



DG ENVIRONMENT

Humberto Delgado Rosa
Director for Natural Capital

DEVCO Climate and Environment Week 2020

Tuesday 18 February 2020
Borschette

BRIEFING NOTE

Scene setter:

The DEVCO Climate and Environment Week is a gathering of DEVCO Detaches in the EU Delegations. Tuesday morning is devoted to biodiversity, see the annexed programme. You are invited to speak following the opening by Chantal Marijnissen.

Name of main contact person: Anne Theo Seinen
Telephone number: 54426
Directorate/Unit: ENV D2

SPEAKING POINTS

- We are faced with a **planetary crisis** defined by the dual challenge of climate change and biodiversity loss. The planet is warming and the fabric of life on Earth is getting thin and frail. The messages from science are clear. Biodiversity loss is accelerating on all continents and increasingly undermining food security, jobs, growth, health, and political stability. Climate change accelerates the degradation of our ecosystems, whereas we badly need healthy ecosystems for both mitigation, adaptation and resilience. This crisis hits the vulnerable and the poor particularly hard. Africa is perhaps the most vulnerable continent.
- The **European Green Deal** launched by President Von der Leyen reflects the political commitment to address this crisis. It is a

turning point in the EU policy, raising climate and environmental policy to the centre of the EU's policies, including EU external policy. The Green Deal is **crucially relevant** for all DGs working on external relations including **DEVCO**, and I am counting on all of you for putting this in practice in your work with partner countries. **EU Delegations have a very important role** to play.

- The European Green Deal is not only about climate change, but about the **wider ecological crisis, including biodiversity loss** and the degradation of the ecosystems that support our lives and economies. It is about ecosystems that are indispensable for achieving many of the **SDGs**.
- The European Green Deal announced the **EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy**, which will set out our global ambition for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be agreed at CBD COP15 in October in Kunming, China. It will also include proposals for European Union commitments, allowing the EU to lead by example. The new Strategy is currently in discussions between all services of the Commission.
- The **post-2020 global biodiversity framework** is to be the framework for biodiversity action by all countries, throughout the UN and for all stakeholders. It is to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, in order to achieve long-term outcome goals by 2050. The world failed on the 2010 biodiversity targets, we are not on track towards the current Aichi biodiversity targets – we cannot allow ourselves to fail again. We have the following priorities:
 - Ambitious and, where feasible, measurable targets;
 - A much stronger framework for implementation, transparency and review of implementation, including ratcheting up of efforts when collective efforts don't allow achieving the global objectives.
 - One or a small number of overarching objective(s). We need a 1.5°C equivalent that rallies broad support for strong actions throughout society, and which is measurable and easy to communicate. After the launch of the IPBES Global Assessment, everybody talked about 1 million species at risk. Therefore, we think zero-human induced extinctions is

a good candidate. But perhaps for biodiversity we need more than just one such overarching objective.

- For effectively addressing the crisis, we have no choice than to be ambitious. The crucial part will be on the means of implementation: finance, capacity, technology. Of course, from our side, we emphasise that these resources must come from all sources but, unsurprisingly, developing countries are calling for a substantial increase of development cooperation for biodiversity. Financing nature-based solutions with multiple benefits (climate and biodiversity) may play a crucial role. At the same time, we may also be able to do much more by increasing the contribution to biodiversity from existing actions, e.g. those fostering more sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Either way, you have an important role for prioritising this in the development programming. We need your engagement to make it happen in practice.
- Let me add a few more words on our views for this post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We need to **protect** a significantly larger share of our land and we need to **restore** degraded ecosystems. At least as important is **integrating biodiversity across sectors**: agriculture, forestry, fisheries, the business sector in general and the financial sector. The message from the World Economic Forum and other business partners is very clear and supportive. This reflects that the EU green agenda coincides with a more general development agenda: transformative change of our societies is simply common sense and in the EU's direct interest.
- We have eight months until CBD COP15 in Kunming. We expect a demarche in April or May to reach out to our partners. We will have the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille in June and we hope to have the UN Biodiversity Summit in New York in September. Momentum will continue to build up. We should add to this momentum by demonstrating what we do domestically, by convincing partners of the need and feasibility of our ambitions, and by paving the way for implementing the outcomes of COP15 without delay.

- Science is clear: the window of opportunity to safeguarding future generations from uncontrollable climate change and ecosystem collapse is narrowing fast. The next years will be crucial.

