How Bioversity International is working with partners to put agricultural & tree biodiversity to work to meet the Aichi Targets:

“By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.” – vision of the Aichi Targets

Sustainably managing biodiversity conservation in Cuba

Building diversity into landscapes and food systems can provide multiple sources of nutrients and vital ecosystem services such as pollination, clean water, and natural pest and disease control. One example is Bioversity International's work in Cuba, supported through UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to increase the conservation of biodiversity by better managing the agricultural ecosystems that exist within two of the country’s UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves. Activities include developing and adopting sustainable management practices that support the continued evolution of traditional varieties, leading to improved well-being and resilience in farming communities. The project outcomes, particularly the methods and tools, will provide strategies and options that can be applied in a range of settings to manage the expanded areas under protection, both in Cuba and in protected area systems globally.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11

Equitable sharing of plant genetic resources

Bioversity International is supporting the implementation of the ‘Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization’. Through participatory research methods, we work to strengthen the capacity of our partners to conduct policy research, and to proactively engage in policy development processes by developing science-based technical contributions for consideration by policymakers from local to global levels. At the international level, the majority of our policy work focuses on exploring options for implementing ‘mutually supportive’ access and benefit-sharing mechanisms under the Plant Treaty and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Aichi Biodiversity Target 16

State of Knowledge Review on the Inter-linkages between Biodiversity and Health

Bioversity International is working with the CBD and the World Health Organization on the preparation of the first State of Knowledge Review on the Inter-linkages between Biodiversity and Human Health to be launched at CBD-COP12. Bioversity International has contributed two chapters: ‘Nutrition, biodiversity and human health’; ‘Agricultural biodiversity and food security’. Linking biodiversity to human health and food is a major step in placing biodiversity at the heart of the global sustainable development agenda and in public policy.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets 13, 14

Recognizing the role of indigenous peoples

Many indigenous peoples’ food systems and cultures show how locally available agricultural biodiversity and its use are strongly linked to cultural identities and traditional knowledge, working within the local ecosystems. The ‘Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty’, is working to improve ways of linking indigenous peoples and local communities interested in pursuing self-determined development, and to facilitate such communities to take a leadership role in agricultural biodiversity dialogues. This partnership is undertaking several measures to revitalize and strengthen traditional knowledge on local food, nutrition and livelihoods through its indigenous millet, pollinators and shifting cultivation networks. The partnership includes the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research, Bioversity International, Slow Food and the International Institute for Environment and Development.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 13, 14, 16, 18

Restoring forest ecosystems

Forests play a crucial role in landscape resilience: they sequester carbon, provide livelihoods, protect watersheds and maintain species and genetic diversity. Restoration of forest landscapes using native tree species is increasingly recognized as a key component of strategies to tackle climate change and stem biodiversity losses. Forest restoration can also yield products and services that support people’s livelihoods. Bioversity International researchers have led a study to assess the extent to which genetic factors are considered in restoration efforts. The resulting book provided background for the FAO’s State of the World Forest Genetic Resources Report. Two ongoing restoration research projects in Colombia will provide valuable information for restoration practitioners on genetic considerations for forest restoration projects.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19

‘Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition’ initiative

Through this GEF-funded initiative, Bioversity International is working with partners to gather nutritional data for 140 indigenous species in four countries — Kenya, Brazil, Turkey and Sri Lanka — and mainstream them into food-based approaches to prevent malnutrition and increase dietary diversity. Initiative partners are also supporting countries meet their national obligations, for example, being integrated into Brazil’s process to revise its ‘National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan’ by 2015. The initiative is led by Turkey, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Brazil, with implementation support from the UNEP and FAO.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 13, 14, 17
‘Bridging Agriculture and Conservation Initiative’

Bioversity International is leading the ‘Bridging Agriculture and Conservation Initiative’ that brings together thought leaders and global experts to develop policy and management options to sustainably feed a growing population while ensuring ecosystem function and long-term conservation of biodiversity within agricultural landscapes. Partners include UNEP and CBD, among others, and promotes important solutions to help achieve multiple Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Bioversity International is a global research-for-development organization. We have a vision — that agricultural biodiversity nourishes people and sustains the planet.

We deliver scientific evidence, management practices and policy options to use and safeguard agricultural and tree biodiversity to attain sustainable global food and nutrition security. We work with partners in low-income countries in different regions where agricultural and tree biodiversity can contribute to improved nutrition, resilience, productivity and climate change adaptation.

Bioversity International is a member of the CGIAR Consortium — a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

www.bioversityinternational.org

Agricultural and tree biodiversity: delivering solutions for meeting Aichi Biodiversity Targets