

## Statement from the 4th Science Forum to the Plenary

I speak on behalf of the 4th Science Forum that was held on the last 2 days, organized by the International Union of Biological Sciences, jointly this time with the European Commission, with the support of EKLIPSE, the European science policy mechanism for biodiversity and ecosystem services, the Inter American Institute for Global Changes and the CBD secretariat.

This science-policy Forum discussed what is necessary to achieve the 2050 biodiversity vision, the elements and the options to operationalize transitions and transformational change for biodiversity and human well-being.

- ✓ **To bend the curve of biodiversity loss, we recognized the need for massive and robust efforts for transformational changes across all levels of biodiversity, to support health and better life for human society.**
- ✓ Overall, the main changes needed are social, transforming mind-settings, mainstreaming biodiversity to make the balance between development and conservation and create ecological, social and political connectivity.
- ✓ More than ever, the concept of solving global problems with local solutions is recognized and will require efforts, including from science, to develop more effective communication, policy and governance models.
- ✓ We understood that socio-political changes require complex, transdisciplinary science, integrating natural and social sciences, as well as clear-cut answers, and that scientific evidence is but one element to be taken into consideration.
- ✓ Thus we made (and will continue making) the utmost efforts to reach feasible and viable actions to ensure that policies benefit from the support of the best scientific evidence available in understandable language.
- ✓ At the same time, we recognize that equal consideration has to be given to local and traditional knowledge, which runs parallel to “science” and that knowledge can also well inform solutions for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and recovery.
- ✓ We recommend the 2050 vision be multidimensional, including nature for nature, nature for society and nature as part of cultures, seeking for balance in order to achieve the common vision of *“living in harmony with nature”*.

- ✓ Preventing extinctions, reversing decline, retaining intactness, as well as restoring ecosystems, will be key to bending the curve for biodiversity.
- ✓ But this will not be enough. Priority should be given to addressing the main drivers for biodiversity loss, some of which may be outside the mandate of biodiversity policy settings, and often arise from different places than where the impacts are felt.
- ✓ Science also understands that nature-based solutions are one of the best pathways for interlinkages with other global agendas, such as climate change and across SDGs. Implementing innovative nature-based solutions can lead the way for transformative biodiversity governance, by also considering social justice and considering that benefits will not be distributed equally.
- ✓ Two types of innovation will be necessary, incremental (little by little but long-lasting), and radical innovation, which requires higher capacities to change along with some “undo” actions.
- ✓ As for target setting there is a great need for aligning global commitments with local/national policies; as well as mainstreaming biodiversity across sectorial silos.
- ✓ Science needs to help understanding trade-offs between development and conservation and identifying thresholds for sectors to stay within sustainable use of biodiversity. This should be translated into adequate and relevant indicators.
- ✓ **Finally, we recommend enabling conditions** such as awareness raising, data and information availability to measure progress and funding for cost-effective solutions, to implement the post-2020 agenda.

Thank you for your attention.