

# UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE: IMPLICATIONS FOR EXTRACTIVES



## UPDATES FOR PROTEUS PARTNERS FROM THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (COP14)

The UN Biodiversity Conference took place in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018. These Conferences inform, and are informed by, national policies. They shape the global biodiversity agenda, and are therefore likely to have a material impact on the extractives sector. Here, we summarise some of the decisions of relevance to Proteus Partners.

### OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE

The theme of COP14 was ‘Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet’. With agenda items including **mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors**, many discussion topics at the Conference were of direct relevance to Proteus Partners. While agreement across Parties was evident for some of the items discussed, others were subject to discussion and debate.

There were positive steps for **cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives**. Most notably, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity looked for ways to foster joined up thinking, efficiency and systems-level solutions with the other two **Rio Conventions**<sup>1</sup> (the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

There was broad agreement on **spatial planning, protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures**, and **the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators**, with few interventions or

#### BOX 1: WHAT IS THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY?

The Convention is the main intergovernmental agreement on biodiversity and ecosystem services. With 195 states and the European Union party to the agreement, it has three objectives: *‘the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources’*<sup>2</sup>.

More information can be found on the **Convention’s website**<sup>3</sup>.

comments from Parties on the draft decision text. However, the text on **Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)**, under agenda item 25 on **marine and coastal biodiversity**, generated debate.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/rio/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-sustain-en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/>

## KEEPING PROTEUS PARTNERS UP TO DATE

This is the first of a series of planned briefing notes and webinars on the Convention on Biological Diversity, including progress towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and opportunities for engagement.



The entrance to the UN Biodiversity Conference. Photo Credit: Matt Jones, UNEP-WCMC.

EBSAs can be a controversial topic for a number of reasons, including issues of sovereignty, jurisdiction and disputed territories.

COP14 also saw a [review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#). This highlighted the importance of resource mobilization and engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). The private sector was explicitly included among the stakeholders that would need to be engaged for effective implementation.

The important links between [biodiversity and climate change](#) were also discussed, with voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches (sometimes referred to as nature-based solutions) annexed to the decision text.

Other important topics of discussion included: traditional knowledge, innovations and practices; resources and finances; capacity-building; knowledge management and communication; genetic resources; sustainable wildlife management; invasive alien species; and synthetic biology.

Throughout the Conference, the need to involve relevant stakeholders was highlighted, particularly indigenous

peoples and local communities. Specific reference was also made to the private sector.

Two agenda items at COP14 were of key relevance to Proteus Partners and are explored further below: the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and mainstreaming biodiversity into sectors.

The final text for the 37 decisions adopted at COP14 can be found [here](#)<sup>4</sup>.

### POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Agenda item 17 was on the [long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, approaches to living in harmony with nature and preparation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#). The post-2020 global biodiversity framework will replace the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#)<sup>5</sup>.

The framework is relevant to Proteus Partners because it is expected to: provide context, direction and targets for national and international action on biodiversity up to 2030; influence national policy and action with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services; place

#### BOX 2: THE ROAD TO COP15

**The Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) will be held in China in the last quarter of 2020. More information will be made available on the Conference of the Parties [webpage](#)<sup>6</sup> once the details are confirmed.**

**There will be a series of events and consultations in the run up to COP15, some of which will feed in to the post-2020 biodiversity framework. Information on key meetings is given in the [Post-2020 Timeline Tool](#)<sup>7</sup>.**

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2018/cop-14/documents>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/cop/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://post2020.unep-wcmc.org/>

### BOX 3: CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

The Convention on Biological Diversity's Clearing-house Mechanism was set up with the aim to promote and facilitate knowledge sharing and information exchange related to the work of the Convention. It comprises: a 'central node' in the form of the Convention's website; a network of national Clearing-house Mechanisms; and various partner institutions.

It may be used as a tool for business and other stakeholders to participate in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Visit the [Clearing-house Mechanism webpage](#)<sup>8</sup> or [Information Submission Service](#)<sup>9</sup> for more information.

biodiversity in the context of other relevant global agendas, increasing coherence in national action; and provide a framework for action at all levels and in all relevant sectors. The focus of the decision at COP14 was the process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, rather than the content.

