a trusted brand in the biodiversity discourse*
- *It is seen as an event where the leading thinkers in the field gather and discuss issues related to biodiversity and SDGs*
- *The Trondheim Conferences are considered to set the pace for the biodiversity agenda.*
- *It is seen as an event where the leading thinkers in the field gather and discuss issues related to biodiversity and SDGs.*
- *The Trondheim Conferences are considered to be top-notch and attendance is considered a privilege*
- *No lightweights! The thinking involved in the conference was very strategic.*
- *There is no equivalent to the Trondheim Conferences in terms of the size, participation and agenda.*
- *The conferences have a tradition of good quality*

The perceived status of the Trondheim Conferences apparently contributes to the negotiating position of country representatives in formal CBD meetings: *Our country had a stronger position in SBSTTA meeting and other meetings because of the attendance in the Trondheim Conferences.”*

In conclusion, the Trondheim Conferences are found to have a very good reputation and even seem to enhance one’s ‘status’ when invited. The Trondheim Conferences are perceived to be true arenas for open dialogue.

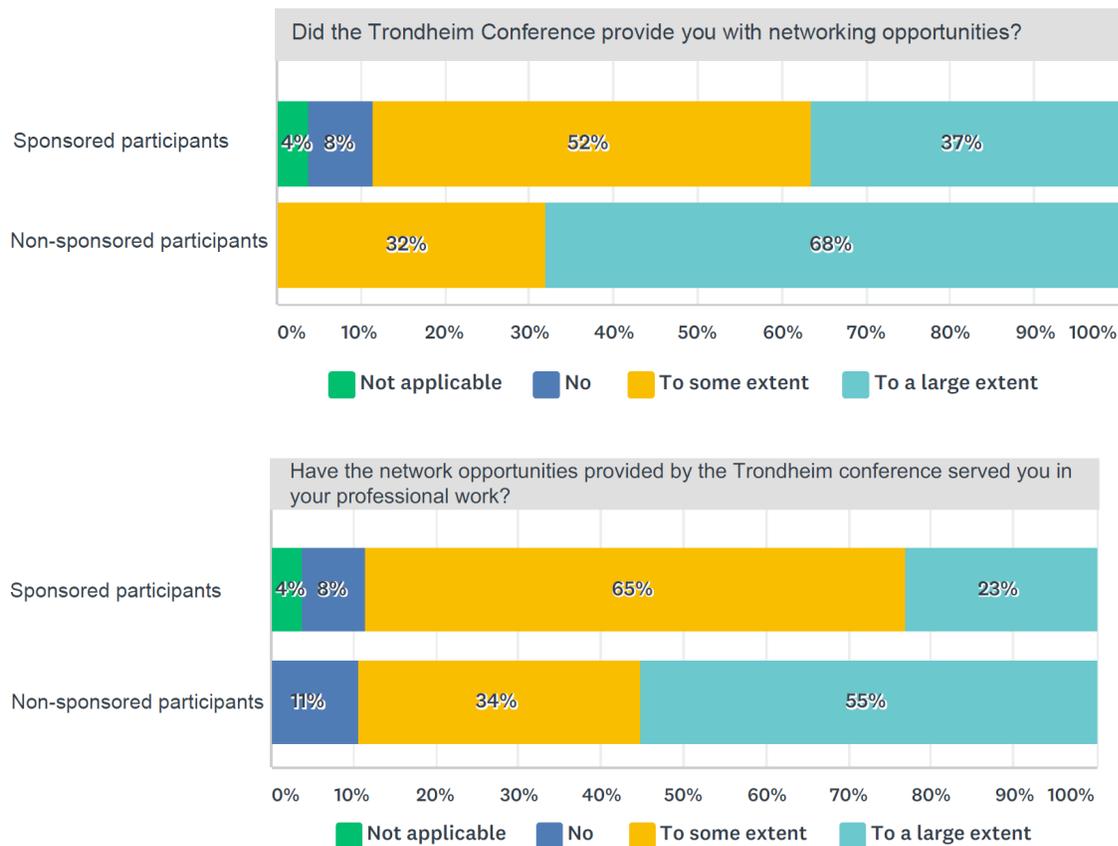
6.2 Creating a constructive basis for addressing key issues under the CBD

Given that the Trondheim Conferences do not involve any negotiations or produce any binding documents, participants found the format of the conference highly constructive in highlighting and addressing key issues under the CBD.

With regards to whether the Trondheim Conference provided good networking opportunities, only three

per cent stated that it does not. The networking has served 41 per cent of the respondents to the survey to a large extent in their professional work. 56 per cent found it useful to a large extent to interact with other participants and 42 per cent did so to some extent. The sponsored participants appear to have found fewer networking opportunities and also found it less useful to network and interact than the non-sponsored participants, see figure 6.1 below.

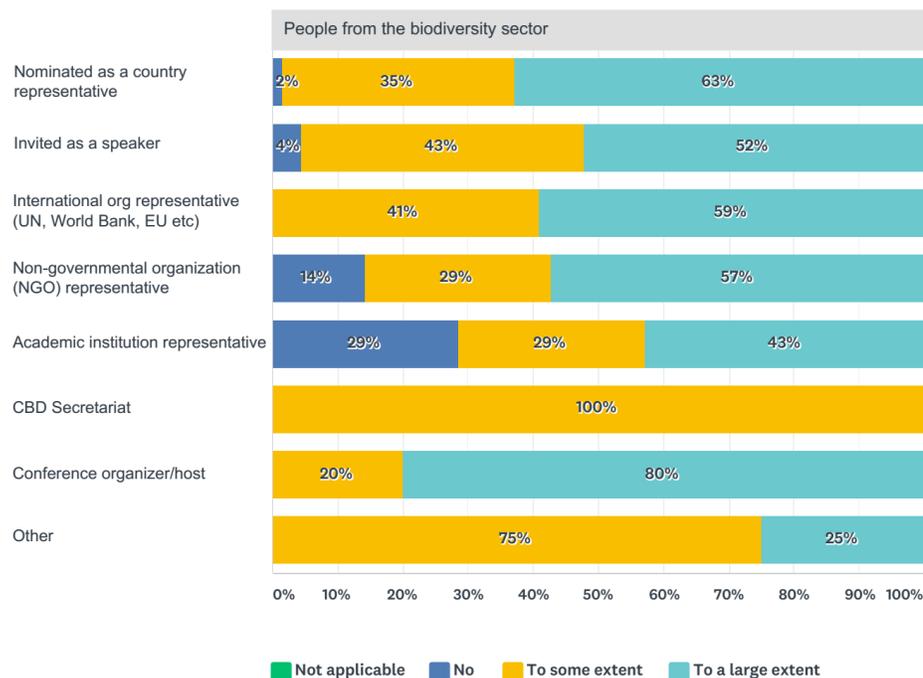
(Figure 6.1: Sponsored compared to non-sponsored participants' networking opportunities)



Not surprising, the grand majority of the respondents to the survey reported that they found networking with people from the biodiversity sector

to benefit their professional work the most, see figure 6.2.

(Figure 6.2: The extent to which networking with people from the biodiversity sector provided professional benefits)



31 per cent of the respondents to the survey found it beneficial to a large extent to network with scientists, 44 per cent found it beneficial to a large extent to network with people from international organizations, while 31 per cent found it beneficial to large extent to network with people from non-governmental organizations. Between 4 and 10 per cent did not find it useful to network with any of these groups.

27 per cent found it professionally beneficial to a large extent to network with people from their own country or region, while 33 per cent found this to be beneficial to a large extent to network with people from other regions.

According to most participants, aside from formal

events and presentations at the conference, a very constructive aspect of the conferences was found to be the informal networking and gathering events. Exposure to a wide range of diverse opinions and ideas and interaction with representatives from other countries, regions, and fields in an informal manner have helped participants broaden their perspectives on certain issues. For instance, one participant recalled interacting with representatives of over 60 countries in 2013 and praised the delegation from Zambia for organizing an informal dinner where key issues of CBD were discussed and participants were exposed to innovative and valuable opinions that were not a part of the formal presentations. Similarly, informal group discussions, which were organized by the representatives of Latin

American countries before the start of the formal conference every morning, allowed them to better understand their common regional challenges and innovative solutions that are being implemented in some of their neighbouring countries. According to one Latin American country representative, such interaction had not taken place outside of this conference.

See textbox 6.1 below for comments with regards to

participants' perceived usefulness of networking. In conclusion, participants found that the Trondheim Conferences provided ample opportunity for networking, and almost all indicated that this networking has served them to some or to a large extent in their professional work. The sponsored participants appeared to have found less networking opportunities than non-sponsored participants.

(Textbox 6.1: Conference sessions enabling the most rewarding networking opportunities)

NOMINATED AS A COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

- Group discussions in the conference enabled the most interesting and rewarding networking opportunities.
- The most interesting and rewarding sessions are "policies and Institutions" (session 4) and the Round table discussions (sessions 6&9). The former gave insight on mainstreaming biodiversity into productive sectors of the economy while the latter provided practical ideas by other counties e.g. mechanisms used at national levels, actions and regulatory approaches, issues of trade-offs, etc.
- A good regional perspective on the Biodiversity issues was achieved that helped us in formulating our national policies.
- I especially enjoyed the group work and group discussion. I also enjoyed the session that involved group voting. I liked the information uploading method that the secretariat team applied to make reports on group ideas, discussion and opinions. During these discussions I got to connect with some of the group members and the open exchanges was a good opportunity for networking. I gather new ideas that I took note off and returned home with.
- As mentioned above, for us was the most important to start and continue our cooperation with our colleagues at the agricultural sector - mainstreaming of the biodiversity, as also a topic before the CBD COP 13 in Cancun, it was well prepared as a preparatory event.
- Group discussions wherein participants shared their respective views and experiences. During short breaks where I meet people who shared the status of biodiversity, and their current interventions and lessons learned on biodiversity conservation in their respective countries. I was able to get insights on biodiversity conservation that are applicable to my country which has a lot of flora and fauna that needed to be conserved. Delegates from Peru, Malaysia and Mauritius provided the most of the ideas to me.
- The group discussions, group work and group presentations.
- Formal presentations, conference materials, group discussions.
- Working group (small group of working about a subject).
- Engaging with people from the biodiversity sector was interesting and rewarding as we were able to follow some of their work via internet and through our own Department of Environment.

- Discussions on Mobilizing resources for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets, ensuring sustainable development by balancing the three pillars of sustainable development and valuing natural capital captured most of the networking both formally and informally in 2013.
- Coffee breaks and excursions were the most opportunities to meet other participants.
- The dinners and receptions allowed participants to get to know each other.
- The group work on biodiversity.
- Excursion, receptions, lobby-area outside of the Conference room.

INVITED AS SPEAKER

- Informal sessions provided us excellent platform to interact with many individuals representing different fields/themes surrounding biodiversity, organizations, countries etc. This allowed us to get know in person some of the individuals with whom our correspondences are still on-going. Linkages and correspondences includes both on professional ground and personal ground.
- Both session discussions and hallway discussions.
- Coffee breaks and dinners.
- Discussions in formal sessions but, even more so, receptions, coffee breaks etc. used to contact speakers / contributors directly.
- Informal meetings during breaks, mainly triggered by good presentations Round table discussions with a good mixture of people with different backgrounds
- I found the group activities very useful for networking and understanding the perspective of other sectors and regions.
- The presentations from a broad range of disciplines were the most useful

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- Conversations about food security and biodiversity linkages in different cultural contexts.
- The sessions that stand out most in my mind were the parallel sessions at the 2013 conference - on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, where in depth discussion was possible with people from different countries where new finance, planning and mainstreaming tools have been developed and tested.

6.3 Creating a transparent basis for addressing key issues under the CBD

In addition to the informal interactions, participants also praised the transparent nature of the conference. Most participants that were interviewed stated that the process in which the organizers gathered the information presented, the discussions among participants in the round tables, and the analyses and conclusions drawn from those were very transparent. The Conference report, which is based on the discussions is then presented on the last day of the conference and thoroughly discussed to generate further discussion and find common grounds among participants. 68 per cent of the respondents to the survey thought the “Reports of the Co-Chairs” to a large extent represented what was discussed at the conferences.

One area of criticism regarding the transparency of the Conferences among some participants was the development of the Conference agenda and program. Participants commented that the conference agenda and program are developed and shared with invitees without any input from most participants. According to the conference organizers however, the development of the conference agenda and program involves extensive discussions among various entities which include CBD Secretariat, UNDP, and UNEP which have diverse representation, and seeking input from each invited country would not be practical.

In conclusion, while participants feel that what is going on during the conferences is transparent, some believe the development of the program could

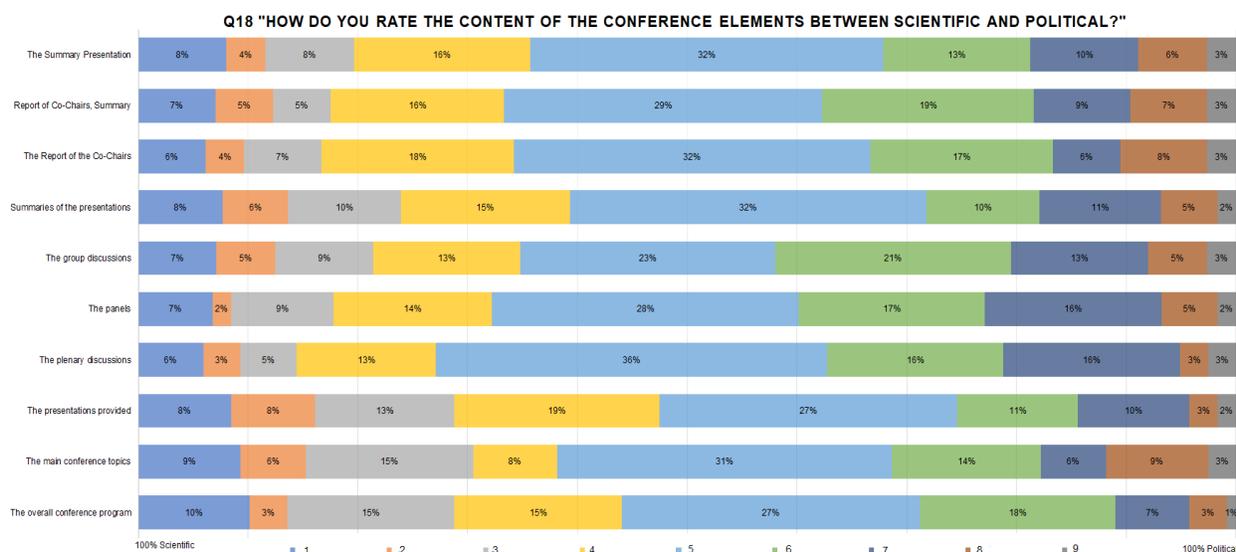
be done in a more transparent - or participatory - manner.

6.4 Creating a scientifically sound basis for addressing key issues under the CBD

While the majority of the participants who were interviewed stated that there was a good balance between scientific and policy discussions, the conference in general appears to be perceived more as a policy platform than presentation of scientific ideas. According to several participants, the true value of the conference is policy driven and the scientific component of the agenda is there to help with the policy. The Trondheim Conferences are considered to be at the intersection of how one utilizes scientific findings into policy decisions. For example, one participant stated that “there was no hard-core science or science for the sake of science at the conference”. The science according to this participant was more about the new innovations and methodologies that may help the policy agenda. Another participant said: “You have the scientific folks and policy folks—so the Trondheim Conferences work as a perfect Science-Policy interface.”

The survey asked the respondents to rate whether there was a political or scientific weight to ten different conference elements (Program, topics, presentations, discussions, panels, group discussions, summaries, report of co-chairs, summaries of findings, summary of report.). All elements received between 20 per cent and 32 per cent rating to be 50-50 and the spread towards political and scientific was equal for all questions, see figure 6.3.

(Figure 6.3: Rating of conference contents between scientific and political (Answer on a scale of 1 to 9, where 1 is 100 % scientific and 9 is 100 % political")



One respondent commented: *“In my view the Trondheim Conference has solid science at the basis but has also been instrumental in bringing more policy oriented discussions forward when this was needed for the global biodiversity agenda.”*

Another one said: *“The polarity between ‘science’ and ‘politics’ seems odd. In the context of the agricultural biodiversity agenda, for example, there is no scientific view that is free of politics (and the influence of other forces) and there is no political view that does not recognize the scientific, knowledge and technological content of the issues. The more contentious polarity is between those presenting the dominant orthodoxy of science which supports the interests of the powerful compared with those who champion the science, knowledge, innovations and practices of those who are custodians and developers of agricultural biodiversity.”*

Several participants indicated that they would like to see more technical and scientific presentations with the assumption that the participants are familiar with the underlying scientific evidence. However, the absence of purely scientific discussions at the

conference has not been an issue for most participants. According to one participant, biodiversity, unlike climate change, is entirely based on science and there is no major dispute or controversy about biodiversity loss. Therefore, given the scientific evidence, the conversation usually revolves around the most innovative policy approaches to address the issues, and that is where the Trondheim Conferences play a significant role. Additionally, the balance between science and policy dialogues in the conferences is also dependent on the topic under discussion. According to one participant: *“If the topic is agriculture, it is expected to contain the more scientific aspects of the topic, however if the topic is sustainable development, then the discussion and presentations are going to be a lot more policy based.”*

On the other hand, some participants observed that there is further need to involve not just policy experts, but policy makers. According to these participants, it would be beneficial to involve decision makers such as parliamentarians from various countries in these conferences. Such participation would expose the decision makers to

areas where the scientific and policy experts have already established common ground.

When making a Google Scholar search for “Trondheim Conference” and “biodiversity”, the search receives 106 hits. About 40 per cent of the citations relate to the book *“Invasive species and biodiversity management”*. Based on papers presented at the Norway/United Nations (UN) Conference on Alien Species, 2nd Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, Trondheim, Norway, 1-5 July 1996, by Sandlund, O.T., P.J. Schei, A. Viken (1999). The book has 26 chapters where each chapter have different authors and are therefore cited independently.

The rest of the hits are:

- A number of scientific publications have the Trondheim Conferences in their reference list.
- Some speakers at the conference make their contributions available online.
- In Google Scholar a few formal CBD documents pop up, making reference to the Trondheim Conferences.
- A Trondheim Conference is sometimes described in a paper as one of multiple forums where a specific idea has been discussed.
- One author pops up repeatedly summarizing legal issues discussed at the Trondheim Conferences (in Environmental Policy and Law journal).

Some of the citations come from esteemed people who also appear on the list of invited people at the conference. The Trondheim Conferences pop up here and there in the scientific community, but don't leave an impressive trail. It moreover is a small paper trail of people who have attended the conferences or make use of some of its documents (apart from the mentioned voluminous book of the 2nd conference).

A similar, general Google search results in 217,000 hits. So, the conclusion is that the conferences are very visible in the ‘real world’ on internet, but hardly in the scientific community. This is not a surprising finding, as the Trondheim Conferences act as a science-policy interface on a specific topic for a very limited audience. It does not produce new science; it does not produce scientific publications (except for the book).

In conclusion, everything is politics. Nevertheless, it appears that the Trondheim Conferences have succeeded in their ambition of creating a space where most participants feel assured that there is no hidden political agenda. The conferences have created an effective science-policy interface, in which science serves the purposes of providing understanding for the further development of the policy agenda.

6.5 Providing an inclusive arena

Nearly all of the participants interviewed for this evaluation commended the Conference organizers for including participants from different countries and with relatively diverse backgrounds. The general consensus among participants interviewed was that there was a good balance between representatives from developed and developing countries, NGO officials and country focal points, and policy and scientific experts. Most participants also commented that further representation from developing countries could enhance the value of the conference, however, given the geographical proximities, this may not always be possible. One participant stated that although all the participants were a “like-minded group in a sense that everyone was committed to the larger objective, it still felt, from various informal sessions and interaction with different groups, that the participation was very representative from all backgrounds [countries and regions] as well as organizations.”

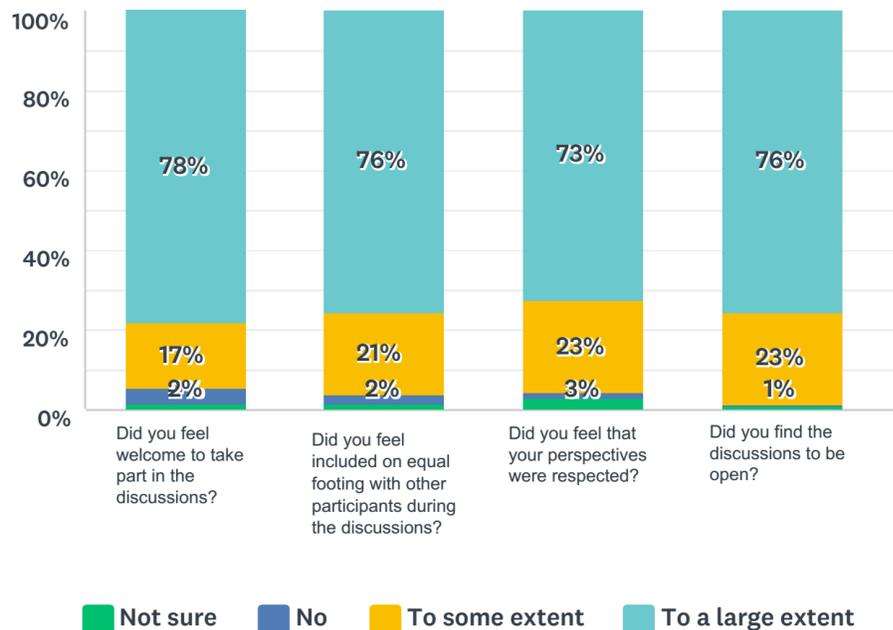
According to some participants, even though the conference contained a very diverse group of participants, the presentations are not very diverse, generally representing institutional idea from very established organizations and lacking new and innovative ideas. Participants cited examples of innovative systems and practices that they discussed in informal sittings, that were not accepted and dismissed without getting any platform to present.

78 per cent of the respondents to the survey said they to a large extent felt welcomed to take part in discussions. Five participants, two of who were sponsored, did *not* feel welcome. One of them commented: *“I did not fully engage in the discussion in terms of sharing views or opinion given the level of expertise available during the sessions”*. 76 per cent of the respondents to the survey felt included on

equal footing with other participants during the discussions to a large extent. 73 per cent felt their perspectives were respected to a large extent, and 76 per cent found that discussions were open to a large extent, see figure 6.4. Ratings are fairly similar between sponsored and non-sponsored participants. See also textbox 6.2 on comments regarding the atmosphere of the Trondheim Conferences.

The conclusion is that the atmosphere in the Trondheim Conferences is very positive and welcoming. The diversity of Participants adds significant value in the Conference discussions, although opportunity for sharing of diverse opinions has some potential for improvement. Sponsored and non-sponsored participants feel equally welcome and respected.

(Table 6.4: Responses to questions on how participants perceived the atmosphere of the conference)



(Textbox 6.2: Some comments regarding the atmosphere at the Trondheim Conferences)

NOMINATED AS A COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

- Very receptive delegation and atmosphere
- The conference atmosphere was very warm open and welcoming
- The organizers are very warm and went to great lengths to make us happy.
- The conferences atmosphere has been open and encouraging.
- The atmosphere of the conference was excellent. The distribution of the working groups was greatly benefited by the exchange of experience between the countries. As the discussions and opinions enriched the presentations.
- The discussions were in my view a bit too general in nature. It would have been more interesting to dig into specific areas.

INVITED AS SPEAKER

- The organization of conference was well organized in every aspect. Great job done by the organizers
- I only felt that not many Indigenous Peoples and local communities were invited.

Chapter 7: Stepping out of the biodiversity “silo”: Bringing biodiversity into other arenas and sectors

This chapter looks at how the Trondheim Conferences have succeeded on bringing the biodiversity agenda into other sectors, specifically the agriculture sector.

7.1 Biodiversity and agriculture

An added dimension to the Trondheim Conferences, beyond providing an open arena for the exchange of ideas, is to bring together actors from different fields. In the last few Conferences, the organizers have brought together and facilitated dialogues among actors in the field of biodiversity and finance, and biodiversity and agriculture. This aspect of the Conferences was generally viewed as a significant reason for its popularity and attraction among its participants, according to people interviewed for this evaluation. In comparison with other similar conferences, most participants that were interviewed stated that one of the successes of the Conferences is that the organizers recognize that the importance of biodiversity is better highlighted and better served by including representatives from other fields that can, and do, play an important role in shaping the future of the biodiversity discourse. Similarly, other participants stated that exposure to other sectors have broadened their understanding of the relationship between biodiversity and other subjects such as food security and agriculture.

The Trondheim Conferences have contributed to bringing biodiversity into other sectors. For instance, according to one participant, country delegates from Mexico and Norway jointly presented the findings of the last Trondheim Conference in the Committee of Agriculture in Rome. Similarly, the United Nations

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) officials that participated in the conference stated that the conference gave them the kind of exposure to the COP organizers that they normally did not have access to.

This led to several meetings with the COP organizers, initiated during the conference and with follow-up outside of the conference to facilitate better understanding.

According to respondents, the Trondheim Conference’s involvement of actors such as the FAO, normally not a participant in the COP meetings, added great value to the discussion and the COP meeting. During interviews, representatives from the FAO were especially complimentary of the Trondheim Conferences’ contribution in developing better understanding among stakeholders of various sectors. According to them, historically there has been a big separation between the environmental and agriculture sectors and the two do not generally interact with each other. However, the Trondheim Conference’ efforts to bring the two together has enabled the FAO to collaborate with the environmental sector in setting up the future CBD agenda. An interviewee from FAO said: *“Making such a focus on the subject definitely helps a lot. It was a big signal to various agricultural organizations and helped prepare the way for a very strong consensus for the COP and made it hard for the FAO to say no to this link.”* Another representative from another international organization said: *“The Trondheim Conference final report was shared with the our Bureau of Policy and Program support. The report has been used in the preparation of subsequent material trying to flush out relationship between food security and biodiversity and to understand what are the areas that they need to focus on”.*

Similarly, several participants praised the inclusion of the financial sector into the CBD discourse and

stressed the need for further inclusion of the financial industry in developing innovative solutions with regards to issues related to biodiversity. Consequently, by inviting the right participants, the impact of the conference has gone beyond purely the biodiversity audiences.

