



Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Hyderabad, India. 8-19 October 2012

BirdLife International's Position on Selected Agenda Items

COP 11 is the first Conference of Parties since COP 10 in Nagoya in 2010, which marked the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the associated 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In Hyderabad, Parties will review implementation of the Plan and progress towards the Aichi Targets, including through the establishment of national targets and development and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and within broader global sustainability goals, as well as sufficiently resourcing actions needed to achieve the targets, remain major challenges that require significant attention at COP 11.

BirdLife International's own Strategy, built around the pillars of species, sites, habitats and people, is directly linked to and fully supportive of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. This document presents BirdLife's main asks of Parties at COP 11 on the following selected agenda items:

- **Review of progress in implementation, including the establishment of national targets and the updating of National Strategies and Action Plans (Agenda item 3.1)**
- **Further development of tools and guidance for monitoring implementation, including the use of indicators (Agenda item 3.3)**
- **Review of implementation of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, including the establishment of targets (Agenda item 4.1)**
- **Business and Biodiversity (Agenda item 5.3)**
- **Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity (Agenda Item 8) and Invasive Alien Species (Agenda item 13.9)**
- **Identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine and Coastal Areas (EBSAs) (Agenda item 10.1)**
- **Other matters related to marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 10.2)**
- **Advice on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity with regard to REDD and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (Agenda item 11.1)**
- **Biodiversity and Development (Agenda item 12)**

SUMMARY

REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TARGETS AND THE UPDATING OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

BirdLife urges Parties to recognise the importance of NBSAPs as the guiding mechanism to implement the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 at national level, and to continue to develop and/or revise NBSAPs with national conservation targets and indicators to measure progress, including mainstreaming biodiversity into all sectors.

INDICATORS

BirdLife calls on Parties to adopt the indicative list of indicators to assess progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and use them, as a reference, to guide national monitoring activities in the context of their NBSAPs.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL MECHANISM

BirdLife emphasizes the importance and urgency of full implementation of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, including the agreement of funding targets at COP-11, to ensure meaningful progress towards adequately financing the implementation of the Aichi Targets. While precise figures are not available, existing financial needs assessments from national, regional and global levels already indicate that hundreds of billions of dollars per year are needed to implement the Aichi Targets successfully. We urge Parties to scale up the mobilization of resources from all sources and the CBD Secretariat to develop guidance on matching the funding needs for each Aichi Target with the most appropriate funding source.

MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

● Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas –EBSAS

BirdLife urges Parties to endorse the list of the EBSAs and approve their inclusion in the repository and information-sharing mechanisms that will inform decisions from competent international bodies to manage and protect those areas.

● Fisheries

BirdLife calls on Parties to integrate biodiversity within national fisheries policies and to work regionally and internationally, through their representatives to fisheries agencies, for the

principles and objectives of the CBD to be followed. We call on Parties urgently to demonstrate full commitment to maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield, as agreed in Johannesburg 2002 and Rio 2012; and to avoid fisheries activities detrimentally impacting threatened species, including through bycatch. We call on Parties and the CBD Secretariat to develop specific guidelines for biodiversity safeguards and collaborative support for fisheries activities and agencies.

REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ISLAND BIODIVERSITY – PoWIB

BirdLife urges Parties to significantly increase efforts to implement the PoWIB and to direct special attention to the management and eradication of invasive alien species as a significant contribution to Targets 9 and 12 of the Strategic Plan.

BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

BirdLife calls on Parties to mainstream biodiversity into poverty eradication and development strategies and programmes, and to welcome the guidance produced by the CBD, including the Dehradun Recommendations, in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND RELATED ISSUES

BirdLife urges Parties to the CBD to recognise and embrace their essential role in providing advice on the scientific basis for REDD+ safeguards, and on the relevant indicators for monitoring and assessing the contributions of REDD+ to achieving the objectives of the CBD. Strengthened synergies between the CBD and UNFCCC on REDD+ are required at national levels to ensure natural systems benefit and biodiversity is conserved and not impacted negatively through REDD+ activities.

BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

Recognizing that the objectives of the Convention will only be achieved with the full participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector, BirdLife calls on Parties to establish national mechanisms to hold businesses responsible for contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Targets. We call for the CBD Secretariat to continue its work to develop best practices for a varied set of business activities.



FULL POSITIONS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TARGETS AND THE UPDATING OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (AGENDA ITEM 3.1)

At COP 10 in Nagoya 2010, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Strategic Plan provides a comprehensive global framework for achieving the vision of 'Living in Harmony with Nature', including the 20 headline Aichi Targets for 2015 or 2020. An essential next step is to translate the Strategic Plan to the national level – through new or revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). For many countries, developing NBSAPs to address the Aichi Targets may not be an easy task. A broad range of actions is needed, and these need to be integrated across economic sectors and coordinated across governments, business and civil society.

BirdLife calls on Parties to:

- ⇒ **Recognise the importance of NBSAPs as the guiding mechanism to implement the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 at national level, and to continue to develop and/or revise NBSAPs as an opportunity to define national conservation targets and indicators to measure progress**
- ⇒ **Enhance efforts to implement the NBSAPs and periodically report to the CBD Secretariat on progress – as a way of allowing for global assessment of the status of biodiversity**
- ⇒ **Increase financial support to developing countries and small island developing states to allow for implementation of NBSAPs**
- ⇒ **Recognise the fundamental importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral policies, and use the development and implementation of NBSAPs as an entry point to promote inter-sectoral planning and integrated implementation**
- ⇒ **Value and facilitate the continued capacity building efforts of the CBD Secretariat and the collaborative work of partners, including NGOs, international organizations and other stakeholders in supporting countries in effective implementation of the NBSAPs**

BirdLife's contribution: Globally, BirdLife is the CBD's International Thematic Focal Point for birds for the Clearing House Mechanism, an information service for promoting technical cooperation and knowledge exchange. The BirdLife Partnership (of over 115 conservation national organisations) holds detailed information on birds and makes this widely accessible to help national governments, businesses and others to implement and monitor the CBD and its programmes of work. The Country Profiles, recently launched (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country>), are a detailed breakdown of BirdLife's global datasets for each country and territory, available to Parties to help them in their national NBSAP development and implementation.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLS AND GUIDANCE FOR MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING THE USE OF INDICATORS (AGENDA ITEM 3.3)

CBD Parties have been invited to set their own national targets, taking into account national needs and priorities and capacities, as a contribution to achieving the 20 Aichi Targets within the Strategic Plan. At COP 10 Parties requested the CBD Secretariat to develop applicable indicators against each Aichi Target to assess progress in achieving the goals of the Strategy. An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Working Group (AHTEG) was established to provide guidance on monitoring of the Strategy. The AHTEG developed an indicator framework based on four policy questions (structured around pressure/state/response/benefits), 12 headline indicators, and various operational indicators (specific indicators for each of the 20 Aichi Targets). Some suggested indicators are for global use, and some for national use. SBSTTA 15 assessed this framework and recommends it to COP11 for adoption.

BirdLife International calls on Parties to:

- ⇒ **Adopt the indicative list of indicators to assess progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020**
- ⇒ **Invest in identifying baseline information against each indicator, so progress can be measured**
- ⇒ **Acknowledge the contribution of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) to the development of indicators, and facilitate further financial support for BIP to update the indicators and to develop guidance on adapting national data towards global indices**

In addition, BirdLife stresses the need for:

- **National prioritization and adaptation of the global indicators**
- **Capacity building to allow Parties to collect and compile data**
- **Allocation of increased financial resources to monitoring activities**

BirdLife's contribution: BirdLife will launch at COP 11 a guide on how birds and BirdLife can help to set targets at the national level, focus and undertake actions to meet these targets, and provide data to monitor success. Birds are better known than any other comparable group of organisms. We have unparalleled information on species extinction risks, the threats they face, actions needed, and critical sites that need safeguarding. These data can help to focus and target actions to tackle biodiversity loss. BirdLife is a Key Indicator Partner of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, has had a major role in the development and implementation of two widely applicable biodiversity indicators, the Red List Index and the Global Wild Bird Index, and is ready to support the CBD in any further development of indicators as required.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL MECHANISMS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TARGETS (AGENDA ITEM 4.1)

BirdLife International has developed a joint policy position for this agenda item with Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and WWF. The full text is available as a separate document. In summary this joint paper calls on Parties to:

⇒ Set Meaningful Funding Targets:

- Commit to a 20% compounded annual increase in “international financial flows” from 2013 to 2020, as a minimum and meaningful step towards closing the funding gap
- Agree to a 10% compounded annual increase in domestic funding for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets from 2013-2020, recognizing the need for support of an assessment in developing countries of the available domestic biodiversity funding
- Welcome the results of both the High-Level Panel global assessment and the funding needs assessments for the GEF-6 replenishment, and make use of the results to set meaningful targets to mobilize financial resources from all appropriate sources
- Request the High Level Panel to continue its work to develop a more precise estimate for further consideration at COP12

⇒ Agree Prerequisites for Resource Mobilization Targets:

- Endorse the use of the average annual biodiversity funding for the period 2006-2010 as the baseline for resource mobilization
- Adopt the revised reporting framework, as given in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/ADD1, with plans for its review based on experiences in its application by Parties. Parties, agencies and other institutions should allocate funds to facilitate compliance with the reporting process

⇒ Take Actions to Ensure the Use of Multiple Sources of Funding:

- Endorse WGRI 4 Recommendation UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/2, para 13 to consider all possible sources and means that can help to meet the level of resources needed, as well as proposed text from UNEP/CBD/COP/11/14 para 8 to consider appropriate environmental and social safeguards for innovative financial mechanisms

- Ask the CBD Secretariat to develop options and tools for Parties that enable them to match funding needs for each Aichi Target with the most appropriate funding source, while also considering synergies among them

⇒ Agree Timelines for Financial Plans and Reporting:

- Decide that all Parties should by 2014 have reported on their domestic biodiversity financing, completed and made public their national level needs assessments, and prepared their national financial plans for achieving the Aichi Targets

⇒ Enhance National Capacity:

- Adopt recommendation in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1/ADD2 to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance national administrative and managerial capacities, in order to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of the international and national financial flows
- Report on the impacts of new and additional financial mechanisms applied in their country and ensure that the proper regulatory frameworks are set in place, such as appropriate social and environmental safeguards

BirdLife’s contribution: An international team of authors led by scientists from BirdLife International and the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK), has produced the first authoritative information on the financial costs of meeting two of the Aichi Targets that are most urgent: saving species (Target 11) and protecting sites (Target 12). The study ‘Financial Costs of Meeting Two Global Biodiversity Conservation Targets: Current Spending and Unmet Needs’, to be published in the journal *Science*, shows that a substantial increase in investment in conservation is urgently required. The results of this study have fed into the report of the High Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which will inform discussions at COP11.

REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ISLAND BIODIVERSITY (AGENDA ITEM 8) AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (AGENDA ITEM 13.9)

The Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity (PoWIB) was adopted by COP8 (Dec VIII/1). Its goal is to reduce significantly the rate of island biodiversity loss as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the sustainable development of islands, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS). COP9 requested an in-depth review of this PoW, including an assessment of work to date to guide Parties in taking decision towards its further implementation. SBSTTA 16 assessed the report and recommends its adoption at COP11.

Island biodiversity has been subject to intense pressure from various sources, including from invasive alien species (IAS), also affecting food security, human and animal health and island economies particularly among agricultural and subsistence-based economies. IAS is a cross-cutting programme within the CBD with high importance for the PoWIB.

BirdLife International urges Parties to:

⇒ **Reach agreement on all six priority areas of action identified, namely: the management and eradication of invasive alien species, climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities, establishment and management of marine protected areas, capacity-building, access to, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation**

⇒ **Utilise innovative financial mechanisms to support implementation of the PoWIB**

Specifically on invasive alien species BirdLife calls on Parties to:

⇒ **Recognise the need to identify islands where the eradication of invasive alien species is a priority within the PoWIB and take action to restore natural habitats**

BirdLife supports SBSTTA Recommendation XV/4 on IAS and calls on Parties to:

⇒ **Integrate invasive species threats into their actions and policies**

⇒ **Provide dedicated staff and budgets for invasive species management, including enhanced biosecurity, eradication and control**

⇒ **Share knowledge and skills with other countries in their region**

⇒ **Request donors to recognise that invasive species management is a priority for most of the Pacific and some Caribbean Island Parties**

BirdLife's contribution: BirdLife is a member of the Global Island Partnership, established at CBD COP8 to help deliver the PoWIB, and participated in the in-depth review process of the PoWIB to be presented to SBSTTA 16/COP11. BirdLife is working with others to identify priority islands for eradication of invasive alien species. BirdLife also engages closely with several regional invasive alien species initiatives, including the Pacific Invasives Initiative and the Pacific Invasives Learning Network.

MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY (AGENDA ITEM 10)

ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS (EBSAS) (AGENDA ITEM 10.1)

BirdLife's detailed position on this agenda item can be found at www.birdlife.org (check the URL with comms). In summary this paper addresses the following:

COP 10 reiterated the commitment of the CBD to describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in the open oceans and deep seas based on scientific and technical information and in accordance with international law including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. COP10 mandated the CBD Secretariat to convene expert workshops to contribute to the description of EBSAs and to establish a repository mechanism for scientific and technical information and experience related to the application of the scientific criteria on the identification of such areas. Regional workshops have been convened and SBSTTA 16 agreed their outputs be included in the repository mechanism and submitted to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

BirdLife International:

⇒ **Congratulates the CBD Secretariat for leading the EBSA process and the regions for their widespread participation in these new collaborative efforts towards describing EBSAs**

