

## **Biodiversity and SDGs**

### **Statement made by DIVERSITAS (international programme of biodiversity science) and ICSU (International Council for Science) during the co-Chair meeting**

8<sup>th</sup> session of Open Working Group on SDGs, 4<sup>rd</sup> February 2014, New York

#### **Thank you Mr co-Chair**

Biodiversity underpins Earth's "life support systems" for people, now and in the future, through direct and indirect benefits such as good health, food, water, energy, climate regulation.

I will only give one example, but you will find additional ones and related potential targets in the paper prepared by DIVERSITAS and ICSU, which is posted on the website. Biodiversity contributes to human health in different ways:

- 1) It provides genetic resources necessary to develop antibiotics, vaccines and biotechnological solutions for modern and traditional medicine;
- 2) Maintaining biodiversity-rich habitats protects humans from being exposed to diseases carried by wildlife; and
- 3) Indirect health-supporting benefits of biodiversity are related to food security and nutrition or provision of clean water.

In addition, biodiversity provides adaptive capacity supporting current and future generations in the face of global changes.

The Science & Technology Community recommends the definition of biodiversity-related targets for:

- 1) The determinants of human well-being such as health, secure supplies of food and freshwater;
- 2) Natural resource governance systems and institutions to ensure equitable and sustainable management of biodiversity and its benefits for people; and
- 3) The conservation of intrinsic value of biodiversity and its role in the maintenance of healthy and productive ecosystems.

Thank you for your attention

*Given by Dr Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard, Acting Executive Director, DIVERSITAS*