Not all participants were equally positive, however. One participant was rather frustrated, and told the evaluation team that: *“The 2016 conference focused a lot on agriculture, but the participants were largely from environmental background. So for this conference, where the topic was so specific, the conference lacked the right people. The invitation was for one country delegate from environment and one from agriculture, but most of the participants were from the environment side, while the topics were still dominated by agriculture. Although agriculture folks were invited to the conference, these people in my organization decided not to attend because they viewed the agenda as too biased. So they didn’t think the agenda provided the platform for debate and discussion.*

Participants started leaving in the 2016 conference because there weren’t relevant people invited or topics discussed. In the conference on agriculture there was more soft science and policy. It did not have the depth to the scientific presentations. The presentations were too “dumbed down” and designed to communicate to a non-expert audience, although it was an expert audience. The information was at too low of a level to be used for a scientific discussion.

... if the COP had suggested the topic of mainstreaming, the conference should have included mainstreaming for all the four topics, including agriculture, fishery, forestry, and tourism, rather than just agriculture.”

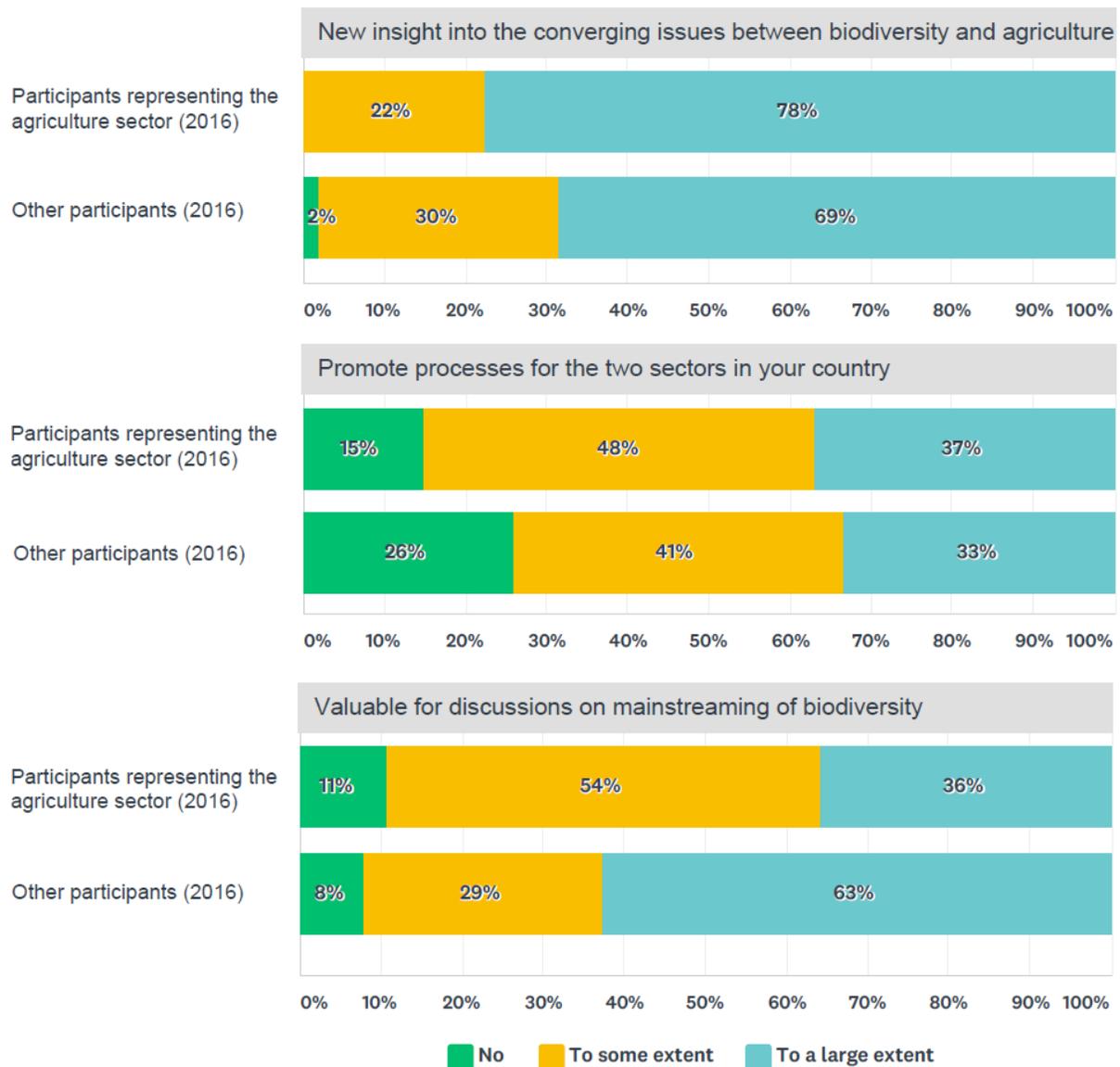
82 respondents to the survey participated at the 2016 conference, and of these 28 people represented the agriculture sector. Of the 28 representing the agriculture sector, 19 were nominated as a country representative, 4 were invited as speakers, 2 were from international organizations, 1 came from a non-governmental organization, and 2 represented other categories. One representative from the agriculture sector was also a CBD National Focal Point, and 8 had participated in their national delegation in CBD COPs. 16 of the 28 representatives from the agricultural sector had received sponsorship to be present at the conference.

The respondents to the survey largely echoed the views of the majority of the interviewees. 78 per cent of the representatives from the agriculture sector thought the 2016 Conference provided insight into the converging issues between biodiversity and agriculture to a large extent, whilst 69 per cent of the other participants thought the same.

37 per cent of the representatives from the agriculture sector thought the 2016 Conference enabled them to promote processes for the two sectors in their countries to a large extent, and 48 per cent thought so to some extent, whilst among other participants 33 per cent felt enabled to promote processes to a large extent and 41 per cent to some extent.

However, to the question whether the 2016 Conference was valuable in preparing for discussions on mainstreaming of biodiversity, in particular at the CBD meetings in 2016, 36 per cent of the representatives from the agriculture sector believed this to be true to a large extent, whilst as many as 63 per cent of participants from other sectors thought the same, see Figure 7.1 below.

(Figure 7.1: Perceptions on biodiversity and agriculture among conference participants 2016)



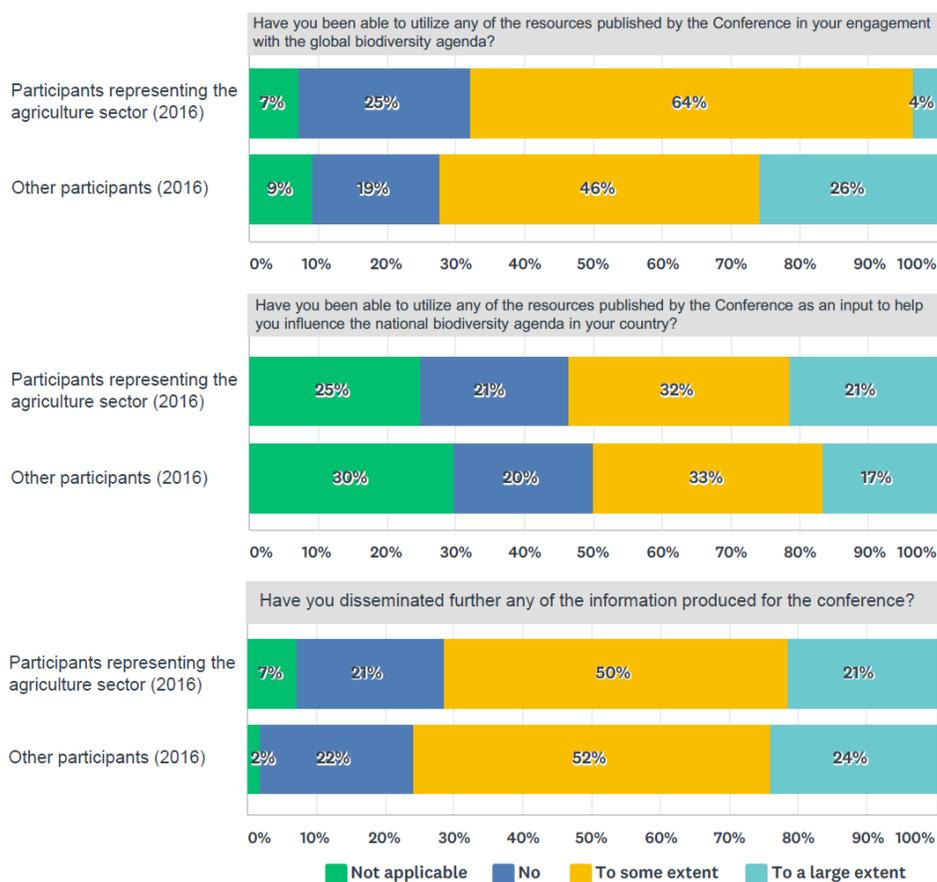
Upon the question on how the resources provided by the Trondheim Conference had been utilized, only four per cent of the representatives from the agriculture sector reported that they had used the resources to a large extent in their engagement in the global biodiversity agenda, and 64 per cent had done so to some extent, whereas 26 per cent of other participants at the 2016 conference had used

the resources to engage with the global agenda to a large extent. However, within their own countries, 21 per cent of the respondents that represented the agriculture sector had used the resources as an input to help influence the national biodiversity agenda in their country to a large extent, against 17 per cent of the participants from other sectors. Looking at dissemination of the same resources, 21 per cent of

the participants from the agriculture sector informed that they had further disseminated the information produced for the conference to a large degree, and 50 per cent to some degree. Here, the figures are slightly higher for the non-agriculture sector

participants; 24 per cent had disseminated resources to a large degree and 52 per cent to some degree, see figure 7.2 below.

(Figure 7.2: How participants at the Trondheim Conference 2018 utilized resources provided by the Trondheim Conference)



With regards to networking opportunities, it seems that the representatives from the agriculture sector experiences less networking opportunities than the non-agriculture sector participants, see table 7.1. With regards to whether the networking opportunities at the Trondheim Conference 2016 had served the participants in their professional work, 39 per cent of the respondents from the agriculture sector reported this to have happened to

a large extent, while 44 per cent of the non-agriculture sector said the same. Also, to the question whether interaction with bio-diversity policy makers/civil administration managers provided them with new insight, a higher percentage of the non-agriculture sector participants answered to a large extent than was the case with the agriculture sector representatives.

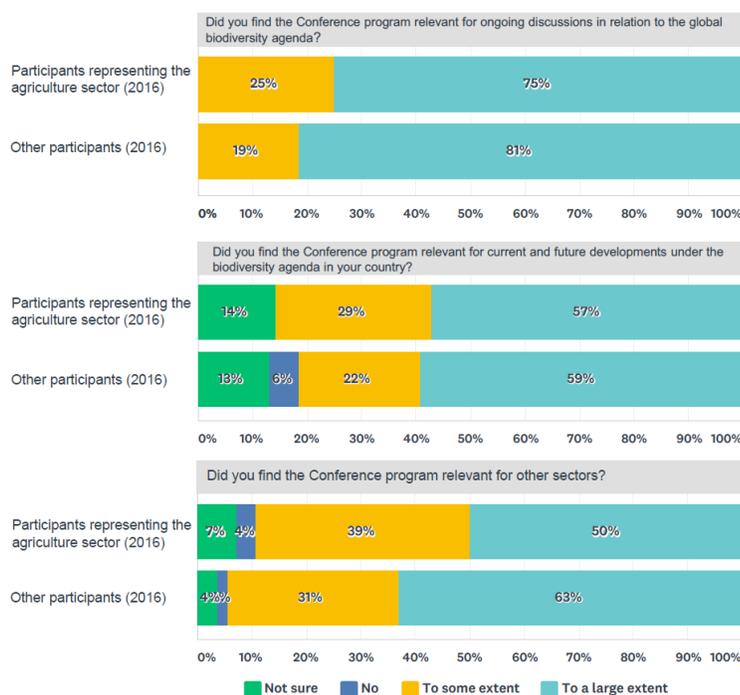
(Table 7.1: Networking opportunities and usefulness for participants at the Trondheim Conference 2016)

	Not applicable	No	To some extent	To a large extent
Did the Trondheim Conference provide you with networking opportunities?				
Agriculture	4%	0%	54%	43%
Other	2%	4%	31%	63%
Have the network opportunities provided by the Trondheim conference served you in your professional work?				
Agriculture	0%	7%	61%	32%
Other	4%	9%	43%	44%
Have you been able to utilize elements from any of the presentations in your professional work?				
Agriculture	0%	7%	50%	43%
Other	0%	4%	57%	39%
Did participating in discussions provide you with useful perspectives for your professional work?				
Agriculture	4%	4%	50%	43%
Other	2%	2%	43%	54%
Did interaction with bio-diversity policy makers/civil administration managers provide you with new insight?				
Agriculture	4%	4%	54%	39%
Other	4%	4%	48%	44%
Did interaction with other participants provide you with useful input?				
Agriculture	0%	0%	39%	61%
Other	4%	0%	39%	57%

To the three questions with regards to whether the participants at the 2016 Trondheim Conference found the conference program relevant, the participants from the agriculture sector informed

that they found this slightly less relevant than the non-agriculture sector participants, see figure 7.3 below.

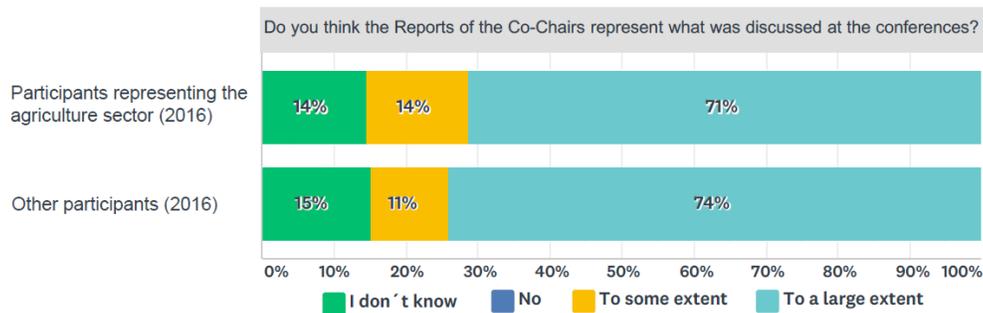
(Figure 7.3: The relevance of the Trondheim Conference 2016 program to the participants)



The survey asked a series of questions as to whether the outcomes of the Trondheim Conference had influenced international biodiversity processes, CBD negotiations, and decision-making in the SBSTTA the COP, and the trend from the 2016 conference was that the participants representing the agriculture sector responded slightly more positively to all these

questions than the participants from other sectors. However, when asked whether they believed that the Report of the Co-Chairs represented what was discussed at the conferences, more than 70 per cent of both agriculture sector and non-agriculture sector participants felt this to be true to a large extent. See figure 7.4 below.

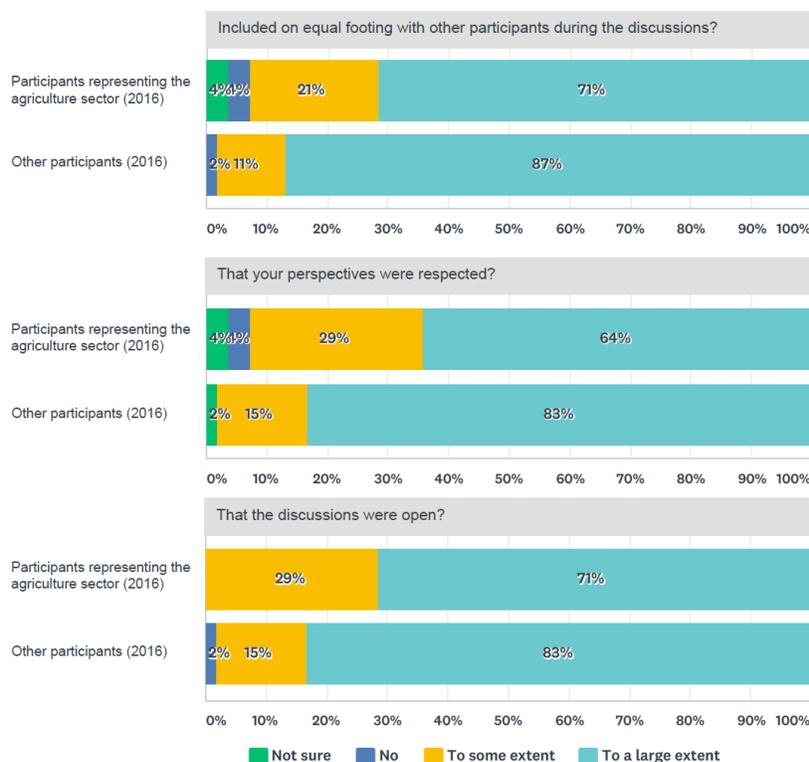
(Figure 7.4: How participants at the Trondheim Conference 2016 perceived the Report of the Co-Chairs)



The large majority of the participants at the Trondheim Conference 2016 felt welcome to take part in the discussions to a large extent, and there were no differences between participants from the different sectors. However, with regards to whether participants felt included on equal footing with the other participants during the discussions, 71 per cent of the representatives from the agriculture sector felt included to a large extent whilst as many as 87 per cent of the non-agriculture sector participants felt the same. The same trend can be seen with

regards to the question whether the participants felt that their perspectives were respected. Here, 64 per cent of the agriculture sector participants felt that their perspectives were respected to a large extent, whilst as many as 83 per cent of non-agriculture sector participants felt the same. The same trend is manifested also with regards to the question to what extent the participants felt that the discussions were open, see figure 7.5 below.

(Figure 7.5: The atmosphere of the Trondheim Conference 2016)



One respondent to the survey commented: *“I think the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming of biodiversity during CBD COP 13 was largely a product of the 2016 Trondheim Conference. This is a demonstration of the value and contribution of the conference to the CBD Process.”* This statement points to a valuable contribution of the Trondheim Conference. The Cancun Declaration is a decision that requests for more activities on mainstreaming of biodiversity in major economic sectors. In other words, it's a call for “getting out of the biodiversity silo”.

See Textbox 7.1 below for respondents’ comments on biodiversity and agriculture.

In conclusion, “silo-thinking” is considered by many

as one of the main obstacles in creating an effective science-policy interface, not only for the biodiversity agenda; the organizers behind the Trondheim Conferences have identified this and attempted to do something about it. Bringing biodiversity into other sectors, by bringing other sectors into the Trondheim Conferences is a great and brave move. In the 2016 Conference, participants from the agricultural sector appear to have found less networking opportunities and found the program slightly less relevant than participants from other sectors. They also found the conference to be slightly less inclusive than other participants. On the other hand, participants from the agricultural sector believed the outcome of the Conference had influenced the international biodiversity discussions and the CDB negotiations and decision-making to a

larger extent than participants from other sectors. The Trondheim Conferences have made an earnest attempt and to a large degree have succeeded in bringing different sectors together, especially

agriculture and food security, to inquire into new ways for these sectors to understand each other and find common ground.

(Textbox 7.1: Comments to the biodiversity and agriculture.)

PARTICIPANTS FROM THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- It is a difficult term to make a balance of the best solutions for Agriculture and Biodiversity in development.
- Good initiate to include agriculture and forestry discussion in biodiversity mainstreaming
- I did not attend any of the CBD meeting
- This was a very useful meeting and I learnt a lot from the different partners including seeing several synergies between sustainable agricultural development and biodiversity conservation
- It helped me open up my mind to focus on research activities related to biodiversity

PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER SECTORS

- I think The Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming of biodiversity during CBD COP 13 was largely a product of the 2016 Trondheim Conference, This is a demonstration of the value and contribution of the conference to the CBD Process.
- Unfortunately, I did not attend CBD meeting in 2016
- It provided excellent opportunity to learn from experiences from the region and to interact with like minded people
- I gather more information. I advised the CBD Focal Point to use read the Co-Chairs' report and access the Conference website to links to more information on biodiversity. I became more informed on the relevance of increasing the link of agriculture and biodiversity.
- While the answer is give as "no" to the second question above, it should actually have been "not applicable" which was not give as an option.
- Biodiversity and agriculture conference was very well prepared and organized - both from expertise point of view and also from the networking/social point of view).
- I thought the interpretation of the topic was too safe and narrow with the presentations and discussion provided. It was on agriculture and biodiversity and was really much more about agro-biodiversity - maybe it was my misunderstanding of the title beforehand. But I think more of the difficult question and the interesting science sitting behind those discussions was missing. So I think there was a whole area of evidence of how biodiversity underpins wider agricultural systems that was missing and was poorly represented. It was touched on in palm oil but that was it.
- Biodiversity is the basis of agriculture, but agriculture is also one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. How then do we reconcile agriculture and biodiversity?
- Outcomes of the Trondheim and COP13 have gone a long way in assisting to mainstream biodiversity at national level.
- The conference offered good inputs to address the converging issues of biodiversity and agriculture. The conference offered an advance to address the issue of incorporation of both sectors before COP 13.
- The topic was very relevant and well chosen. However new insights were limited which has several reasons, among them the country-specific nature of agricultural policy.

7.2 Potential to tap with regards to increased diversity

There is still, however, a potential to tap. With regards to geographical representation, there has been a lack of representation from Eastern Europe and South-East Asian countries. Additionally, several participants observed that although there is good diversity between the developed and developing countries, the problem is that the same representatives participate in every conference. Therefore, there is only so much diversity of opinion one can expect from interaction with the same group of people in every conference.

A few respondents to the survey had hoped for more diversity than they got. With regards to the Trondheim Conference 2016, one respondent commented: *“The topic was very relevant and well chosen. However, new insights were limited which has several reasons, among them the country-specific nature of agricultural policy”*. And another: *“I thought the interpretation of the topic was too safe and narrow with the presentations and discussion provided. It was on agriculture and biodiversity and was really much more about agro-biodiversity. I think more of the difficult questions and the interesting science sitting behind those discussions were missing. So I think there was a whole area of evidence of how biodiversity underpins wider agricultural systems that was missing and was poorly represented. It was touched on in palm oil but that was it.”*

While many respondents emphasized the value of being able to *“speak with many actors in this conference that otherwise would not be there”*, other respondents found the audience predominantly ‘green’ and governmental. If the link with sustainable development has to be strengthened, other audiences have to be invited. The below quotes from a handful of respondents underline this:

- *Bring in more participants from private sector and civil society organizations because the conferences right now are heavily country represented.*

- *There is too much focus on Biodiversity and climate changes, and not enough focus on other relevant groups such as finance or sector integration, which are essential to the future of this discourse.*
- *It would have been helpful to have more interdisciplinary presentations.*
- *The last conference focused a lot on agriculture, but the participants were largely from environmental background. So for this conference, where the topic was so specific, the conference lacked the right people. The focus of the agricultural session was very much on agro-biodiversity.*
- *The conferences could perhaps be more challenging to the dominant 'conservationist' theme and explore use that is truly sustainable and contributes to livelihoods and a bio-diverse, productive environment. For example, the relationship between article 6.2 of the International Seed Treaty (IT PGRFA) and the CBD could merit more exploration. Terms such as agro-ecology, food sovereignty, Farmers' Rights, Rights of Mother Earth are not prominent yet are essential elements of the sustainable use agenda.*
- *Conferences would benefit from a more equitable approach and avoidance of a perception of an 'in crowd'.*
- *The value of the Conference in my view is providing new angles to issues/problems, getting innovative thinking going and making participants interacting within and outside of their comfort zone.*
- *Maybe the next topic could be more thought-provoking and brave. For organizing you could partner with an organization/institution which is completely outside of the biodiversity arena.*

One sector that has been absent in the data gathering for this evaluation is the private sector. Some attempts have been made by the Trondheim Conferences organizers to reach out to the private sector, especially before the 2013 Conferences that was aimed at talking with the finance sector. Pure industrial interests were not represented, however,

as participants tended to come from the public sector. Organizations or associations representing primary industries have been there. A few private sector representatives have been presenting, and a few have participated, but none of these responded to the survey for this evaluation, and it is therefore unknown to what extent the private sector participants believe this kind of conference and this thematic issue to be relevant. With an eye on the upcoming agenda of mainstreaming biodiversity in other major sectors such as mining, energy and infrastructure, it is important to try to include private sector representatives in the Trondheim Conferences.

Respondents to the survey suggested that the following potential participants were missing at the conferences:

- Agriculture counterpart to balance the High Level presence of political Leaders who can easily influence Govt. policies in favour of the conference outcomes
- People from agriculture, mining, finance houses, more from the private sector
- More experts and also policy makers from the agricultural field could be invited directly
- Representatives from the Private sector, who use Biodiversity to make profits but not very active in sustaining Biodiversity resources
- Political decision-makers and deputies of the parliamentary planning office
- Livestock and forestry sectors
- Indigenous Peoples and Local communities
- More scientists from developing countries (and not just those sent by national governments, but those who are working at the frontline of biodiversity conservation).
- People representing the wider discussion and challenges of biodiversity and agriculture, from the farming side, supply chain side, scientists and the NGO partner side.
- People from EU's DG AGRI, who are shaping the EU CAP

In conclusion, even though we have seen that the conference has had its impact beyond the biodiversity audiences, there is still a potential to tap with regards to enhancing diversity at the conferences. When considering the task of mainstreaming biodiversity outside the biodiversity arena, a number of respondents suggest to be more active in getting more interaction with representatives from outside the biodiversity world, and to be more *'thought-provoking and brave'*. Respondents have provided various suggestions to more and different people that could be invited. This evaluation also found that the private sector has been lacking. Taking the mainstreaming agenda into consideration, there Trondheim Conferences ought to involve the private sector in the future.

Chapter 8: Participants views

This chapter looks at the evaluation objective “To assess perspectives and expectations from participants”.

