



## **Background paper**

# **12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

**6 – 17 October 2014: Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea**

The 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will take place from 6 to 17 October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. The conference will play a key role in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which aims to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020. On 12 October 2014, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization enters into force, so that from 13-17 October 2014 the first meeting of the parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP / MOP 1) will be held parallel to COP 12. From 29 September to 3 October the seventh meeting of the parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which is established under the CBD, will also be held.

## **1. The Convention on Biological Diversity**

Together with the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Desertification (UNCCD) the CBD is one of three treaties under international law that were laid out for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Germany has been a party to the CBD since its entry into force on 29 December 1993. Within the Federal Government, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety is responsible for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Cartagena Protocol entered into force on 11 September 2003. The Cartagena Protocol regulates transboundary movements of genetically modified organisms. Germany was one of its first signatories. The Federal Agriculture Ministry is the lead ministry for the Protocol.

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization was adopted at the 10th COP in Japan. It will enter into force on 12 October 2014. Currently, 52 states and the EU have ratified the Protocol (as of 18 September 2014); the lead ministry is the Federal Environment Ministry.

With its 194 parties (including the EU), the CBD is the most comprehensive binding international agreement on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, both in terms of membership and of its scope and level of ambition.

The Convention has three overarching objectives:

- the conservation of biological diversity (genes, species, habitats),
- sustainable use of its components and
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

For the period 2011 to 2020, a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity was adopted, which includes an ambitious global biodiversity strategy. By 2020, the loss of biodiversity is to be stopped through effective and immediate action. It aims to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential ecosystem services and thus secure the diversity of life on the planet and contribute to human welfare and poverty eradication. For this purpose, the Strategic Plan includes the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 strategic goals with a total of 20 specific targets. The mid-term review of the Strategic Plan and decisions to strengthen its implementation are the focus of this year's COP.

The Conference of the Parties of the CBD takes place every two years. It is the highest political decision-making body of the Convention.

In the intervening two years between meetings, the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and other expert and working groups meet to discuss a variety of topics. For example, in June of this year the 18th meeting of SBSTTA and the 5th meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention were held in Montreal, Canada. In February the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol took place in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. These meetings have drafted recommendations which must now be adopted at the CBD's COP 12 or the COP / MOP 1 of the Nagoya Protocol to become binding.

## **2. Specific topics at COP 12**

Germany has a particular interest in the following topics at COP 12:

### **a. Mid-term review and improvement of implementation: Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**

The fourth report on the state of biodiversity (Global Biodiversity Outlook, GBO-4), which is being published to coincide with the 12th Meeting of the Conference of Parties, will undertake a mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The GBO-4 report paints a mixed picture: Good progress has been made towards achieving some target components of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. For example, there is a high probability that the protection of at least 17% of the land and inland water areas under target 11 will be achieved. In other cases, there will not be enough progress to meet the targets set for 2020. No significant progress is discernible, for example, for target 5: "the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced." For some target components, the international community is even distancing itself from the defined goal; For example, this is likely the case with target 12: "By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained."

Thus, additional efforts are needed to fulfil the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The GBO-4 evaluates the individual components of each Aichi target and recommends key measures to improve target fulfilment. Based on the GBO-4, at COP 12 decisions will be taken on the development of further tools and guidance on the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan. The decisions are to be summarised in the "Pyeongchang Roadmap".

### **b. Biodiversity and Sustainable Development**

The GBO-4 also analyses the contribution of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to achieving the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations in 2015 (MDGs). The eight MDGs were adopted in 2000 and focus on the fight against extreme poverty. The conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are of great importance for poverty reduction and sustainable development. This is because biodiversity provides many of the goods and services that make our lives possible in the first place. Biodiversity is thus the foundation of our lives, because it offers us and future generations opportunities for economic, social and cultural development. Resilience in the face of climate change and natural disasters depends to a large extent on healthy, functioning ecosystems.

