



Contributions from science to policy making and implementation

the Fifth Science Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the Eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science

www.science4biodiversity.org

Introduction

The world community is currently in the process of developing an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15). The framework is intended, inter alia, to accelerate efforts to halt and reverse the global decline of biodiversity, contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and facilitate the transformational changes needed to place the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature.

How to realize this vision in practical terms, including mainstreaming biodiversity and fostering transformative change, should be examined by scientists, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders at various levels.

It is also necessary to discuss these issues among other multilateral environmental agreements (including biodiversity-related conventions, UNCCD, UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement) and within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objective

The joint fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science, scheduled on 13th, 15th, 19th, 21st and 23rd April 2021, aimed to provide space for scientists, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to discuss and make recommendations on how science, technology and innovation could contribute to the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to bend the curve of biodiversity loss and obtain positive biodiversity outcomes and foster transformative change towards achieving the 2050 Vision.

The conclusions and recommendations of the virtual sessions will be prepared by a dedicated task team, involving the sessions' co-leads, and will be submitted to the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24), the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) and the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group to contribute to the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This would allow the fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and ICSS-8 to contribute to the elaboration of the draft framework well in advance of COP 15.

Stakeholders

Acknowledgement - *Financial support for the organization of the virtual sessions was provided by University of Tokyo and IUBS.*

Organisers



University of Tokyo (Institute for Future Initiatives)



International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)



Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSPB)



Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China (MEE)



International Science Council (ISC)

Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship

University of Stockholm



United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)



United Nations Environmental Programme International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP IEMP)



Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)



UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC)



Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)



Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)



Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences (CSES)

Other Contributors



German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)



Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)



West African Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (WABES)



Chinese Academy of Sciences



NatureServe



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Young Ecosystem Service Specialists (YESS)



VertNet



Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)



The United Nations University-Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)



The Global Environmental Outlook 6 for Youth (GEO-6 for Youth)



Global Environment Outlook 6 (GEO-6)

Technical Partner



InnovatioCuris Pvt Ltd
www.innovatiocuris.com

InnovatioCuris (IC), hereafter referred to as 'tech team' supported the entire event on the technical front by providing end-to-end technology solutions and logistical support including **The Fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the Eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science (science4biodiversity.org)** website.

Key Recommendations

Teaming up can get more social media impressions, higher attendance and a stronger buzz for the event across the ecosystem. So, the more the partners for an event, the easier it will be to gather the desired number of registrations.

Programme and Speakers

The programme included five virtual sessions held on 13th, 15th, 19th, 21st and 23rd April 2021. The sessions lasted up to an average of 120 minutes, starting at 6 am (Montreal Time).

Each session had four to six panelists and a moderator and included the possibility to interact with the participants via the chat and Q&A. Some days even had parallel sessions running via breakout rooms.

The participants discussed options and solutions to facilitate the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including potential nature-based solutions for tackling both biodiversity loss and climate change challenges based on solid scientific knowledge and evidence. Also identified key knowledge gaps and priorities for science-policy research, needs for capacity building and opportunities for increased technical and scientific cooperation.

Moments



- **Background of the SDG Lab**
- The welfare of pastoralist is inseparably linked to the natural environment and natural resources constitute the primary source of livelihood in which their survival depends on exploiting those resources.
- In light of this, intense and frequent extreme weather events poses a serious threat with its effects leading to droughts, Flash floods, poverty, pest and disease outbreaks and migration of youth to urban centers.
- Despite their exposure to such challenges, Pastoralist employs sophisticated and dynamic plan to manage their natural resource base, such as elaborate land use strategies for conserving species and important habitats.



Tech Stack



Shared drive for sharing the collaterals



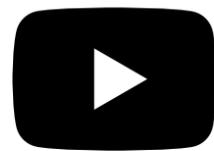
Post conference discussions



Sending email communications



To conduct/ host/ run actual event



Live broadcast of the event



Website for the initiative



CLOUDFLARE

Infrastructure foundation & Content delivery network

Challenges



Panelists can answer limited questions during the sessions



Restricted usage of hosting tool (in this case, Zoom) in China



Agenda saw experts from diverse time zones, hence posing coordination challenges



Registration data accumulation for various parallel sessions

Results



Discussion Forum

Since panelists could only respond to a limited number of questions during the live session, it was decided to give an opportunity for the panelists to answer the questions posted and for the online discussions to continue through the forum over the event website for three business days after the end of each session.



Divide and Conquer

Owing to the diversity in the agenda composition with respect to different time zones of the speakers, various sessions had various partners' contributors' representatives, who acted as bridge between the speakers and the tech team for the overall session coordination.



Backdoor Registration

Due to participation from the China registration could not happen directly through zoom. Hence a backdoor was created for all the registrations to happen first on the website (by the participants) and then into zoom (from the back end).



Unity in Diversity

Gender balance was one of the things that was kept in mind while building the agenda and also experts from different cultural backgrounds participated in the sessions.

Digital Footprint

5

Days

11

Hours of knowledge flow

70+

Speakers

400+

Non participant YouTube video views

1400+

Registrations

13,000+

Website views

2000+

Participants over
5 sessions

139

Country viewership

Testimonials

““ You made a great job colleagues!!!
It's so worth it. IC you rock!!!

Djessy Monnier

““ Thank you. It has been a great success.
Indeed, IC you're superb.

Erie Tamale

““ Well done colleagues, thank you so much
for the fantastic job. A marvelous
experience working with all of you and
with such a great team!! Thank you,
thank you, thank you IC colleagues, you
really deserve a good long weekend!

Dr. Claudio Chiarolla

““ Yes indeed, a really amazing job!!

Britta Garfield

““ Thanks a lot to all of you it was an amazing job.

Dr. Lily Rodriguez

““ A special message to thank you all for this team effort
over the last weeks. It was a real challenge to organize
this event in such a short time and thanks to your
dedication and involvement we could make it. I know it
meant days, evenings, weekends of work to have
everything ready on time and I would like to reiterate my
greatest appreciation. It was a real pleasure to work with
all of you.

Nathalie Fomproix



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