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**141st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 20 February 2018

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1

Agenda 5

**Note by the Secretariat on upcoming milestones on biodiversity**

The Secretariat is pleased to present a note in support of discussions under agenda item 5 “Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget and the Assembly resolutions”. This note responds to the request of the resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.2 on *pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors* to the Executive Director, to prepare a note on upcoming milestones on biodiversity and present it to Member States for further consideration during this meeting. The advance copy of resolution is now available through the following link:

<http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/22773>

## Introduction

1. This note was prepared in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other Secretariats of its related specialized partner agreements, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Secretariat of the International Whaling Commission, the Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. This note covers the period from 1 March 2018 to 31 December 2020. The criteria for listing are of global significance, political angle and formal character of the respective milestones. Milestones are included which are expected to aim for outreach and awareness raising. Purely technical meetings, for instance, are therefore not listed.
3. This period coincides with the final three years of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. A follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will be developed under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A process for its development will be decided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourteenth meeting in November 2018 with the expectation that a post-2020 global framework for biodiversity be adopted at its fifteenth meeting in light of its final assessment of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

## Upcoming milestones on biodiversity

4. These major international conferences will be organized:
  - a. From 17 to 24 March 2018 in Medellin, Colombia, the sixth Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will take place;
  - b. From 24 June to 4 July 2018 in Manama, Bahrain, the World Heritage Committee will hold its 42nd session;
  - c. From 9 to 18 July 2018 in New York, the meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council will be held to review, among others, Sustainable Development Goal 15;
  - d. From 3 to 14 September 2018 in Florianopolis, Brazil, the International Whaling Commission will hold its 67th meeting.
  - e. From 21 to 29 October 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat will hold its 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
  - f. From 10 to 22 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, the Convention on Biological Diversity will hold the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of

the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and the 3rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from their Utilization;

- g. From 3 - 7 December 2018 in Monaco the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks will be held;
  - h. From 4 to 8 December 2018 in the Republic of South Africa the 7th meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds will be held;
  - i. In the first quarter of 2019 the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory of Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia will be held (date and venue to be decided);
  - j. In April 2019, the seventh Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will be held;
  - k. In 2019, Regional Conservation Forums will be organized in all IUCN statutory regions in preparation for the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress (date and venue to be decided);
  - l. From 23 May to 3 June 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora will be held;
  - m. In June 2019, the World Heritage Committee will hold its 43<sup>rd</sup> session;
  - n. In Autumn 2019, the 8th session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will be held (date and venue to be decided);
  - o. In Autumn 2019 in Paris, France, the 22nd General Assembly of the State Parties to the World Heritage Convention will be held (date and venue to be decided);
  - p. In November 2019 the 7th Meeting of Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the contiguous Atlantic area will be held (date and venue to be decided);
  - q. In 2020, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals will hold its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (India, date to be decided);
  - r. In 2020, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature will hold the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress (date and venue to be decided);
  - s. In 2020, in Beijing, China, the Convention on Biological Diversity will hold the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from their Utilization.
  - t. In 2020, the International Whaling Commission will hold its 68th meeting.
5. The following international days have been established by the United Nations General Assembly:
- a. 2 February: World Wetlands Day

- b. 3 March: World Wildlife Day;
  - c. 21 March: International Day of Forests;
  - d. 22 March World Water Day
  - e. 22 April: International Mother Earth Day;
  - f. 20 May: World Bee Day;
  - g. 22 May: International Day for Biological Diversity;
  - h. 5 June: World Environment Day;
  - i. 8 June: World Oceans Day.
6. Launched by the Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement in 2006, World Migratory Bird Day has evolved to become the world's premiere bird education and awareness-raising campaign. From 2018 onwards, events to celebrate the World Migratory Bird Day will be organized twice a year, both on the second Saturday in May and in October. The World Migratory Bird Day has been observed as an international day by the United Nations for the past 10 years, but has yet to be formally recognized as an "international day" by the UN General Assembly.
  7. 2020 will be designated as the International Year of Plant Health and the decade 2011-2020 has been declared the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity by the United Nations General Assembly.
  8. In addition, 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the seventieth anniversary of IUCN, both of which will be celebrated through a number of events during 2018.
  9. Major reports aiming for a broad global audience are the Global Wetland Outlook: State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People, due to be released in October 2018 (Ramsar Convention), the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, due to be released in October 2018, the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook, due to be released by the end of 2018, the global assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, due to be released in the second quarter of 2019, as well as preceding regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the restoration assessment, due to be released in March 2018, and the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook due to be released in 2020 prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.