

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

FOREWORD TO GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK 4

August 2014

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.

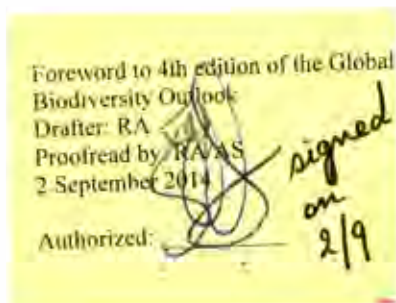
During the first years of the 2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity made great strides in addressing loss. Still, much more action is needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

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 significantly contribute to the broader global priorities of eliminating poverty, improving human health and providing energy, food and clean water for all.

I urge Member States and stakeholders everywhere to take the conclusions of GBO4 into account in their planning, recognize that biodiversity contributes to solving the sustainable development challenges we face, and redouble efforts to achieve our shared goals.

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.

I commend this publication to all those interested in an action-oriented approach to halting the loss of biodiversity and setting the world on course to the future we want.



A large, handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ban Ki-moon". Below the signature, the name "BAN Ki-moon" is printed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.