CONCEPT NOTE AND ANNOTATED AGENDA – DRAFT 7 (04.02.2020)

DEVCO ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE WEEK 2020

SESSION: **BIODIVERSITY**, 18.02.2020 AM

9.00-12.30	<p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <p>Facilitate i) alignment of EU action in partner countries with the Green Deal and ii) design of effective support to biodiversity and ecosystems functions, in the context of climate change, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updating participants on relevant new EU policies and international processes, and facilitating their engagement in these issues with national stakeholders (dialogue and cooperation).• Increasing participants' understanding of the roles of ecosystems in sustainable development, and of challenges and solutions to maintain functioning ecosystems.• Providing clear concepts, concrete examples and information, to help participants design support to ecosystem conservation and sustainable use within different sectors. <p><u>Session format:</u></p> <p>9.00 – 10.30: plenary session</p> <p>10.30 – 11.00: coffee break</p> <p>11.00 – 12.30: 4 break-out groups</p> <p>PLENARY SESSION (9.00 – 10.30h)</p> <p><u>Moderation:</u> Aurélie Godefroy, deputy HoU DEVCO C2</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on relevant EU and policies and processes for biodiversity. (Chantal Marijnissen, <i>Head of Unit, DEVCO C2 (10')</i>).• The road to CBD COP in Kunming and EU priorities for the new Global Biodiversity Strategic Framework. <i>Humberto Delgado, Director, DG ENV (10')</i>.• Keynote speech: Fighting biodiversity loss and climate change: exploiting the synergies. Focus on the contribution of key sectors. <i>Herbert Lust, Conservation International (20')</i>• Lessons learnt from EU support to building and implementing DRC's biodiversity strategy (10'). <i>Daniel Hachez (EUD DRC, by VC)</i>.• Q&A with audience and panellists (40'). <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the main bottlenecks which Delegations encounter to enhance attention to ecosystem functioning and biodiversity in
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	<p>partner country policies? And in EU actions? What strategies can we use to overcome them in current EU programming?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which stakeholders and sectors are most critical to engage with, to enhance ecosystem functioning? What instruments are most suited for this purpose? • Where would regional / thematic EU funded initiatives add most value to bilateral / national EU programmes? • What lessons can be shared regarding outreach in partner countries, for an ambitious outcome of CBD COP 15? <p>10.30 – 11.00h: coffee break</p> <p>BREAK-OUT GROUPS (11.00 – 12.30h)</p> <p>4 break-out groups, on key topics for biodiversity and ecosystems enhancement, in the context of climate change (cf. background below).</p> <p>Introduction and facilitation by DEVCO, reporting by B4Life Facility.</p> <p>Each group starts with a presentation of the topic by the facilitator (10') and 2 EUD success stories in that field (twice 10'). Inputs from participants on the basis of guiding questions and summary by reporter (in each group rather than in plenary).</p> <p>Each group will have about 35 participants. After the introduction and presentations by EUD, participants will be divided in “buzz groups” of 3 people, and will be asked to discuss during 5-10 min. two guiding questions (obstacles and success factors). Each buzz group will write on cards 3 answers to question 1 and 3 answers to question 2. The discussion is thereafter launched by asking the groups <i>who wish to</i>, to share their answers, and then open the floor for more inputs on the same 2 questions. The facilitator and the rapporteur will then conclude by clustering the different contributions and capturing the main messages.</p> <p>Cards will be collected at the end, but no reporting back of the groups to plenary. The conclusions of the groups will be used in the week's report and in the concluding session on Friday. Biodiversity session report done by rapporteurs from B4Life Facility (including plenary part).</p> <p><u>Group a: Land-based approaches</u> for sustainable use and conservation of climate-resilient ecosystems (protected areas, integrated landscape management, integration of cities and landscapes, multi-country coordination...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filippo Saracco (DEVCO C2): introduction (including NaturAfrica). • Clemens Beckers (EUD Cambodia): Integrated Landscape Management in the Tonle Sap Biosphere reserve. • Sylvanie Jardinnet (EUD Cameroon): Integrated Landscape Management, including at multi country level. • Rapporteur: Romain Calaque (B4Life)
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	<p><u>Group b: nature-based solutions</u> for climate change and conservation of ecosystem services (including restoration).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernard Crabbé (DEVCO C2) : introduction • José Legarra (EUD Barbados): using NBS for coastal management. • Patrick Worms (ICRAF) and Mersha Argaw (EUD Ethiopia): Regreening Africa • Rapporteur: Conrad Aveling (B4Life) <p><u>Group c: natural resources related conflicts and human rights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florence Van Houtte (DEVCO C2): introduction • Beatrice Bussi (EUD Guatemala): promoting responsible business conduct in natural resources related conflicts. • Camille Pubills (EUD Republic of Congo): co-benefits of protected areas for local communities and wildlife, fighting wildlife and timber trafficking. • Rapporteur: Katharine Mill (B4Life) <p><u>Group d: investing in ecosystems</u> (financial tools for conservation, restoration, sustainable management and enhancement of natural capital, including from climate finance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnus André (DEVCO C2) (with input of Frankfurt School of Finance): introduction • Stephen Hart (EIB): presentation of Natural Capital Financing Facility. • Thomas Yatich (EUD Kenya): nature based tourism to attract investment for conservation. • Johny Ariza (EUD Colombia): financial instruments for conservation. • Rapporteur: Léon Merlot (B4Life)
	<p><u>Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cards: 160 yellow and 160 green (or other colors) - Markers: 55 - Projectors: 4 (1 in each room) - Translation: in one of the 4 rooms (group d) - Video conference connection to EU Delegation in DRC for plenary part - 4 blank lists for the 4 break-out groups, at the registration desk Monday, and filled-in lists on the door of the groups' rooms on Tuesday. <p><u>Distribution of participants between the 4 break-out groups:</u> when registering at the beginning of the week, participants will be asked to write their name on 1 of the 4 lists at the registration desk. The 4 lists will have a limited number of slots, corresponding to the room capacity (group d in plenary room for interpretation, group c? in smaller room).</p>

