IIFB welcomes the document SBI/2/4. While the actions are difficult to achieve, the document nevertheless captures comprehensively the strategic actions required to successfully mainstream biodiversity within and across sectors.

On the ground, failures by important economic sectors to seriously address the biodiversity and social impacts of “business as usual” play out in oftentimes violent land and resource conflicts with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and serious harm to nature. Mainstreaming must ensure effective procedural safeguards such as access to information and effective consultation with all rights holders and stakeholders, including Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Mainstreaming biodiversity with key actors across society through innovative partnerships is one of the best ways forward in progressive the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

We wish to highlight some measures for decisions by SBI

Section II on Institutional Mechanisms and Effective Measures to Enhance Implementation at the National Level including

“Examples of various approaches including: (a) government coordination mechanisms; (b) mechanisms for stakeholder inputs and engagement; (c) multi-stakeholder knowledge platforms; and (d) independent governmental audit or evaluation institutions.”

IIFB wishes to highlight the importance of mechanisms for stakeholder inputs and engagement and multi-stakeholder knowledge platforms.

Last month, I had the privilege to participate in such a learning event organised by government of Mexico and the Secretariat of the CBD to take stock of lessons from mainstreaming processes in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, since COP13 in Cancun. Mainstreaming with key social actors including IPLCs, civil society organisations and the academe was also examined, and this was a very productive discussion. I came away thinking that CBD needs to embed a similar multi-stakeholder knowledge platform in its institutional arrangements for the post-2020 biodiversity framework to accelerate learning and uptake from the knowledge, innovations and practices by key local, national and global actors.

In this light, IIFB supports the suggested recommendations contained the draft decisions, and also makes the following proposals for the consideration by Parties:
The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

5. Emphasizes the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as women, youth, local and subnational governments and other relevant stakeholders, in addressing mainstreaming in these sectors;

The Conference of Parties,

Noting the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, the business sector, civil society, local and subnational governments, youth and other stakeholders, in addressing the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these and other sectors,

5. Calls upon Parties:

(b) To review and, as necessary, update legal frameworks, policies and practices, including safeguard measures such as free, prior informed consent (FPIC) with respect to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, with the full and effective participation of the relevant sectors, indigenous peoples and local communities, academic institutions, and other stakeholders, among others;

(i) To review and, as necessary, update legal frameworks, policies and practices, to foster the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in business policies and planning by, among other things, implementing incentives for best practices in supply chains, requiring reporting by businesses on biodiversity dependencies and impacts including independent third party evaluations, and adopting or updating laws on sustainable procurement and similar policies to shift markets towards more sustainable products and technologies;

new 5(k) To establish knowledge platforms to bring together State agencies, the private sector and indigenous peoples and local communities to address these complex and technical issues, taking into account matters related to environmental stewardship and corporate social responsibility;

Proposed 5(k) text is reproduced from SBSTTA recommendation XXI/4, paragraph 9 4(k)