8.1 Participants expectations and perceptions

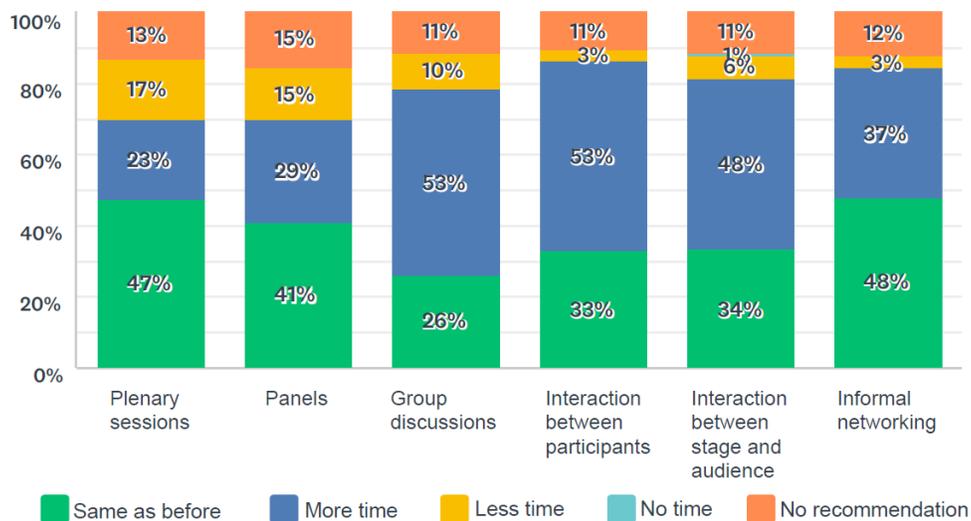
The current organizers of the Trondheim conferences wanted feedback on the practical arrangements of the conference. According to the survey, as shown in figure 8.1, 53 per cent of all respondents would like more time for group discussions and interactions between participants. 48 per cent would like more time to be allocated to interactions between the stage and audience. 48 per cent would like informal networking to be the same as before, 41 per cent would like panels to be the same as before and 47 per cent would like plenary sessions to be the same as before. These conclusions are consistent across all participant categories as

well as male/female and sponsored/non-sponsored. However, as there is no majority to cut back on any of the elements, the conference would need to last longer hours for all these wishes to come through.

Some participants who were interviewed stated that the opportunity for participants to discuss issues most relevant to their country or regional context could be improved, by for instance changing the makeup of the round tables. Although most participants appreciated the opportunity to interact with representatives from countries outside of their immediate region or geographical makeup, they also stated that some regional discussion would certainly have improved the outcome of the conference for them. According to one interviewee, participants generally do not have a lot of opportunity to discuss issues that are basic and important to their country contexts.

Some interviewees suggested that although the presentations by experts are of great value, it would be helpful if there were more presentations by countries that have successfully implemented measures and systems relevant to the topic.

(Figure 8.1: How much time the conference should devote to its different stages)



To the question on whether the participants would like to participate in a Trondheim Conference again,

only six respondents answered “No”, and five of these were sponsored. Only one commented on

why: *“Probably no, underdeveloped country with no funds for participation on such events”*. This question gathered a total of 71 positive comments to why people wanted to participate again, like: *“It was the best organized conference I ever participated in - from all point of views. Very professional preparation, it was visible, they have a long tradition in preparation of these conferences”*, and another: *“This is one of the greatest platforms in the world for knowledge sharing, learning and networking. Key environmental global issues that impact on national development agendas are discussed here”*, and a third: *“Definitely, the Trondheim Conference is an important moment on the agenda. It shows the CBD is not only about negotiations but also addressing global challenges jointly. I find inputs I get from well-selected and briefed speakers and from interaction with other participants very helpful in proceeding with my domestic work and in the preparations for engaging with the CBD process.”* See more reactions

in table 8.1 below.

This overwhelming enthusiasm regarding the conference might confirm that the survey has a positive bias in that only people who are positive to the event, were bothered to set aside the 14 minutes to answer the survey. On the other hand, there is no indication or evidence to assume that the participants who did not respond to the survey were negative to the Conferences. The overwhelmingly positive reactions to the Trondheim Conference therefore ought to be interpreted in the sense that the NEA have succeeded in making a conference where participants have learnt new things, listened to interesting presentations, participated in useful discussions, networked with relevant people and generally spent their time well.

(Table 8.1: Why participants would like to participate at the Trondheim conference again.)

NOMINATED AS A COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE:

- More knowledge and specific related the changing and best solution of global in practice for biodiversity.
- Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity is an excellent forum for learning from other countries experience and update scientific and political developments in biodiversity.
- The conferences provide opportunities to meet and interact with experts, share experiences and network. There is no better way to learn than these.
- Yes, but I think that the links with CBD processes and other MEAs should be made more explicit as I have indicated that the conference is seen as nice to attend, not a priority.
- Because it prepares me for the latest thinking on Biodiversity in general, its conservation, sustainable use and the issues of equity in the sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.
- Most of the things discussed at the conference are scientific and also relevant to my country situation. Also, most of the topics discussed if implemented can be very useful in biodiversity.
- It's an avenue for networking and updating on the global programs and interventions for the small countries.
- The Trondheim Conferences are very important for a national CDB delegate like me, and member of the national Biodiversity Committee; it allows a good update of the main issues before the official meetings of SBSTTA and the COP.
- If given the chance because there are lots of insights and experiences to be learned from other countries. The conference provided me the different perspectives and collective efforts of countries on

BD conservation that I can utilize in my work in the agriculture sector.

- Because it is the most helpful place to communicate with many international organizations and agencies to get support to my country in the agriculture and environmental fields
- Learning and sharing experience on biodiversity conservation and management among networking. Gathering and information strategy and methodology to apply at the national level.
- I have consistently participated in the Trondheim conferences. I am looking forward to the next conference. They are well organized, educative and provide immense opportunities for networking.
- At the Conference (CBD) level, we tend to hear only one side of a story, unless we participate in side events. However, at the Trondheim Conference, we hear from all angles, so our negotiations and discussions at the international and national level are more fruitful, because we have a better understanding of what is important to the other party.
- To improve understanding of biodiversity conservation Sustainable use and benefit sharing before implementation of actions.
- Yes. It is really insightful. It was an exposure for me to meet people from the biodiversity background from and other disciplines from different countries that discussed on inter-linkages between biodiversity and agriculture. I was well informed about the following: Biodiversity and Agriculture: Planning of a Changing climate; Roundtable Discussions on Inter-linkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture; Panel Session on “Practical Inter-linkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture: Imperatives and Implications; Inter-linkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture: Policies and Institutions; Inter-linkages between examples of building inter-linkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture as well as Inter-linkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture: Changing Practices. The group discussions deepened my understanding on the subject and I do inform stakeholders in the Agriculture Sector about the inter-linkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture when I have the opportunity to do so. More so, there was a biodiversity stakeholder workshop organized at the National level and I brought my knowledge on the subject to bear to be included in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.
- It is a strong opportunity for me to gain experiences from the participants, strengthen my scientific knowledge, building my capacity in all disciplines of the conference and increase my capacity in networking and fundraising.
- The conference really provided the enthusiasm about biodiversity and the need to better biodiversity and the need to bridge the divide between scientists and policy makers. This is an important aspect as future national development planning needs to take into account how biodiversity is affected and how these can be better reflected in Environment Impact Assessments.
- I will be happy and appreciate any support if receive invitation with the full cost of participation from the respective organizers.
- Because the conference has set a standard for discussing new ideas around biodiversity and allows networking of participants that can result in Biodiversity work being done.
- Definitely, the Trondheim Conference is an important moment on the agenda. It shows the CBD is not only about negotiations but also addressing global challenges jointly. I find inputs I get from well-selected and briefed speakers and from interaction with other participants very helpful in proceeding with my domestic work and in the preparations for engaging with the CBD process.
-

INVITED AS A SPEAKER:

- Massive influence and positive atmosphere.
- This is a platform where we can share our experience to the global community and at the same time acquire a world of knowledge from the global community that have produced fruitful action as we endeavour our journey to sustainable and resilient planet.
- For professional scientific exchanges and interactions with multiple sectors
- I learnt a lot and it is one of those conferences that its own unique focus and had a good well organized strategy
- Very interesting and well-balanced mix of scientific and political discussions. Very relevant topics and participants, great setting.
- I found it a very useful platform for exchanging ideas and finding common ground for biodiversity conservation across both institutions and geographical scale.
- I would participate again as the Trondheim Conference can certainly help bring different views together. I am mainly involved in the policy side of the discussions so when the agenda is handling mainly scientific questions, there is no added value for me to participate. However, in preparing for the post 2020 biodiversity discussions at global level, I count on the Trondheim Conference to once again play a key role in bringing the different actors together to develop a broad understanding and convergence among the MEA Secretariats, Parties, NGOs, different sectors, key international organizations (UNDP, FAO, WB, etc.) and other stakeholders. This was also the case when preparing for the current Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets. And hopefully the Trondheim Conference can play its key role once more for the future developments.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE (UN, WORLD BANK, EU ETC):

- Yes! Enthusiastically!
- It is an excellent way to get an overview of the selected topic and meet people working on that topic.
- I got more out of the conference than I contributed. The exposure to the range of issues, solutions and opportunity for learning is great.
- Great occasion to bring people from different background together and discuss informally, in a 'protected space'
- To move beyond negotiating to impact
- It remains an important global forum for sharing new ideas and cutting edge practices on biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO) REPRESENTATIVE:

- It was wonderful being around so many representatives from all over the world and for me this was the most interesting and beneficial part. I learnt a lot from them and I also learnt a lot of how these processes work which was new to me. The material presented was broad (but a bit disappointing from my perspective) and the whole thing was incredibly well organized with useful documentation produced at the end.
- Good overview of global debate on relevant topics, good and open atmosphere, great setting. Thank you!

ACADEMIC INSTITUTION REPRESENTATIVE:

- I find them inspiring, and the quality of the plenary talks is usually high.
- Great overview on ongoing discussions on the topic, one of the rare relatively open events where science, practice and policy interact openly friendly atmosphere, diversity of participants.
- I really appreciated the Conferences because of its policy focus and the large part of the audience being policymakers. Most conferences that are science based, that I attended, did not succeed to get so many policy makers in their audience.

8.2 Value added to presenters

Among the respondents to the survey, there were 34 participants who had been invited to give a presentation during one or several of the conferences. Five of these stated that they had been able to use the feedback they had received during the conference in their professional work to a large extent, and 24 answered to some extent. The comments provided in table 8.2 below tell a story

about presenters who have felt professionally enriched after their interactions with other participants at the conference. Based on evidence from the survey, it seems safe to conclude that the Trondheim Conference has, to a smaller or larger degree, provided value added to the majority of the presenters.

(Table 8.2: How interaction with participants at the Trondheim Conferences has been useful to presenters in their professional work.)

Nice interaction we exchange the international experience on implementing biodiversity strategy.

Being able to be part of such important conference conferred benefits both at global and national level. National level: Having given the opportunity to attend the conference, the conference helped in enhancement of my knowledge, understanding and capacity on current issues relating to the biodiversity agenda. The conference generated strength and will in discharging my task as a biodiversity conservationist. Strong message that accompanied me post conference was that the food production alone is not important but what is more important is the footprint of produced food signifying that production sector should realign plans and programs towards sustainable agriculture. It enhanced our understanding how biodiversity and agricultural policies can be mutually supportive to address shared problems and to provide shared solutions. The eighth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity focused on the inter-linkages between biodiversity and agriculture to develop food systems for a sustainable future. Regarding these inter-linkages, participants discussed the imperatives and implications, policies and institutions, planning for biodiversity friendly agriculture and changing climate. It was understood that efforts to meet an increasing demand for food while conserving biodiversity could be mutually supportive, with tools and approaches that can help in advancing both agendas. And it is important to integrate biodiversity and agricultural policies together, as both agriculture and biodiversity can be mutually supportive to address shared problems and to provide shared solutions in the face of increasing adverse effects of global warming and climate change. The knowledge gained through the conference was also used in formulating outlook 2033 for PGRFA conservation and sustainable utilization in Bhutan. Global The conference also provided Bhutan an opportunity to showcase to the global community our efforts in agro-biodiversity conservation and sustainable use efforts drawing huge recognition on efforts to agro-biodiversity conservation and enhancement farming system resilience to adverse effects of climate change.

It expanded my group of professional contacts working in marine biodiversity.

I received several very positive comments about my presentation. I was able to discuss collaboration and establish new contacts.

I was able to learn much more and took what I learnt from others in the conference to use it in my trainings and work with the communities. Coming from the Indigenous Peoples and Local communities major group, it's interesting to listen to the diversity of speakers who analyse different discussion on different angles and different perspectives. Discussions outside the plenary were also very important for me, as I was able to share and carried many examples back home.

Excellent global network of biodiversity expertise.

The session on agricultural biodiversity was a useful contribution to the development of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture for which I continue to provide inputs from a CSO perspective.

I presented progress on the mid-term evaluation of the Aichi biodiversity targets for the Global Biodiversity Outlook. Both after the presentation and after it during the meeting I had many questions and suggestions, which improved the evaluation.

The interaction further clarified the potential of environmental accounting based approaches to inform a discussion on the link between biodiversity and economic and social outcomes.

The Trondheim conference provides an amazing venue for networking with professionals in an informal context, to debate complex biodiversity management issues outside of the constraints imposed by more formal settings. It has been critical in assisting the CBD community to unlock thorny issues, before debate in the COP. Always well organized, it is a true highlight in the biodiversity events calendar. I have always found the presentations immensely helpful in my professional work-- and I personally have learned a lot.

I was confirmed by the reactions that a situation specific approach is much more useful than a blueprint and this has confirmed our approach to try to provide guidance that is able to take specific circumstances into account.

I received verbal comments. These plus the questions during my presentation helped me in my professional work.

Incredibly useful in meeting a number of people working at the interface of biodiversity and development.

I made a lot of contacts with people from other organizations and bodies, and a number of collaborative relationships have developed from this (including further conference invitations).

As a national delegate, heavily involved in negotiations at the following CBD COP, I appreciated the opportunity to informally discuss some rather 'hot' issues in the more informal setting of the Trondheim Conference. This certainly contributed to a better mutual understanding among the CBD Parties at the next meetings.

Very useful specially the discussion with people with very different views about the interaction of environment and agriculture. The report Food systems for a Sustainable Future was very robust and help the discussions that I had on these subjects.

The preparation for my presentation triggered me to think about how best to present my complex subject to a broad audience. From participants' feedback it seems this was successful.

Helped keep the rhetoric grounded in reality by getting country level inputs. Also linking real interventions with the spirit if not the letter of CBD commitments (which are too often obtuse).

To exchange ideas and prepare for the CBD related issues

8.3 Maximizing future conferences

Among the 40 respondents to the survey that provided recommendations for the future, most were filled with gratitude and praise for the organizers, and requests to keep organizing these conferences. Some quotes: *“The Trondheim Conference has filled a void of information on Biodiversity issues and their relationship with other sectors. It is a space of interchange of experiences and knowledge”, “It is the best international standing conference on biodiversity out there, with a very clear mandate”, and “The atmosphere in Trondheim is very welcoming and supportive of the informal activities that often make change possible. It is good that it doesn't have the pressure to agree on something as at COPs and SBSTTAs”.*

A few participants were slightly critical, however, such as one representative from an international organization that said: *“The last meeting was relatively weak compared to earlier ones”,* and another: *“The agenda setting should go beyond UNEP-WCMC and Norway”.*

Bearing in mind the many quest-back surveys people receive, this evaluation team finds its impressive that so many participants not only found time to answer the multiple choice questions, but that so many also spent time on providing their own views, telling their stories and offering their viewpoints. This in itself is a great finding pointing to the fact that the Trondheim Conferences are not just any conference among many, but a unique venue that the participants cherish for professional reasons.

(Table 8.3: Recommendations for future conferences offered by respondents to the survey.)

NOMINATED AS A COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE:

- Create more opportunities for Africa to share its experiences
- Enhance networking opportunities and capacity building tools
- It would be nice if we make a regional basis thematic conservation issues that are facing by the participating countries of particular region to facilitate panel discussion on common issues of sustainable biodiversity conservation.
- Venue of the conference could be changed
- Maybe the next topic could be more thought-provoking and brave. For organizing you could partner with an organization/institution that is completely outside of the biodiversity arena. Get participants thinking before even arriving to the meeting with short but though-provoking papers. The program could be designed less linear but more modular.

INVITED AS A SPEAKER:

- Can only encourage this conference to keep it up and hope 2017 can focus on some key issues discussed in COP13.
- Make them more relevant to the main custodians of agricultural biodiversity, whose priorities and actions are critical for wider biodiversity.
- Only area for (small) improvement would be an even more sustainable conference organization (less gifts, more biodiversity conscious food, less waste).

- I find this event highly relevant, important, and think it should be linked in with the IPBES.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE (UN, WORLD BANK, EU ETC):

- Reach out more proactively to other sectors and communities.
- More interactions with IPBES Work Program

ACADEMIC INSTITUTION REPRESENTATIVE:

- Don't be afraid of having controversial debates on hot topics where there are clearly different sector views

CONFERENCE ORGANIZER/HOST:

- Consider potential means for increasing engagement of participants through electronic means, as proposed by the facilitator in the lead up to the last meeting.
- Sometimes the plenary sessions have been overburdened with speakers leaving no room or little room for questions and discussions.

As stated in Chapter 2 on Methodology, there is always a pitfall with surveys that only positively inclined people are bothered to take them. Nevertheless, the evaluation team found it a good sign that as many as 131 people might have such positive bias, and although a survey never tells a full story, it does indicate that many participants feel

this conference is worthwhile. Thus, their recommendations are also worth listening to. One red thread seems to be to dare to go even further outside of the "biodiversity silo" and conduct debates and discussions over "hot" topics where compromises might not be evident.

Chapter 9: Norway's Role and Influence

This chapter looks at the evaluation objective "To assess Norway's role and influence in the CBD process".

According to most Trondheim Conference participants we surveyed and interviewed, Norway's role as the host and organizer of the conference is viewed as unbiased and purely for the sake of developing knowledge and understanding in an effort to preserve biodiversity. The Conferences are perceived as a trusted brand in the biodiversity discourse, and is not considered a tool for the Norwegian government to implement its own agenda. The Conference organizers maintain that the Norwegian government has not used its status as the host of the Conferences to influence the agenda with issues that are central or relevant to the Norwegian context.

According to Mr. Schei, a founding member of the Trondheim Conferences, at the time of the inception, the Norwegian Government had an interest in the subject and wanted to contribute since there was a strong belief that biodiversity plays an essential role in sustainable development. The city of Trondheim was chosen as the host for the conference due to the presence of the (then) Environmental Institute in Trondheim, which already had solid basis for research and proven record in the subject.

Several participants commented that Norway has already established itself as a generous country in the provision of development aid to developing countries and has placed itself in the forefront of the environment and sustainable development issues. This has enabled the conference organizers to develop conference programs and produce conference outcome documents that are viewed as unbiased and reflective of the discussions on the topics of the program. In comparison to another similar conference held in China, one participant stated that he was shocked that the Trondheim Conference he attended has no visible attempt by

the Norwegian Environment Agency to push the subject that are central to their policies. Thus, the conferences and their agendas are generally perceived as unbiased with a few exceptions. For instance, one participant stated that the bias in Trondheim Conferences are not in what is included in the agenda, but rather what is left out. Specifically, reference was made to the Trondheim Conference, which preceded COP 13 in Mexico. The topics under discussion in the COP included integration of biodiversity in fishery, forestry, agriculture, and tourism sectors. However according to this participant, subjects considered politically sensitive in Norway, such as fisheries, were excluded from the conference agenda. Similarly, another participant commented that not enough emphasis has been made on the subject of marine biodiversity, which is very relevant but may not be the preferred subject for discussion for Norwegian organizers.

It is unclear if the Norwegian government intended to gain any benefit from the conference. It is, however, possible that the positive reputation gained from the Trondheim conferences may translate into a positive attitude towards Norwegian positions, actions or initiatives. One academic said to this evaluation: *"Norway has a worldwide, solid reputation for its conflict resolution initiatives, and its role as an independent negotiator. With the Trondheim Conferences Norway plays the role of independent information broker, trying to create an unbiased and transparent arena for the exchange of scientific information and an open discussion on political positions. This fits in the best of Norwegian traditions and will definitely serve Norway in other international arena's, be it political or commercial, even though this will be hard to prove"*.

The organizers however maintain that being the host of the Trondheim Conferences has *not* provided Norway an elevated status within the CBD, nor has the government used this medium to influence the CBD negotiations. The survey indicates that a large number of conference participants believe that the Conferences contribute to Norway's position and influence in the CBD negotiations. Specifically, 53 per cent of all the survey participants thought that the

conference has had some or a large influence on Norway's position in the CBD negotiations.

One respondent to the survey said: *"It would be nice to see a broader representation of the technical competence that is present in Trondheim in this field. At present it is a "Conference in Trondheim" rather than a "Trondheim conference". The whole point is to front the science-policy interface - but Norway is really bad at this - so it would be good to expose this and rectify this issue by having open discussions about the challenges in Norway too - which can only be done by having a broader range of Norwegian participation. The Norwegian input from agriculture and aquaculture at the 2016 conference was pure political green wash, with no space for active discussion."* Another participant said: *"I consider that the conference could be an extremely valuable opportunity to expose the research and practice communities in Norway and especially in Trondheim to the international biodiversity use and protection agenda. The conference has traditionally been rather closed. It is a shame to waste this opportunity."*

The evaluation team however believes that the Trondheim Conferences would be better leaving the Norwegian issues outside these global conferences.

To conclude, it appears that the Trondheim Conferences were established more as a development initiative, bringing people from poorer countries into the mainstream discussions and thus creating a more level playing field. To the extent that Norway has influence in CBD discussions, this is likely to be because of Norway's positioning and political priorities of these issues rather than a Norwegian stamp on the contents of the Trondheim Conferences. Here, however, it is worth noting the subtle hint from one participant that the Norwegian influence might lie in what is *not* included in the program. This of course only applies to the programming of the Trondheim Conferences, not to CBD meetings where all parties have similar rights to put issues on the agenda.

Chapter 10: Conclusions, Recommendations and the Way Forward

In this chapter we will address the objectives of the evaluation with its evaluation questions. As has been presented in the previous chapters, the findings from the interviews and even more so from the survey have provided a wealth of information and show effects beyond the evaluation questions. To get insight into all the findings, the reader is referred to chapters 3 to 9. Here, the conclusions to the evaluation questions are presented, with recommendations. At the end, the report offers a glance into the future.

10.1 Conclusions

This evaluation has shown an overwhelmingly positive response of participants when asked about their opinion on the conferences. The conferences are said to be “unique in the world” and “the single best preparation for COP”; it is considered an honour to be invited to the conferences, and having participated is even said to give a certain “status” and a strengthened position in the negotiations at a COP or SBSTTA meeting.

Although the products from the conferences have no formal status, according to many they still have noticeable influence on CBD negotiations, and they find their way into countries where they also visibly contribute to the development of national tools and policies. Conference participants are actively distributing conference documents in their networks.

In short, the Trondheim Conferences are found to have achieved all their objectives, they are found to be relevant to the CBD agenda, they have a very high value added in terms of knowledge provision and they have created an open, inclusive and informal arena that is highly appreciated and cherished, see the conclusion summary in table 10.1.

The relevance of the conferences

Evidence gathered for this evaluation shows that the Trondheim Conferences are highly relevant to the CBD agenda. Participants have used the Trondheim Conference program, resources, new insight gained, and outcomes to participate broadly in the international biodiversity agenda. The linkages are plentiful between the Trondheim Conferences and the convention decision-makers. These linkages are not formal, but work well because of intense communication between relevant communities and a strong overlap in participants. There is intense collaboration between relevant actors during the organization of a conference. The last two conferences have shown less coherence with the CBD agenda resulting in lack of clarity of objectives for a few participants. The co-chair’s summary is an influential, but non-formal document; it is influential in the sense that it is highly participatory (conference participants are ‘owners’) and it is often referred to in formal CBD meetings. Because of the informal nature of these linkages the Trondheim Conferences’ impact on the CBD agenda are non-attributable.

The need for the Trondheim Conferences in light of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

IPBES is a formal intergovernmental body where participants have to take formal country positions. Its mandate is to assess the status of biodiversity around the Planet. The Trondheim Conferences, on the other hand, as indicated by an overwhelming majority of respondents, have their strengths through their informal nature. The freedom of agenda of Trondheim Conferences is unique and provides room to invite whoever is relevant at the moment and create the future agenda on emerging issues. This evaluation therefore does not support that the Trondheim Conferences interact formally with the IPBES, but continue to maintain their free, independent and informal status.

The importance of the conferences for decisions made by the CBD

The survey shows that the Trondheim Conferences provide significant assistance to country delegates to prepare for formal CBD meetings. The discussion at the Trondheim Conferences are said to be complimentary and relevant to the CBD and provide the best opportunity to develop well thought out strategies that can be brought to the COP and to SBSTTA. The survey found that an overwhelming majority of the respondents thought the Conference program was relevant for on-going discussions in relation to the global biodiversity agenda.

The co-chairs summary is said to be prominently present during negotiations at CBD meetings, even though the document is not cited in official convention texts because of its informal status. Even though impacts of the Trondheim Conferences on the CBD decision are non-attributable, respondents emphasise that the impacts are real. It is likely that the informal, non-negotiated nature of the Co-Chairs' report, including all the supporting material, makes it so powerful. All participants know it represents the full breadth of discussions, its contents based on scientific evidence enriched with a discussion on the policy implications of this knowledge. Simply stated, it is found to be among the best reference material during negotiations.

The importance of the conferences for the development of the CBD

The Trondheim Conferences are said to lay the foundations for subsequent discussions in COP meetings. An advantage of the Trondheim Conferences is that they provide freedom to discuss the implications of issues on the longer term, beyond plan horizons, something that is missing in formal meetings. In this respect the Trondheim Conferences are said to be the only venue to come up with innovative ways to move forward. So, apart from being an important preparatory meeting for SBSTTA and COP meetings with direct influence on CBD negotiations, participants also value the possibility to step out of the formal planning horizons and discuss the larger context of the biodiversity agenda and look into the future.

One respondent commented: "I think the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming of biodiversity during CBD COP 13 was largely a product of the 2016 Trondheim Conference. This is a demonstration of the value and contribution of the conference to the CBD Process." This statement, in fact, points to a valuable contribution of the Trondheim Conference. The Cancun Declaration is a decision that requests for more activities on mainstreaming of biodiversity in major economic sectors. In other words, it is a call for "getting out of the biodiversity silo".

A large proportion of the responding participants believe that the Trondheim Conferences contribute towards the implementation of the objectives of the CBD. The focus has predominantly been on "Conservation of biological diversity" and to a somewhat lesser extent on "Sustainable use of biological diversity components", and much less towards the "Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources". However, the latter two objectives are the most relevant from the developing countries' perspective that are often characterized by being resource rich but income poor.

The importance of the conferences for capacity building in countries that are party to the CBD

In terms of direct capacity development, respondents have indicated that the conferences are not designed as a capacity development exercise. The Trondheim Conferences are primarily an exchange of scientific information and a discussion on its policy implications. Nevertheless, the majority of participants have gained useful new insight that has later been actively used in their professional environments. Many participants made highly positive comments and provided stories of how they had not only used the resources provided to prepare for the conferences, but also used the conference homepage on a day-to-day basis for agenda setting, policy making, teaching, and more. On the Trondheim Conferences homepage, one respondent said: "It provides a one-stop shop for thematic issues on intersection between food and biodiversity." The fact that over three quarters of participants say they

further disseminate the conference documents indicates that it is considered useful knowledge.

