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**The ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity**  
Trondheim, Norway, 2-5 July 2019

## **Making biodiversity matter**

### ***Knowledge and know-how for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework***

#### **Report of the Co-Chairs – Summary**

##### **UNDERSTANDING WHERE WE ARE HEADING AND WHAT THIS IMPLIES**

There are very real concerns over the impacts of loss of biodiversity, and such concerns are increasing. Meanwhile both biodiversity loss and climate change are accelerating due to human expansion, with strong impacts on each other. Despite limited time to respond, there is a strong determination to succeed in halting biodiversity loss, as well as halting global warming and achieving sustainable development. There is a good knowledge base on which to build, both from science and the wealth of experiences – both good and bad – in addressing Aichi Biodiversity Targets over the previous decade.

Using and building on the available knowledge base, including local and indigenous knowledge, is essential for guiding policy and practice, and assessment processes and reports are particularly valuable in compiling and synthesising available knowledge. The wide sharing of assessment findings and discussion on them increases understanding of the findings and their implications for policy development and implementation, including for development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Importantly, the assessments cover not only status and trends, but also response options.

There is clear evidence of the relationship between biodiversity and other key areas of concern for human wellbeing. This reinforces and builds on the increasingly repeated message that there needs to be greater coordination in addressing the different international agendas. It is important both to recognise the roles that biodiversity and ecosystem services play in issues such as climate change and underpinning food security, and the potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services resulting from actions in those sectors.

##### **FURTHER DEVELOPING THE VISION OF WHERE WE NEED TO BE**

Our vision for biodiversity, adopted in 2010, is of a world *“living in harmony in nature”*, where *“by 2050 biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”*. We need a better understanding of what this means in concrete terms, and what is necessary to get there.

There are multiple possible pathways to achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, involving different approaches to production systems, land use planning, regulation and consumer choices. These possible pathways can be investigated through scenario analysis and consideration of ‘nature futures’, and through relating them to the different perspectives of ‘nature for nature’, ‘nature for culture’, and ‘nature for society’. This was addressed through the first of three interactive sessions.

## **MOVING AWAY FROM BUSINESS AS USUAL**

There have been frequent calls for transformative change to address previous lack of progress in addressing biodiversity-related targets. Participants were asked to consider the conference as a ‘transformative space’, helping them to conceptualise change and the potential disruption that was an inevitable part of transformative change. Reference was made to the “rationally articulated despair” of earlier sessions, while calling for creative ideas to help set us on a pathway to the level of change necessary for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity.

Recognising the need for change, there are already examples of actions that are being taken to try to move away from ‘business as usual’. It is important to review, learn from and build on these very real efforts to drive change. This includes efforts by governments, scientific organizations, the private sector and indigenous peoples and local communities.

## **BIODIVERSITY AS PART OF THE SOLUTION**

It is clear that it is important to get multiple actors involved, and to consider how best to develop a coherent and integrated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the context of full understanding of the multiple values of biodiversity, and how it is relevant to multiple agendas. This was addressed in a panel discussion engaging those with experience of other sectors.

## **BUILDING ON GOOD PRACTICE**

Drawing on experience can be a valuable way to learn about what works and what does not work, so the second interactive session focused on lessons learned, and in particular lessons learned with respect to actions, tactics and approaches that would set us on the pathway to achieve the 2050 vision. This was a very participatory exercise, with participants themselves deciding on what needed to be addressed, and what lessons there were to be learnt.

## **BUILDING ON THE EXPERIENCE FROM THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

There is already significant experience in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, and it is important to draw on this experience in developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Much of this experience will be drawn on directly through the process established by the Convention to develop the framework, but it will be important to ensure that all relevant input is taken into account, including that from other processes.

## **RESPONDING TO SOCIETY NEEDS**

There have been repeated calls for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to provide a holistic framing of biodiversity-related goals, targets and/or milestones, responding to broader economic and societal needs. There is therefore a need to consider how diverse stakeholder actions could help build greater ambition and how this could be promoted and facilitated through a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

## **IDENTIFYING WHAT WE NEED TO ACHIEVE THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY**

The third and final interactive session considered in more detail what actually needs to be included in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to deliver the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. This was considered in the context of: addressing thematic issues that may warrant particular attention; the relationship with the SDGs, protocols, and other conventions; how to embed transformative change within the framework; building on the existing framework of NBSAPs and other national commitments; continuing to reflect the diverse perspectives; and strengthening communications.

## **PROMOTING AND FACILITATING ACTION**

When the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is adopted in 2020, Parties to the Convention will also be considering the means for promoting and facilitating action. Putting in place the necessary enabling activities – resource mobilization, capacity-building, technology transfer, technical and scientific cooperation – will be essential. Also essential will be the engagement with multiple stakeholders ranging from governments to NGOs, from IPLCs to the private sector, and from youth to academia.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS FOR CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

Two topics that are essential for effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will also be addressed during discussion on post-2020 and as separate agenda items in Kunming, resource mobilization and capacity-building. While these were not the intended focus of discussion at the Trondheim Conference, they were topics of great concern to participants, coming up again and again throughout the conference. Therefore the key messages arising will be communicated to those working on these topics. Also considered were the implications of conference discussions for future research needs.

## **MAKING BIODIVERSITY MATTER**

During four days of presentations and both formal and informal discussion, a broad range of views were expressed relating to the form and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and on the measures for enabling implementation of that framework. The overarching message was that action is urgent for a whole range of different reasons, and that action to date has been insufficient. As a result there is a clear understanding that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework must promote and facilitate a step change in action on the ground to address biodiversity loss and the associated disruption to ecosystem functions and services. This is essential for realising our vision of living in harmony with nature.