

**Statement made by DIVERSITAS to the CBD COP12 High level segment
(Short version)
Panel 3: Nature-based Solutions to Global Challenges**

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair
Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

DIVERSITAS is the international global scientific programme dedicated to biodiversity science, under the auspices of UNESCO and ICSU.

DIVERSITAS would like to highlight two CBD-related activities, discussed in the context of COP12, in which we have been honoured to be involved, and which demonstrate the opportunities biodiversity conservation provides to addressing the global challenges.

First, the release of the technical report (Technical Series 78), coordinated by DIVERSITAS and its partners, in support of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4. This document paves the way for further actions to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020. The assessment has highlighted many ways in which conservation of biodiversity contributes directly or indirectly to the sustainable development agenda such as food and water security, poverty alleviation, disaster risk reduction or climate mitigation.

We believe that further dialogues in countries and regions regarding the GBO-4 findings are a priority to increase its impact on policy- and decision-making. In this context, DIVERSITAS welcomes and supports the Global Youth Biodiversity Network's project: "Youth Voices – Mainstreaming GBO-4".

Second, the underlying drivers of emerging diseases such as Ebola are also the drivers of biodiversity loss. Both will be worsened with growing anthropogenic changes to our environment. The work on the *State of Knowledge Review on the Interlinkages between Biodiversity and Human Health* has been proudly supported by DIVERSITAS. The outcomes show that this topic (health and biodiversity) should be addressed collaboratively by the biodiversity and health communities. A formal mechanism for provision of scientific input to inform the CBD-WHO Joint Work Programme would be key at providing an urgent step forward.

To conclude, DIVERSITAS and its worldwide network of thousands of scientists, which are entering in a new phase under the Future Earth programme for global sustainability, stand ready to continue these fruitful collaborations with the CBD as well as all UN organisations concerned with biodiversity.

A longer version of this statement has been provided in writing.

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair.