

Statement made by DIVERSITAS at CBD-COP12, on 6 October 2014

Launch of the Fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4)

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair,

This is a statement on behalf of DIVERSITAS, the international programme on biodiversity science, under the auspices of ICSU and UNESCO, and its project bioDISCOVERY.

DIVERSITAS is pleased to have had the opportunity to coordinate, together with UNEP-WCMC, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDIV), and the Fisheries Centre of the University of British Columbia, the technical support document of GBO-4 entitled "Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: an assessment of biodiversity trends, key actions and policy scenarios". This document is published as CBD Technical Series No 78, and will be presented tomorrow, Tuesday, 7 October in a side event during lunch time.

First of all, DIVERSITAS and its partners would like to thank Canada, the European Union, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their contributions, which enabled the production of GBO-4 and this supporting technical report.

The technical study concludes, that, although current trajectories indicate that many targets will not be achieved, there is good evidence from case studies and modelling analyses that actions taken to protect biodiversity have generally slowed the decline of biodiversity. Example of such actions include:

- 1) the establishment or expansion of key protected areas, such as, for example, the establishment of Important Bird Areas (IBAs);
- 2) the implementation of sustainable management of fish stocks;
- 3) the reduction of deforestation rates in Brazil;
- 4) the establishment of alien invasive species management plans in New Zealand;

5) the reductions of local pressures (like over fishing) on coral reefs, which mitigate acidification effects.

DIVERSITAS sees GBO-4 as a strong scientific document to inform further actions and policy to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020.

GBO-4 is a strong basis for future assessments by CBD or IPBES such the upcoming IPBES regional assessments. Follow-up work by CBD - arising from GBO-4 - should include a detailed assessment of actions and how they contribute to halt biodiversity decline, and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

DIVERSITAS merging in Future Earth, programme of the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability, Future Earth, and especially the bioDISCOVERY project stands ready

- 1) to support any follow-up work on GBO-4, and
- 2) to provide the science basis for further assessments.

In conclusion, we invite all delegates to attend the side event launching the GBO-4 technical support document, to be held tomorrow, 7 October, 13:15 - 14:45 in Hall B.

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair.