

## Briefing note:

### **Informal meeting on landscape and seascape approaches and their relevance to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

*Prepared by the organizers: United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS); PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency; Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Netherlands; Ministry of the Environment, Japan*

This informal meeting was held from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Sunday, 22 February 2020 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. 34 participants attended from CBD Party governments and observer organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to better understand the Parties' perspectives on landscape and seascape approaches and how they relate to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). For the purposes of this meeting, landscape approaches were considered using Prof. Jeffrey Sayer's definition of "a long-term collaborative process bringing together diverse stakeholders aiming to achieve a balance between multiple and sometimes conflicting objectives in a landscape or seascape".

As noted, this was an informal meeting intended to foster discussion and shared understanding, and so the outcomes cannot be considered to reflect the official negotiating positions of any of the Parties that attended. With this in mind, some messages about landscape approaches were shared. According to views presented in the meeting, landscape approaches should be among the guiding principles for the GBF because they are favored in the IPBES Global Assessment Report, and because they:

- Foster transformative change because of people's connection to nature in their own landscapes and seascapes as social-ecological systems with nature-culture linkages;
- Consider the perspectives of all stakeholders in the landscape, and therefore reconcile conflicts and trade-offs, and help to align policy at multiple levels;
- Improve the inclusiveness, local support and integration of spatial planning;
- Improve land-sea connectivity, watershed management and mainstreaming of biodiversity within governments and across different sectors, and therefore contribute to transformative change;
- Provide multiple benefits for mainstreaming of biodiversity, area-based conservation, resilience and disaster-risk reduction Represent an alternative to conventional sectoral management of natural resources; and
- Promote a more participatory, inclusive and integrated systemic approach to development and conservation.

These views were shared in presentations on: the "Expert Thematic Workshop on Landscape Approaches for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" held by United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and partners in September 2019; landscape and seascape approaches in the IPBES global assessment and GEF's new modality; an upcoming policy brief from PBL (Netherlands), UNU-IAS, and Wageningen University on landscape approaches and reflections on their applicability to the GBF; and an upcoming manual on landscape approaches in NBSAPS and post-2020 capacity building.

It was noted that landscape approaches are not yet well expressed in the Zero Draft, which does not yet contain the word "landscape" although Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 includes the wording "integrated into the wider landscape and seascape". While no specific suggestions were made for text to go into the GBF, it was recommended that parties and others continue to consider where and how landscape approaches could be reflected in the targets, indicators, and other parts of the framework.

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