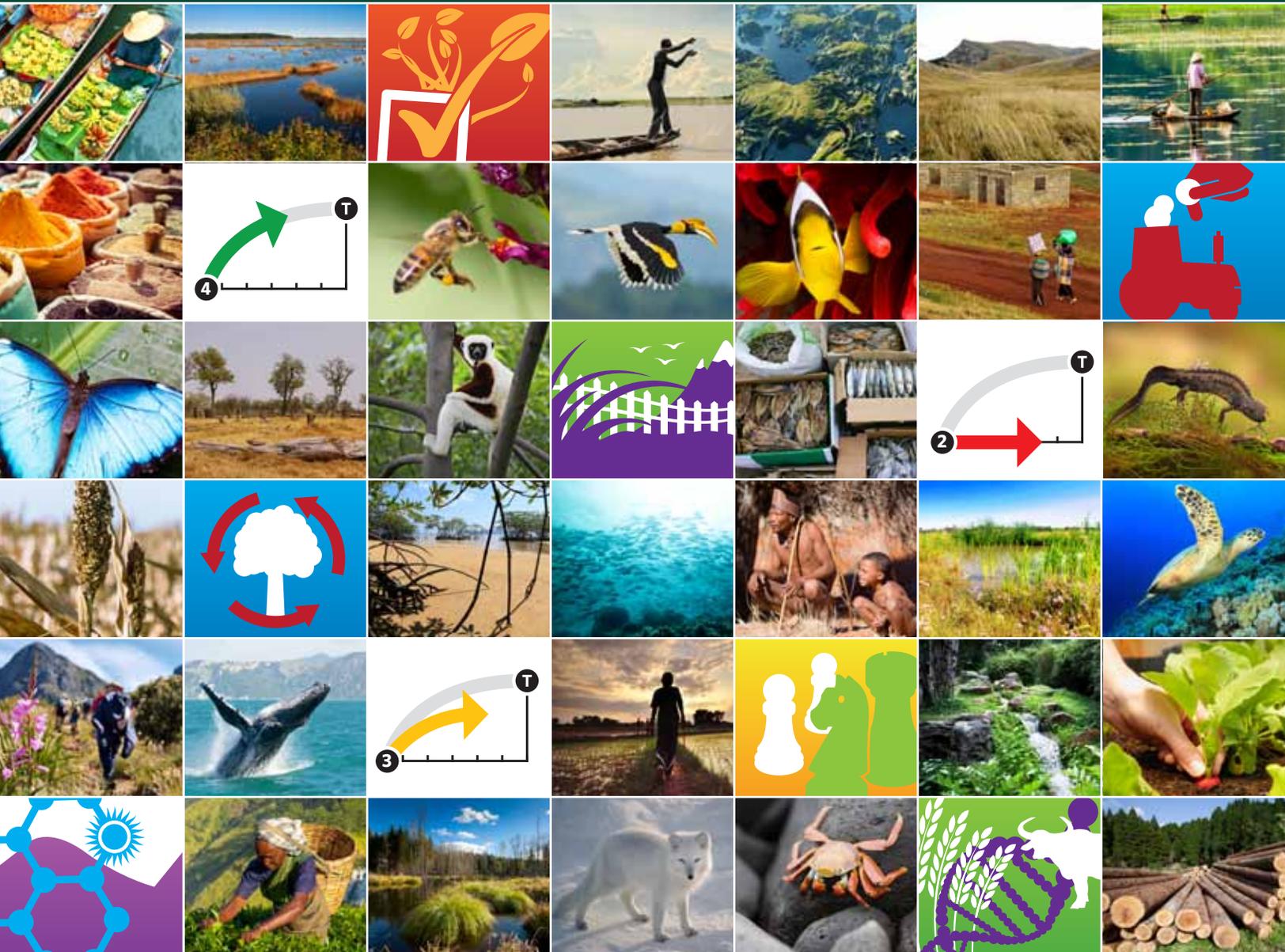


# Global Biodiversity Outlook 4

*A mid-term assessment of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*



Convention on  
Biological Diversity





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The preparation of the fourth edition of *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-4) began in 2010 following the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. GBO-4, like the previous editions of the report, is an output of the processes under the Convention. Parties to the Convention, other Governments, and observer organizations have helped to shape the Outlook through their contributions during various meetings as well as through their comments and inputs to earlier drafts of GBO-4.

