

**Statement from DIVERSITAS at CBD COP 12, 13 October 2014  
CRP, Item 16.3 on Biodiversity and Human Health**

Thank you Madam Chair,

Emerging diseases such as Ebola are caused by the same underlying drivers as biodiversity loss. They also present major threats to the health of both people and wild species. DIVERSITAS and EcoHealth Alliance thus welcome the addition of paragraph 9 (d). However, to truly address this global biodiversity and health challenge, there is great need to scale up efforts. This was articulated by several Parties, and the current CRP does not fully reflect the call to action.

Most crucially, a mechanism is needed to enable provision of expert input on emerging diseases in the context of biological diversity. This would contribute to the proposed synthesis report. Such a mechanism for expert engagement would also serve a critical need to take into account new scientific information as it becomes available.

Additionally, there would be great value in establishing best practices for Parties to consider when developing monitoring and surveillance measures for emerging disease threats such as Ebola. The best practices should be presented in the context of conservation and ecosystem management. Implementation of these best practices would have strong potential to enhance conservation and public health efforts through early detection, prevention and science-based control of disease risks.

Thank you Madam Chair.

**Proposed wording for addition under 9 (d):**

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(d) building upon the *State of Knowledge Review*, and in cooperation with relevant scientific partners, to prepare a synthesis of available information on the inter-linkages between biodiversity and emerging infectious diseases, including Ebola, in particular the shared drivers of biodiversity loss and disease emergence and the potential for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem management to contribute to reducing disease emergence and related risks to human health, and identify possible further steps for work in this regard; establish a mechanism for provision of expert guidance on emerging diseases in the context of biological diversity; and compile a best practice guideline for Parties to consider for implementing monitoring and surveillance measures for infectious disease threats such as Ebola in the context of conservation and ecosystem management.