



**Statement by Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema  
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**at the High-level Political Forum 2022**

**“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

**SDGs in focus:**

**SDG 15 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Life on land**

***What concrete measures can help reshape the human-nature relationship and set development on a more sustainable path? How can we build momentum for action around the post-2020 global biodiversity framework?***

**11 July 2022**

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***Thank you, Mr. Moderator.***

On behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, I am delighted to contribute to this panel on SDG 15 and interlinkages with other SDGs, Life on Land.

First of all, please allow me to express my sincere thanks to the Vice President of the Economic and Social Council and the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) for convening this interactive panel discussion with distinguished panel members.

As you are aware, the SDGs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been mutually supportive and reinforcing, and therefore the implementation of one has contributed to the achievement of the other. As such, this panel discussion is very relevant and timely, in particular at the time when the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is reaching its advanced stage of negotiation under the Convention on Biological Diversity. While this process has been delayed due to COVID-19 Global Pandemics in past two years, I am happy to inform you that the second part of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties will take place at the seat of the Secretariat, in Montreal, Canada, this December, and will consider the draft Framework to be submitted by its Open-Ended Working Group.

***Distinguished Delegates,***

As you are well aware, in addition to SDGs 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land) where biodiversity is explicitly highlighted, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are reflected directly in many of the targets within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and also underpin a much wider set of Goals.



National reports provided by CBD Parties have shown some levels of progress on certain targets, with overall insufficient level of progress, in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, published in 2020 by the CBD Secretariat, revealed significant gaps between the level of ambition in country commitments to address the Aichi Biodiversity Targets nationally, and the actions to reach those commitments. Our analysis of the data in national reports is broadly consistent with the indicator-based analysis at the global level.

Despite limited global achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook documented important actions in the past decade, which generated successful outcomes relevant to the SDG 15. For example, progress was noted for the actions incorporating biodiversity values into national accounting systems (Target 2); a declining global deforestation rate by about a third compared to the previous decade (Target 5); increasing number of successful eradication cases of invasive alien species from islands, and of targeted priority species and pathways to avoid future invasive species introductions (Target 9); and the entering into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, with 136 Parties to date (Target 16). Further, the coverage of terrestrial and inland water protected areas, including other effective area-based conservation measures, has increased significantly over the past decades to close to 17%. The coverage of key biodiversity areas by protected areas have also increased from 29% in 2000 to 43% in 2019 (Target 11).

Experiences over the last decade provide lessons relevant to the future implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. As such, in developing this Framework, steps are being taken to integrate holistic approaches for planning and implementation, with greater interactions among relevant government ministries, economic sectors, civil society groups, and society in general. Work is also underway to strengthen further integration of genders, the role of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the level of youth and stakeholder engagement to drive a whole of society movement. Whole-of-government policy instruments that strengthens national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and an associated monitoring, reporting and review framework, with agreed indicators, are also under negotiation. Further enabling conditions include a full package of means of implementation commensurate with the level of ambition for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Success will depend on resource mobilization, capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer, as well as long-term approaches for mainstreaming.

The process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework cannot merely seek to remediate and soften the negative impacts of unsustainability. Our attention today must focus on sustainability transitions in relevant economic sectors and societal systems. This requires understanding the interlinkages of SDG15 with other SDGs and identifying actions that build on those interlinkages to expedite the systemic shifts and synergies needed to meet present and future needs, and to mitigate unforeseen challenges.

These interlinkages and interdependencies, inter-woven with economic and governance complexities, make achieving SDG15 an intricate global challenge. So, we must leverage integrated approaches to address sustainable consumption and production, climate change, gender equality, quality education, good governance, and other interlinked issues that impact the implementation of SDG15. Sustained results can only be achieved if we address common underlying drivers through systemic approaches.

Strong leadership from distinguished delegates and representatives of non-State actors is therefore critically needed to incentivize new ways of production and consumption, reorient economic development pathways, and repurpose available financial resources towards an economy within ecological limits, while still improving the state of the environment, bending the curve of biodiversity loss, and creating opportunities for societal well-being and prosperity in the long-term.

The CBD Secretariat stands ready to contribute to this important work in this decisive decade of action.

Thank you for your attention.

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