



Environment Group  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade

29 March 2019

By email: [CBD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:CBD@mfat.govt.nz)

Dear Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## **Convention on Biodiversity: Setting new global targets**

Thank you for your email dated 25 February 2019 inviting DairyNZ to provide initial feedback on the development of new suite of global biodiversity targets to underpin the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this process at such an early stage.

### **Our role**

DairyNZ is the industry good organization representing New Zealand's dairy farmers. Our purpose is to secure and enhance the profitability, sustainability, and competitiveness of New Zealand dairy farming. Our work, which is funded by a levy on milk solids and government investment, includes:

- Research and development to create practical on-farm management tools
- Leading the adoption of best practice farming
- Promoting careers in dairying; and
- Advocating for farmers with central and regional government.

### **Key comments**

DairyNZ recommends that, before New Zealand pledges to new aspirational 2050 targets, a robust assessment of our progress towards achieving the current 2020 targets is required. Our understanding is that these 2020 targets remain largely unmet. It is therefore essential that we identify the barriers that are impeding progress both at the domestic and global level in a systematic way. In some instances, this may require the investment of additional resources and the development of new management capabilities. This approach will allow New Zealand to remain committed to achieving our targets, both now and into the future.

New Zealand has rich and unique indigenous biodiversity; as well as having an efficient and profitable developed economy. This provides us the opportunity and leaves us with the responsibility to provide leadership in understanding the essential role and balance of biodiversity,

including agricultural biodiversity, and ecosystem health and to set an example of environmental good practice. This good practice will ensure the maintenance and enhancement of integrated ecosystem functions and secure a sustainable agricultural future. Additionally, it will enable us to support domestic and international adaptation to climate change.

Agriculture is indispensable to domestic and global food security and is also a primary driver of changes in our biodiversity. Our agricultural systems are largely modelled on European systems with imported species; however, they have an essential role in the provision of ecosystem services at farm and landscape scale. A domestic biodiversity strategy would strongly benefit from an integrated landscape approach which recognises the value of agricultural biodiversity (as described in the relevant CBD programme of work) alongside indigenous biodiversity. As the Department of Conservation continues its development of New Zealand's new national biodiversity strategy, we appreciate and look forward to their inclusive approach where we will be submitting our integrated landscape recommendations.

A strategy which accommodates sustainable use and sharing of benefits from our diverse range of managed and non-managed ecosystems in an integrated way could help bridge the science and policy dichotomy between indigenous ecosystems and imported, agricultural ecosystems.

Our domestic learnings could underpin global targets, which should include:

- Staying committed to the current goals which have not yet been met; with a commitment to a comprehensive understanding of impeding barriers including a tactic to overcome those barriers.
- Identification and internationally binding commitment to the conservation and as appropriate, sustainable management of globally important biodiversity hotspots. Such conservation may also contribute to achieving climate change mitigation goals.
- Targets that should reflect the need to interlink conservation strategies with production and land management strategies.
- Ongoing commitment to the maintenance and enhancement of genetic resources important to agriculture; and commitment to aligning development programmes with this goal. The links between biodiversity and nutrition must also be clearly emphasised, as identified in the cross-cutting programme of work in the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity.

Thank you once again to provide feedback on this process. If you would like to discuss these initial views in more detail please contact Tanya Cornwell, Senior Advisor, at [Tanya.Cornwell@dairynz.co.nz](mailto:Tanya.Cornwell@dairynz.co.nz) or on 027 239 8468.

Yours faithfully



**Jenny Cameron**  
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