

Proposal for the first 2018 UN Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the context of Human Security, May 2-3, 2018, IEH II, Geneva

Over the coming three years, governments will need strong support from the UN system to deliver integrated action at the national level that contributes to achieving, by 2020, the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the associated Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets contribute to a 2050 Vision for a world without biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems. The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (November 2018) will consider the long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity. It will also agree on a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and a timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Subsequently in 2020, COP15 will consider the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and achievement of the Biodiversity Targets, and adopt a global framework for its follow-up, post-2020. The post-2020 global framework for biodiversity would need to be aligned with and continue to support and reinforce the SDGs as well as other key frameworks. It will also have to be developed in close collaboration with all stakeholders. Considering the above, it is pertinent to consider the need to initiate discussions among UN entities and member states to contribute to development of the post 2020 biodiversity plan and related goals.

Against this background, the EMG Senior Officials decided at their 23rd meeting to revitalize previous work undertaken by the EMG on biodiversity. It was suggested that a Nexus Dialogue on biodiversity be organized in 2018, to identify areas for an EMG contribution to the acceleration of the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the context of the 2030 Agenda and to the preparation of the post 2020 biodiversity framework.

A brainstorming call was organized by the EMG Secretariat in January 2018 among key actors in the biodiversity arena to consider the Nexus Dialogue and the EMG contribution. Based on the outcome of the brainstorming call and on feedback received by EMG members, it is suggested that the Nexus Dialogue would focus on biodiversity mainstreaming in the context of human security. This Nexus Dialogue is organized in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the support of the Swiss Government.

The human security framework

Human security is a dynamic and practical policy framework for addressing widespread and cross-cutting threats facing Governments and people. The human security framework seeks to reduce the likelihood of conflicts, help overcome the obstacles to development and promote human rights for all.¹ The 1994 Human Development Report broadly defined human security as "freedom from fear and freedom from want", presenting four basic characteristics (universal, people-centered, interdependent and early prevention) and seven key components (economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security) as its main elements.² The examples presented in a Report of the Secretary-General (2014 (A/68/685)) further highlighted the centrality of human security as a universal framework to respond to a wide range of challenges and opportunities in the twenty-first century.³

The EMG Nexus Dialogue

It is proposed that the dialogue considers the link between both marine and terrestrial biodiversity (Aichi targets, SDG 14 and 15) with the key components of human security, presenting lessons learned in mainstreaming/integrating biodiversity in these areas while highlighting success stories of communication in this regard. In doing so the Dialogue will consider how UN agencies and their partners could, during the next three years, further enhance their collaborative and individual efforts to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the associated Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Expected outcomes:

1. To draw attention to the importance and urgency of biodiversity mainstreaming in the context of human security.
2. To explore various examples of how biodiversity has been recognized as a key element in delivering human security, looking at the seven key human security components.
3. To explore success factors / successful narratives for communicating biodiversity in non-traditional and political settings.
4. To explore ways which UN agencies and other stakeholders can effectively contribute to shaping of the post-2020 biodiversity framework.
5. To put biodiversity in the spotlight (for example in connection with the HLPF) through a high-level event/visible launch of reiterated high-level support across the UN system and beyond to the accelerated implementation of the Aichi Targets.

Time and location:

The Dialogue is composed of two separate parts:

¹ <http://www.un.org/humansecurity/human-security-unit/human-security-approach#a3>

² Report of the Secretary-General, Human Security, 8 March 2010 (A/64/701)

³ Report of the Secretary-General, Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 66/290 on human security, 21 January 2014 (A/68/685)

1. Technical part to be held as a two-day event, May 2-3 in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. The high level side-event / biodiversity rally, proposed to be held as a side event during the 2018 HLPF in New York in July (exact details TBD)

Tentative set-up:

Part 1 - Technical discussion:

The technical discussions will take place over two days and will have eight sessions. The sessions will address the key components of human security and wellbeing along with a dedicated session specifically to biodiversity communications. The sessions will each be approximately 75 minutes long, with 3 experts present in a panel discussion. Each expert will make a 5-minute statement followed by discussions in plenary moderated by one of the experts. Each session will follow the same structure, covering what has been done so far, success stories, main challenges, and a wish list for the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

Expected outcome of each presentation:

- What has been done so far by the respected organization to mainstream biodiversity in their practices?
- What are the notable examples of biodiversity mainstreaming in their practices?
- What were the main challenges they faced in the process of biodiversity mainstreaming?
- What would they change in their approach going forward?