⇒ **Calls on Parties at COP11 to endorse those EBSAs described in the expert workshops (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XVI/4 para. 5) and approve their inclusion within the repository mechanism called for at COP10 (UNEP/CBD/DEC/X/29)**

⇒ **Requests Parties to further mandate the CBD Secretariat to inform and encourage organisations mentioned in paragraph 12 of Recommendation XVI/4 to utilise the information available in the repository and information-sharing mechanism in their respective decision-making and reporting processes**

⇒ **Urges Parties to approve the submission of the results of the EBSA expert workshops to the UNGA, the Working Group on Conservation of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction and other relevant stakeholders**

⇒ **Urges COP11 to reaffirm its commitment to the EBSAs process through pledging financial support for capacity building and approve the undertaking of a further round of proposed expert workshops to describe EBSAs**

⇒ **Calls on Parties to make use of the guidance to integrate relevant traditional knowledge with the technical and scientific knowledge on the process of the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs, mainly for EBSAs located in coastal areas**

These actions through the CBD will also contribute to global commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to address, on an urgent basis, the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction, under the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (UN General Assembly, Resolution 66/288 - The future we want).

BirdLife's contribution: BirdLife has provided substantial and robust scientific information to guide the description of EBSAs. This includes all available seabird data for the regions mentioned, analysed and presented as a list of marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for consideration within the EBSAs process. BirdLife has also contributed to the EBSA process through its extensive Marine IBA toolkit, developed in consultation with BirdLife Partners and leading seabird researchers around the world. BirdLife will launch an e-Atlas of marine IBAs at COP11.

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND RELATED ISSUES (AGENDA ITEM 11)

ADVICE ON THE APPLICATION OF RELEVANT SAFEGUARDS FOR BIODIVERSITY WITH REGARD TO REDD+ AND THE ROLE OF CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST AND ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST CARBON STOCKS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (AGENDA ITEM 11.1)

At COP10 (Decision X/33), the Executive Secretary was requested to (i) provide advice for Parties to be approved by COP11 on relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity; and (ii) identify possible indicators and mechanisms to monitor and assess the impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity and assess potential mechanisms to monitor impacts on biodiversity from these and other ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation measures, and to report on progress to the SBSTTA. The CBD Secretariat has addressed these requests by conducting studies and workshops. SBSTTA 16 recommended that COP11 recognise biodiversity and social safeguards for REDD+ (whilst not pre-empting any UNFCCC decision on safeguards) and a list of indicators to monitor impacts of REDD+ activities on biodiversity. With adequate and timely application of safeguards, REDD+ has the potential to contribute significantly to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the achievement of its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

BirdLife International welcomes the work of the CBD with respect to biodiversity safeguards in the development and implementation of REDD+. BirdLife calls on Parties to:

- ⇒ **Recognise and embrace CBD's essential role in providing advice on the application of REDD+ biodiversity safeguards, including the provision of relevant indicators for monitoring and assessing the contributions of REDD+ to achieving CBD objectives**
- ⇒ **Utilise the list of indicators for monitoring and assessing the contributions and impacts of REDD+ on achieving CBD objectives**
- ⇒ **Promote inter-sectoral approaches to REDD+ to ensure the effective application of biodiversity safeguards**
- ⇒ **Address REDD+ safeguards in all phases of REDD+ planning and activity**
- ⇒ **Ensure REDD+ measuring, reporting and verification includes measures (positive and negative) of REDD+ activities on biodiversity**
- ⇒ **Ensure that the risks to biodiversity resulting from displacement of deforestation of areas with low carbon values to areas of high biodiversity values are fully considered**
- ⇒ **Further support capacity building efforts across developing countries to address safeguards and to fully integrate biodiversity concerns in the planning and implementation of REDD+ strategies and activities**
- ⇒ **Work to strengthen synergies on REDD+ safeguards between the CBD and UNFCCC at national levels to maximise the benefits of REDD+ activities**

BirdLife's contribution: The BirdLife Partnership is monitoring the impacts of climate change on bird populations and developing ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation. BirdLife advocates the adoption of robust REDD+ safeguards within the UNFCCC negotiations on the REDD+ mechanism, and for strengthened synergies between the Rio Conventions to ensure the needs and role of biodiversity are recognised.

BirdLife is a Partnership of national, membership-based environmental organisations in over 115 countries and territories around the world. BirdLife works for a world rich in biodiversity, with people and nature living equitably, sustainably and in harmony. Through a focus on birds, BirdLife acts for nature and for people, sharing perspectives and solutions that are founded on local experience but connect across borders and barriers. The BirdLife Strategy 2013–2020, built around the pillars of species, sites and habitats, sustainability and people, is directly linked to and fully supportive of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity



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