

Aligning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

A suggested model

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How is the SDG framework useful to the CBD post 2020?

This brief presents a suggestion for how the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) can be intimately linked to Agenda 2030 and the narrative supplied by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This will help to ensure consistency between them, and between the GBF and other key global policy frameworks. It will also provide a mechanism for continuity after 2030, for achieving the vision for biodiversity for 2050.

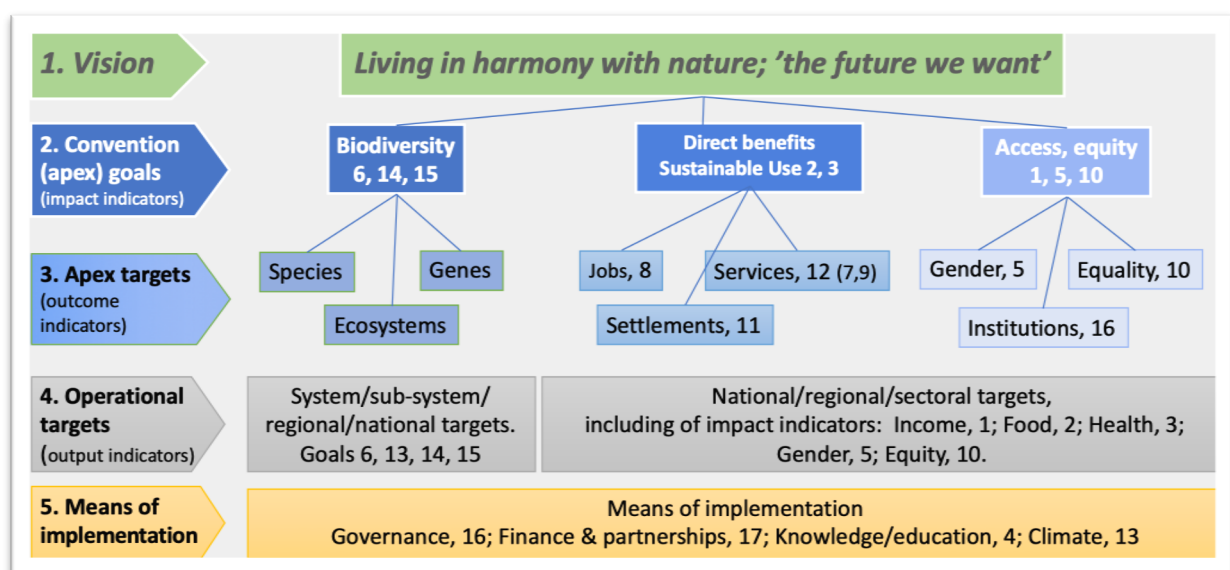
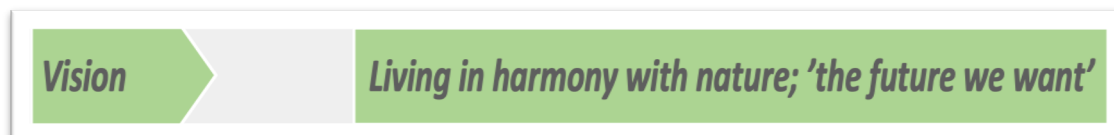


Figure 1. A suggested structure for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), made up of five layers, and indicating where individual Sustainable Development Goals may be relevant.

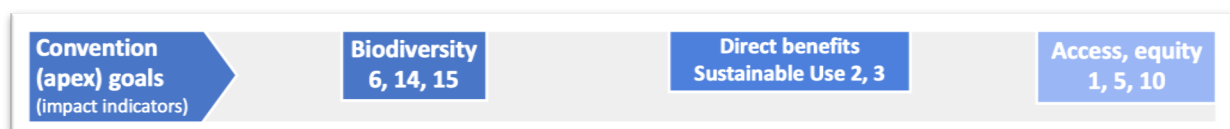
A more detailed explanation of the five layers follows:

1) The vision – living in harmony with nature ...



