



Republic of Suriname

To:
Sveinung Rotevatn
Minister of Climate and Environment
Kingdom of Norway

Ref.No.: CM111/2020

Paramaribo, May 12, 2020

Excellency,

Allow me also, at first, to extend my regards to you during this pandemic trying times of COVID-19. Further, the Republic of Suriname wishes to express its gratitude for the opportunity to continue as a member of the UNEA-5 Bureau. With regard to your letter with reference no. 19/1019 dated April 24, 2020, I would like to respond as follows:

As the most forested country in the world with 93% forest cover, we recognize the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the inclusion of Nature Based Solutions in order to protect the environment. In relation to the aforementioned we highly recommend the inclusion of ecosystem services with focus on water, land use and forests in the ministerial declaration. With regard to forests contributing as a nature based solution to rebalance the environment, it is highly recommended to value the contribution of the forested countries and the efforts that these countries make to conserve and sustainably manage the forest and its ecosystems.

It is also recommended to pay special attention to the nexus of nature, health and food based on the latest COVID-19 pandemic. Contrary to the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on human health and the global economy, nature has nevertheless recovered in a positive way. Natural phenomena in different parts of the world are proof of the foregoing.

The UNEA-5 is taking place in a crucial period with the emphasis on the preparation of the various Conferences of Parties to MEAs. The UN Environment can make a significant contribution with the theme "Strengthening Actions for Nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" by streamlining the decisions and recommendations of the UNEA-5 meeting with the agenda of the various conventions.

Finally we underline the great efforts undertaken for the preparation of the UNEA-5 and renew our commitment as member of the UNEA-5 Bureau in this process even in this very turbulent period.

Whilst thanking you in anticipation for your kind understanding, please accept Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ambassador Reggy Nelson

Vice President UNEA-5