



Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity – COP14.

Bioversity International Statement for the High-Level Segment Round

Table: Biodiversity for Health

15 November 2018

Bioversity International, on behalf of CGIAR, warmly congratulates the Convention on Biological Diversity on the occasion of the 14th Conference of the Parties (CBD COP 14), hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, under the theme 'Investing in biodiversity for people and planet' and are pleased to note the inclusion of a round table session on mainstreaming biodiversity in the health sector, in the agenda for the High-Level Segment.

As outlined in the High-Level Segment Paper COP/14/HLS/6, the benefits of biodiversity to human health are numerous, and this includes biodiversity for food and nutrition.

Our statement would like to draw attention to three inter-related points:

1. Agrobiodiversity - the diversity of species, varieties and breeds of farmed animals and crops in our food and agricultural systems, as well as wild sources of food, underpin dietary diversity and good nutrition and good health. This is documented in the publication by the CBD/WHO 'Connecting Agricultural Biodiversity, Human Health and Nutrition' which shows how biodiversity can be mainstreamed across agendas for the health of people and the planet.
2. The diversity of crop species and varieties, and animal breeds that we use for food, is shrinking in our agricultural production systems, with a detrimental effect on human and ecosystem health. Almost 40% of the world's land is used for agriculture and agriculture is the world's largest cause of the loss of biodiversity. Agricultural land management is increasingly important for wild biodiversity conservation, and wild biodiversity, for example, pollinators, are vital for our food production. The agricultural and wild biodiversity conservation agendas must be integrated.
3. The WHO have highlighted that poor diets from our failing food systems are the number one cause of ill-health and wellbeing. We must ensure that investment in food and agriculture, which is valued at over 8 trillion US dollars a year, mainstream the use and safeguarding of the thousands of species and varieties of plants and animals that are the foundation of healthy diets and environmental health.

In conclusion, Bioversity International, as part of CGIAR, urges that wording that recognizes the vital role that agricultural biodiversity contributes to human health and the importance of mainstreaming and safeguarding agrobiodiversity to

nourish people and sustain the planet is explicitly referenced in the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration.

CGIAR remains committed to its longstanding partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and looks ahead with optimism to the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal tail.

Richard China
Director of Strategic Partnerships and External Engagement
Bioversity International

On behalf of CGIAR – the world's largest global agricultural innovation network.