

CO-CONVENORS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARIES

Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity

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1. Biodiversity is a key component of well-being and sustainable development. Science can greatly help and underpin action to foster biodiversity. The 2010 Target 'lesson' indicates that a new strategy to deal with the biodiversity crisis is needed, as reflected in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets. This new strategy encompasses the contribution of biodiversity science, as reflected in Target 19 of the Strategic Plan.¹
2. Biodiversity science needs to become more solution-oriented and policy relevant. Dialogues and networking efforts involving scientists and other stakeholders (policy-makers, public authorities, the private sector, etc.) provide an important tool to improve the biodiversity policy-making process. Ultimately, biodiversity science should be driven by societal needs and become an integral part of a new contract between science and society as exemplified by the Future Earth initiative.
3. There are already measures at our disposal that can be implemented effectively in order to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem services for human well-being and sustainable development. Ecosystem restoration provides a means of reducing CO₂ concentrations and also enhancing biodiversity conservation and should be promoted actively. Biodiversity science can greatly assist biodiversity-friendly production systems as exemplified by agroforestry systems.
4. In order to better inform society's choices, biodiversity science needs to improve its capacity to:
(i) develop a strong social science component to deal with public attitudes and behaviors, governance and other social sciences dimensions of biodiversity and ecosystem services; (ii) achieve an appropriate and effective level of integration between the natural and social

¹ **Target 19** – By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

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components of biodiversity science; (iii) observe: rely on an integrated global observing system for biodiversity and ecosystem services with global coverage; (iv) predict occurrence of thresholds and tipping points and build models to predict future biodiversity and ecosystem changes as a function of various societal choices; and (v) 'respond': biodiversity science can and should inform appropriate development interventions and provide the scientific knowledge, including on the value of ecosystem services, needed to design the 'wise policies' necessary to avoid, limit or mitigate thresholds and tipping points while reflecting acceptable trade-offs among ecosystem services.

5. Opportunities for synergies between STI policies and biodiversity science and policies do exist and should be capitalized upon, including education and capacity-building measures aimed at reducing the uneven distribution of sustainability science world-wide. Together with effective STI policies, biodiversity science can contribute significantly to poverty reduction, which is a top priority of the sustainable development agenda.