Participants also report to gain valuable knowledge from interactions with other country representatives to learn from their experiences.

The evaluation found that the impact of the Trondheim Conferences in individual countries goes far beyond capacity building. Respondents give many examples of Trondheim Conferences' outputs having directly contributed to for example national policies, a national reporting format, national development planning, national action program, cross-sectoral policy, national agricultural strategy and more. Documents from the Trondheim Conferences are used to brief country delegates, for speech writing and more. In more general terms, the survey showed that a majority of the respondents found the Trondheim Conference program highly relevant for current and future developments under the biodiversity agenda in their country. From a capacity development perspective this is of course the most far-reaching effect one can hope for. Capacity development experts always emphasise that active use of new skills and knowledge leads to the best results. So apart from hearing lectures the new information has to be actively 'digested' in order to be effectively stored in the brain. The Trondheim Conferences in this respect are a good example of high-level capacity development.

Bringing knowledge into the CBD negotiations

The Trondheim Conferences are found to bring knowledge into the CBD negotiations. Participants use the new insight gained and the outcomes from the Trondheim Conferences, as well as the resources provided by the conference organizers to prepare for the negotiations. The Co-Chairs' Report and Summary are widely used during negotiations.

Thus, the Trondheim Conferences do not only bring policy-relevant knowledge into the CBD negotiations, but this knowledge is also distributed far beyond the boundaries of CBD, and is actively used by country delegates, NGOs, scientists and others.

Because of the practical value of the conference documents, a number of participants indicated it might be a good idea to look into new ways to more actively distribute the outputs of the conferences, and new digital media could be used more actively.

Biodiversity and agriculture

By bringing the two sectors together and by mainstreaming biodiversity into the agricultural sector and engaging the FAO into CBD discourse, the Trondheim Conference has managed to converge the two sectors together to identify common solutions. "Silo-thinking" is considered by many to be one of the main obstacles in creating an effective science-policy interface, not only for the biodiversity agenda. The Trondheim Conference has identified this and attempted to do something about it. Bringing biodiversity into other sectors, by bringing other sectors into the Trondheim Conferences, is a great and brave move. The Trondheim Conferences have made an earnest attempt and have to a large degree succeeded in bringing different sectors together to inquire into new ways for these sectors to understand each other and find common ground. This is especially true for the agriculture and food-security sectors. Representatives from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) were especially complimentary of the Trondheim Conferences' contribution in developing better understanding among stakeholders of various sectors. According to them, historically there has been a big separation between the environmental and agriculture sectors and the two do not generally interact with each other. They stated that the conference facilitated exposure to COP organizers that led to several follow-up meetings outside of the conference, which in turn has enabled the FAO to collaborate with the environmental sector in setting up a future CBD agenda.

Value added to the presenters

The Trondheim Conferences have provided value added to the majority of the presenters to some or to a large extent, and they offered many stories on

how they have felt enriched after presenting at a Trondheim Conference.

The Trondheim Conferences Arena

The Trondheim Conferences are found to have a very good reputation and even seem to enhance one's 'status' when invited. The Trondheim Conferences are perceived to be true arenas for open dialogue.

The Trondheim Conferences were also found to be constructive. The conferences provided ample opportunity for networking, and almost all indicated that this networking has served them to some or to a large extent in their professional work. The sponsored participants appeared to have found less networking opportunities than non-sponsored participants.

Participants feel that what is going on during the conferences is very transparent, but some believe the development of the program could be done in a more transparent - or participatory - way.

Even though everything is politics, it appears that the Trondheim Conferences have succeeded in their ambition of creating a space where participants feel assured that there is no hidden political agenda. The conferences have created an effective science-policy interface, in which science serves the purposes of providing understanding for the further development of the policy agenda.

The atmosphere in the Trondheim Conferences was found to be very positive and welcoming. The diversity of Participants adds significant value in the Conference discussions, although opportunity for sharing of diverse opinions has some potential for improvement. Sponsored and non-sponsored participants feel equally welcome and respected.

Perspectives of participants

The survey asked the respondents whether they would participate in the Trondheim Conference again, a question that received overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. Only six respondents answered that they would not participate again. Five

of these were sponsored, and one of them commented: "Probably no, underdeveloped country with no funds for participation on such events". The question gathered a total of 71 positive comments to why people wanted to participate again, like:

- "It was the best organized conference I ever participated in - from all point of views. Very professional preparation, it was visible, they have a long tradition in preparation of these conferences",
- "This is one of the greatest platforms in the world for knowledge sharing, learning and networking. Key environmental global issues that impact on national development agendas are discussed here",
- "Definitely, the Trondheim Conference is an important moment on the agenda. It shows the CBD is not only about negotiations but also addressing global challenges jointly. I find inputs I get from well-selected and briefed speakers and from interaction with other participants very helpful in proceeding with my domestic work and in the preparations for engaging with the CBD process."

The positive reactions to the Trondheim Conference cannot be interpreted differently than that the NEA has succeeded in making a conference where participants have acquired new insight, listened to interesting presentations, participated in interesting and useful discussions, networked with interesting and useful people and generally spent a professionally inspiring moment.

Expectations for future Trondheim Conferences

Even though evidence from this evaluation has found that the Trondheim Conference have had impact beyond the biodiversity audiences, there is still a potential to tap with regards to enhancing diversity amongst the participants at the conferences. A number of respondents suggested being more active in getting more interaction with representatives from outside the biodiversity world.

Participants' perspectives of conference set-up

The current organizers of the Trondheim conferences wanted feedback on the practical arrangements of the conference. According to the survey, 53 per cent of all respondents would like more time for group discussions and interactions between participants. 48 per cent would like more time to be allocated to interactions between the stage and audience. 48 per cent would like informal networking to be the same as before, 41 per cent would like panels to be the same as before and 47 per cent would like plenary sessions to be the same as before. These conclusions are consistent across all participant categories as well as male/female and sponsored/non-sponsored. However, as there is no majority to cut back on any of the elements, the conference would need to last longer hours for all these wishes to come through J.

Maximize usefulness of future conferences

Although most participants appreciated the opportunity to interact with representatives from countries outside of their immediate region or geographical makeup, they also stated that some regional discussions would certainly have improved the outcome of the conference for them.

Some interviewees suggested that although the presentations by experts are of great value, it would be helpful if there were more presentations by

countries that have successfully implemented measures and systems relevant to the topic. Inspired by the survey to the evaluation(!), one participant responded that the Trondheim Conferences organizers ought to conduct their own surveys to gather feedback, something the evaluation team subscribes to. Some respondents, including representatives for the organizers, suggested that more be done to get input from participants ahead of the conferences.

Norway's role and influence in the CBD process as organizer/host

This evaluation has not found any evidence pointing to Norway using the Trondheim Conferences to position themselves with regards to the CBD agenda. It appears that the Trondheim Conferences were established more as a development initiative, bringing people from poorer countries into the mainstream discussions and thus creating a more level global playing field. To the extent that Norway has influence in CBD discussions, this is likely to be because of Norway's positioning and political priorities of these issues rather than a Norwegian stamp on the contents of the Trondheim Conferences. However, it is worth noting the subtle hint from one participant that the Norwegian influence might lie in what issues are not included in the Trondheim Conferences programs.

(Table 10.1: Conclusion summary)

Evaluation Objectives	Evaluation Conclusions
Assess the relevance of the conferences	The Trondheim Conferences are found to highly relevant to the CBD agenda
Assess the value of the conferences as providers/disseminators of knowledge	The value of the conferences as providers/disseminators of knowledge is found to be high. Participants gain new insight and use this to prepare for CBD negotiations, implement CBD in their countries, participate in the international CBD agenda, and a variety of other ways.
Assess the perspectives and expectations from participants	Although participants are very happy with the conferences as they are, many engaged in providing constructive feedback for future conferences.
Assess Norway's role and influence in the CBD process	Norway is not found to have any additional influence due to their role as a host of the Trondheim Conferences.
<i>Assess to what extent the Trondheim conferences have achieved their objectives:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide input to the decision-makers of the Convention 	Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an arena for open dialogue among stakeholders on the biodiversity agenda 	Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide capacity enhancement for policy makers, managers, and scientists 	Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a constructive, transparent and scientifically sound basis for addressing key issues under the CBD 	Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an inclusive arena where representatives from both developing and developed countries have the opportunity to meet and present their perspectives on equal terms 	Achieved

10.2 Recommendations

1) Continue to organise these conferences!

- Maintain the Trondheim Conferences as a non-formal platform to discuss issues pertaining to the CBD and to exchange related information.
- Maintain the Co-Chairs' report as it is.
- Maintain a broad time horizon in the programming of the conferences and look at consequences of new developments in society for the future biodiversity agenda.

2) To avoid being dependent on individual persons' connections, look into ways of formalising a linkage between the conference program and the CBD agenda, i.e. through an MoU or a ToR for the conference organizers.

- Do not make interaction with IPBES a requirement, but determine on a case by case basis whether, when and how IPBES can play a relevant role in each conference.

3) Look into how to pay equal attention to all three CBD objectives; "Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources" has so far received little attention.

4) Reach out to more people

- Look into ways to more effectively disseminate the conference documentation to a wider audience.
- Consider allowing remote participation through the use of video links or streaming.

5) Enhance the mainstreaming process and include new participant groups

- Leave the green silo. Avoid being too "green" and "in-crowd." Even though the conference on mainstreaming of biodiversity in agriculture

made a good attempt to bring in a different sector in the biodiversity discussion, many found the participants to still be on the "green side" focussing on agro-biodiversity, thus leaving out a whole suite of ecosystem services underpinning agricultural productivity.

- Invite other sectors. In the light of mainstreaming, more people from outside the biodiversity world, notably from the financial sector and from sectors that have significant impact on biodiversity, need to be included to a larger extent.
- Invite the private sector: The private sector has been largely missing. With an eye on the upcoming agenda of mainstreaming biodiversity in other major sectors such as mining, energy and infrastructure, it seems wise to invite private sector representatives of these sectors to the conferences.

6) Be brave, innovative and challenging!

- Be more challenging. Conduct debates and discussions over "hot" topics where compromises might not be evident. Dare to introduce more opposing and thought provoking views that get people out of their comfort zone.
- Consider including more interdisciplinary presentations.
- Include more examples from countries that have successfully implemented measures and systems relevant to the topic under discussion.

7) Study the possibilities to get contributions to the program from invited participants before the conference as a means to get more effective participation during the conference and possibly more exchange of country-level information (see recommendation 8).

8) Maximize the participants' outcome by facilitating round tables for regional/neighbouring country participants belonging to regions where

there are no formalised common biodiversity discussions taking place elsewhere.

9) Monitor participants' outcome by requesting all to fill in an evaluation survey at the end of/just after each conference. Send a follow up questionnaire after the subsequent COP or SBSTTA to assess the impact the conference.

10.3 The way forward

The world is changing, and new challenges lie ahead, in which the Trondheim Conferences, due to their unique set-up, may play a role. The biodiversity community is fighting an uphill battle in a world in which continued unsustainable economic development degrades natural resources and biodiversity in an unprecedented pace. According to resilience scientists, the present time is the geologic era of the 'Anthropocene', where humanity has become the dominant factor shaping the physical characteristics of the earth.

The biodiversity community is increasingly realising they have to leave the "green silo" and start engaging and interfering with other sectors. The mainstreaming topic has been prominently on the agenda of both CBD and Trondheim Conferences, even though the mainstreaming discussion remained on the safe side with attention to biodiversity-dependent green/blue sectors (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism). Nevertheless, the recent COP in Mexico (Cancun, December 2016) has pushed the agenda a significant step further out of the green comfort zone by asking for mainstreaming of biodiversity into the infrastructure, energy, mining, manufacturing and health sectors (CBD Decision XIII/3).

The biodiversity agenda has too long been a green thing embedded in the conservation community and the green (blue) sectors; the rest of the world didn't know or didn't care. Yet, if the world is to maintain functional and resilient ecosystems (or landscapes/seascapes) in times of rapid change due

to climate change, biodiversity needs to be addressed beyond the boundaries of protected species and areas. This is what the CBD decision is about, and government agencies with spatial planning responsibilities, agencies with governance responsibilities for various economic sectors, and private business actors in these sectors need to be called upon. As one respondent said: "the future of the biodiversity convention lies in making itself relevant for other audiences." Obviously, civil society organizations have to be part of this.

Seen from this perspective, there are areas where the future Trondheim Conferences could play a role:

Mainstreaming in economic sectors (Decision XIII/3): As mentioned above, the biodiversity community has to come out of its comfort zone and start discussing with the mining, energy and infrastructure sectors. This requires an open discussion with people who speak a different language, work with a different time horizon, and may not see the direct link between them and biodiversity. As such, this requires open dialogue and mutual trust, without immediate pressure for results. The Trondheim Conferences are an ideal vehicle to start such discussion. However, parts of the audience to be invited will be new. Steps need to be made to make the biodiversity convention and the international biodiversity community relevant for the major sectors that dominate countries' economies (and massively impact upon biodiversity). Invitations need to be sent to the private sector, or private sector representative bodies such as IPIECA (oil & gas) and ICMM (mining), or to collaborative platforms such as the Natural Capital Coalition (private, public and NGOs) and intergovernmental platforms such as IGF (mining). Similarly, the ones that provide the funding of sector activities should also be invited.

The energy transition: The Paris agreement on climate change will put the energy transition into a higher gear and will have a profound impact on spatial and regional planning, infrastructure development and ecosystem management. Climate mitigation will lead to the construction of on-land and marine wind parks, solar power facilities, CO2

storage facilities, REDD+ activities, increased attention to hydropower, rapid decommissioning of carbon-fired power facilities, and probably many more activities. Biodiversity will be affected by these activities, but simultaneously also provides opportunities, for example in carbon storage. The many policies, plans, programs and projects that result from this transition will have to address biodiversity as one of the important issues, preferably within the framework of an integrated SDG assessment. The Trondheim Conferences can be a vehicle for the biodiversity community to determine their agenda and reach out to the energy transition community.

Climate change adaptation: Adaptation to climate change is a necessity for many, if not all countries. Mainstream adaptation largely focuses on engineering solutions with lots of concrete and very little resilience, often at the cost of natural ecosystems. Ecosystem-based solutions for climate change adaptation are gaining ground, show a remarkable resilience and often provide solutions that can grow with the problem in time. The biodiversity community should and can do more in influencing the world of climate adaptation, often

dominated by the infrastructure and water sectors. Again, Trondheim Conferences can provide a platform to launch the debate in a relatively safe setting.

Sustainable Development Goals: A majority of respondents to the survey thought that the Trondheim Conferences paid most attention to conservation of biodiversity, somewhat less to sustainable use while equitable sharing of benefits received far less attention. In the light of the development needs of the world it is a requirement to pay more equal attention to all three objectives of the convention. When we apply a long term perspective to these three objectives they however become blurred: conservation is about maintaining the options for future sustainable use, sustainable use is about intergenerational equity, and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic diversity can in the future only be maintained if biodiversity is successfully conserved. Sustainable development is a long-term perspective; the three objectives of the convention have to be addressed simultaneously. There is a call for addressing the needs of the worlds' underprivileged now, without jeopardising the rights of future generations.

Annexes

ANNEX I: Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation questions	Survey	Interviews
1. CBD relevance/results		
a. What is the importance of the conferences for decisions made by the CBD?		Group 1
b. What is the importance of the conferences for the development of the CBD		Group 1 Group 3 Group 4
c. What is the importance of the conferences for capacity building in countries that are party to the CBD	V	Group 2
2. The value of the conferences as providers/disseminators of knowledge		
a. Have the conferences managed to bring knowledge into the CBD negotiations?	V	Group 1 Group 2
b. Has biodiversity become more distinct within the international agricultural agenda after the TK8?	V	Group 2 (Agriculture TK8)
c. When the conferences began in 1993, the aim was to provide a platform for knowledge relevant to the CBD. The conferences normally reported to the scientific advisory body of the CBD (SBSTTA). Does such a need for the conferences still exist in light of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services?		Group 1 Group 3 Group 4
3. Perspectives of participants		
a. What do participants expect from a future Trondheim Conference?		Group 2
b. How does the conference-setup function with regards to division between plenary, panels and group discussions? What provides the best outcome? Should there be more interaction between the participants? Should there be more interaction between the stage and the audience?	V	
c. What can be done better in the future to maximize the usefulness of the conferences?	V	Group 2
d. Does the Trondheim conference provide any value added to the presenters in terms of discussions/communication with participants and/or other presenters?	V	Group 2 (Scientists)
e. Did the conference provide improved insight into the converging issues between biodiversity and agriculture, and how the two sectors can find common solutions for a win-win situation?	V	Group 2 (Agriculture TK8)
4. Norway as organizer/host		
a. Does the role of conference host country have significance for Norway's influence in the CBD negotiations?	V	Group 1 Group 3 Group 4
5. To what extent have the Trondheim conferences reached their objectives?		
a. Have the conferences succeeded in providing an arena for open dialogue?	V	Group 2
b. Have the conferences provided enhanced capacity to policy makers, managers and scientists and other participants?	V	Group 2
c. Have the conferences been constructive?	V	Group 1 Group 2

d. Have the conferences been transparent?	V	Group 1 Group 2
e. Have the conferences been scientifically sound?	V	Group 1 Group 2 Group 4
f. Have the conferences managed to provide an inclusive arena where representatives from both developing and developed countries have the opportunity to meet and present their perspectives on equal terms?	V	Group 2

ANNEX II: List of interviewees for Evaluation of the Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Name	Country/Organization	Position/Title
Ms. Nina Vik	NEA	Senior Advisor, NEA Global Division, Co-Chair on Trondheim Conference 2016
Ms. Tone Solhaug	Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment	Senior Adviser, Country Focal point CBD
Mr. Peter Johan Schei	NEA	Former Director of the NEA
Mr. Jerry Harrison	UNEP-WCMC	Head of Convention and Policy Support
Dr. Spencer Thomas	SBSTTA/Grenada	Former Chair of SBSTTA/Country Focal Point
Dr. Calestous Juma	CBD	First Permanent Executive Secretary to the CBD/Professor at Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government
Dr. Anna (Suzi) Malan	South Africa/IISD	Team Leader and Writer
Mr. Markus Lehmann	CBD Secretariat	Senior Program Management Officer for CBD Secretariat, Mainstreaming, Cooperation, and Outreach Support
Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati	India	Country Focal Point to the CBD/ Vice Chancellor at TransDisciplinary University
Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz	Mexico	Director General of Cooperation of International Implementation of Conabio
Dr. Jamison Ervin	UNDP	Manager, Global Programme on Nature for Development
Dr. Irene Hoffmann	FAO	Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture/ Operational Focal Point to the CBD

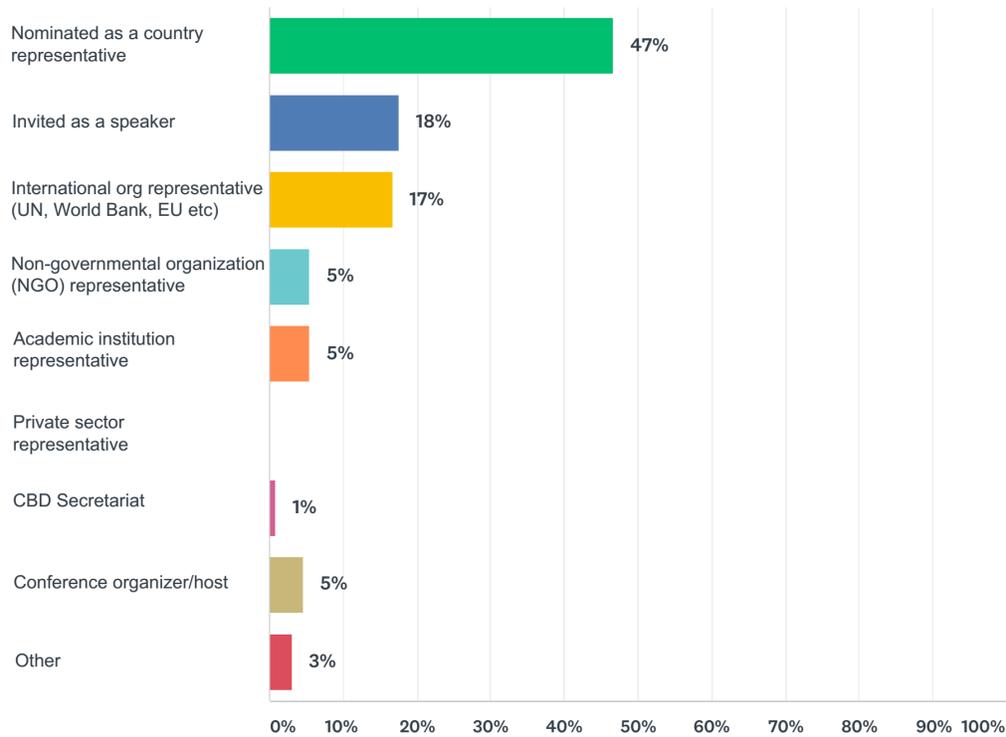
Mr. Franco Grimes	Liberia	Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency
Ms. Leticia Manzanera Herrera y Cairo	Mexico	Director of Integration of Sectoral Policies, Ministry of Planning and Evaluation for Public Policy
Dr. Brigitte LG Baptiste	Colombia	Director of Colombia's Humboldt Institute/Member of the Country Focal Point to the CBD
Mr. William Etim Okon	Nigeria	Department of Forestry, Forest Conservation Department/National Focal Point for the CBD-SBSTTA and Nagoya Protocol, and Desk Officer for CBD
Ms. Marina von Weissenberg	Finland	Senior Advisor, Ministry of Environment/National Focal Point to the CBD and SBSTTA
Ms. Risa Smith	Canada	Manager, International Biodiversity Policy, Environment and Climate Change
Dr. Rob Hendricks	Netherlands	Advisor, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr. Michael Clark	USA/FAO	Senior Coordinator, Economic and Social Development Department
Ms. Ines Verleye	Belgium	Chair, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
Ms. Maria Shultz	Sweden	Director of SwedBio at Stockholm Center/Former Ministry of Environment and SIDA official
Dr. Asha Rajvanshi	Wildlife Institute of India	Senior Scientist

ANNEX III: Survey Evaluation of the Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Q1 Which participant category did you belong to when you attended the Trondheim Conference?(Please answer for the last conference you were present)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0

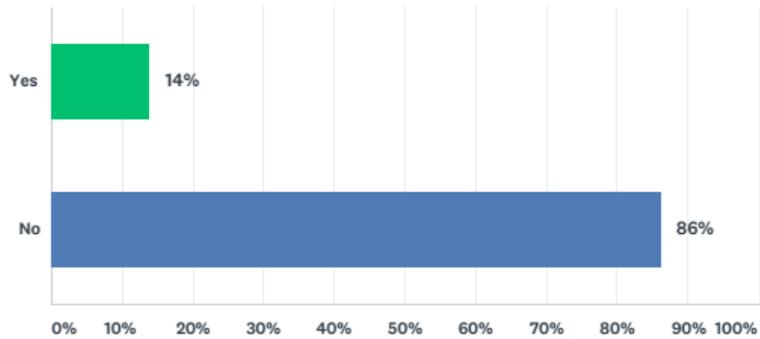


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nominated as a country representative	47%	61
Invited as a speaker	18%	23
International organization representative (UN, World Bank, EU etc)	17%	22
Non-governmental organization (NGO) representative	5%	7
Academic institution representative	5%	7
Private sector representative	0%	0
CBD Secretariat	1%	1
Conference organizer/host	5%	6
Other	3%	4
TOTAL		131

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Q2 Are you CBD National Focal Point in your country

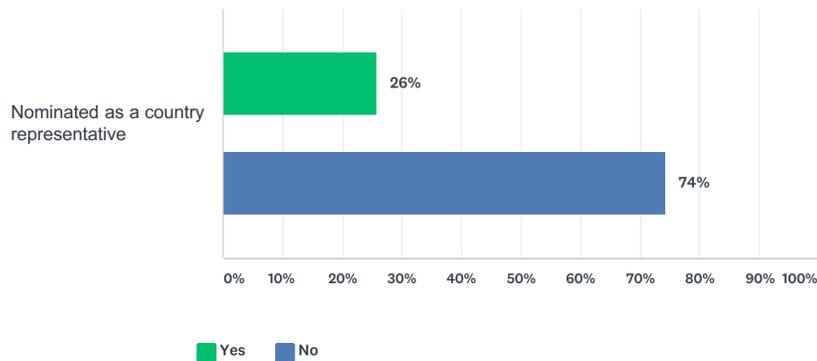
Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	14%	18
No	86%	113
TOTAL		131

Q2 Are you CBD National Focal Point in your country

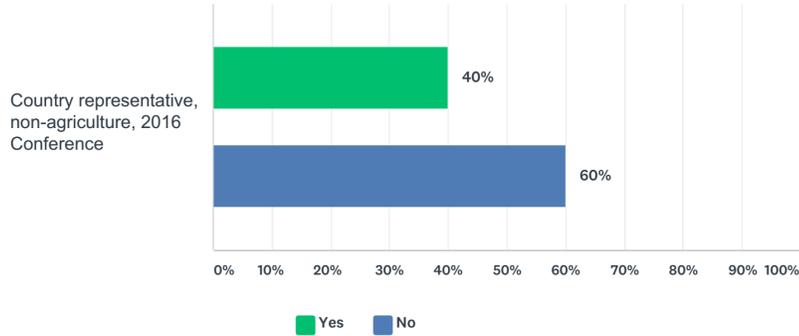
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	YES	NO	TOTAL
Q1: Nominated as a country representative	26%	74%	100%
	16	46	62
Total Respondents	16	46	62

Q2 Are you CBD National Focal Point in your country

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

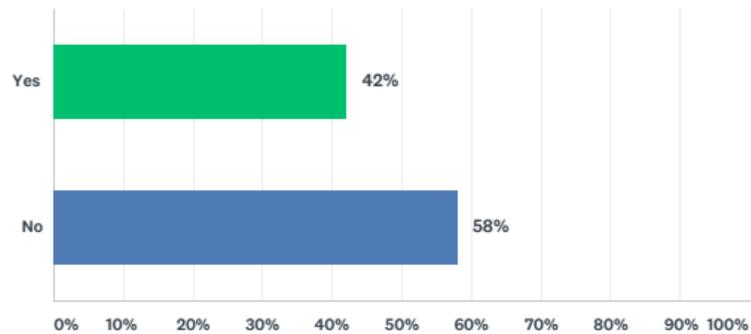


	YES	NO	TOTAL
Q1: Nominated as a country representative	40%	60%	100%
	10	15	25
Total Respondents	10	15	25

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Q3 Have you participated in your national delegation in CBD COPs

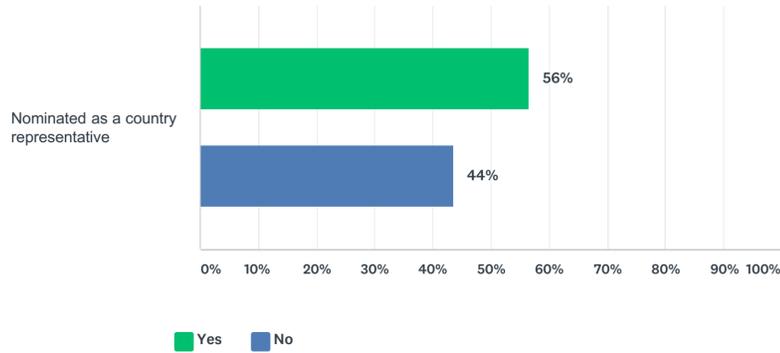
Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	42% 55
No	58% 76
TOTAL	131

Q3 Have you participated in your national delegation in CBD COPs

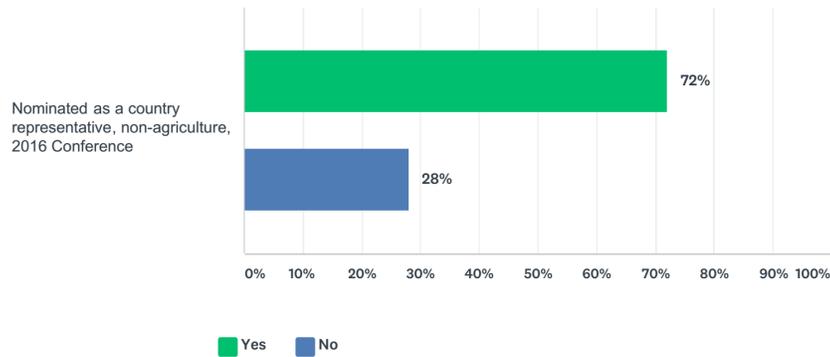
Answered: 62 Skipped: 0



	YES	NO	TOTAL
Q1: Nominated as a country representative	56%	44%	100%
	35	27	62
Total Respondents	35	27	62

Q3 Have you participated in your national delegation in CBD COPs

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

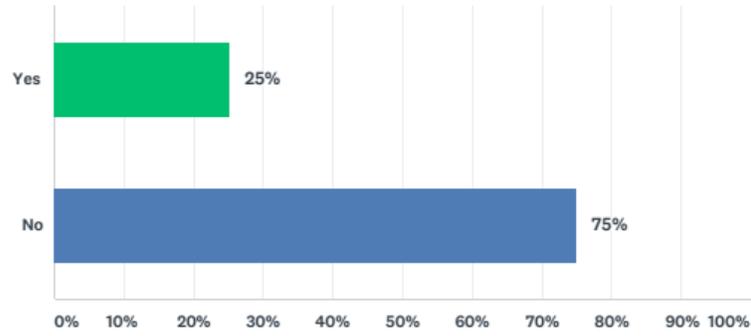


	YES	NO	TOTAL
Q1: Nominated as a country representative	72%	28%	100%
	18	7	25
Total Respondents	18	7	25

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Q4 Were you invited to make a presentation as part of the Conference program?

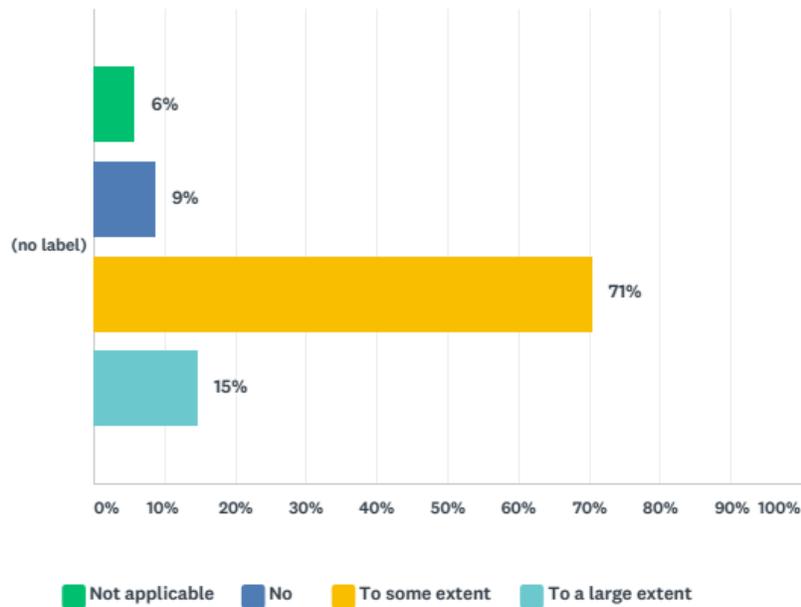
Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	25%	33
No	75%	98
TOTAL		131

Q5 As a presenter at the Trondheim Conference did you receive feedback to your presentation that you have been able to use in your professional work?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 97



	NOT APPLICABLE	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	6%	9%	71%	15%	34	2.35
	2	3	24	5		

#	PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW INTERACTION WITH PEOPLE AT THE TRONDHEIM CONFERENCE HAS BEEN USEFUL IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL WORK:	DATE
1	<p>Being able to be part of such important conference conferred benefits both at global and national level. National level: Having given the opportunity to attend the conference, the conference helped in enhancement of my knowledge, understanding and capacity on current issues relating to the biodiversity agenda. The conference generated strength and will in discharging my task as a biodiversity conservationist. Strong message that accompanied me post conference was that the food production alone is not important but what is more important is the footprint of produced food signifying that production sector should realign plans and programs towards sustainable agriculture. It enhanced our understanding how biodiversity and agricultural policies can be mutually supportive to address shared problems and to provide shared solutions. The eighth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity focused on the interlinkages between biodiversity and agriculture to develop food systems for a sustainable future. Regarding these interlinkages, participants discussed the imperatives and implications, policies and institutions, planning for biodiversity friendly agriculture and changing climate. It was understood that efforts to meet an increasing demand for food while conserving biodiversity can be mutually supportive, with tools and approaches that can help in advancing both agendas. And it is important to integrate biodiversity and agricultural policies together as both agriculture and biodiversity can be mutually supportive to address shared problems and to provide shared solutions in the face of increasing adverse effects of global warming and climate change. The knowledge gained through the conference was also used in formulating outlook 2033 for PGRFA conservation and sustainable utilization in Bhutan. Global The conference also provided Bhutan an opportunity to showcase to the global community our efforts in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use efforts drawing huge recognition on efforts to agrobiodiversity conservation and enhancement farming system resilience to adverse effects of climate change.</p>	8/16/2017 11:28 AM

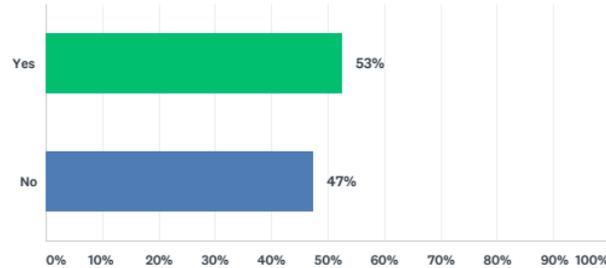
Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

2	Opportunity for networking with colleagues in a non-negotiating environment where participation is inevitably more relaxed.	8/14/2017 12:03 PM
3	It expanded my group of professional contacts working in marine biodiversity.	8/14/2017 3:36 AM
4	I received several very positive comments about my presentation. I was able to discuss collaboration and establish new contacts.	8/12/2017 4:45 PM
5	Contacts in agricultural sector and science community.	8/12/2017 2:30 AM
6	I was able to learn much more and took what I learnt from others in the conference to use it in my trainings and work with the communities. Coming from the Indigenous Peoples and Local communities major group, its interesting to listen to the diversity of speaks who analyze different discussion on different ankles and different perspectives. Discussions outside the plenary were also very important for me as I was able to share and carried many examples back home.	8/11/2017 10:35 PM
7	Excellent global network if biodiversity expertise	8/11/2017 3:30 PM
8	The session on agricultural biodiversity was a useful contribution to the development of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture fir which I continue to provide inputs from a CSO perspective.	8/11/2017 10:40 AM
9	the preparation for my presentation triggered me to think about how best to present my complex subject to a broad audience. From participants' feedback it seems this was successful.	8/8/2017 9:07 AM
10	I presented progress on the mid term evaluation of the Aichi biodiversity targets for the Global Biodiversity Outlook. Both after the presentation and after it during the meeting I had many questions and suggestions, which improved the evaluation	8/7/2017 3:26 PM
11	The interaction further clarified the potential of environmental accounting based approaches to inform a discussion on the link between biodiversity and economic and social outcomes	8/4/2017 8:07 AM
12	The Trondheim conference provides an amazing venue for networking with professionals in an informal context, to debate complex biodiversity management issues outside of the constraints imposed by more formal settings. It has been critical in assisting the CBD community to unlock thorny issues, before debate in the COP. Always well organised, it is a true highlight in the biodiversity events calendar. I have always found the presentations immensely helpful in my professional work-- and I personally have learned a lot.	8/2/2017 10:36 PM
13	I was confirmed by the reactions that a situation specific approach is much more useful than a blueprint and this has confirmed our approach to try to provide guidance that is able to take specific circumstances into account.	8/2/2017 3:01 PM
14	Opportunity to network with like-minded colleagues.	8/2/2017 12:40 PM
15	Helped keep the rhetoric grounded in reality by getting country level inputs. Also linking real interventions with the spirit if not the letter of CBD commitments (which are too often obtuse).	7/31/2017 11:18 PM
16	I received verbal comments. These plus the questions during my presentation helped me in my professional work.	7/31/2017 12:11 AM
17	Incredibly useful in meeting a number of people working at the interface of biodiversity and development	7/29/2017 10:49 AM
18	I made a lot contacts with people from other organisations and bodies, and a number of collaborative relationships have developed from this (including further conference invitations).	7/27/2017 5:19 AM
19	nice interaction we exchange the international experience on implementing biodiversity strategy	7/26/2017 6:37 PM
20	As a national delegate, heavily involved in negotiations at the following CBD COP, I appreciated the opportunity to informally discuss some rather 'hot' issues in the more informal setting of the Trondheim Conference. This certainly contributed to a better mutual understanding among the CBD Parties at the next meetings.	7/26/2017 4:22 PM
21	Very usefull specially the discuss with people with very different view about the interaction of enviroment and agriculture. The report Food systems for a Sustainable Future was very robust and help the discussions that I had onthese subject in Brazil	7/26/2017 4:13 PM
22	To exchange ideas and prepare for the CBD related issues	7/26/2017 10:25 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Q6 Sponsorship Did you receive sponsorship*) from the Norwegian organisers to travel to and participate at the Trondheim Conference?*) Sponsorships are offered to representatives from least developed, low income, lower and upper middle income countries)

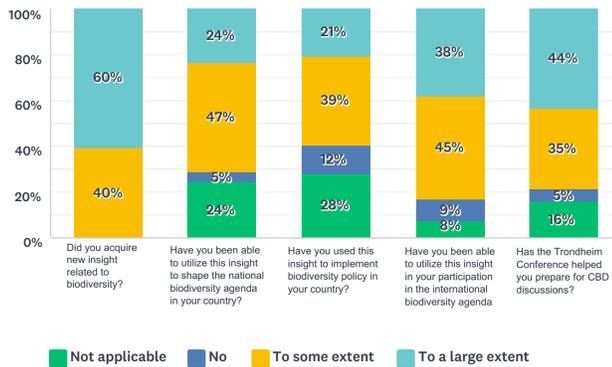
Answered: 99 Skipped: 32



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	53%	52
No	47%	47
TOTAL		99

Q7 Importance of the Trondheim Conference for the participants:(relate your answer to the last Trondheim Conference you attended)

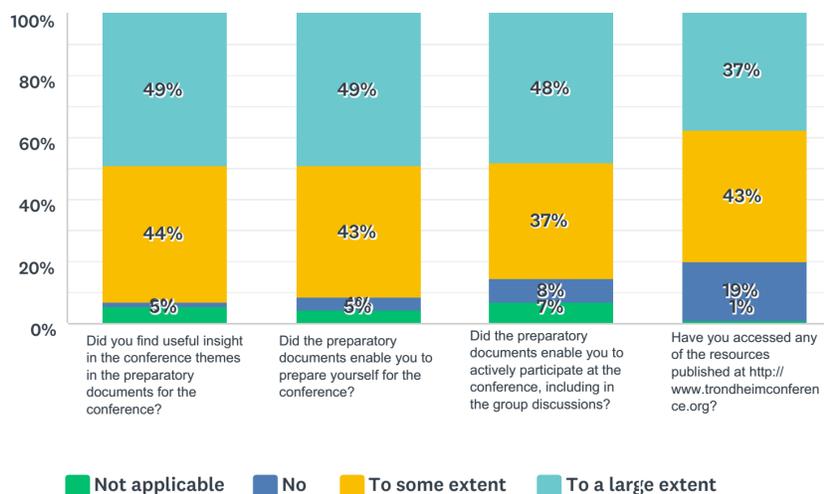
Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



	NOT APPLICABLE	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Did you acquire new insight related to biodiversity?	0%	0%	40%	60%	131	3.60
Have you been able to utilize this insight to shape the national biodiversity agenda in your country?	24%	5%	47%	24%	131	2.70
Have you used this insight to implement biodiversity policy in your country?	28%	12%	39%	21%	131	2.52
Have you been able to utilize this insight in your participation in the international biodiversity agenda	8%	9%	45%	38%	131	3.14
Has the Trondheim Conference helped you prepare for CBD discussions?	16%	5%	35%	44%	131	3.06

Q8 Resources provided by the Trondheim Conference (relate your answer to the last Trondheim Conference you attended)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



	NOT APPLICABLE	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Did you find useful insight in the conference themes in the preparatory documents for the conference?	5% 7	2% 2	44% 58	49% 64	131	3.37
Did the preparatory documents enable you to prepare yourself for the conference?	5% 6	4% 5	43% 56	49% 64	131	3.36
Did the preparatory documents enable you to actively participate at the conference, including in the group discussions?	7% 9	8% 10	37% 49	48% 63	131	3.27
Have you accessed any of the resources published at http://www.trondheimconference.org ?	1% 1	19% 25	43% 56	37% 49	131	3.17

#	IF APPLICABLE, PLEASE ELABORATE ON HOW RESOURCES FROM THE TRONDHEIM CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN USEFUL FOR YOU IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL WORK:	DATE
1	The knowledge and experience acquired during the Seventh Trondheim conference on Biodiversity, was very helpful and was fully utilized while preparing the National report on Economic valuation of Natural resources in Pakistan.	8/28/2017 6:45 AM
2	Resources from the conference have broadened my knowledge and understanding on the inter-relationship between biodiversity and agriculture.	8/20/2017 11:02 PM
3	It provides a one-stop shop for thematic issues on intersection between food and biodiversity.	8/20/2017 4:56 PM
4	The conference served as international benchmarks especially for emerging issues in national dialogue	8/16/2017 12:09 PM
5	related information can be used for research and teaching, very useful.	8/16/2017 12:07 PM
6	Some key points from the conference was used while framing Outlook 2033 on conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA in Bhutan. This outlook is for a period from 2017 to 2033 covering 12th five year plan (2018-2023), 13th five year plan (2023-2028) and 14th five year plan (2028-2033).	8/16/2017 11:56 AM
7	The materials were an easy reference materials for my preparation to the CBD COP 13 in Cancun Mexico	8/15/2017 1:57 PM
8	As the theme of Trondheim Conference and CBD CoP were same the Trondheim conference helped prepare us for the CBD CoP	8/15/2017 7:17 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

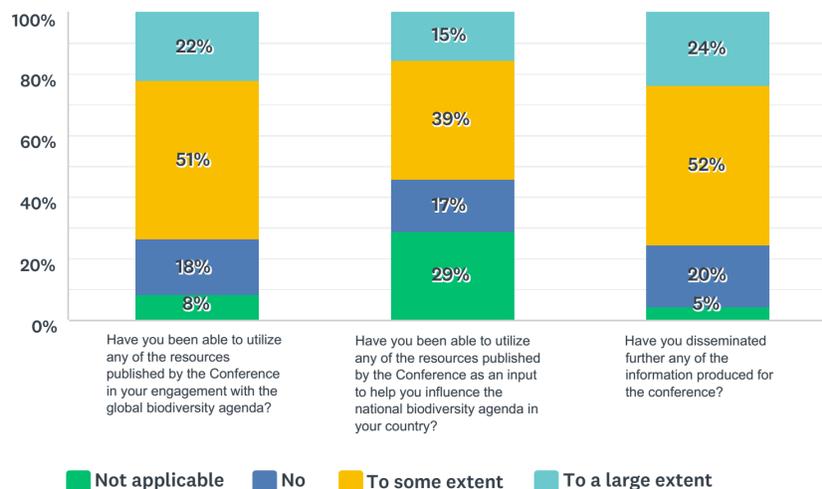
9	I submitted recommendations to the CBD Focal Point based on ideas learned at the conference. For example, I acquired some useful tools on the economic gains of biodiversity that aided me as a policy consultant for the updating of the NBSAP in my country. This was from the 2013 Trondheim Conference. Furthermore, I advised the CBD Focal Point NBSAP on the need to be more analytical of the potential critical of the impact of organized agriculture on the nation's biodiversity. There were many examples from other nations demonstrated in presentations at the Trondheim Conferences in 2016. I pointed to the CBD Focal Point some of these examples.	8/14/2017 5:33 PM
10	As we were involved in the preparation of the documentation and in the planning and running of the meeting, the responses to the question above are inevitable!	8/14/2017 12:12 PM
11	We used some of the presentation on relation between the biodiversity protection and agriculture also as an information materilas for our colelagues at the Ministry of Agriculture, who for the first part time participated on the conference with us (MoE SR). From the MoA SR we had with us a representative, who is also the FAO national focal - links to the CBD national focal point.	8/14/2017 11:50 AM
12	RESOURCES FROM THE CONFERENCE ARE USEFUL BECAUSE THEY ARE BEING USED EVEN TODAY AS MEAS OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE COUNTRY.	8/14/2017 9:00 AM
13	The Trondheim Conference provides a less formal platform to discuss biodiversity concerns with parties and actors, and to better understand some of the contentious value systems in different countries. I was also asked to present a webinar by UNDP during networking opportunities, which opened up other doors for me professionally.	8/14/2017 8:53 AM
14	Useful primarily in professional publications and in governmental agency discussions.	8/14/2017 3:41 AM
15	Serveds as references in thr drafting of country report on biodiversity. Also, in the drafting of country policy on mainstreaming biodiversity friendly agricultural practices in protected areas and key biodiversity areas.	8/13/2017 5:56 AM
16	Trondheim Conference has been helpful in utilizing communcation between us as agroup that represent our counetry	8/12/2017 11:05 PM
17	Inputs to discussions at Cop13	8/12/2017 3:10 AM
18	The conference was good and still recommend it as it prepares someone on different topics even those that you may not be able to attend in COP. This is because it selects topics which are well researched by selected experts. Its a good opportunity to also discuss and at the end the recommendations help shape the COP. For me even those I have not attended i still check out on them as i know I will learn a lot and help open my mind to discussions	8/11/2017 10:44 PM
19	I use these documents in my research work, writing policy documents and reports. I use them to inform the preparation of my presentations.	8/11/2017 5:11 PM
20	A better understanding To be able to discuss about this subject at the national level. To be aware about the subject. I can teach my university students about this issue To incorporate this knowledge in futuro research projects.	8/11/2017 1:48 PM
21	As the topics change for every conference, I remember the material to be helpful if the topic was not in the core of my expertise.	8/11/2017 12:05 PM
22	As an input to preparing for specific thmes under the COPs and also in advancing the national biodiversity agenda.	8/11/2017 12:04 PM
23	I have referenced many of the agro-ecological systems documents that came out of the workshop. They have actually been useful beyond biodiversity considerations. they were used to inform the design of Palau's National Action Programme to combat desertification update.	8/11/2017 12:01 PM
24	It has useful to access PPTs of presentations as well related documents.	8/11/2017 10:52 AM
25	Resources provided by the Trondheim conference are quite useful, providing a helpful review on the particular topics including new and emerging issues.	8/11/2017 10:31 AM
26	Documents prepared for Trondheim are always a good source of background and relevant information and constitute an excellent basis for preparation to CBD-related meetings.	8/10/2017 5:14 PM
27	The conference gave an insight on the importance of linkages between sectors and how these sectors depend on each other.	8/10/2017 2:33 AM
28	I had very productive discussions during the preparation of the programme with the organizing team	8/8/2017 10:24 AM
29	I cannot remember the preparatory documents or their usefulness (4 years ago)	8/2/2017 3:07 PM
30	key messages/chair's report	7/31/2017 11:22 PM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

31	More broadly thinking about the big picture of biodiversity conservation related to agriculture, sustainable development and ecosystem services	7/29/2017 10:53 AM
32	New insights, latest developments.	7/29/2017 9:39 AM
33	Land use. Agriculture and Biodiversity Small holders indigenous rihgt Nagoya protocol and so many others	7/28/2017 5:48 PM
34	I am professor and I frequently used resources from this Conference in my clases. Also I work with many regional governments in Mexico, where I have participated in the regional regulations related biodiversity conservation.	7/28/2017 11:35 AM
35	The Ministry of Economy is responsible for the formulation of 5 year and 20 year national development plans. The resources from the conference have been useful in identifying key areas of biodiversity that needs to be incorporated into the national developments plans.	7/27/2017 10:53 PM
36	They have assisted a lot in policy development at national level and also in preparing for COP meetings.	7/27/2017 4:34 PM
37	Gained additional knowledge on sustainable and participatory biodiversity conservation and wise use of natural resources for socioeconomic development of dependent people and to generate wider public support for sustainable biodiversity conservation at large.	7/27/2017 3:38 PM
38	Agriculture sector is closely relationship to Biodiversity and the best solution is protected both issues.	7/27/2017 5:00 AM
39	For the development of my work, my participation in the Conference has been very helpful for the synergies between the sectors that manage Biodiversity and agriculture.	7/26/2017 6:25 PM
40	On the discussion of the issue of samll farmers and good practices of conservation of Biodiversity on Goias State in Brazil mainly on building a new method of extention service named Innnovation Network.	7/26/2017 4:23 PM
41	Trondheim Conference (TC) plays an important role in management of biological diversity globally. The year it was attended by yours truly was 2013, immediately after landmark, flawless eleventh Conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-11 to CBD) at Hyderabad India. Many of the decisions arrived at COP-11 got discussed in more informal settings at Trondheim after formal biodiversity summit (COP to CBD). It is more significant as the host of TC is a developed country and gives participants an opportunity to understand perspective of the developed world in their own setting. Unfortunately, most of the biodiversity rich areas in the world have remained relatively under developed and need better understanding in the context of biological diversity. TC provides a platform to introspect on this aspect outside CBD, yet in close collaboration of CBD and UNEP. As National Focal Point of CBD in a megadiverse country, it did help me professionally in many ways.	7/26/2017 2:55 PM
42	Consult the resources when writing on Biodiversity issues.	7/26/2017 11:36 AM
43	-In planning and implementation of climate smart agriculture -Aligning research priorities to food security founded on farmers' problems	7/26/2017 11:30 AM

Q9 Utilization of resources provided by the Trondheim Conference (relate your answer to the last Trondheim Conference you attended)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



	NOT APPLICABLE	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Have you been able to utilize any of the resources published by the Conference in your engagement with the global biodiversity agenda?	8% 11	18% 24	51% 67	22% 29	131	2.87
Have you been able to utilize any of the resources published by the Conference as an input to help you influence the national biodiversity agenda in your country?	29% 38	17% 22	39% 51	15% 20	131	2.40
Have you disseminated further any of the information produced for the conference?	5% 6	20% 26	52% 68	24% 31	131	2.95

#	IF APPLICABLE, PLEASE ELABORATE ON HOW RESOURCES FROM THE TRONDHEIM CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN USEFUL FOR YOU IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL WORK. ALSO, PLEASE INDICATE WHICH RESOURCES YOU HAVE HAD THE MOST USE FOR, AND WHICH YOU HAVE DISSEMINATED FURTHER, IF ANY:	DATE
1	I always refer to the "Voluntary guidance for mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors including agriculture, forestry and fisheries: tools, guidance, frameworks, standards and platform to move towards more sustainable practices" prepared by the CBD.	8/20/2017 11:02 PM
2	It has guided opinion pieces and policy briefs and influenced to a certain extent amendments to legislation.	8/16/2017 12:09 PM
3	via email, website.	8/16/2017 12:07 PM
4	Some key points from the conference was used while framing Outlook 2033 on conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA in Bhutan. This outlook is for a period from 2017 to 2033 covering 12th five year plan (2018-2023), 13th five year plan (2023-2028) and 14th five year plan (2028-2033). Resources used: Most of the presentation made by invited speakers Report of the Co-Chairs	8/16/2017 11:56 AM
5	I have shared with my colleagues during national workshops	8/15/2017 1:57 PM
6	Share some of the relevant information with my institute colleges.	8/15/2017 1:32 PM
7	The proceedings of previous confenrence helped us mainstreaming CBD in Agriculture, Forestry and fisheries sector	8/15/2017 7:17 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

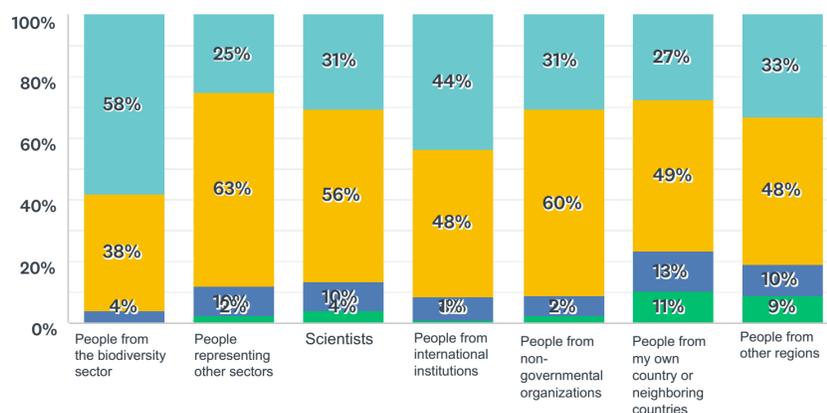
8	I have advised my boss, the head of my country EPA, on some global biodiversity issues based on accessing the information link made available on the Conference website. Furthermore, I have recommended to the CBD Focal Point to access the Trondheim Conference website and use the information available for research.	8/14/2017 5:33 PM
9	Rather than disseminating specific resources, we have communicated to people what the Trondheim Conference was aiming to do and have provided interested people with the website information so that they are able to review and download resources themselves. We also used the resources themselves as preparation for some of the discussion that took place on the mainstreaming agenda under the CBD.	8/14/2017 12:12 PM
10	Yes, we have been disseminating the materials to all relevant partners, who are involved in our national biodiversity platform. Although, we have to further communicate and work with these results, as there are too many information available also from other sources and it is difficult to keep the attention to important materials.	8/14/2017 11:50 AM
11	I have found the conferences that I have attended very inspiring, the last conference in cooperation with FAO was particularly insightful.	8/14/2017 10:24 AM
12	primarily as citations and intellectual contribution to my publications	8/14/2017 3:41 AM
13	Chairs summary report.	8/12/2017 3:10 AM
14	I have used the knowledge and recommendation in my trainings at the Regional, national and local levels.	8/11/2017 10:44 PM
15	Forwarded to a colleague for use in setting the biodiversity-food research agenda	8/11/2017 6:03 PM
16	The first section same as responses above. I enjoyed using resources with elements on the economics of biodiversity, biodiversity policy and planning aspects.	8/11/2017 5:11 PM
17	To aware my agriculture colleagues. To advise the national agriculture authorities.	8/11/2017 1:48 PM
18	Why our national biodiversity platform in Germany (biodiversity.de), we communicated the outcomes of the conferences sometimes.	8/11/2017 12:05 PM
19	It was used to inform the development of a project that sought to increase community resiliency to the impacts of climate change. One of the strategies of that project was to make agriculture more sustainable by ensuring ecological and food security outcomes. The FAO materials as well as some of the examples of the presentations from Small holder farmers in Africa were useful in the design of that project. That particular project is aligned with Palau's Climate change policy	8/11/2017 12:01 PM
20	Presentations made in the agricultural biodiversity session and other related presentations have been useful including embedding links to these in articles / papers etc. More so, contacts with a wide range of people concerned with the global agricultural biodiversity agenda is invaluable.	8/11/2017 10:52 AM
21	In addition to the above. I have used resources provided by the Trondheim conference also for 'teaching at the university.	8/11/2017 10:31 AM
22	I disseminated the Chair's report which was a very good summary of the event	8/8/2017 10:24 AM
23	We disseminated the summary findings of the report of the Co-Chairs to our mailing lists.	8/2/2017 12:42 PM
24	I have had opportunity to be a speaker at various fora related to crop production and I informed the participants about how to practice our agriculture in a sustainable manner in order not to destroy the fauna and flora in the ecosystem thereby destroying the agro-biodiversity	8/2/2017 6:38 AM
25	Sent around chair's summary to all colleagues, used it to think about WB priorities for CBD COP	7/31/2017 11:22 PM
26	- Harmonization of Aichi targets to national targets - Mainstreaming biodiversity into national sectoral plans - implementing the SDG'S at the national level - Updating and mainstreaming of the NBSAP - Applications of biosafety regulations and how to deal with LMO's	7/30/2017 10:00 AM
27	Re 2010 Conference: I was co-chair at this Conference, and used the Trondheim Conference discussions and outputs actively in the following negotiations on the CBD Strategic Plan and Aichi targets. Including as co-chair of negotiations at European preparatory meeting, of WGRI preparatory meeting and contact group at COP10 in Nagoya.	7/29/2017 11:03 AM
28	There is one only problem for me, personally with dissemination, I have to translate into portuguese everytime, all the documents for other to understand.	7/28/2017 5:48 PM
29	The documents obtained at conference and the knowledge obtained provided guidance on what salient aspects of biodiversity needs to incorporated and under what sector, thematic area or crosscutting areas.	7/27/2017 10:53 PM
30	Reports and presentations.	7/27/2017 4:34 PM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

31	The published documents which were made available to the participants in the conference were brought in the country and handed over to the ministry for future use.	7/27/2017 3:38 PM
32	Focal point of Biodiversity is in Ministry of Environment and i am as a member of task group of use and benefit sharing of genetic resource.	7/27/2017 5:00 AM
33	I have disseminated the theme of the conference taking advantage of the fact that it was prior to the COP 13 of biodiversity, being one of the central themes of the COP 13.	7/26/2017 6:25 PM
34	The mainstreaming documents and all information related with SEEA.	7/26/2017 5:41 PM
35	The report of the Co- Chairs was the most usefull resource.	7/26/2017 4:23 PM
36	The entire TC was very useful particularly at a time when my country was the President of the COP. Deliberations at the TC helped us in getting the Nagoya Protocol in place, which led to achieving one of the 20 Aichi targets well before the timeline of 2015. Professionally, it was very satisfying for me as National Focal Point of the CBD in India and it was a privilege for my country to Chair the first meeting of the parties of the Nagoya Protocol at COP-12 to CBD. India is the first Country to implement the Nagoya Protocol in letter and spirit by filing the first IRCC (India leads it even today by publishing 62 IRCCs out of 72 published so far as of July 2017). Apart from Nagoya Protocol, achieving Aichi Targets and Mobilisation of Resources in the context of TEEB and High Level Panel on Assessment of Resources for meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets has always been our priority.	7/26/2017 2:55 PM
37	The summary of the discussions/presentations/conference was very useful and very weel elaborate. I disseminate it to my belgian colleagues. Moreover, the contact I've made during the Conference was very useful because it has increased my network. Indeed, I've launch a study with contacts from this conference.	7/26/2017 2:12 PM
38	We disseminated widely in our team and networks the work done using global input-output models to describe impacts of international commodities trade flows on biodiversity - presented at 2013 Trondheim conference by Arne Geschke, University of Sydney	7/26/2017 12:43 PM
39	Presentations made by the presenters/speakers were shared with my fellow researcers	7/26/2017 11:30 AM

Q10 To what extent did networking with the following participant groups benefit your professional work?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



■ Not applicable
 ■ No
 ■ To some extent
 ■ To a large extent

	NOT APPLICABLE	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
People from the biodiversity sector	0 0	4 5	38 50	58 76	131	3.54
People representing other sectors	2 3	10 13	63 82	25 33	131	3.11
Scientists	4 5	10 13	56 73	31 40	131	3.13
People from international institutions	1 1	8 10	48 63	44 57	131	3.34
People from non-governmental organizations	2 3	7 9	60 79	31 40	131	3.19
People from my own country or neighboring countries	11 14	13 17	49 64	27 36	131	2.93
People from other regions	9 12	10 13	48 63	33 43	131	3.05

#	WHAT TYPE OF FORMAL OR INFORMAL SESSION IN THE CONFERENCE ENABLED THE MOST INTERESTING AND REWARDING NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES? PLEASE DESCRIBE:	DATE
1	Group discussions in the conference enabled the most interesting and rewarding networking opportunities	8/28/2017 6:45 AM
2	The most interesting and rewarding sessions are "policies and Institutions" (session 4) and the Round table discussions(sessions 6&9). The former gave insight on mainstreaming biodiversity into productive sectors of the economy while the latter provided practical ideas by other counties e.g. mechanisms used at national levels, actions and regulatory approaches, issues of trade-offs,etc.	8/20/2017 11:02 PM
3	Conversations about food security and biodiversity linkages in different cultural contexts	8/20/2017 4:56 PM
4	Cannot remember but I think the open discussions were very useful.	8/16/2017 12:09 PM
5	Informal sessions provided us excellent platform to interact with many individuals representing different fields/themes surrounding biodiversity, organizations, countries etc. This allowed us to get know in person some of the individuals with whom our correspondences are still on-going. Linkages and correspondences includes both on professional ground and personal ground.	8/16/2017 11:56 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

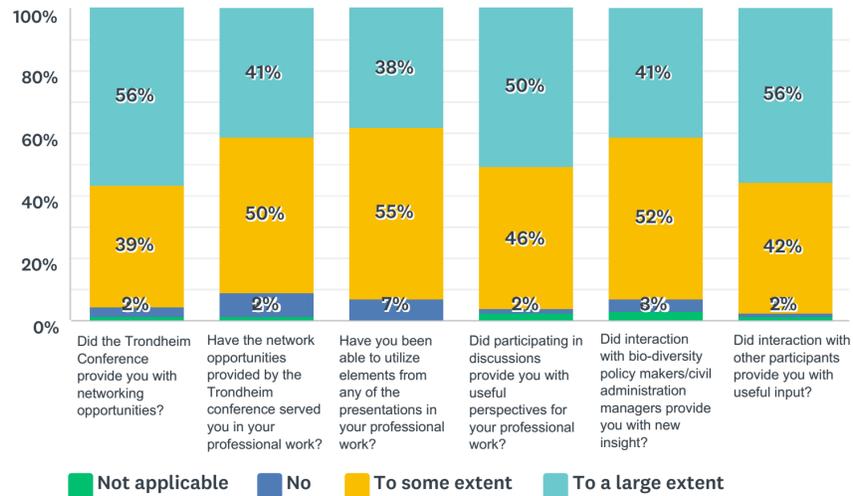
6	A good regional perspective on the Biodiversity issues was achieved that helped us in formulating our national policies	8/15/2017 7:17 AM
7	I especially enjoyed the group work and group discussion. I also enjoyed the session that involved group voting. I liked the information uploading method that the secretariat team applied to make reports on group ideas, discussion and opinions. During these discussion I got to connect with some of the group members and the open exchanges was a good opportunity for networking. I gather new ideas that I took note off and returned home with.	8/14/2017 5:33 PM
8	I think that the combination of different types of session is valuable, coupled with the fact that all are eating together and participating in the same social events.	8/14/2017 12:12 PM
9	As mentioned above, for us was the most important to start and continue our cooperation with our colleagues at the agricultural sector - mainstreaming of the biodiversity, as also a topic before the CBD COP 13 in Cancun, it was well prepared as a preparatory event.	8/14/2017 11:50 AM
10	I was part of the High Level Panel on Mobilizing Resources to achieve the Aichi Targets for the CBD.	8/14/2017 11:49 AM
11	the farm visit was one of the best opportunities for meeting people.	8/14/2017 10:41 AM
12	The conferences have been for me inspiring and has given me considerable insights about the evolution of the interational agenda on nature and biodiversity use and protection. BUt I have not found the conferences particularly good in stimulating networking.	8/14/2017 10:24 AM
13	both session discussions and hallway discussions	8/14/2017 3:41 AM
14	Group discussions wherein participants shared their respective views and experiences. During short breaks where I meet people who shared the status of biodiversity, and their current interventions and lessons learned on biodiversity conservation in their respective countries. I was able to get insights on biodiversity conservation that are applicable to my country which has a lot of flora and fauna that needed to be conserved. Delegates from Peru, Malaysia and Mauritius provided the most of the ideas to me.	8/13/2017 5:56 AM
15	it has been able to communcate with many agencies and organizations that utilize with envirmetal and biological to get support to my counetry	8/12/2017 11:05 PM
16	Some presentations from agricultural sector and Informal discussions on the margins.	8/12/2017 3:10 AM
17	The group discussions, group work and group presentations.	8/11/2017 5:11 PM
18	Coffee breaks and dinners	8/11/2017 3:33 PM
19	Interactive, smaller session, and enough time "in the floors"	8/11/2017 12:05 PM
20	The contact groups. The reports from the Conferences have been ver useful and pfeessionally drafted. This has also enabled us to network after the conference has taken place.	8/11/2017 12:04 PM
21	in doubt what regions mean in this context	8/11/2017 11:23 AM
22	Discussions in formal sessions but, even more so, receptions, coffee breaks etc. used to contact speakers / contributors directly.	8/11/2017 10:52 AM
23	Several talks/sessions were extremely interesting but I recall this one in May 2013 (I had to look on the website for the Programme as I didn't recall exactly!): Bridging economic and ecological policies for a sustainable society – Mr Simon Upton, Environment Director, OECD, as a very good one. He got people thinking...	8/10/2017 5:14 PM
24	Informal meetings during breaks, mainly triggered by good presentations Round table discussions with a good mixture of people with different backgrounds	8/7/2017 3:33 PM
25	I found the group activities very useful for networking and understanding the perspective of other sectors and regions.	8/2/2017 3:07 PM
26	The presentations from a broad range of disciplines were the most useful	7/29/2017 10:53 AM
27	Formal presentations, conference materials, group discussions	7/29/2017 9:39 AM
28	working group (small group of working about a subject).	7/28/2017 5:48 PM
29	Engaging with people from the biodiversity sector was interesting and rewarding as we were able to follow some of their work via internet and through our own Department of Environment.	7/27/2017 10:53 PM
30	Networking opportunities were available throughout the conference.	7/27/2017 4:34 PM
31	I shared my knowledge and experiences gained in the Trondheim Conference on CBD 27-31 May 2013 in different levels of national and international workshops and meetings that were participated in the country, notably International Conference on Invasive Alien Species Management held on March 25-27, 2014 Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal and Annual Warden Seminars organised by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.	7/27/2017 3:38 PM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

32	Food security, People growth and Biodiversity risk in Global	7/27/2017 5:00 AM
33	The sessions related to valuation of ecosystems and biodiversity and the ones that explain how to incorporate de ambiental variable in public politics..	7/26/2017 5:41 PM
34	Discussions on Mobilising resources for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets, ensuring sustainable development by balancing the three pillars of sustainable development and valuing natural capital captured most of the networking both formally and informally in 2013.	7/26/2017 2:55 PM
35	Coffee breaks and excursions were the most opportunities to meet other participants.	7/26/2017 2:12 PM
36	The sessions that stand out most in my mind were the parallel sessions at the 2013 conference - on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, where in depth discussion was possible with people from different countries where new finance, planning and mainstreaming tools have been developed and tested.	7/26/2017 12:43 PM
37	The dinners and receptions allowed participants to get to know each other.	7/26/2017 11:36 AM
38	The group work on biodiversity	7/26/2017 11:30 AM
39	Excursion, receptions, lobby-area outside of the Conference room	7/26/2017 10:35 AM

Q11 Networking

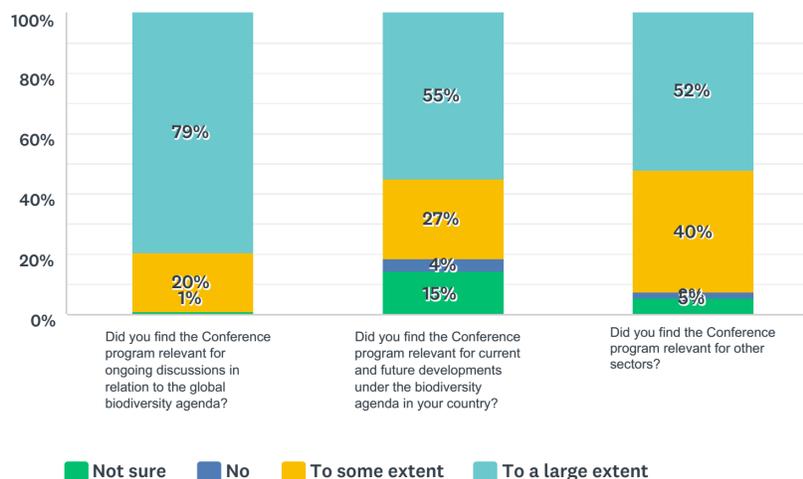
Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



	NOT APPLICABLE	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Did the Trondheim Conference provide you with networking opportunities?	2% 2	3% 4	39% 51	56% 74	131	3.50
Have the network opportunities provided by the Trondheim conference served you in your professional work?	2% 2	8% 10	50% 65	41% 54	131	3.31
Have you been able to utilize elements from any of the presentations in your professional work?	0% 0	7% 9	55% 72	38% 50	131	3.31
Did participating in discussions provide you with useful perspectives for your professional work?	2% 3	2% 2	46% 60	50% 66	131	3.44
Did interaction with bio-diversity policy makers/civil administration managers provide you with new insight?	3% 4	4% 5	52% 68	41% 54	131	3.31
Did interaction with other participants provide you with useful input?	2% 2	1% 1	42% 55	56% 73	131	3.52

Q12 The Trondheim Conference program(relate your answer to the last Trondheim Conference you attended)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



	NOT SURE	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Did you find the Conference program relevant for ongoing discussions in relation to the global biodiversity agenda?	1% 1	0% 0	20% 26	79% 104	131	3.78
Did you find the Conference program relevant for current and future developments under the biodiversity agenda in your country?	15% 19	4% 5	27% 35	55% 72	131	3.22
Did you find the Conference program relevant for other sectors?	5% 7	2% 3	40% 53	52% 68	131	3.39

#	IF APPLICABLE, PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE TRONDHEIM CONFERENCE PROGRAM HAS BEEN RELEVANT TO THE BIODIVERSITY AGENDA (GLOBAL AND/OR IN YOUR COUNTRY):	DATE
1	The conference has raised awareness on the need to integrate biodiversity into other sectors of the economy whose actions (positive or negative) affect biodiversity conservation.	8/20/2017 11:02 PM
2	Helps to frame food security in a biodiversity-relevant way	8/20/2017 4:56 PM
3	mainstreaming biodiversity imperatives across sectors.	8/16/2017 12:09 PM
4	Some key points from the conference was used while framing Outlook 2033 on conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA in Bhutan. This outlook is for a period from 2017 to 2033 covering 12th five year plan (2018-2023), 13th five year plan (2023-2028) and 14th five year plan (2028-2033). This also helped us in strengthening collaborative works between the organization that I work in (National Biodiversity Centre) and Agriculture Research and Development Centres (ARDCs) in Bhutan as one of the participants for the conference was from agriculture research and development Centre.	8/16/2017 11:56 AM
5	The agenda of mainstreaming biodiversity in other sectors was greatly helped by the conference	8/15/2017 7:17 AM
6	The emphasis for elaborate discussion and presentation on how agriculture and biodiversity can merge to solve the concerns for food sustenance and the conservation of nature at the Trondheim Conference, 2016, was in tune with the global discussions on biodiversity. For my country, which is very rich in biodiversity and agriculture, and is still challenged with the fight against poverty, the question of how other countries have successfully handled their own situation served as an example to learn from and share with others colleagues in my country. By created a platform for international dialogue, Trondheim Conference is perhaps a molding, howbeit unassumingly, how professionals like myself approach biodiversity issues.	8/14/2017 5:33 PM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

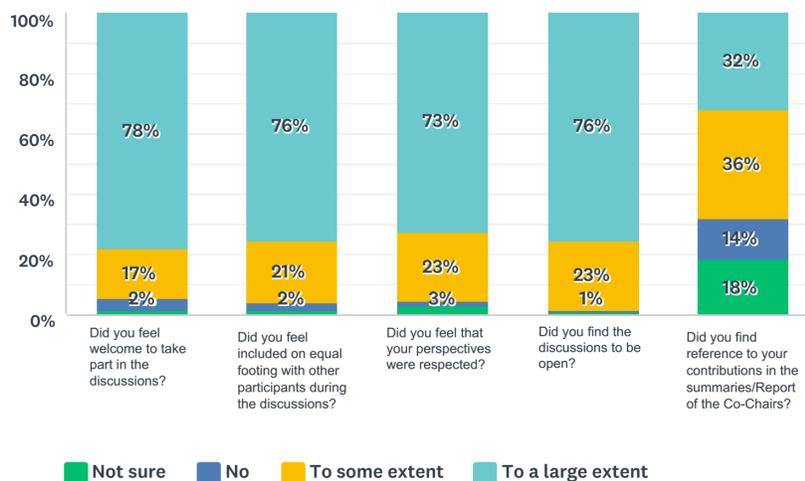
7	Probably biased responses as I was involved in developing the conference programme!	8/14/2017 12:12 PM
8	Mainstreaming biodiversity and link to the agriculture is the most important and relevant topic for the Slovak republic and Eu in general - also in relation to the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (post 2020), which is now under the discussion within the EU.	8/14/2017 11:50 AM
9	I was not really part of the Trondheim Conference - being part of the High Level Panel as stated above.	8/14/2017 11:49 AM
10	The involvement of different sectors is crucial. It would be desirable that not only the presentations but also the participants had a cross-sectorial composition.	8/14/2017 10:24 AM
11	The conference was timely because in 2016, the Department of Agriculture(DA) and Department of environment and natural resources (DENR) in the Philippines were on the process of finalizing a joint policy on mainstreaming biodiversity friendly agricultural practices in protected areas(PA) and key biodiversity areas (KBA). My learnings from the conference provided me insights during the discussions and finalization of the national policy. It helped me widen my perspective on biodiversity conservation particularly on agricultural crops and land degradation. It helped me understand the SDG goals for biodiversity conservation. The interlinkage between the environment and agriculture on biodiversity is very important to my country because as we expand agriculture, environment suffers if we do not take the necessary steps in conserving our resources. We are losing so much biodiversity and we really need a national policy in advocating BD conservation.	8/13/2017 5:56 AM
12	it reaches to the level of the office of planning and followup of Iraqi ministry of agriculture through many departments like animal and plant production	8/12/2017 11:05 PM
13	Program informed discussions on the global CBD agenda and as participants from African countries, it informed our positions in these global debates and negotiations. At the country level, these programs informed the finalization of our National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	8/11/2017 5:11 PM
14	There could be some more linkages made to Climate Change, Biosafety and Sustainable Land Management, as well as SDG's and relevant targets, and methods used to achieve them. I really enjoyed the mainstreaming discussion with the participant from Ethiopia, and also the discussion on linkages with the agricultural sector.	8/11/2017 5:01 PM
15	I remember that the conferences strongly try to engage with other sectors, but given the participation and views, this seems to remain a major challenge, as I remember still mainly "biodiversity people" being around.	8/11/2017 12:05 PM
16	It has helped to engage with the other sectors and has informed the mainstreaming agenda both nationally and internationally.	8/11/2017 12:04 PM
17	It was relevant to agriculture and tourism sectors. It has also been relevant to agencies working across other conventions such as the UNCCD and the UNFCCC.	8/11/2017 12:01 PM
18	Development of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture	8/11/2017 10:52 AM
19	Given that mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors, notably Forestry, agriculture and fisheries was on the agenda at the CBD COP in Mexico, the debate about Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and on how to reconcile SDG2 with SDG15, and also the upcoming results of the EU Fitness Check of the Nature Conservation laws, this was a timely and very relevant conference. It was worth the journey. Congratulations and Thank you.	8/8/2017 2:14 PM
20	By going beyond the traditional biodiversity sectors and interests, we were able to talk to new colleagues who influence more the state of biodiversity	7/31/2017 11:22 PM
21	An important and useful meeting, needs to be continued as it is one of the few forums where discussion and thinking is done outside of a political agenda - this is essential for the future of biodiversity conservation which overall ranks low on most government priorities	7/29/2017 10:53 AM
22	In so many ways especially in the Nagoya initiative a preparation of law about biosafety.	7/28/2017 5:48 PM
23	We were able to draw some of the lessons learnt and some of the practical actions that have been successfully implemented to be able to identify ways to replicate or design projects which are suited for our country.	7/27/2017 10:53 PM
24	Particularly within the context of the 2020 Aichi targets and the SDG process.	7/27/2017 4:34 PM
25	Particularly relevant to participatory biodiversity conservation at local, regional and national/trans-boundary level issues of connectivity and landscape level sustainable biodiversity conservation and curbing wildlife crimes.	7/27/2017 3:38 PM
26	Ms. Chan Somaly from Ministry of Environment, Cambodia,	7/27/2017 5:00 AM
27	I can say that the conference filled my expectations. The information provided by the presentations was of great interest for the work in the biodiversity and agriculture sectors	7/26/2017 6:25 PM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

28	The elements of the conference were included in the National Biodiversity Strategy	7/26/2017 5:41 PM
29	Managing biological diversity is always a challenge be it globally or locally. The programme at TC is always contextual and relevant. Biological Diversity is cross cutting and is integral to anything and everything for life on this planet earth. TC helps mainstreaming the contemporary issues relevant to life on earth and human well being.	7/26/2017 2:55 PM
30	The 2013 discussions on trade-offs were particularly useful, and I believe helped advance the CBD's mainstreaming agenda, and bring about a more nuanced discussion in countries ahead of the 2016 CBD COP which focused on this subject.	7/26/2017 12:43 PM
31	Conference on biodiversity is a crosscutting subject and it very much applicable to other sectors as well.	7/26/2017 11:30 AM
32	The topic of the last Trondheim Conference was very relevant to the biodiversity agenda. However I already knew a lot about it so the new insights were limited. Compared to previous Trondheim Conferences I didn't gain a new perspective on the issue. On a country level the conference and the preparations for it certainly helped interaction with other ministries.	7/26/2017 10:35 AM

Q13 The Trondheim Conference atmosphere (relate your answer to the last Trondheim Conference you attended)