... is a biodiversity-focused framing of the 2030 Agenda – 'the future we want'. Decadal 'versions' of the vision can be expressed as goals for 2030 (Agenda 2030 and the post-2020 biodiversity goal), that will evolve into goals for 2040, on the way to achieving the 2050 vision.

2) the three goals of the CBD, on conserving, sustainably using and equitable sharing biodiversity and its benefits.



These link to several of the SDGs, which can be used to frame *impact indicators* for successful implementation of the post-2020 GBF. The impact indicators for sustainable use and equitable sharing are particularly important for the GBF, in that they will also provide benchmarks for Agenda 2030 and other social and economic instruments. This should help assure alignment with biodiversity constraints and goals, and to avoid the historic disconnect between social/economic versus biodiversity domains that undermined achievement of the Aichi Targets, particularly those linked to the status of nature (11, 12, 13) and drivers affecting it (10).

3) Apex targets for the CBD are necessary to make the 3 goals more explicit, corresponding to outcomes



delivered by implementation of lower level and more explicit and tangible targets at level 4. A simple way to do this is to deepen the pyramid structure that went from 1 vision to 3 goals in levels 1 and 2, by identifying 3 apex targets for each CBD goal in level 3:

- for goal 1, apex/outcome targets need to relate to different aspects of biodiversity, whereas
- for goals 2 and 3, apex/outcome targets may be linked to key SDGs relevant to each goal.

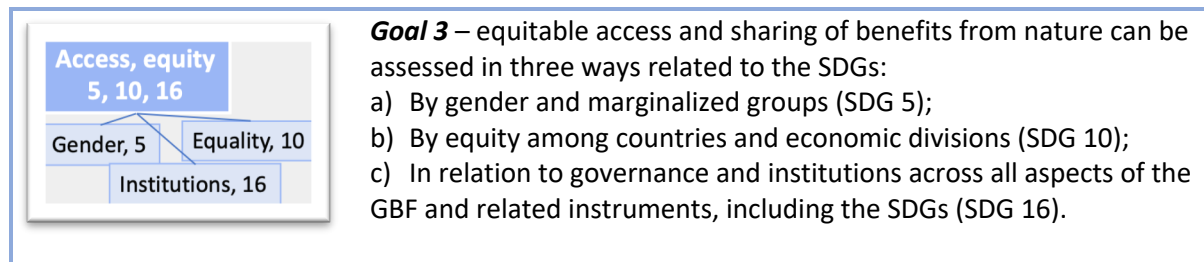
Goal 1 - Biodiversity is divided into genes, species and ecosystems. An apex target for each can be formulated, that would enable specification of each for specific system, in level 4 (e.g. coral reefs). The purpose of each apex target is to enable synthesis across species, ecosystems and genetic systems to enable aggregate indicators to be used, equivalent to the headline indicators possible in other systems (e.g. of 1.5 C warming for climate change).

Goal 2 - Sustainable use can be measured by direct benefits derived from nature's contributions to people or ecosystem services¹. A simple 3-way division of these could be done through:

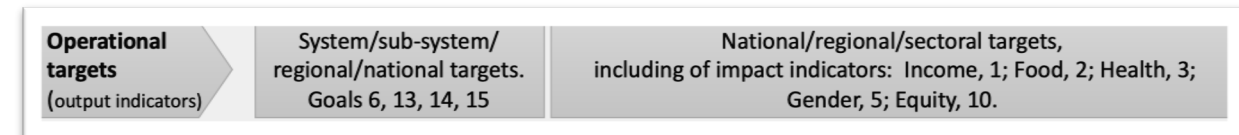
- A focus on services utilized and measurable, such as crops, fish catch, coastal protection, climate regulation, etc (SDG 12);
- A focus on the number of people directly or indirectly supported, through livelihoods, jobs and other relevant measures (SDG 8);
- A focus on demographics, in the type of settlement and concentration of human activities, such as in towns and cities, agricultural areas, etc (SDG 11). This reflects the degree of transformation of nature in multiple ways, as in the duality between anthromes and biomes and the hypothesis on 3 conditions of nature².

1 IPBES. "Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services," in Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, eds Díaz S, Settele J, Brondizio ES, Ngo HT, Guéze M, Agard J, et al. 2019. Bonn: IPBES secretariat, 39 pp

2 IPBES 2019, and Locke et al. 2019. Three Global Conditions for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use: an implementation framework. Environment/Ecology. <https://academic.oup.com/nsr/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/nsr/nwz136/5567446>



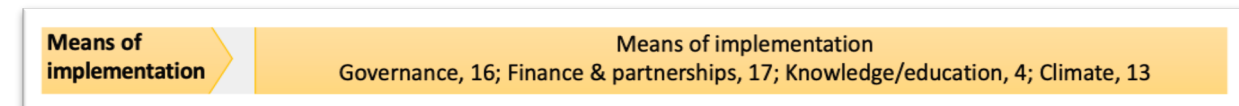
4) Operational targets for implementation



of the GBF goals and apex targets may then be specified according to priorities and contexts, across multiple scales. The national scale is particularly important to implementation, as well as (for the GBF, SDGs and other instruments), but relevant operational targets can be set from regional down to local scales. For Goal 1, the species, ecosystem and gene apex targets can be customized to specific ecosystem, species and biogeographic specificities. More integrative SDGs, for example SDG 1 that measures income, may also be useful here at multiple levels, to link to impact indicators for the overall goals at higher international levels.

For example, applying this framework to coral reefs across developing country regions would require translation of the generic species, ecosystem and genetic targets at level 3 into coral reef targets in level 4; along with specification of the multiple specific targets across all SDGs related to a coral reef³.

5) At the level of means of implementation,



the GBF and state parties would specify the governance, finance, partnerships and knowledge needs required to achieve the targets, goals and vision. At all stages, indicators need to be identified (and may be output, outcome or impact level indicators, as relevant), and the more these are based on 'essential variable' principles⁴, and the more they are shared across instruments, the greater the degree of integrated reporting and 'indivisible implement of the SDGs' is possible.

Mapping this model to the pyramid GBF proposal submitted by Brazil

Figure 2 maps the suggested framework onto the pyramid model proposed by Brazil at the Open Ended Working Group meeting in Nairobi, 27-30 August 2019⁵. Salient points include the following, focused on the 'blue level' of apex goals and targets for 2030:

³ Obura, D.O. (2019) A plot for sustainability -the Sustainable Development Goals as a narrative. Preprints 201910.0157 (doi:10.20944/preprints201910.0157.v1)

⁴ Muller-Karger FE, et al. (2018) Advancing Marine Biological Observations and Data Requirements of the Complementary Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) and Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) Frameworks. Front. Mar. Sci. 5:211. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2018.00211; Bojinski, S., et al. (2014). The concept of essential climate variables in support of climate research, applications, and policy. Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc. 95, 1431–1443, doi: 10.1175/BAMS-D-13-00047.1

⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/submissions/2019-075>

- This formulation proposes 3 **apex goals** under the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (ie. for 2030), one for each of the goals of the CBD – i.e. on 1) conservation, 2) sustainable use and 3) equitable sharing of benefits, of biodiversity;
- Within the 2021-2030 framework of goals and targets, rather than differentiating IPBES drivers, SDGs and Nagoya mechanisms under each goal (1, 2 and 3, respectively), this model treats drivers as cross-cutting (and originating from use practices driven by failings in goals 2 and 3), and assigns SDGs in a more nuanced way across the model.
- Focused on goal 1 (biodiversity), the formulation of an Apex goal for biodiversity needs consideration. This is to respond to the general call for biodiversity apex targets that correspond to the climate target of “1.5 C warming” under the Paris Agreement. It can be broken broken down into three apex targets, focused on species, ecosystems and genetics, respectively.
- The specific needs of individual countries, or sub-systems can be addressed by operational targets in level 4. For example, the proposal for a coral reef target would be a specific implementation of the more general apex ecosystem target in level 3. This approach also allows for operationalizing the entire framework for a coral reef landscape within countries and regions, identifying all aspects (species, genes, ecosystems; as well as CBD goal 2 and 3 goals, targets and indicators) relevant to a coral reef setting.
- Means of implementation are directly related to goals that relate to governance, partnerships, resources and technical knowledge.
- Addressing **climate change**, particularly achieving the Paris Agreement 1.5 C target is critical to sensitive systems such as coral reefs, so is embedded in this framework as part of the Means of Implementation, and can be linked as a high level outcome/impact goal from the UNFCCC alongside the 2030 goals and 2050 vision.