Expected outcome of the panel discussion:

- What were the main challenges of mainstreaming biodiversity in this sector and why? Are these challenges specific to this sector?
- What are the root causes of these challenges?
- How can we overcome these challenges and obstacles? What needs to change?
- What are the next steps and how can we ensure facilitating biodiversity mainstreaming in our practices in the next years?

Answering these questions in each session will provide us with information on what has been done, lessons learned, main challenges and practical suggestion on ways to accelerate biodiversity mainstreaming and achieving Aichi targets and the SDGs, as well as suggested adjustments to the post-2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

All sessions will support both SDG 14 and 15. To address the concerns raised regarding the overlap of some of the sessions in the teleconference on February 27, we suggest clustering topics with major interlinkages to have a more natural flow to the Nexus Dialogue. You can see the clusters (political security, security of human needs, security of livelihoods and communications), their sessions and expected content in the following table. This approach will welcome exploring interlinkages and overlaps in each cluster. Also it is important to note that there will be many cross cutting topics that are encouraged to be explored during all sessions (e.g. gender roles, land management, environmental security).

| Session | Content |
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| Day 1 | |
| Opening and introduction 10:00 – 11:00 | Setting the scene for the technical discussions (1:00) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is biodiversity mainstreaming important? • What are the links with the SDGs? • What are the Aichi targets? • How does biodiversity and nature contribute to human security and wellbeing? Setting the scene for the discussions. • Taking stock of UN efforts so far. • Exploring gaps and challenges in biodiversity mainstreaming. |
| Political security 11:15 – 12:30 | Political security (suggested topics: human rights and biodiversity nexus, public participation in biodiversity conservation and the rights of environmental defenders, interlinkages with SDG16) (1:15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity is necessary for ecosystem services that support the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and culture. In order to protect human rights, States have a general obligation to protect ecosystems and biodiversity. Biodiversity around the world is rapidly being degraded and destroyed, with grave and far-reaching implications for human well-being⁴. |
| Lunch 12:30 – 1:15 | |
| Security of human needs 1:15 – 5:30 | Health security (1:15) (suggested topics: conservation medicine and emerging diseases, biodiversity and “One health” approach, ecosystem services and infectious diseases, ecosystem degradation and health, interlinkages with SDG3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is growing concern about the health consequences of biodiversity loss and change. Biodiversity changes affect ecosystem functioning and significant disruptions of ecosystems can result in life sustaining ecosystem goods and services. Biodiversity loss also means that we are losing, many of nature’s chemicals and genes that might provide humankind with enormous health benefits. One of the important linkages between biodiversity and health is through infectious diseases. Human activities are disturbing both the structure and functions of ecosystems and altering native biodiversity, affecting infectious disease reservoirs and transmission including, deforestation; land-use change; water management; resistance to pesticide chemicals used to control certain disease vectors; climate variability and change; migration and international travel and trade; and the |

⁴ A/HRC/34/49, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (19/01/2017)

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| | accidental or intentional human introduction of pathogens ⁵ . |
| | <p>Water security (1:15) (suggested topics: biodiversity and water nexus, biodiversity and international shipping, interlinkages with SDG 6, 2, 3 and 16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The links between the water sector and biodiversity involve both the impacts of the sector on biodiversity and the benefits the sector can receive from the ecosystem services provided by biodiversity. The water sector therefore should have a direct interest in safeguarding biodiversity both for its own use and for that of others. This includes the role international regulations and guidelines play in maintaining and protecting biodiversity. |
| | Coffee Break (0:30) |
| | <p>Food security and nutrition (1:15) (suggested topics: biodiversity, food and nutrition nexus, contribution of diversity to ecosystem functions, food production and land degradation, nutrition and human health, interlinkages with SDG2 and 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food production depends largely on biodiversity and on the services provided by ecosystems. The genetic diversity of crops and livestock, including their wild relatives, are a fundamental resource for the continued improvement of crop varieties and livestock breeds, needed to cope with ongoing changes. Diversity of foods and farming systems is also known to support economic diversity and increase resilience to local or global economic shocks, thereby supporting livelihoods and food security. Biodiversity underpins nutritious and sustainable diets, which are low in environmental impact and contribute to food and nutrition security⁶. |
| Day 2 | |
| Security of Livelihoods 10:00 – 12:30 | <p>Climate Change and ECO DRR (1:15) (Climate Change and biodiversity nexus, negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity, climate change-disaster and biodiversity, the role of biodiversity in DRR, interlinkages with SDG 13, 11 and 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is now widely recognized that climate change and biodiversity are interconnected. Biodiversity is affected by climate change, with negative consequences for human well-being, but biodiversity, through the ecosystem services it supports, also makes an important contribution to both climate-change mitigation and adaptation.⁷ Consequently, conserving and sustainably managing biodiversity is critical to addressing climate change. Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) is the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to reduce disaster risk, with the aim to achieve sustainable and resilient development. Well-managed ecosystems, such as |

⁵ WHO website, Biodiversity (<http://www.who.int/globalchange/ecosystems/biodiversity/en/>), last seen 05/03/2018.

⁶ CBD, Biodiversity for Food Security and Nutrition, Get ready for 2015, N°5 - July 2013 (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/development/news-dev-2015-2013-07-en.pdf>).

⁷ CBD, Climate Change and Biodiversity (<https://www.cbd.int/climate/>).

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| | <p>wetlands, forests and coastal systems, act as natural infrastructure, reducing physical exposure to many hazards and increasing socio-economic resilience of people and communities by sustaining local livelihoods and providing essential natural resources such as food, water and building materials.⁸</p> |
| | <p>Personal security, trade and trafficking of biodiversity (1:15) (suggested topics: management of legal biodiversity trade, BioTrade and biodiversity extraction, illegal trafficking of biodiversity, SDG 8 and 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year, hundreds of millions of plants and animals are caught or harvested from the wild and then sold as food, pets, ornamental plants, leather, tourist curios, and medicine. While a great deal of this trade is legal and is not harming wild populations, a worryingly large proportion is illegal – and threatens the survival of many endangered species. With overexploitation being the second-largest direct threat to many species after habitat loss⁹. These illegal activities not only endanger biodiversity but usually result in criminal networks that threaten security of local communities and human security in general. |
| Lunch 12:30 – 1:15 | |
| Security of Livelihoods (continued) 1:15 – 2:30 | <p>Human security, conflict and migration (1:15) (suggested topics: biodiversity and migration nexus, biodiversity loss and conflict, how loss of ecosystem functions can result in inequality and conflict, link of biodiversity loss and gender roles through conflicts and migration, SDG 16, 1, 10, 8 and 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resources, as well as, biodiversity are critical to the millions of people, especially the ones living in rural areas and depending on agriculture, livestock or forests for their livelihood. Biodiversity loss increases their vulnerability to hunger and poverty; influences their productivity. The sustainable management of their resources however enhances their prospects for better livelihoods; and helps them develop more equitable relations with the rest of their society, thus contributing to justice, peace and sustainable development. |
| Com. 2:30 – 3:45 | <p>Communication strategies (1:15) (suggested topics: biodiversity communication in different contexts, new and expressive narratives, successful communication campaigns in the context of human security, interlinkages with SDG17)</p> |
| Coffee Break 3:45 – 4:15 | |
| Conclusion 4:15 – 5:30 | <p>Summarizing the findings of these two days and setting the scene for HLPF</p> |

⁸ IUCN Eco-Disaster Risk Reduction (<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-ecosystem-management/our-work/cems-thematic-groups/eco-disaster-risk-reduction>).

⁹ WWF website, Unsustainable and illegal wildlife trade, (http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/species/problems/illegal_trade/), last visited 05/03/2018.

Part 2 – high-level segment / biodiversity rally:

Reiteration of high-level support to the implementation of the Aichi Targets, giving visibility to biodiversity as a necessary element in human security with possible involvement of Edward Norton, UN Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity.

Partners and stakeholders for such Dialogues could include, but are not limited to:

1% for the planet
Alliance for Zero Extinction
BirdLife International
CBD
Chair of Ecosystem Management, ETH Zurich
CITES
CMS
Consortium for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), Columbia University
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
Eco Health Alliance
FairTrade
FAO
GEF
GreenPeace
IFAD
IMO
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IPPC
IUCN
Member states
OHCHR
Private sector (A separate list is being prepared)
Rainforest Alliance
Ramsar Convention
RARE
RSPB
UNCCD
UNCTAD
UN DESA
UNDP
UNEP
UNESCO
UNFCCC
UNHCR

WCMC

WCS

WHO

World Bank

World Tourism Organization

WSL

WWF