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



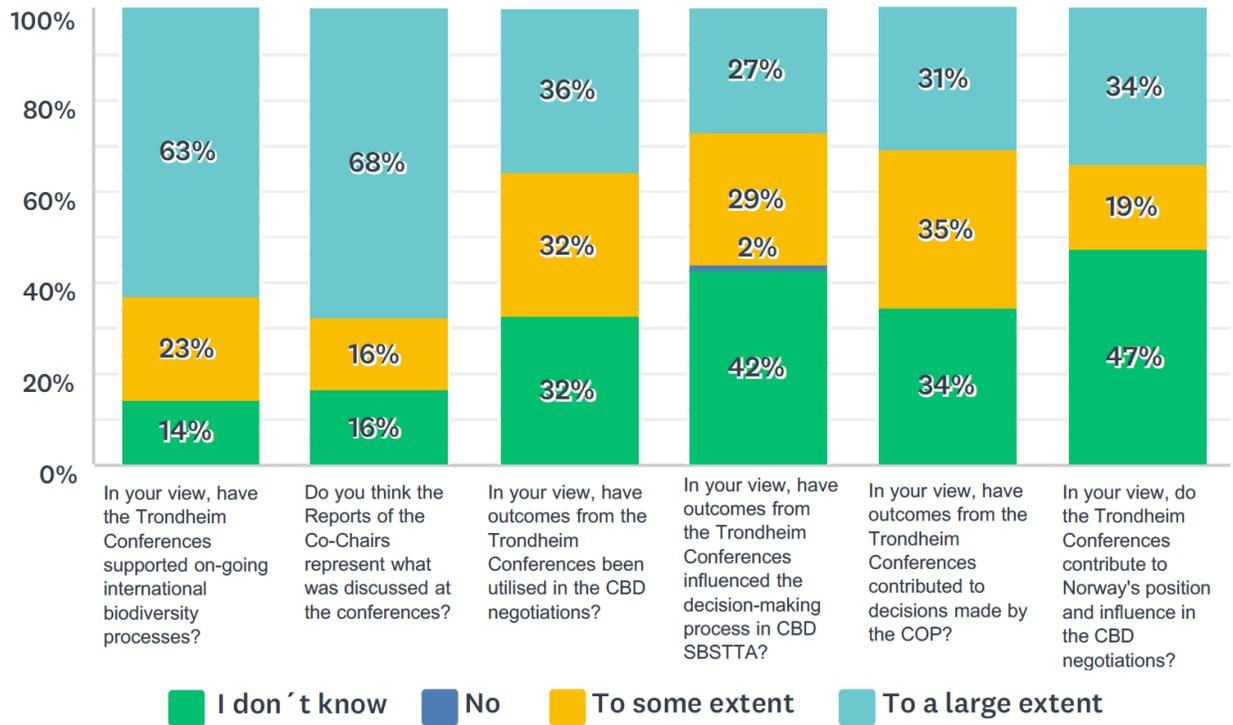
	NOT SURE	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Did you feel welcome to take part in the discussions?	2% 2	4% 5	17% 22	78% 102	131	4.66
Did you feel included on equal footing with other participants during the discussions?	2% 2	2% 3	21% 27	76% 99	131	4.66
Did you feel that your perspectives were respected?	3% 4	2% 2	23% 30	73% 95	131	4.60
Did you find the discussions to be open?	1% 1	1% 1	23% 30	76% 99	131	4.72
Did you find reference to your contributions in the summaries/Report of the Co-Chairs?	18% 24	14% 18	36% 47	32% 42	131	3.50

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	The 8th Trondheim Conference is laudable as it has increased my understanding of much of the CBD processes geared towards global food security and sustainable Development.	8/20/2017 11:13 PM
2	Conferences would benefit from a more equitable approach and avoidance of a perception of an 'in crowd'.	8/17/2017 3:54 PM
3	very receptive delegation and atmosphere	8/16/2017 12:12 PM
4	great impression	8/16/2017 12:08 PM
5	The organization of conference was well organized in every aspects. Great job done by the organizers	8/16/2017 11:58 AM
6	The conference atmosphere was very warm open and welcoming	8/15/2017 7:19 AM
7	Again the responses above reflect the fact that I was integrally involved in the conference secretariat	8/14/2017 12:14 PM
8	Was not reading the summaries in details yet.	8/14/2017 11:51 AM
9	my comments relate to the High Level Panel	8/14/2017 11:51 AM
10	I thought this side of the conference was well run and efforts to capture a range of views came through clearly in the briefing document.	8/14/2017 10:58 AM
11	Summaries were in general terms	8/13/2017 6:00 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

12	I only felt that not many Indigenous Peoples and local communities were invited.	8/11/2017 10:48 PM
13	The organisers are very warm and went to great lengths to make us happy.	8/11/2017 5:13 PM
14	Coming in with the scientist's perspectives, quite often scientific views are quite hidden in discussions and summaries, but still they inform the discussions well, so this is all in all fine.	8/11/2017 12:09 PM
15	In the 7th conference the agricultural biodiversity agenda was still nascent and the direct perspectives of representatives of the custodians and developers of this vital resource - the organisations and social movements of small-scale food providers - were absent.	8/11/2017 10:56 AM
16	There are many participants at the Trondheim Conferences and as a representative from an IGO, we leave space for Parties to CBD or country-representatives to more actively participate.	8/10/2017 5:19 PM
17	even more time for discussion and more time in parallel groups would have been even better, but the balance is already quite good.	8/2/2017 3:09 PM
18	Having been host/organizer for the conferences (and co-chair in 2010) I have attended I find it difficult to answer these questions, and I have therefore ticked off "not sure".	7/29/2017 11:07 AM
19	I HAVE NO COMMENT!	7/28/2017 6:01 PM
20	I did not fully engage in the discussion in terms of sharing views or opinion given the level of expertise available during the sessions.	7/27/2017 10:58 PM
21	The conferences atmosphere has been open and encouraging.	7/27/2017 4:45 PM
22	Very nice of preparation and useful for participants.	7/27/2017 5:07 AM
23	The atmosphere of the conference was excellent. The distribution of the working groups was greatly benefited by the exchange of experience between the countries. As the discussions and opinions enriched the presentations.	7/26/2017 6:31 PM
24	A very well organized conference	7/26/2017 11:31 AM
25	The discussion were in my view a bit too general in nature. It would have been more interesting to dig into specific areas.	7/26/2017 10:36 AM

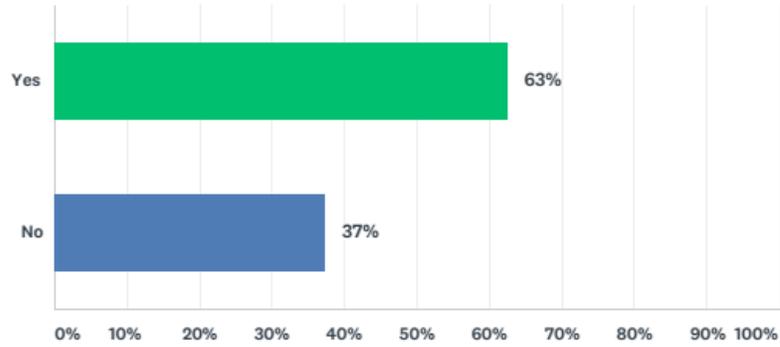
Q14 The outcome of the Trondheim Conferences



Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Q15 Did you participate in the 2016 Trondheim Conference:

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0

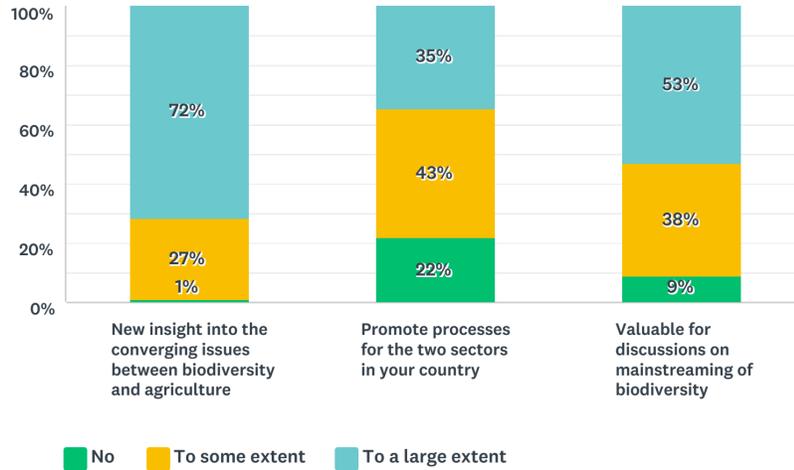


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63%	82
No	37%	49
TOTAL		131

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Q16 Biodiversity and agriculture

Answered: 82 Skipped: 49



	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
New insight into the converging issues between biodiversity and agriculture	1	22	58	81	4.70
Promote processes for the two sectors in your country	18	35	28	81	4.12
Valuable for discussions on mainstreaming of biodiversity	7	30	42	79	4.44

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	It is a difficult term to make a balance of the best solutions for Agriculture and Biodiversity in development.	9/6/2017 12:13 PM
2	I think The Cacun Declaration on Mainstreaming of biodiversity during CBD COP 13 was largely a product of the 2016 Trondheim Conference, This is a demonstration of the value and contribution of the conference to the CBD Process.	8/20/2017 10:46 PM
3	Unfortunately, I did not attend CBD meeting in 2016	8/16/2017 11:02 AM
4	It provided excellent opportunity to learn from experiences from the region and to interact with like minded people	8/15/2017 6:22 AM
5	I gather more information. I advised the CBD Focal Point to use read the Co-Chairs' report and access the Conference website to links to more information on biodiversity. I became more informed on the relevance of increasing the link of agriculture and biodiversity.	8/14/2017 4:50 PM
6	While the answer is give as "no" to the second question above, it should actually have been "not applicable" which was not give as an option.	8/14/2017 11:18 AM
7	Biodiversity and agriculture conference was very well prepared and organised - both from expertise point of view and also from the networking/social point of view).	8/14/2017 10:54 AM
8	I thought the interpretation of the topic was too safe and narrow with the presentations and discussion provided. It was on agriculture and biodiversity and was really much more about agro-biodiversity - maybe it was my misunderstanding of the title beforehand. But I think more of the difficult question and the interesting science sitting behind those discussions was missing. So I think there was a whole area of evidence of how biodiversity underpins wider agricultural systems that was missing and was poorly represented. It was touched on in palm oil but that was it.	8/14/2017 10:03 AM
9	Good initiate to include agriculture and forestry discussion in biodiversity mainstreaming	8/14/2017 6:48 AM
10	Pls refer to.my previous comments on mainstreaming	8/13/2017 5:04 AM

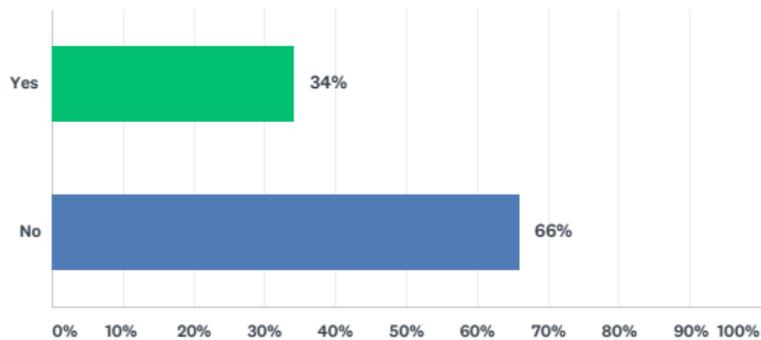
Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

11	Biodiversity is the basis of agriculture, but agriculture is also one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. How then do we reconcile agriculture and biodiversity?	8/11/2017 5:18 PM
12	I did not attend any of the CBD meeting	8/2/2017 6:47 AM
13	This was a very useful meeting and I learnt a lot from the different partners including seeing several synergies between sustainable agricultural development and biodiversity conservation	7/29/2017 10:56 AM
14	Outcomes of the Trondheim and COP13 have gone a long way in assisting to mainstream biodiversity at national level.	7/27/2017 5:10 PM
15	It is a difficult term to make a balance of the best solutions for Agriculture and Biodiversity in development.	7/27/2017 5:27 AM
16	The conference offered good inputs to address the converging issues of biodiversity and agriculture. The conference offered an advance to address the issue of incorporation of both sectors before COP 13.	7/26/2017 6:39 PM
17	It helped me open up my mid to focus on research activities related to biodiversity	7/26/2017 11:32 AM
18	The topic was very relevant and well chosen. However new insights were limited which has several reasons, among them the country-specific nature of agricultural policy.	7/26/2017 10:39 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

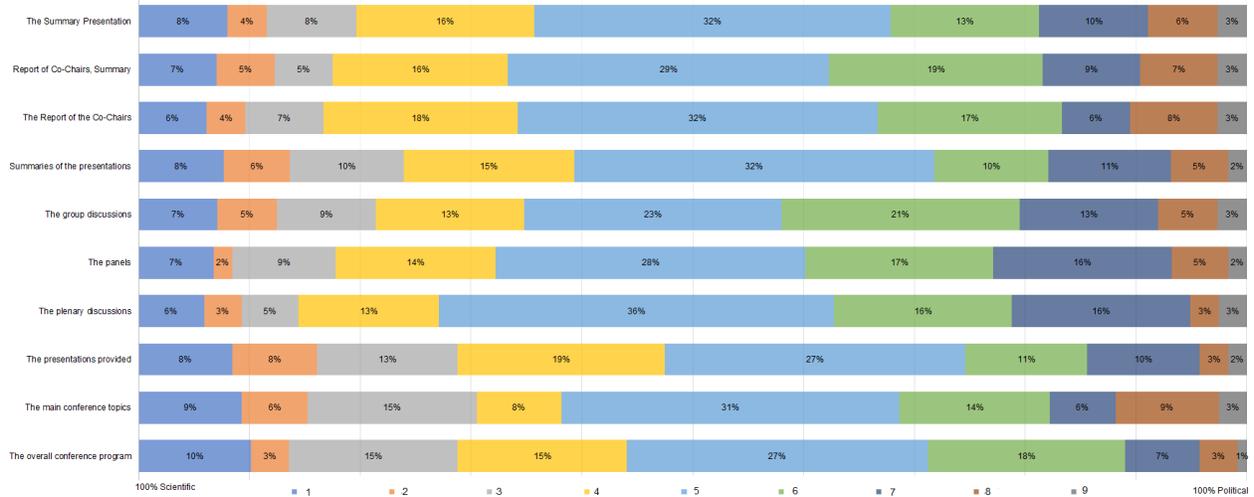
Q17 Did you represent agriculture in the 2016 Trondheim Conference?

Answered: 82 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	34%	28
No	66%	54
TOTAL		82

Q18 "HOW DO YOU RATE THE CONTENT OF THE CONFERENCE ELEMENTS BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL?"



(Answer on a scale of 1 to 9, where 1 is 100 % scientific and 9 is 100 % political)

	I DON'T KNOW	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
The overall conference program	10%	9%	3%	14%	14%	24%	16%	6%	3%	1%	131	4.64
The main conference topics	10%	8%	5%	14%	7%	27%	12%	5%	8%	2%	131	4.69
The presentations provided	10%	8%	7%	11%	17%	24%	10%	9%	2%	2%	131	4.61
The plenary discussions	10%	5%	3%	5%	11%	32%	15%	15%	2%	2%	131	5.02
The panels	10%	6%	2%	8%	13%	25%	15%	15%	5%	2%	131	4.93
The group discussions	15%	6%	5%	8%	11%	20%	18%	11%	5%	2%	131	4.65
The summaries of the presentations	11%	7%	5%	9%	14%	29%	9%	10%	5%	2%	131	4.73
The Report of the Co-Chairs	13%	5%	3%	6%	15%	28%	15%	5%	7%	2%	131	4.79
The Summary of findings from the Report of the Co-Chairs	13%	6%	5%	5%	14%	25%	17%	8%	6%	2%	131	4.76
The Summary Presentation	15%	7%	3%	7%	14%	27%	11%	8%	5%	2%	131	4.66

#	WERE THERE PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE, WHO ACCORDING TO YOU OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN INVITED? IF YES, PLEASE STATE WHO AND WHY:	DATE
1	Ms. Chan Somaly from Ministry of Environment coordinated with Norwegian Environment Agency to invite me and i informed that i am a former counterpart of Biodiversity.	9/6/2017 12:13 PM
2	More from the private sector	8/31/2017 9:40 PM
3	The invitations were well spread (both from biodiversity and agriculture sector). It also extended to Political Leaders (Minster of Environment in my country was specially invited). However, I feel the invitation should have extended to the Agriculture counterpart to balance the High Level presence of political Leaders who can easily influence Govt. policies in favour of the conference outcomes.	8/20/2017 10:46 PM
4	across sector participation. I think people from agriculture, mining, finance houses, more from the private sector would be useful	8/16/2017 11:15 AM
5	As far as I understand, there was a good balance of participants representing from both biodiversity and agriculture sector.	8/16/2017 11:02 AM
6	Yes	8/15/2017 6:22 AM
7	Yes, because they represented the kind of background in the area of environmental and natural management, particularly biodiversity.	8/14/2017 4:50 PM
8	I am not sure how most people will answer this question, as they only know who was present and not who was invited? For example it would have been good to have had more representatives from the agriculture industry. Many were invited, but we did not get much positive response.	8/14/2017 11:18 AM
9	Maybe more experts and also policy makers from the agricultural field could be invited directly - not through the MoE in our Slovak case.	8/14/2017 10:54 AM
10	As mentioned people representing the wider discussion and challenges of biodiversity and agriculture were missing from my point of view. The focus was far to narrow on its interpretation but again that might have been my hope on where the discussion could lead as appose to just the genetic diversity within the agricultural system. People implementing the wider challenges could have been there from the farming side, supply chain side, scientists and the NGO partner side. For the agenda as it was laid out, again it felt the farming side was not as well represented as it could have been.	8/14/2017 10:03 AM
11	I consider that the conference could be an extremely valuable opportunity to expose the research and practice communities in Norway and especially in Trondheim to the international biodiversity use and protection agenda. The conference has traditionally been rather closed. It is a shame to waste this opportunity.	8/14/2017 9:35 AM
12	I don't think so	8/12/2017 10:15 PM
13	I think an additional number of Indigenous Peoples and Local communities is good so that there can be a glance of sharing especially where both science and Tk meets and how the two can then bring the success stories and where the stories are a failure answers can be found and discussed.	8/11/2017 9:54 PM
14	Representatives from the Private sector, who use Biodiversity to make profits but not very active in sustaining Biodiversity resources.	8/11/2017 4:18 PM
15	Yes, see above re small-scale food providers. BTW A comment re the above questions: to me this polarity between 'science' and 'politics' seems odd. In the context of the agricultural biodiversity agenda, for example, there is no scientific view that is free of politics (and the influence of other forces) and there is no political view that does not recognise the scientific, knowledge and technological content of the issues. The more contentious polarity is between those presenting the dominant orthodoxy of science which supports the interests of the powerful compared with those who champion the science, knowledge, innovations and practices of those who are custodians and developers of agricultural biodiversity.	8/11/2017 10:06 AM
16	I interpret scientific in the narrow sense	8/8/2017 1:49 PM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

17	People from EU's DG AGRI, who are shaping the EU CAP - or did I simply overlook them?	8/8/2017 1:17 PM
18	More scientists from developing countries (and not just those sent by national governments, but those who are working at the frontline of biodiversity conservation).	7/29/2017 9:56 AM
19	Yes, we need to somehow invite the political decision-makers and deputies of the parliamentary planning office	7/28/2017 5:19 PM
20	No. it was a very good array of people that enabled opinions from different perspectives stimulate debate.	7/27/2017 4:10 PM
21	no	7/26/2017 5:44 PM
22	The presentations were well balanced in both the science and policy. This was key to the success of the conference.	7/26/2017 5:39 PM
23	This is not related to the question asked for this commentary box, but I was not sure where to provide comments to my choices above regarding policy vs science: I indicated 50/50 on each of the questions as in my view this very much depended on the topics. For example on the Strategic Plan, the mix of science and policy was well respected. On resource mobilization topics, there was more policy because the topic is also not scientific. In my view the Trondheim Conference has solid science at the basis but has also been instrumental in bringing more policy oriented discussions forward when this was needed for the global biodiversity agenda.	7/26/2017 3:34 PM
24	Invitations could be extended to livestock and forestry sectors as well	7/26/2017 10:32 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

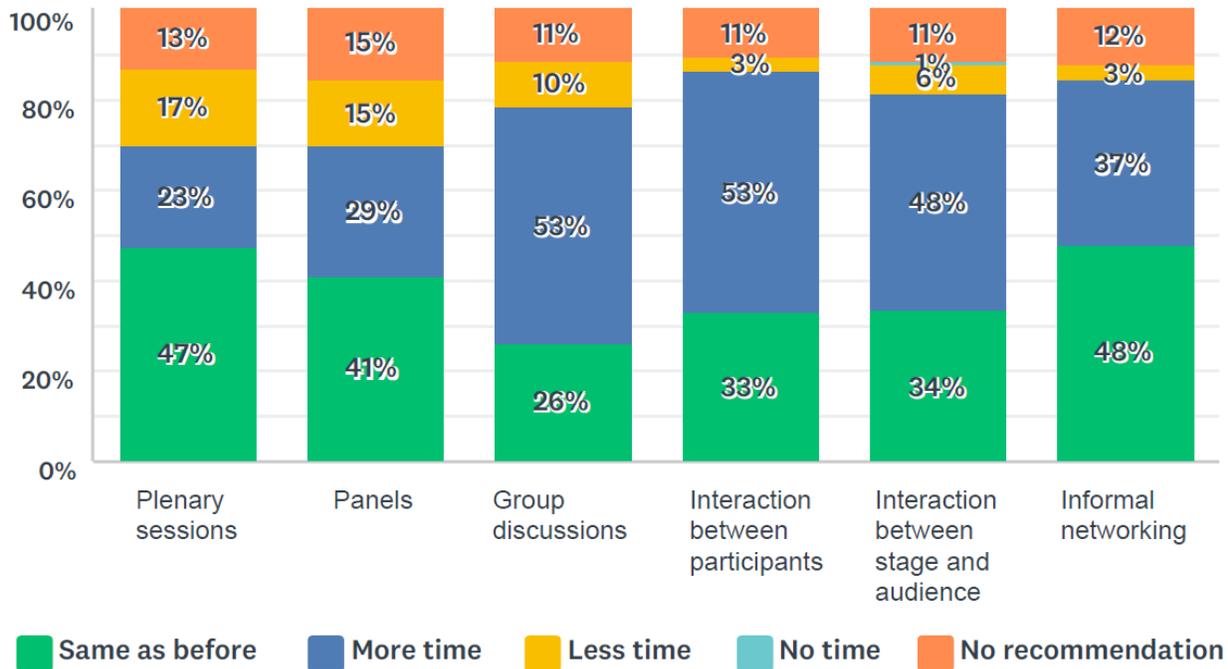
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	17	7	4	8	20	37	19	7	9	3	131	4.79
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	17	8	6	6	18	33	22	10	8	3	131	4.76
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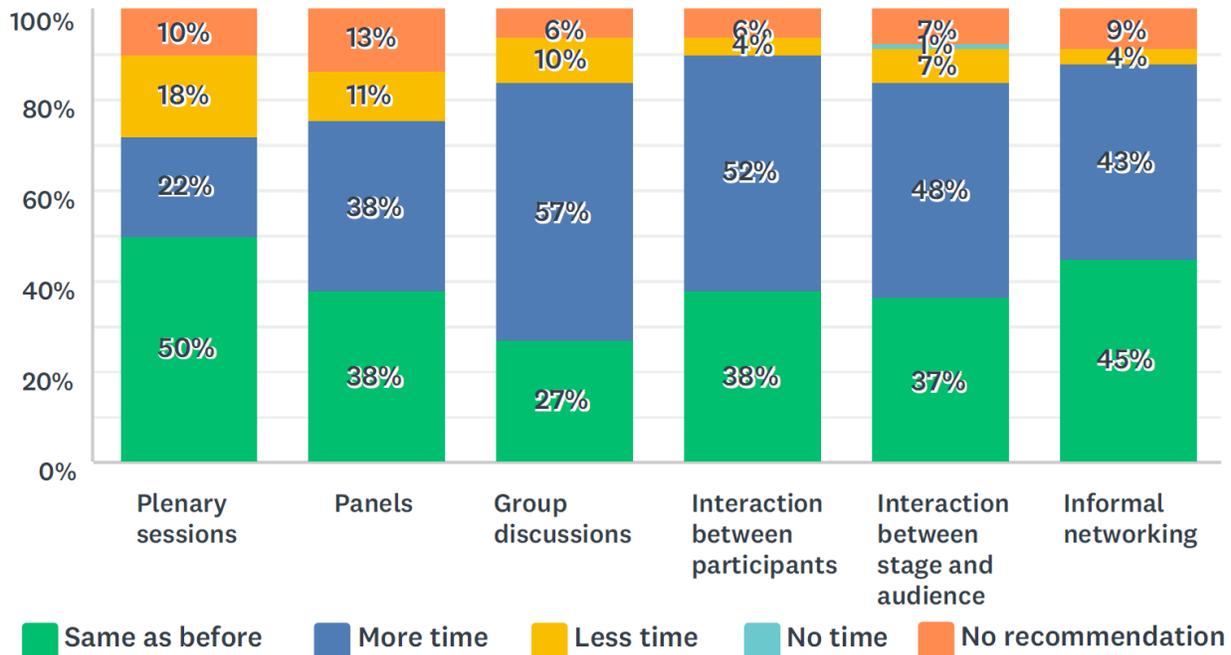
Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

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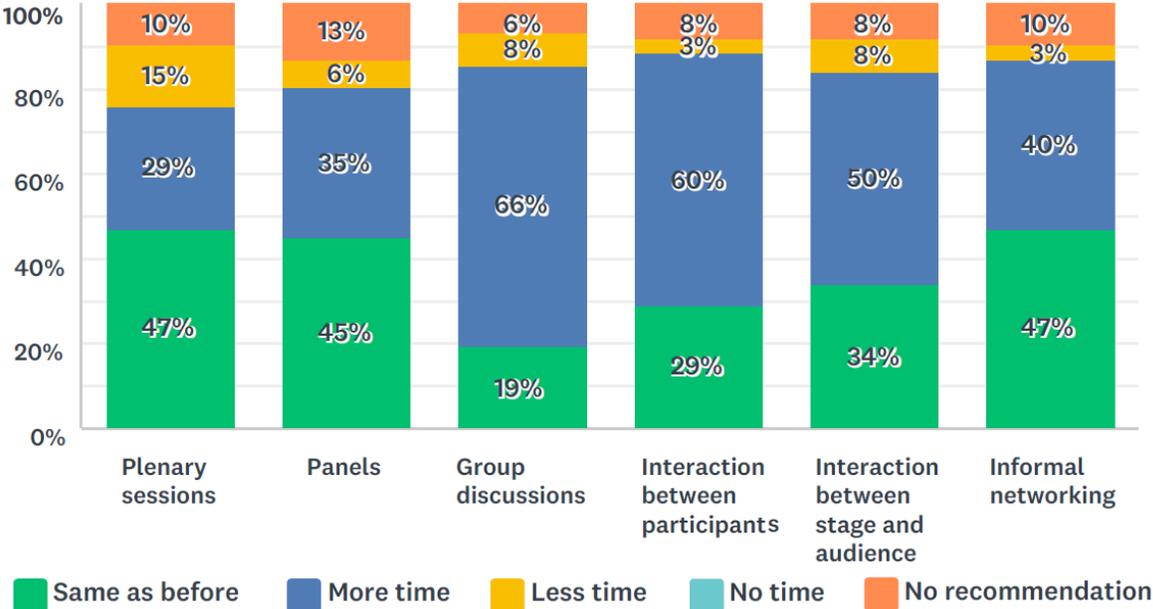
Q19 How much time should the conference devote to its different stages?
All Participants



