

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND BIODIVERSITY

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- Report on human rights and biodiversity (March 2017)
  - interlinkages between human rights and biodiversity
  - *“The full enjoyment of human rights depends on healthy ecosystems, and healthy ecosystems depends on biodiversity. The full enjoyment of human rights thus depends on biodiversity, and the loss of biodiversity undermines our ability to enjoy our human rights, including the rights to life and health, to food and water, and to cultural life.”*
- Other reports: children’s rights and the environment (March 2018) and Framework Principles on human rights and the environment (March 2018)
- States have human rights obligations to protect biological diversity

# Strengthened Partnership

- Bridging the silos
  - Engagement with CBD, IUCN, WWF meetings
  - Hosting events at the Human Rights Council
    - March 2017 – together with WWF and IUCN
- Establishing strong partnership
  - WWF, IUCN, CBD, UN Environment, SwedBio, IDLO, FPP, etc.
- Continued collective efforts
  - Communications of Special Procedures
  - Workshops and follow-up meetings
- Implementation through partnership

# Mainstreaming biodiversity in human rights

- Human Rights Council resolution (34/20)
  - Explicit references to biodiversity
  - “recalling the provisions of the Cancun Declaration [...] sustainable development requires healthy ecosystems [...] recognizing that sustainable development and the protection of ... ecosystems contribute ... to the enjoyment of human rights [...] encourages States to strengthen their efforts to protect biodiversity ... the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets.”

# Way forward

- Increased awareness on the linkages between human rights and biodiversity
- Implementation of the common goals – biodiversity and human rights – in a coordinated manner
- Bridging the two communities at both international and national levels
  - Geneva Pledge as an example?
- Integration of biodiversity in human rights monitoring/reporting mechanisms
  - Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Treaty bodies
- Protection of human rights defenders
- Involvement of private sector
- Recognition of a right to a healthy environment?

Thank you