Background

Themes for break-out group discussions:

- a. **Land-based approaches for sustainable use and conservation of climate-resilient ecosystems** (protected areas, integrated landscape management, integration of cities and landscapes, multi-country coordination)

Protected areas (PA) have proven to be one of the most effective instruments for conservation. Reinforcing their effectiveness and increasing current coverage is therefore essential. However, as pressures on the environment increase, it is vital also to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems at the periphery of PA and beyond, ensuring coherent management practices over much larger landscapes, with a view to ensuring critical scale and connectivity for conservation, but also to promoting socio-economic development of local communities. The involvement of different stakeholders and the articulation of different governance levels (from local to regional) are key for the effectiveness of **landscape management**.

Cities have a critical interest and important role to play in maintaining functional ecosystems. In many cases, their demand for ecosystem services and their waste management degrade the environment (including air and water quality, energy and water provision, quality and productivity of land and soils, resilience to climate change and severe weather events) and the livelihoods and quality of life of populations. It is essential to address explicitly the role of cities in landscape management, with a dynamic approach taking into account climate change, and to build awareness of the links between well-being in cities, on the one hand, and the sustainable use of natural resources and wildlife protection, on the other hand.

This session will focus on identifying effective land-based approaches to conserve biodiversity and functioning ecosystems, as well as enabling conditions for their successful implementation.

- b. **Nature-based solutions for climate change and biodiversity conservation**

For challenges such as degradation and loss of ecosystems and the services they provide (clean air, water and soil), climate change and increasing natural disaster risks, there is growing recognition that nature can help provide viable solutions that use and deploy the properties of natural ecosystems and the services that they provide. These nature-based solutions provide sustainable, cost-effective, and flexible alternatives for multiple objectives, and can further pave the way towards a more resource efficient and greener economy, support poverty reduction, and help build resilience and mitigate climate change. Such solutions conserve and restore ecosystems and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes.

This session will focus on identifying areas where nature-based solutions can be effectively deployed and supported, as well as enabling conditions for their successful implementation.

- c. **Natural resources related conflicts and human rights**

With increasing population and migratory flows due among others to climate change, and economic growth fuelling demand for natural resources, ecosystems conservation often competes with social, political and economic objectives. This situation can lead to conflicts

at different levels, between local communities (notably indigenous peoples) depending directly on healthy ecosystems and agricultural or extractive industries, between conservation areas and local communities seeking access to resources (land, wood, wildmeat, etc.), between conservation authorities and armed groups trafficking wildlife or taking refuge in remote areas, etc. As resource scarcity increases with progressive ecosystem degradation, the risk of environment related conflicts is growing.

These competing demands on ecosystems often lead to human rights violations. The implementation of environmental protection norms and their balancing with economic interests are marked by political controversies and litigation, and increasingly violence and repression.

This session will focus on identifying i) effective approaches for conflict prevention and win-win solutions for ecosystem conservation and socio-economic development, and ii) instruments and approaches to promote the human rights – environment nexus.

d. Investing in ecosystems.

In the context of the 2021-2027 EU financial framework, it is expected that a larger share of EU international cooperation will focus on supporting investments and access to financing. These instruments should also contribute to the priorities set by the Green Deal for achieving the transition to climate neutrality and environmental sustainability; nevertheless, certain types of investments in natural capital can be difficult to address with de-risking and/or blending instruments.

This session will provide participants with concrete examples of investments in ecosystems and nature based solutions, and will identify frequent impediments as well as potential solutions, for more investment to flow into these sectors. Draw on the experience of participants from delegations to identify opportunities and challenges related the use of blending operations and de-risking instruments to support investments in ecosystems at country level. Link this to the programming process and the new “policy first” approach to programming guarantees to identify areas where delegations can benefit from thematic support from headquarters.