An open ended working group was established to develop the framework, which will involve dedicated intergovernmental meetings over the next two years. Two co-chairs from Uganda and Canada were appointed, and tasked to work with other stakeholders to develop a timeline for the process.

There was also [explicit reference to engaging the private sector](#) in this process and recognition of the outcomes of the Business and Biodiversity Forum as an official source of information.

A number of documents will be circulated for review by governments and other stakeholders (including the private sector) during the process. The first discussion document on the format and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to be available in early 2019. The [Clearing-house Mechanism](#) (see Box 3) was identified as a means to facilitate business and other stakeholder input.

The decision coming out of COP14 therefore appears to be taking a business-inclusive approach to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. At the end of COP14, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework development process was adopted as ongoing for the next two years.

### MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY WITHIN AND ACROSS SECTORS

The concept of "mainstreaming biodiversity" originally focused on development policy. It looked at how biodiversity could be included across a number of national policies and laws to achieve sustainable development outcomes.

The decision in Egypt at COP14 on [mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors](#) builds on the decision at COP13 in Mexico two years ago. It cements a change towards actively targeting certain business sectors in this process. Finding ways to mainstream biodiversity into the [energy and mining sector](#) (among others) has therefore been a key topic for the Convention on Biological Diversity in the run up to COP14.

Discussions at the Conference indicate a high level of interest in this agenda item with 42 Parties speaking on topics including the importance of: Environmental Impact Assessments; the mitigation hierarchy; indicators and metrics to support assessments; capacity building; and making mainstreaming biodiversity into economic sectors a central pillar of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

An [Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity](#) was also established. This is potentially important for business as it includes provision for private sector involvement and representation.

During non-party interventions at COP14 on the mainstreaming agenda item, IPIECA highlighted the work they and leading companies are doing to address biodiversity impacts, and the need for [robust, long-term strategic planning by governments](#) to support

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/chm>

<sup>9</sup> <https://chm.cbd.int/>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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A representative of IPIECA speaking from the floor at the UN Biodiversity Conference. Photo Credit: Matt Jones, UNEP-WCMC.

corporate mitigation. While business engagement was broadly seen as a positive step, one observer questioned the role of companies at COP.

### OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

The [Business and Biodiversity Forum](#)<sup>10</sup> was held immediately before COP14 and in parallel with the [High-level Segment](#)<sup>11</sup>. The Forum provided an opportunity to discuss the role business can play in mainstreaming biodiversity into sectors, and the importance of business engagement in developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Around 50 participants from across government, non-governmental organisations and businesses (including representation from Proteus Partners) attended the [Leader's Breakfast](#)<sup>12</sup>, convened by UN Environment, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and UNEP-WCMC on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

A number of Proteus Partners and other private sector representatives were also involved in [side events](#)<sup>13</sup> and

the [Rio Conventions Pavilion](#)<sup>14</sup> at the Conference. These activities raised awareness of the work the sectors are doing around biodiversity management and the key challenges faced by businesses when mainstreaming biodiversity in their operations.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into business sector regulation, planning, operations and behaviour is now well established as a mechanism to meet the objectives of the Convention.
- The post-2020 global biodiversity framework process should be highly consultative, including inputs from business and the finance sector.
- Steps are being taken to increase coordination among the three Rio Conventions, linking discussions on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation.
- Transformational change, in terms of biodiversity outcomes, the drivers of biodiversity loss and the way we account for nature, was a big focus.
- Opportunities for business to engage with the Convention in the run up to COP15 include:
  - participating in the working group for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
  - joining the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity; and
  - responding to calls for inputs into documents (e.g. through the Clearing-house Mechanism).

## PROTEUS Q&A WEBINAR

UNEP-WCMC will be holding a webinar Q&A session for Proteus Partners on THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018. Please join us if you have any questions or would like to share your experiences.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/business/meetings-events/2018/default.shtml>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2018/cop-14-hls/documents>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-14/parallel-meetings/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/side-events/past>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.riopavilion.org/cbd-cop14-egypt/>