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Item 11 of the provisional agenda\*

### GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK – FOURTH EDITION

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### INTRODUCTION

1. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties decided that the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-4) should provide a mid-term review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and analyse how the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has contributed to the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals (paragraph 13). The Conference of the Parties further called for a plan for the preparation of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* to be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

2. In considering this plan, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in recommendation XVI/2, emphasized that the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* should address:

(a) The possible policy responses that could be effective in contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(b) The level of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (considering both national commitments, plans and targets adopted by Parties; and the level of implementation on the ground);

(c) How achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets would contribute to the 2050 vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(d) How progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets contributes to the Millennium Development Goals and their 2015 targets;

3. In decision XI/3, the Conference of the Parties, drawing on the detailed guidance on scope and preparatory process provided by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in recommendation XVI/2, took note of a progress report on the preparation of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and requested the Executive Secretary to make a draft available for review at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision XI/3 C, paragraphs 1 and 7 (g)).

\* UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Rev.1.

4. Accordingly, a draft of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* was made available for review during the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as well as for an open peer-review. This draft was prepared on the basis of information from fifth national reports and national biodiversity strategies and action plans updated since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It also drew on a review of scientific literature, information on indicators, through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, information and case studies received from Parties and relevant organizations, a review of published scenarios as well as some new global scenarios and statistical extrapolations of selected indicators to 2020. Its preparation was guided by an advisory group and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was provided with regular progress reports and provided oversight of the preparation process.

5. The Subsidiary Body welcomed the draft of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and prepared recommendation XVIII/1, including a draft decision for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties (see UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Add.2).

6. Subsequently, and in line with recommendation XVIII/I, the Executive Secretary finalized the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, including its underlying technical reports, in consultation with the Advisory Group for the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body, taking into account:

(a) Comments made during the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

(b) Comments provided through the peer-review process;

(c) Information from additional fifth national reports and revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(d) Findings of the executive summary of the Second Report of the High-level Panel on the Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

7. The preparation of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* has been supported by financial or in-kind support from Canada, the European Union, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. The fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* will be officially launched on the opening day of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 6 October 2014, in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea and in multiple other locations. To facilitate preparations by Parties for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, an advance copy of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* has been made available at <https://www.cbd.int/gbo4advance/>.

9. The fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* is also accompanied by two reports in the CBD Technical Series:

(a) Technical Series 78<sup>1</sup> which provides further detailed information on the information, data and analysis which underpin the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, as well as on the methods used in undertaking the assessments;

(b) Technical Series 79,<sup>2</sup> which provides a scenario-based study of opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity in key productive sectors.

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<sup>1</sup> Leadley et al (2014). Technical Series 78 - Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An assessment of biodiversity trends, policy scenarios and key actions. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, previously available for peer-review as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/8.

<sup>2</sup> PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (2014). Technical Series 79 - How sectors can contribute to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, previously available for peer-review as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/9.