GBO-4 has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the support of the GBO-4 Advisory Group and the SBSTTA Bureau, and in close collaboration with numerous partner organizations and individuals from Governments, non-governmental organizations and scientific networks that have generously contributed their time, energy and expertise to the preparation of GBO-4. As such GBO-4 is a product of the collective efforts of this community. The sheer number of organizations and people involved in GBO-4 makes it difficult to thank all contributors by name and doing so runs the risk that some may be overlooked. We sincerely apologize to anyone who may have been unintentionally omitted.

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GBO-4 is underpinned by a technical report, published as CBD Technical Series 78, that contains information on the scientific and technical findings and methodologies used in GBO-4. This technical report has been prepared by a consortium of partners led by DIVERSITAS, UNEP-WCMC, PBL-Netherlands, the University of British Columbia Fisheries, Centre Faculty of Science, Lisbon and the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDIVER). The Secretariat would like to thank Paul Leadley who coordinated the preparation of the report as well as the lead authors involved: Rob Alkemade, Patricia Balvanera, Céline Bellard Ben ten Brink, Neil Burgess, Silvia Ceausu, William Cheung, Villy Christensen, Franck Courchamp, Barbara Gonçalves, Stephanie Januchowski-Hartley, Marcel Kok, Jennifer van Kolck, Cornelia Krug, Paul Lucas Alexandra Marques, Peter Mumby, Laetitia Navarro, Tim Newbold, Henrique Pereira, Eugenie Regan, Carlo Rondinini, Louise Teh, Derek Tittensor, U. Rashid Sumaila, Peter Verburg, Piero Visconti, and Matt Walpole. The preparation of GBO-4 also drew on information and scenarios prepared by the PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency on possible contributions of sectors to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The preparation of this technical document was led by Marcel Kok and Rob Alkemade and has been made available as CBD Technical Series 79.

The assessment in GBO-4 is also based on data and analyses provided by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, a network of organizations which have come together to provide the most up-to-date biodiversity information possible for tracking progress towards the Aichi Targets. The Partnership

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Drafts of the main GBO-4 report as well as the technical underlying studies were made available for peer review. The preparation of the report was greatly enhanced by the comments received during this peer-review process.

GBO-4 was written and edited by Tim Hirsch, Kieran Mooney, Robert Höft, and David Cooper. Braulio F. de Souza Dias provided guidance. Its production was managed by Robert Höft, Kieran Mooney, David Cooper, and David Ainsworth. In addition many Secretariat staff, interns and consultants provided input and feedback on GBO-4 as well as participated in the preparation of the underlying technical studies, including, Joseph Appiott, Didier Babin, Jennifer Bansard, Katherine Blackwood, Mateusz Banski, Charles Besancon, Catherine Bloom, Lijie Cai, Adam Charette Castonguay, Monique Chiasson, Annie Cung, David Coates, Edwin Correa, Gilles Couturier, Olivier de Munck, Matthew Dias, David Duthie, Joshua Dutton, Amy Fraenkel, Kathryn Garforth, Sarat Babu Gidda, Beatriz Gómez -Castro, Julie Freeman, Jennifer Gobby, Jacquie Grekin, Oliver Hillel, Lisa Janishevski, Elena Kennedy, Sakhile Koketso Kerri Landry, Jihyun Lee, Markus Lehmann, Andre Mader, Manoela Pessoa de Miranda, Ian Martin, Johany Martinez, Praem Mehta, Leah Mohammed, Brianne Miller, Jessica Pawly, Aliya Rashid, Chantal Robichaud, Cristina Romanelli, Nadine Saad, Atena Sadegh, Djeneba Sako, Catalina Santamaria, Simone Schiele, John Scott, Mitchell Seider, Junko Shimura, David Steuerman, Andrew Stevenson, Gisela Talamas, Tristan Tyrrell, Ardeshir Vafadari, Paige Yang, Atsuhiko Yoshinaka, Yibin Xiang and Tatiana Zavarzina.

While the Secretariat has taken great care to ensure that all statements made in GBO-4 are backed up by credible scientific evidence, it assumes full responsibility for any errors or omission in this work.

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# Forewords

The international community is increasingly aware of the link between biodiversity and sustainable development. More and more people realize that the variety of life on this planet, its ecosystems and their impacts form the basis for our shared wealth, health and well-being.

This positive trend must be expanded as part of our efforts to counter worrying evidence of biodiversity loss, which has its greatest impact on the poor and ultimately affects all societies and economies.

During the first years of the 2011–2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity made great strides in addressing loss. Still, much more action is needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

This Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 demonstrates that with concerted efforts at all levels, we can achieve the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. Success will signifi-



This is all the more important at this critical time, as the world intensifies action to meet the Millennium Development Goals, craft a successor agenda for sustainable development, and adopt a meaningful legal climate change agreement—all by the year 2015.

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