

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 2  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division  
**Topic:** 12TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Singh asked:**

There were 20 000 participants at COP 12, two working groups on the plenary floor and countless side meetings and friends of the chair sessions. What influence was Australian able to exercise?

a. Who attended the high-level segment on behalf of Australia?

**Answer:**

Australia actively engaged during the twelfth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity with a focus on transition efforts from policy formulation to effective implementation.

Australia was represented at all working group sessions and actively participated in contact groups for synthetic biology, resource mobilisation, climate change, Indigenous terminology and compliance under the Nagoya Protocol. The delegation also participated in bilateral discussions as well as attending side events where possible.

Australia made interventions on a number of issues, including liability and redress, climate change, structures and processes under the CBD, the work programme under Article 8(j) and sustainable use of biodiversity and bush meat. Australia actively influenced negotiations to hold all Australian Government positions.

A high-level ministerial segment took place from 15 to 17 October 2014. The registered members of Australia's delegation to attend the high level segment, the Head of Delegation and one other officer participated in the high-level segment as time allowed.

Australia was also elected as vice-president of the CBD COP Bureau for the period 2014-2016. This will further increase Australia's future involvement and influence in CBD-related matters.