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Participants at the 2016 Conference

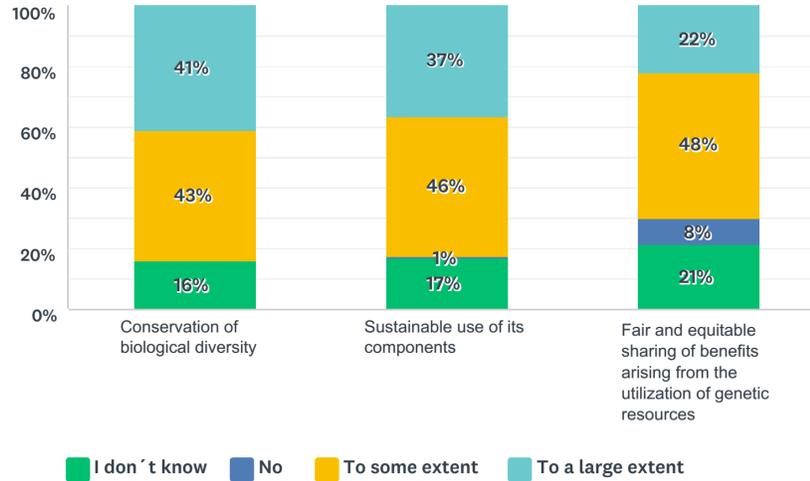


Q19 How much time should the conference devote to its different stages?
 Participants nominated as country representatives



Q20 In your view, does the Trondheim Conference have an impact on the overarching CBD objectives?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



	I DON'T KNOW	NO	TO SOME EXTENT	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Conservation of biological diversity	16% 21	0% 0	43% 56	41% 54	131	3.09
Sustainable use of its components	17% 22	1% 1	46% 60	37% 48	131	3.02
Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources	21% 28	8% 11	48% 63	22% 29	131	2.71

#	PLEASE ELABORATE ON YOUR VIEWS ON THE IMPACT OF THE TRONDHEIM CONFERENCE ON THE OVERARCHING CBD OBJECTIVES HERE:	DATE
1	The conference had overarching impact on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components but stressed less on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.	8/21/2017 12:07 AM
2	nationally the conference is seen as a nice to attend and given the austerity measures it is becoming more difficult to motivate country attendance	8/16/2017 12:19 PM
3	Trondheim conference plays a pivotal role in converging minds and thoughts of a whole range of people representing different themes and background surround biodiversity and agriculture. It certainly injected a wealth of knowledge to all the participants that will go a long way in biodiversity conservation and agriculture growth at national, regional and global level.	8/16/2017 12:14 PM
4	Excellent opportunity to prepare for the issues being discussed at CBD CoP	8/15/2017 7:24 AM
5	The lessons learned and ideas shared provided more information resources for professionals in the areas mentioned.	8/14/2017 5:58 PM
6	It is not entirely clear how the outcomes from the last Trondheim Conference were actually used in the CBD process, and in other processes such as the FAO Committee on Agriculture. Two obvious means are making available the co-chairs summary and through the Norwegian interventions, but what is less clear is the extent to which other delegations use the Trondheim conference and its outputs to help them prepare. Hopefully this will be gleaned from the review process, in particular through targeted interviews. Critical to impact is selecting the right topic for the conference, and approaching it in a way that contributes to preparation for discussion at the subsequent CBD meetings.	8/14/2017 12:26 PM
7	It has generated a platform for sharing experiences within the biodiversity and sustainable use sector that continue to shape the global agenda on biodiversity conservation.	8/14/2017 11:54 AM

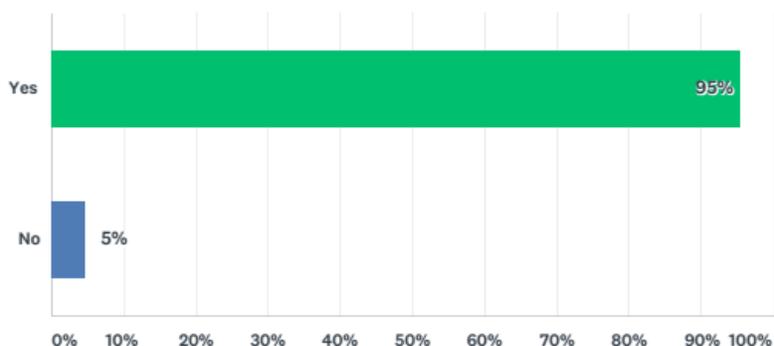
Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

8	Possibly yes, but I cannot tell, since I have not participated in the CBD meetings.	8/14/2017 10:39 AM
9	This is because the panelist who are selected research their work and give concert information that focuses on the objectives of the convention a clear strategy that makes it a success	8/12/2017 7:24 AM
10	The conference provided insights on the use of innovative economic instruments in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources. However, the conference needs to do more on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. This is of importance to developing countries that are rich in biodiversity but income poor.	8/11/2017 5:25 PM
11	I think the Trondheim conference provides an opportunity to crystallize positions on important biodiversity issues. It provides early exposure to trending or priority biodiversity issues so that parties, scientists are better informed and have the opportunity to develop well thought out strategies that they can bring to the COP and to SBSTA.	8/11/2017 12:10 PM
12	Difficult to measure, but the themes have been very relevant for achieving the CBD objectives.	8/11/2017 12:09 PM
13	The timing of the Trondheim conferences is helpfully positioned between the main forums of the CBD allowing useful discussions to be held between key actors. The conferences could perhaps be more challenging of the dominant 'conservationist' theme and explore use that is truly sustainable and contributes to livelihoods and a biodiverse, productive environment. For example, the relationship between article 6.2 of the International Seed Treaty (IT PGRFA) and the CBD could merit more exploration. Terms such as agroecology, food sovereignty, Farmers' Rights, Rights of Mother Earth are not prominent yet are essential elements of the sustainable use agenda.	8/11/2017 11:22 AM
14	There is still a huge emphasis on contributing to the 1st objective of the Convention. This should be balanced in the future.	8/10/2017 5:23 PM
15	it is difficult to distill the impact of a conference against all other drivers	8/8/2017 2:53 PM
16	The topic was sustainable use, and the other two CBD objectives were only treated marginally.	8/8/2017 2:20 PM
17	I found the programme well balanced to represent all overarching objectives although conservation received more attention than the others and sharing of benefits less.	8/2/2017 3:16 PM
18	Such conference provide an opportunity to frame key CBD issues because a lot of the scientific evidence is being provided to support the development of targets and strategies.	7/27/2017 11:05 PM
19	I find the principles of the Conferences being complementary to the CBD and, in my view, the Conferences lay the foundation for discussions at COP meetings.	7/27/2017 5:21 PM
20	The conference was found very productive to address some of the challenges and issues of ecology and economy, human well being, biodiversity and sustainable and green and smart development to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for a sustainable society and sustainable development goals.	7/27/2017 4:12 PM
21	It is a difficult issue to get the beneficial and sustainable outcomes in development.	7/27/2017 5:44 AM
22	unfortunately the desitions are political and not scientific how they should be!	7/26/2017 9:46 PM
23	I perceive ABS as being not high on the Trondheim agenda over the years but am not sure if this is accurate.	7/26/2017 12:48 PM
24	This conference is a timely reminders to all countries to step up helping the resource poor farmers who are feeding the ever increasing world population	7/26/2017 11:32 AM
25	I'm not sure if the Trondheim Conference needs to have a direct impact on the overarching objectives. The value of the Conference in my view is providing new angles to issues/problems, getting innovative thinking going and making participants interacting within and outside of their comfort zone.	7/26/2017 10:49 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Q21 Would you participate in another Trondheim Conference?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95%	125
No	5%	6
TOTAL		131

#	WHY:	DATE
1	Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity is an excellent forum for learning from other countries experience and update scientific and political developments in biodiversity.	8/28/2017 6:58 AM
2	Because it has been very useful for my work I am working now in a project IKI for Mainstreaming for Mexican agriculture	8/21/2017 8:35 PM
3	The conferences provide opportunities to meet and interact with experts, share experiences and network. There is no better way to learn than these.	8/21/2017 12:07 AM
4	Yes! Enthusiastically!	8/20/2017 4:59 PM
5	Massive influence and positive atmosphere.	8/17/2017 3:57 PM
6	Yes, but I think that the links with CBD processes and other MEAs should be made more explicit as I have indicated that the conference is seen as nice to attend, not a priority	8/16/2017 12:19 PM
7	This is a platform where we can share our experience to the global community and at the same time acquire a world of knowledge from the global community that have produced fruitful action as we endeavor our journey to sustainable and resilient planet.	8/16/2017 12:14 PM
8	I always interested in participating in the next Conference in Trondheim.	8/16/2017 12:12 PM
9	Because it prepares me for the latest thinking on Biodiversity in general, its conservation, sustainable use and the issues of equity in the sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.	8/15/2017 2:14 PM
10	Usually interesting and important topics presented and discussed in appropriate ways..	8/15/2017 1:42 PM
11	Excellent learning and networking opportunity	8/15/2017 7:24 AM
12	I look forward to networking and information, exchanged.	8/14/2017 5:58 PM
13	it is excellent opportunity for sharing experiences between countries	8/14/2017 1:22 PM
14	Primarily for networking opportunities.	8/14/2017 12:26 PM
15	It was the best organized conference I ever participated in - from all points of view. Very professional preparation, it was visible, they have a long tradition in preparation of these conferences.	8/14/2017 11:56 AM
16	the learning opportunities	8/14/2017 11:54 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

17	If my work keeps in line with the topics and intention of the conference, I would like to participate again, if so I would be better prepared by going through the documents ahead of the conference and also follow up the outcome, as I did not have time to do at the time I did participate.	8/14/2017 11:18 AM
18	It was wonderful being around so many representatives from all over the world and for me this was the most interesting and beneficial part. I learnt a lot from them and I also learnt a lot of how these processes work which was new to me. The material presented was broad (but a bit disappointing from my perspective) and the whole thing was incredibly well organised with useful documentation produced at the end.	8/14/2017 11:04 AM
19	I find them inspiring, and the quality of the plenary talks is usually high.	8/14/2017 10:39 AM
20	MOST OF THE THINGS DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE ARE SCIENTIFIC AND ALSO RELEVANT TO MY COUNTRY SITUATION. ALSO MOST OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED IF IMPLEMENTED CAN BE VERY USEFUL IN BIODIVERSITY.	8/14/2017 9:08 AM
21	Very pleasant gathering of same people that attend other biodiversity events, but more open, more time for networking and discussing solutions.	8/14/2017 8:58 AM
22	Its an avenue for networking and updating on the global programs and interventions for the small countries.	8/14/2017 7:49 AM
23	for professional scientific exchanges and interactions with multiple sectors	8/14/2017 3:46 AM
24	The Trondheim Conferences are very important for a national CDB delegate like me, and member of the national Biodiversity Committee; it allows a good update of the main issues before the official meetings of SBSTTA and the COP.	8/13/2017 3:02 PM
25	If given the chance because there are lots of insights and experiences to be learned from other countries. The conference provided me the different perspectives and collective efforts of countries on BD conservation that I can utilize in my work in the agriculture sector.	8/13/2017 6:14 AM
26	because it is the most helpful place to communicate with many international organizations and agencies to get support to my country in the agriculture and environmental fields	8/12/2017 11:25 PM
27	It is a good forum to discuss issues	8/12/2017 4:56 PM
28	I learnt a lot and it is one of those conferences that its own unique focus and had a good well organized strategy	8/12/2017 7:24 AM
29	Learning and sharing experience on biodiversity conservation and management among networking. Gathering and information strategy and methodology to apply at the national level.	8/11/2017 9:32 PM
30	It is an excellent way to get an overview of the selected topic and meet people working on that topic.	8/11/2017 5:33 PM
31	I have consistently participated in the Trondheim conferences. I am looking forward to the next conference. They are well organized, educative and provide immense opportunities for networking.	8/11/2017 5:25 PM
32	At the Conference (CBD) level, we tend to hear only one side of a story, unless we participate in side events. However, at the Trondheim Conference, we hear from all angles, so our negotiations and discussions at the international and national level are more fruitful, because we have a better understanding of what is important to the other party.	8/11/2017 5:18 PM
33	There are many discussions to be made about this issue	8/11/2017 1:56 PM
34	great overview on ongoing discussions on the topic, one of the rare relatively open events where science, practice and policy interact openly friendly atmosphere, diversity of participants	8/11/2017 12:13 PM
35	I got more out of the conference than I contributed. The exposure to the range of issues, solutions and opportunity for learning is immense.	8/11/2017 12:10 PM
36	Very useful conference when working with international biodiversity issues. The challenge is to link the scientific findings to the policy perspective.	8/11/2017 12:09 PM
37	If invited - or better to invite direct representatives of small-scale food providers - to advance the agenda outlined above.	8/11/2017 11:22 AM
38	to improve understanding of biodiversity conservation Sustainable use and benefit sharing before implementation of actions	8/11/2017 11:17 AM
39	Networking is important. Meet People there we Finance.	8/11/2017 10:58 AM
40	I value them highly and find them very interesting.	8/10/2017 5:23 PM
41	this will depend on the topic for discussion and how I can relate this to my working environment.	8/10/2017 2:53 AM
42	for meeting people of other countries and exchange views	8/9/2017 7:05 PM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

43	I really appreciated the Conferences because of its policy focus and the large part of the audience being policymakers. Most conferences that are science based, that I attended, did not succeed to get so many policy makers in their audience.	8/9/2017 10:20 AM
44	great occasion to bring people from different background together and discuss informally, in a 'protected space'	8/8/2017 2:53 PM
45	Good overview of global debate on relevant topics, good and open atmosphere, great setting. Thank you!	8/8/2017 2:20 PM
46	If I would be invited, I certainly will consider participation for its open discussion and participant mixture	8/7/2017 3:41 PM
47	Very interesting and well balanced mix of scientific and political discussions. very relevant topics and participants, great setting.	8/2/2017 3:16 PM
48	If the themes are relevant to my professional work	8/2/2017 12:45 PM
49	Yes. It is really insightful. It was an exposure for me to meet people from the biodiversity background from and other disciplines from different countries that discussed on inter-linkages between biodiversity and agriculture. I was well informed about the following: Biodiversity and Agriculture: Planning of a Changing climate; Roundtable Discussions on Interlinkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture; Panel Session on "Practical Interlinkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture: Imperatives and Implications; Interlinkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture: Policies and Institutions; Interlinkages between examples of building interlinkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture as well as Interlinkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture: Changing Practices. The group discussions deepened my understanding on the subject and I do inform stakeholders in the Agriculture Sector about the interlinkages between Biodiversity and Agriculture when I have the opportunity to do so. More so, there was a biodiversity stakeholder workshop organized at the National level and I brought my knowledge on the subject to bear to be included in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.	8/2/2017 6:56 AM
50	To move beyond negotiating to impact	7/31/2017 11:41 PM
51	As an invited speaker, if asked.	7/31/2017 12:16 AM
52	It is a strong opportunity for me to gain experiences from the participants, strengthen my scientific knowledge, building my capacity in all disciplines of the conference and increase my capacity in networking and fundraising.	7/30/2017 10:13 AM
53	If the theme and subsequent sessions of the conference is of relevance and of interest, I would participate.	7/30/2017 8:10 AM
54	I found it a very useful platform for exchanging ideas and finding common ground for biodiversity conservation across both institutions and geographical scale.	7/29/2017 10:58 AM
55	Probably no, underdeveloped country with no funds for participation on such events.	7/29/2017 9:44 AM
56	It was a very useful input for my participation in the local and regional agenda in the Southern Mexico.	7/28/2017 11:40 AM
57	The conference really provided the enthusiasm about biodiversity and the need to better biodiversity and the need to bridge the divide between scientists and policy makers. This is an important aspect as future national development planning needs to take into account how biodiversity is effected and how these can be better reflected in Environment Impact Assessments.	7/27/2017 11:05 PM
58	This is one of the greatest platform in the world for knowledge sharing, learning and networking. Key environmental global issues that impact on national development agendas are discussed here.	7/27/2017 5:21 PM
59	I will be happy and appreciate any support if receive invitation with the full cost of participation from the respective organizers.	7/27/2017 4:12 PM
60	More knowledge and specific related the changing and best solution of global in practice for biodiversity.	7/27/2017 5:44 AM
61	It was a great event with a diverse group of participants and very interesting presentations.	7/27/2017 5:24 AM
62	Trondheim, 1999. I am in charge of the Department of Genetic Resources of the Directorate of Biodiversity of the Environment Ministry, CBD Focal Point. I am the one who follows the implementation of the CBD since 1997. I have coordinated the national reports and the National Biodiversity Strategy. I am focal point for the CBD Information Exchange Mechanisms	7/26/2017 6:51 PM
63	to exchange the knowledge and experience from other people because implementation of environment regulation and strategies depend with the country.	7/26/2017 6:50 PM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

64	It was a great experience and all the parts of the conference were very interesting an useful for may work.	7/26/2017 5:45 PM
65	I would participate again as the Trondheim Conference can certainly help bring different views together. I am mainly involved in the policy side of the discussions so when the agenda is handling mainly scientific questions, there is no added value for me to participate. However, in preparing for the post 2020 biodiversity discussions at global level, I count on the Trondheim Conference to once again play a key role in bringing the different actors together to develop a broad understanding and convergence among the MEA Secretariats, Parties, NGOs, different sectors, key international organizations (UNDP, FAO, WB, etc.) and other stakeholders. This was also the case when preparing for the current Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets. And hopefully the Trondheim Conference can play its key role once more for the future developments.	7/26/2017 4:58 PM
66	Very good networking and usefull program and discussion.	7/26/2017 4:40 PM
67	Because it is relevant to my work.	7/26/2017 12:56 PM
68	It remains an important global forum for sharing new ideas and cutting edge practices on biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming.	7/26/2017 12:48 PM
69	Because the conference has set a standard for discussing new ideas around biodiversity and allows networking of participants that can result in Biodiversity work being done.	7/26/2017 11:42 AM
70	Yes, if invited. To learn more about the biodiversity issues and steer the research works to help our poor farmers	7/26/2017 11:32 AM
71	Definitely, the Trondheim Conference is an important moment on the agenda. It shows the CBD is not only about negotiations but also addressing global challenges jointly. I find inputs I get from well-selected and briefed speakers and from interaction with other participants very helpful in proceeding with my domestic work and in the preparations for engaging with the CBD process.	7/26/2017 10:49 AM

Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

Q22 If you have any other comments or recommendations to the Trondheim Conference in any respect, please tell us:

Answered: 40 Skipped: 91

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The initiatives by the Norwegian Govt in organizing these conferences is highly rewarding commendable. This initiative should be sustained.	8/21/2017 12:07 AM
2	It is the best international standing conference on biodiversity out there, with a very clear mandate.	8/20/2017 4:59 PM
3	I would like to extend sincere gratitude to the organizers for creating such a wonderful platform where biodiversity and agriculture players can come together and come up with common objectives.	8/16/2017 12:14 PM
4	excellent	8/16/2017 12:12 PM
5	Dont be afraid of having controversial debates on hot topics where there are clearly different sector views	8/15/2017 1:42 PM
6	Excellent arrangement and many thanks	8/15/2017 7:24 AM
7	This survey is a great idea!!! However, I would have loved to answer some of these questions about one week after returning from the Trondheim. Therefore I recommend that such a survey is conduction two weeks after the conference and about one year later, as this current survey was timed. Thanks so much!!!	8/14/2017 5:58 PM
8	Consider potential means for increasing engagement of participants through electronic means, as proposed by the facilitator in the lead up to the last meeting.	8/14/2017 12:26 PM
9	I would like to thank to the whole Norwegian team, they did an excellent work.	8/14/2017 11:56 AM
10	NO COMMENT	8/14/2017 9:08 AM
11	Many thanks for this initiative	8/13/2017 3:02 PM
12	Thank you so much. Job well done!	8/13/2017 6:14 AM
13	NO	8/12/2017 11:25 PM
14	Can only encourage this conference to keep it up and hope 2017 can focus on some key issues discussed in COP13	8/12/2017 7:24 AM
15	The atmosphere in Trondheim is very welcoming and supportive of the informal activities that often make change possible. It is good that it doesn't have the pressure to agree on something as at COPs and SBSTTAs.	8/11/2017 5:33 PM
16	Create more opportunities for Africa to share its experiences	8/11/2017 5:25 PM
17	Thanks for having them!	8/11/2017 12:13 PM
18	Sometimes the plenary sessions have been overburdened with speakers leaving no room or little room for questions and discussions.	8/11/2017 12:09 PM
19	Keep holding them but make them more relevant to the main custodians of agricultural biodiversity, whose priorities and actions are critical for wider biodiversity.	8/11/2017 11:22 AM
20	enhance networking opportunities and capacity building tools	8/11/2017 11:17 AM
21	Reach out more proactively to other sectors and communities.	8/10/2017 5:23 PM
22	More group work or more structured sessions to exchange experiences could be helpfull.	8/9/2017 10:20 AM
23	keep on doing them	8/8/2017 2:53 PM
24	Great work, please keep it up. Only area for (small) improvement would be an even more sustainable conference organisation (less gifts, more biodiversity concious food, less waste)	8/2/2017 3:16 PM
25	The last meeting was relatively weak compared to earlier ones	7/29/2017 5:58 PM
26	Many thanks for the invitation to participate and to the organisers	7/29/2017 10:58 AM
27	N/A	7/28/2017 6:22 PM

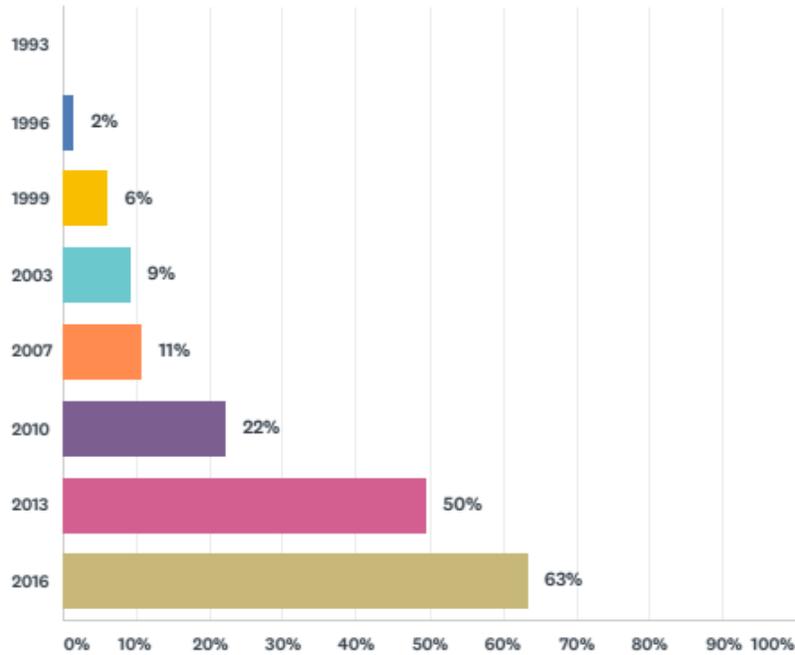
Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

28	None	7/27/2017 11:05 PM
29	Keep it and a big THANK YOU for the contribution you are making to the world!!!	7/27/2017 5:21 PM
30	It would be nice if we make a regional basis thematic conservation issues that are facing by the participating countries of particular region to facilitate panel discussion on common issues of sustainable biodiversity conservation.	7/27/2017 4:12 PM
31	Thank you very much and and try to understand more .	7/27/2017 5:44 AM
32	I find this event highly relevant, important, and think it should be linked in with the IPBES.	7/27/2017 5:24 AM
33	i really believe throndeim conference is a great space to take desitions and create agreements, i i fell actually this is just an informative space	7/26/2017 9:46 PM
34	The Trondheim conference has filled a void of information on Biodiversity issues and their relationship with other sectors. It is a space of interchange of experiences and knowledge.	7/26/2017 6:51 PM
35	no	7/26/2017 6:50 PM
36	Venue of the conference could be changed	7/26/2017 11:32 AM
37	It would be nice to see a broader representation of the technical competence that is present in Trondheim in this field. At present it is a "Conference in Trondheim" rather than a "Trondheim conference". The whole point is to front the science-policy interface - but Norway is really bad at this - so it would be good to expose this and rectify this issue by having open discussions about the challenges in Norway too - which can only be done by having a broader range of Norwegian participation. The Norwegian input from agriculture and aquaculture at the 2016 conference was pure political green-wash, with no space for active discussion,	7/26/2017 11:26 AM
38	I liked the previous Conferences very much. Here some suggestions in which directions it could further evolve. Maybe the next topic could be more thought-provoking and brave. For organizing you could partner with an organization/institution which is completely outside of the biodiversity arena. Get participants thinking before even arriving to the meeting with short but thought-provoking papers. The programme could be designed less linear but more modular.	7/26/2017 10:49 AM
39	The agenda setting should go beyond UNEP, WCMC and Norway	7/26/2017 10:28 AM
40	More interactions with IPBES Work Program	7/26/2017 10:19 AM

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Q23 When did you participate at the Trondheim Conference:

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0

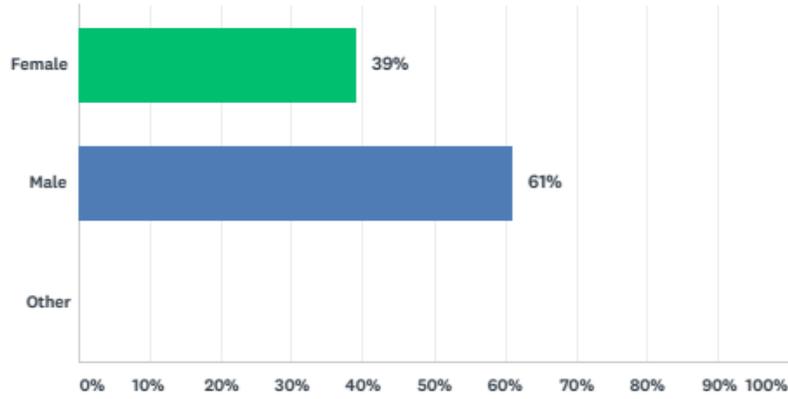


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1993	0%	0
1996	2%	2
1999	6%	8
2003	9%	12
2007	11%	14
2010	22%	29
2013	50%	65
2016	63%	83
Total Respondents: 131		

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Q24 What is your gender?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	39%	51
Male	61%	80
Other	0%	0
TOTAL		131



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