Currently, the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations with Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs) is being negotiated as a follow-up process of the MDGs. Germany is working to ensure that the conservation of biological diversity has a prominent, secure place on the global development agenda from 2015.

### **c. Resource mobilisation**

A prerequisite for the implementation of the Strategic Plan is to mobilise sufficient financial resources both at national and international level. At COP 11 in Hyderabad, India, provisional targets for increased funding of the Strategic Plan were adopted: international funding is to be doubled by 2015 compared to the average for the years 2006-2010 and this level is to be maintained until at least 2020. At the national level, by 2015 75% of the states parties are to analyse their financing needs and have established national resource mobilization strategies. At COP 12 final goals are to be adopted.

Chancellor Merkel had pledged a significant increase in international funding from Germany at COP 9 in Bonn in 2008. Compared to the average for the years 2006-2010, the Federal Government has more than doubled its contributions, thereby implementing the objectives of Hyderabad. In accordance with the commitment made by the Chancellor, since 2013 half a billion euros per year are being put towards worldwide biodiversity on a long-term basis. Germany is thus playing a leading role in international biodiversity conservation which is recognised internationally.

### **The German contribution to international biodiversity funding 2006-2013 (in millions of euros)**

The following table provides an overview of annual bilateral and multilateral funding commitments for biodiversity and forest projects whose focus and main goal is to support at least one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Since 2011, shares of other project funding areas are taken into account, provided that the sectoral components contribute directly to the conservation of biodiversity.

|                                                                                               | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development bilateral ODA                       | 65   | 115  | 159  | 183  | 225  | 350 * | 406 * | 388 * |
| Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development multilateral ODA                    | 10   | 10   | 10   | 13   | 37   | 22    | 25    | 42    |
| Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety ICI ** |      |      | 50   | 54   | 38   | 127 * | 104 * | 122 * |
| TOTAL                                                                                         | 75   | 125  | 219  | 250  | 300  | 499   | 533   | 552   |

\* Includes funds from a special fund, which is financed from the proceeds of the emissions trading scheme (Special Energy and Climate Fund);

\*\* Includes ODA funds (Official Development Assistance) and 19.3 million euros of non-ODA funds

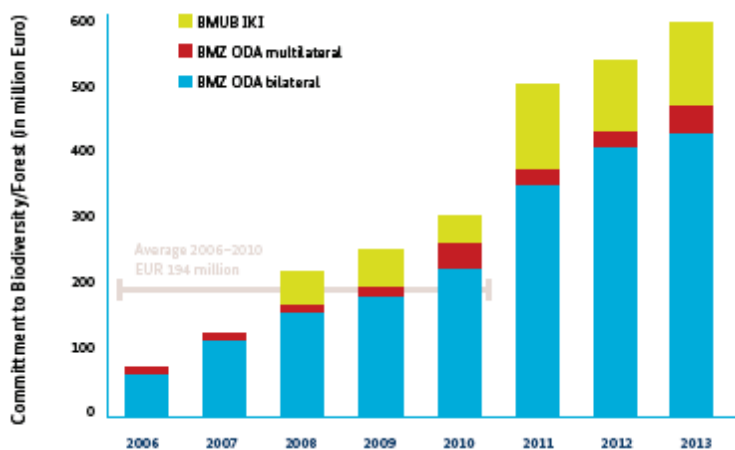


Figure 1: Annual bilateral and multilateral funding commitments for biodiversity and forest projects whose focus and main goal is to support at least one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In line with the preliminary report schema of the Biodiversity Convention, the average value of annual contributions to biodiversity funding 2006 - 2010 was set as the base value.

With the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (<http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/>), the Federal Environment Ministry, in cooperation with the EU and Switzerland, is supporting 20 countries with the establishment of national financing strategies.

