

Statement made by DIVERSITAS at CBD-COP11, in the context of item 3 on implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (point 3.3).

Thank you Mr Chair.

This is a statement on behalf of DIVERSITAS, the international programme for biodiversity science under ICSU and UNESCO.

-The scientific community, through DIVERSITAS, is involved in two initiatives that are key to a successful implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. These are: GEO BON and GBO-4. DIVERSITAS would like to offer comments on these 2 initiatives.

1- First, on monitoring and GEO BON

The successful implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity relies on 2 essential elements: good indicators and good data. Both are essential.

-For indicators, it will be very important for all Parties and Observers to contribute to the work on indicators, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership;

-When it comes to data, DIVERSITAS would like to draw attention to the need for Parties **to considerably strengthen their biodiversity monitoring programs**, as a contribution to the global biodiversity observing system, GEO BON. DIVERSITAS considers that a **step change** is needed in the investment in national monitoring systems and data collection to meet the 2020 challenge.

DIVERSITAS therefore welcomes the invitation in the draft decision for item 3.3 para 8 and 9 (Doc 11/1/Add 2) made to GEO BON and others, to, in particular, continue identification of the **Essential Biodiversity Variables** and help catalyse the collection of associated data.

Additional information on how GEO BON and GEO propose to enhance global biodiversity observations to monitor progress towards the Aichi Targets, is provided in Doc INF 49 and at the Rio Pavilion later today.

2- Second, on GBO-4

DIVERSITAS is honoured to co- lead the scenario study for GBO-4, together with UNEP-WCMC, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and the University of British Columbia. The scientific community needs to develop tools to increase its capacity to predict future changes in biodiversity to inform policy decisions. The scenarios study of GBO-4 will contribute to increase this predictive capacity, and will also represent an important contribution to the work of the recently established IPBES.

To close, DIVERSITAS and the scientific community we represent, remain strongly committed to its work on GEO BON and on GBO-4 to assist the CBD in its implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

Thank you very much.