

UNEP and UNEP-WCMC response on the structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ([CBD/WG2020/1/L.2](#)) invited Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders to submit proposals on the structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (see [notification 2019-075](#)). The deadline for submissions is 15 September 2019.

The following submission complements those by UNEP and UNEP-WCMC in response to earlier notifications, and in particular the responses of [15 April 2019](#) and [15 December 2018](#). Various parts of those submissions have been updated here, although significant input was made on the [vision](#), [mission](#) and [targets](#) in our submission of [15 April 2019](#), which is not repeated here.

1. **Guiding aims:** The structure and language of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be further developed with four related aims in mind:
 - a) To clearly set out ***what needs to be done by 2030*** in order to move onto a pathway for achieving the 2050 vision of 'living in harmony with nature'
 - b) To provide a rationale, approach or mechanism that ***relates the framework to delivering the SDGs***
 - c) To ***facilitate, support and encourage the necessary action and ambition by all key players*** that will be required to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
 - d) To generate a ***recognition of roles and responsibilities***, and foster transparent implementation and enhanced review mechanisms
2. **Continuity of implementation:** The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should make the relationship to the current Aichi Biodiversity Targets clear, given the many efforts at national and international levels that have already been made to align with these targets. While this could be in the body of the framework, it could also be presented as an annex.
3. **Scope:** The scope of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework needs to be sufficiently broad (so for example including elements on addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss and on ensuring the benefits from biodiversity) so that it is well understood that this is the strategy for addressing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This has implications for how the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is seen to relate to other major agendas and to other sectors, both domestically and internationally.
4. **Rationale:** The post-2020 global biodiversity framework needs to speak to communities that may not be familiar with the importance of biodiversity. A clear expression of the rationale is therefore a critical part of the framework, and this can draw on the findings of the assessments produced by IPBES and others, relating them to delivery of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. This would include recognition of the multiple values of biodiversity and of the key drivers of change, as well as of the actions required to address biodiversity loss.
5. **Back-casting and levels of ambition:** The mission, goals, targets and milestones need to be proportionate to actions and outcomes that will actually be required in order to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. In other words, implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be sufficient to set the world on a path to achieving the 2050 vision. Ensuring that this is so will require iterative reviews of the draft proposed elements of the framework as it is being developed, and adjustment of the proposed mission, goals, targets and/or milestones as necessary to ensuring an appropriate level of ambition. Various approaches are available for doing this.
6. **Strategic approaches:** Amongst many priorities there are three related areas of work where momentum will need to be built and maintained over the coming decade, and these should be reflected explicitly in the structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as cross-cutting issues. These approaches are:

- a) The promotion of nature-based solutions that build on the ecosystem approach and meet the needs of multiple agendas (such as climate change and land degradation), and so help build links between work under the Convention and its Protocols and other intergovernmental conventions and processes.
- b) Promoting and facilitating mainstreaming, so that the multiple values of biodiversity and ecosystem services are more clearly understood and drivers of biodiversity loss addressed through improved natural resource accounting.
- c) Promoting and facilitating ecosystem restoration, building on the impetus that will be provided by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and recognising the links to supporting at least the climate change and land degradation agendas.

7. **Addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss:** Any ambitions relating to the conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing of biodiversity will depend on successes achieved in addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss. The global biodiversity framework will therefore need to be clear on the need to address the direct drivers (habitat loss, overexploitation, climate change, pollution, invasive alien species) and indirect drivers (including agriculture and food production systems, consumption and production patterns, infrastructural development, the economic system, and issues relating to governance and human rights) of biodiversity loss in order to achieve positive outcomes for people and biodiversity. The framework might also indicate key actions that could be effective in addressing these drivers.

8. **Targets:** The framework should recognise different types of targets, which may require different approaches to language and target setting. Targets should cover four categories, as follows:

- a) Outcome targets on ambitions with respect to the status of biodiversity and ecosystem services, relating directly to milestones on the way to achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity. Such outcome targets could be embedded within a mission, but will need to reflect the reality of ongoing declines in the status of biodiversity and the time necessary to effect change.
- b) Targets and milestones focused on actions that will be taken by the biodiversity community under existing mandates and responsibilities (for example with respect to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, wildlife management, ecosystem restoration, access and benefit-sharing, addressing invasive alien species, and so on).
- c) Targets, milestones and actions that relate to influence on other sectors, integration, and interactions with other agendas including multilateral environmental agreements, addressing drivers of change that might be considered to be beyond the direct mandate of the Convention and its Protocols, and where additional approaches and partnerships will be needed to encourage change, and to foster synergies and coherence with related agendas and processes including among multilateral environmental agreements.
- d) Targets and milestones that relate to enabling activities such as on resource mobilization, capacity building, technology transfer, information for decision making, communications, governance, and so on, which are essential for underpinning action to achieve other targets and milestones.

9. **Enabling activities:** The Conference of the Parties has already asked for the development of other strategies and plans that will need to be aligned with and related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. As these relate closely to the enabling environment, they will need to be reflected in the structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and inform other content. These include:

- a) Work being carried out on the resource mobilization component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in response to Section E of COP [decision 14/22](#), which “affirms that resource mobilization will be an integral part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”.
- b) Work on development of a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, currently being carried out in response to COP [decision 14/24](#), where the clear intention is expressed to align the strategic framework with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- c) The request to the Executive Secretary to further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation ([decision 14/24](#)), and to review technical and scientific cooperation programmes under the

Convention, which is currently being addressed through consideration of a strategy to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

- d) The request to the Executive Secretary to “develop a knowledge management component as part of the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” ([decision 14/25](#)), initial work on which was reviewed by the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism earlier this year.
- e) Work on development of a “coherent, comprehensive and innovative communication strategy” that the COP decided in [decision 14/34](#) (paragraph 5) should support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the 2030 mission and the 2050 Vision. Such a strategy will need to be measurable and sufficiently resourced to underpin progress towards the wider post-2020 framework.
- f) Further to [decision XIII/24](#), [decision 14/30](#), and discussion at the consultation workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ([CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2](#)), the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should also be a focus for increasing coherence and synergies in implementing the conventions, including with respect to delivery of enabling activities and transparent implementation, monitoring and reporting.

10. **Transparent implementation, monitoring and reporting:** For maximum effectiveness the post-2020 global biodiversity framework needs to incorporate within it the approach to be used for tracking and supporting implementation. This should include at least the following elements:

- a) Indicators and baselines for as targets as they are developed, so that implementation can be tracked at all appropriate levels from the time of the adoption of the framework.
- b) National reports, noting that COP [decision 14/27](#) already recognises the potential of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to facilitate alignment of national reporting, providing the impetus for developing more integrated and efficient reporting approaches across the biodiversity-related conventions (and also incidentally recognising the value of data interoperability, online reporting tools, and for tools to support reporting such as the Data and Reporting Tool (DaRT)).
- c) Clarifying the relationship to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as statements of commitment and intention by Parties, and facilitating the development of enhanced guidance for any supplementary planning processes that might be required to respond to the global biodiversity framework.
- d) Encouraging and supporting review of implementation at the national level, including possible upscaling of the voluntary peer-review process, as the centrepiece of the “multidimensional review approach” recognized by COP [decision 14/29](#) and presented in documents [UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/10/Add.3](#) and [CBD/SI/2/11](#).
- e) Periodic assessment of the commitments made by Parties and others in order to establish whether the level of ambition shown is sufficient to achieve whatever mission, goals and targets are established in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This might specifically include commitments and actions relating to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and financial flows for nature-based solutions.
- f) Periodic assessment of implementation and progress towards targets in order to identify areas where enhanced implementation may be required in order to progress on a pathway towards the 2050 vision.