***Committee:*** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

***Topic:*** The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development

***Country:*** United Kingdom (UK)

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Biodiversity has been long acknowledged to be a complex system where terrestrial, marine and other ecological complexes interact with each other. Global biodiversity and our natural ecosystems are deeply interconnected with human health and the well-being of the community. Important issues like food, energy, and water production, which form the core needs of modern human society are now being adversely impacted by the decline we are witnessing in this biodiversity. Already, 25% of all species in the world, are threatened with over one million facing extinction as per the document adopted at the fifteenth conference of parties of the convention on biological diversity (CBD), in October 2020.

Historically, the degradation of these ecosystems and its connection to sustainable consumption has been heartily debated. However, in the past 50 years, the world's population has doubled, and changing land use patterns arising from human activities, have pushed food and energy security for the world population into a corner. This growth has resulted in the expansion of agriculture into tropical forests, where freshwater ecosystems have been negatively impacted causing both excessive plant growth and oxygen-depleted dead zones.

The CBD is the foundational UN document protecting environmental biodiversity and is legally binding for the 157 states that are party to the CBD. UK is also a part of this CBD. This delegate believes that the UK has made significant efforts in conserving this biodiversity for decades. The UK conceptualized the biodiversity action plan in 1994. This effort involved statutory, voluntary, academic, and business sectors both nationally and locally. The framework set out by the UK lays down a path for sustainable development. It comprises:

* 1. A shared purpose in tackling the loss and restoration of biodiversity.
  2. The guiding principles that the UK will follow to achieve it.
  3. UK's priorities for action in the UK and internationally.
  4. Indicators to monitor the key issues in the UK.

Within this approach to managing the ecosystem of biodiversity objectives, the UK is putting sustained efforts into the following six priorities:

* 1. Protecting the best sites for wildlife.
  2. Targeting action on priority species and habitats.
  3. Embedding proper consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all relevant sectors of policy and decision making.
  4. Engaging people and encouraging behavior change.
  5. Developing and interpreting the evidence base.
  6. Ensuring that the UK plays a proactive role in influencing the development of multilateral environmental agreements.

The last decade for nature has been really tough and the UK has been no exception. We have failed on two-thirds of the targets that we agreed on in the CBD. We have analyzed that insufficient funding for nature conservation, too little land being managed for nature, and declining wildlife populations have been the main cause of this failure. The delegate of the UK believes that it's not only us but the international community as well, that needs to wake up and double down on our efforts towards meeting the goals of CBD. This is a global issue and it will take a generation to resolve, we must start working hard right from today.