



## EU Conference on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 23-24/05/2019, Brussels

### Stakeholder conference on the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

24 May 2019, European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99

#### BREAKOUT DISCUSSION ON TARGET 6

10.15 – 11.30 am, Room JDE 51

#### BACKGROUND NOTE

##### TARGET 6: By 2020, the EU has stepped up its contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

##### Action 17. Reduce indirect drivers of biodiversity loss

- 17a. Reduce the biodiversity impacts of **EU consumption patterns**, particularly for resources that have significant negative effects on biodiversity.
- 17b. Enhance the contribution of **trade policy** to conserving biodiversity and address potential negative impacts.
- 17c. Work with Member States and stakeholders to provide the right **market signals for biodiversity conservation**, including the elimination of harmful subsidies and the provision of positive incentives.

##### Action 18. Mobilise additional resources for global biodiversity conservation

- 18a. Contribute to international efforts to **significantly increase resources** for global biodiversity.
- 18b. Improve the **effectiveness of EU funding** for global biodiversity.

##### Action 19. Biodiversity-proof EU development cooperation

**Action 20.** Regulate **access to genetic resources** and the **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** from their use.

## 2. STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION



2015 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

A suite of plans, programmes and measures have been adopted by the EU over the last five years to further **combat biodiversity loss across the globe** and fulfil its global commitments under the Convention. These include an Action Plan for the Circular Economy, a Strategy for Plastics and a report on Critical Raw Materials. The EU's approach to combatting tropical deforestation is being pursued through UNFCCC negotiations, the Forest Law

Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, international REDD+ initiatives, and through supporting the management and conservation of protected areas in tropical forest countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Central Africa. The EU has taken steps to better integrate biodiversity concerns within trade-related negotiations and decisions. These activities have included an action plan to address wildlife crime inside the EU. Sectoral policy reform has sought to provide additional positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The EU has also targeted the private sector, highlighting best practice and developing forums for dialogue and experience exchange.

The EU and its Member States are together the largest contributor to biodiversity-related overseas development assistance (ODA). Environmental and climate change considerations have been mainstreamed in development cooperation, and a compulsory environmental screening is required for new initiatives. The EU's BEST Initiative aims to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories.

### 3. SESSION OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

This session aims to obtain stakeholder input for the assessment of key aspects of the implementation of Target 6. It will focus on key drivers of biodiversity loss addressing which requires the engagement of actors in many sectors, as well as of society at large, namely: **EU consumption patterns** (sub-action 17a), **trade policy** (sub-action 17b), **market signals** (sub-action 17c) and **development cooperation** (sub-action 19)<sup>1</sup>. This will help to steer the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, which will be delivered by the end of 2020.

**The discussion will address the following key questions:**

1. What are the **main achievements** to date in addressing the negative impacts of EU consumption patterns and trade policy on global biodiversity, and in increasing the positive impacts of trade and development assistance?  
What have been the key **factors of success**?
2. What are the **main gaps** / most challenging aspects of addressing the above drivers?  
What have been the likely **key factors and root causes** of failure?
3. Have the EU level biodiversity target and related support measures and frameworks (trade negotiations, agreements and dialogues, development assistance, consumer policy) effectively contributed to reducing indirect drivers of biodiversity loss? If yes, what has been the main **EU added value**? If not, why not?
4. What could have been done better and what are the **lessons learned**?

### 4. SESSION SETUP

Chair: Hugo-Maria Schally, Head of Unit Multilateral Environmental Cooperation, DG Environment

**Panellists:**

- Veronika Hunt Šafránková, Head of the UN Environment Brussels Office
- Yann Kervinio, chargé de mission "Forêts et océans", Ministère de la Transition Ecologique et Solidaire.
- Philippe Mayaux, Head of Sector DG DEVCO
- Luc Bas, Head of IUCN Brussels Office

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<sup>1</sup> Resource mobilisation (Target 18a) will be considered in the session on horizontal issues – partnerships and financing.