#### **d. Marine and coastal nature conservation**

There has been good progress on the issue of marine biodiversity conservation. At the 9th and 10th COP, criteria for Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas, (EBSAs) and a process for their description through regional expert meetings and listing them in a global database of the CBD were adopted. At COP 11 EBSAs from the western and southern Pacific, and from the Caribbean and the south-western Atlantic were entered into the database (<http://ebsa.cbd.int>). For COP 12 the inclusion of numerous other areas in almost all marine regions is sought. EBSAs will then have been described in almost 75% of the world's oceans. The database will be an important scientific basis for the selection of marine protected areas in the future. The identification of EBSAs is especially essential to the process of designating marine protected areas on the high seas, which is overseen by the UN General Assembly. Only if we know which areas are in greatest need of protection will it be possible to ensure a binding protection regime. To address this, a working group established by the UN General Assembly will negotiate on the potential establishment of an Implementing Convention under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The Federal Environment Ministry has provided financial support for the implementation of regional workshops, the development of the database and the development of training modules for the identification of EBSAs. Furthermore, the Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation launched the "Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative - GOBI" ([www.gobi.org](http://www.gobi.org)) a network of scientific institutions that actively support the global process for identifying ecologically significant areas in the world's oceans.

The conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity also plays a central role in the Federal Environment Ministry's international cooperation. Within the framework of the International Climate Initiative (<http://www.international-climate-initiative.com/de/>) partner countries have received support totalling more than 100 million euros in this area since 2008. The project Blue Solutions (<http://bluesolutions.info/>) serves to promote a global exchange of tools and solutions for the marine conservation.

#### **e. Invasive alien species**

Invasive alien species contribute to the loss of biological diversity. Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 therefore places the following obligation on the parties: "By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment." Dealing with the risks posed by the introduction

of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium animals, live bait and live food, as well as the future work of the CBD on invasive alien species will be at the heart of the debate at COP 12. Prior to COP 12 voluntary guidelines were developed to deal with those risks. They are to be adopted at the COP and support the implementation of Aichi Target 9.

#### **f. The Nagoya Protocol**

After years of negotiations the Nagoya Protocol was adopted at COP 10 in Nagoya. The Protocol sets binding standards for dealing with genetic resources, thus promoting transparency and legal certainty. It regulates access to genetic resources and the balanced and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use (access and benefit sharing, ABS). For example, this applies to plants which are found in tropical forests and then used in other countries to make medicines, cosmetics and other products. At the same time, it obliges all countries using genetic resources to ensure that these resources are obtained properly in the country of origin. Through this approach the countries of origin are to receive a fair and equitable share of the profits of products made from “their” genetic resources. In the long term, this system is intended to create economic incentives for the conservation of biodiversity and rare ecosystems.

The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force three months after the fiftieth ratification on 12 October 2014. The Protocol has been developed on a continuous basis since 2010 in a committee of the CBD. The COP / MOP 1 will deal in particular with the recommendations of the third meeting of this committee. The COP / MOP 1 will also provide an important forum to coordinate the national implementation of the protocol in different countries.

Germany signed the Protocol in the summer of 2011, demonstrating the will to implement and ratify it; this is also part of the coalition agreement. The legislative procedure for the implementation and ratification of the Protocol in Germany is currently underway and is at the stage of interdepartmental coordination. The Protocol affects competencies of the EU and the individual member states. It must therefore be implemented in a coordinated Community approach. At European level, it will be implemented by a European Regulation, which was adopted in the spring of 2014 by the bodies of the EU. The EU ratified the Protocol in spring 2014 and can therefore participate in the COP-MOP. Germany will thus be represented by the EU.

### **3. Germany's commitment to the implementation of the Strategic Plan**

#### **a. National Strategy on Biological Diversity**

Germany is implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of the CBD at the national level through the comprehensive and ambitious National Strategy on

Biological Diversity (NBS). In 2007, the Federal Government adopted this strategy, which was drafted under the leadership of the Federal Environment Ministry. The strategy sets out specific visions for the future of nationally important biodiversity-related issues and sets out 330 quality and action targets for these. The target deadlines range from the immediate term through to the year 2050. Around 430 selected measures on the part of both state and non-state stakeholders are grouped in the fields of action. Throughout the strategy paper, equal consideration is given to ecological, economic and social aspects, in keeping with the guiding principle of sustainability.

The implementation of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity integrates all society's stakeholders in a dialogue-oriented implementation process, which began in late 2007 and has since then been continuously active. The components of this process are large annual National Forums, regular Länder forums, youth congresses, various stakeholder-related dialogue forums and the process Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020 (Enterprise Biological Diversity 2020). A municipal alliance for biodiversity emerged from this dialogue process. Founded in 2012, it now includes 100 municipalities. Many of Germany's Länder have now developed their own biodiversity strategies.

The Federal Biological Diversity Programme, launched in 2011, funds projects that play a nationally representative role under the National Strategy on Biodiversity and that implement it in a particularly exemplary and standard-setting fashion. Up to 15 million euros annually is available from the Federal Environment Ministry for projects from four funding priority fields. In addition to this, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research over a period of 6 years is providing additional funds totalling 30 million euros, with which research in projects of the Federal Biological Diversity Programme are promoted. The Federal Government protects the country's natural heritage by transferring nationally representative protected areas that it owns to nature conservation organisations and foundations that care for and develop the areas in accordance with exacting nature conservation requirements. The Federal Defragmentation Programme reconnects habitat corridors previously separated by the interregional road network by building wildlife crossings. In the coalition agreement, the Federal Government has also agreed on a "Bundesprogramm Blaues Band" (Federal Blue Ribbon Programme) for the restoration of rivers and floodplains. With the implementation of restoration measures in the network of Federal waterways, the Federal Government wants to make an important contribution to strengthening the biodiversity of rivers.

The success of the NBS is measured using indicators. The indicators provide a summary of the status and development of biological diversity in Germany. They also provide information on stress factors and on measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Progress in and action required for the design of nature conservation policy and other policies related to the protection of

biodiversity can be clearly seen from the results. The Federal Government publishes a biennial indicator-based report on the situation and trends (launched in 2010) and a comprehensive report on the progress of implementation of the National Strategy on Biodiversity every four years (launched in 2013).

For more information: [www.biologischevielfalt.de](http://www.biologischevielfalt.de)

#### **b. Biodiversity projects of the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety**

Biological diversity has existed as a separate funding area since 2011. Using its International Climate Initiative (ICI), the Federal Environment Ministry promotes projects that support the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 of the CBD. German bilateral cooperation with developing, emerging and transition countries is being expanded in this area and the processes within the CBD are being strengthened. Some projects of the ICI are agreed on with partners in developing and emerging countries and others are selected using an ideas competition.

Since the ICI started operations in 2008 over 130 biodiversity-related projects have been launched to date with a total investment of around 500 million euros. The production and exploitation of the best possible synergies between biodiversity and climate action is a key success factor of these projects.

For more information: [www.international-climate-initiative.com/de/themen/biologische-vielfalt/](http://www.international-climate-initiative.com/de/themen/biologische-vielfalt/)

#### **c. Integration of the economy and businesses**

The potential for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems is strongly linked to consumption and production patterns. The involvement of the economy and businesses as stakeholders is decisive for meeting the goals of the Strategic Plan of the CBD. Therefore, a number of decisions from the last Conference of the Parties are targeted specifically at the role of the private sector. Already in 2008 when it had the CBD Presidency, the German government played a pioneering role and started the international business and biodiversity initiative, a platform for businesses. The initiative was successful. A cross-sectoral institution spun off from the project in 2011. Currently there are 24 members of the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative e. V., mostly international companies of all sizes. This initiative was one of the decisive impulses for developing a global platform for all national and regional initiatives under the auspices of the CBD called the "Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity".

A Business and Biodiversity Forum is integrated into COP 12 from 12-14 October 2014. 'Biodiversity in Good Company' will be represented there by a number of member companies.

For more information: [www.business-and-biodiversity.de](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de)