



9th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity 2-5 July 2019

Concept note – draft version November 2018

Since 1993 the Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity have provided valuable opportunities for increasing understanding amongst stakeholders on issues relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Organized by the Norwegian Government, working closely with the CBD Secretariat, the conferences have encouraged open and constructive dialogue, helping to build a sound basis for addressing each of the issues covered. The 9th Trondheim Conference will take place 2-5 July 2019, with the primary focus being support for the ongoing discussions on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The conference will be an opportunity for major players to discuss key issues outside of the negotiation process.

Context

During the UN Biodiversity Conference in Beijing, China in 2020, governments will adopt a new global biodiversity framework to succeed the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and its *Aichi Biodiversity Targets*. The process for developing this new framework will be finalised at the UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2018, but CBD Parties have already indicated that they want to see any post-2020 global biodiversity framework *based on the best available evidence*, drawing on existing work such as the IPBES assessments and analysis of progress in addressing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and where necessary making provision for further sound analytical work and synthesis of lessons learnt. The framework should also be drawing on inputs from multiple sources, responding to the biodiversity-related needs of other conventions and intergovernmental processes, and be related to other ongoing work under the Convention such as indicator development, capacity-building and resource mobilization.

Focus of the Conference

The 9th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity will provide opportunity for participants from all Parties to the Convention and other stakeholders to gain an increased understanding of some of the latest and best available knowledge relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and to consider the implications of this knowledge for development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This would address key issues such as:

- status and trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services, and key drivers of change
- the 2050 Vision for biodiversity, and potential pathways for achieving it
- linkages between biodiversity and other societal needs and aspirations
- lessons learned from implementation of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*
- plausible pathways to reduce, halt and reverse biodiversity loss
- biodiversity-based solutions to societal challenges
- options for short and long term actions for achieving the level of response needed

As part of the CBD process, the CBD Secretariat will in May 2019 have made available for review a discussion paper on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, drawing on views submitted by Parties and observers and on regional consultation meetings taking place in the first quarter of 2019. This will provide valuable input to discussions at the conference, as will preparatory work done for the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* including case studies and other information drawn from the sixth national reports.

The Conference would also be able to draw on the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (which will have been presented in May 2019) and on other assessments produced by IPBES and others, and enable participants to more fully understand the findings of these assessments and to consider the implications of these findings for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The Conference would provide a space for informal discussion and consultations among participants, and in dialogue with experts, to consider the implications of various bodies of knowledge for development of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework, including with respect to:

- possible long term (2050) biodiversity goals and biodiversity-based and biodiversity-friendly transformative pathways for achieving sustainable development
- recognizing the roles that nature plays, and understanding linkages to other societal priorities and challenges, including sustainable development, climate change, health and food
- requirements for formulating effective targets for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including learning from previous experience
- building appetite and ambition for change, recognising tools that might be needed for achieving it, and identifying implications for actions and policies of government, civil society and the private sector

By facilitating a shared understanding of key knowledge areas, the Conference would help ensure that the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is knowledge-based, just and inclusive of all regions and all relevant sectors. More specifically the Conference would help ensure that all Parties can meaningfully engage in the subsequent review of the draft *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and in the discussions, consultations, and negotiations that will shape the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

Modalities of the Conference

The conference will gather up to 450 participants, from governments as well as from relevant organizations and institutions. Drawing on experience from previous Trondheim Conferences, participation will be by invitation only, with efforts taken to ensure balance in participation across gender, regions and areas of experience, and including representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, the scientific community and civil society. All countries will be invited to nominate two delegates.

Importantly, the Conference aims to explore and develop ideas that input to the post 2020 framework but will not seek to reach consensus on targets or other aspects of the framework. Conference modalities will include:

- **presentations** on the state of knowledge and emerging issues from eminent professionals working in the field, and on lessons learnt from people with relevant experiences
- **roundtable discussions** drawing on the presentations, and/or on background papers developed or identified ahead of the Conference and made available to participants
- **moderated panels and plenary discussions**, where the experience of participants can be shared and discussed in the interest of identifying future opportunities
- **use of online and interactive tools** to increase engagement of participants and to increase access by others unable to come to Trondheim

Outputs of the conference will be shared and made available, including a co-chairs summary and presentations and other material made for the conference. Every effort will be made to ensure that the outputs are used to inform subsequent discussion on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Information about the conference will be made available on the conference home page at www.trondheimconference.org.