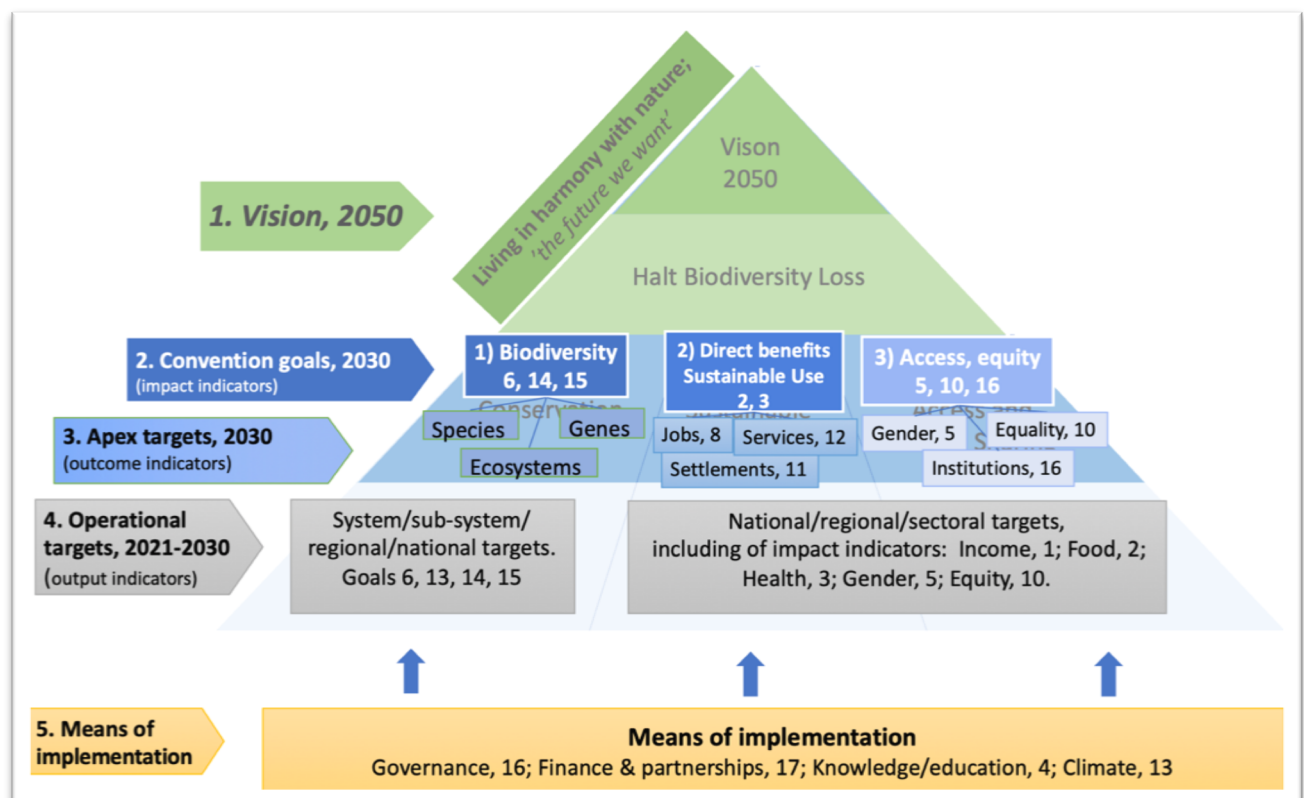


Figure 2. Mapping the suggested structure for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) onto the pyramid proposal submitted by Brazil under the Open Ended Working Group. The 2030 convention goals and apex targets are emphasized, with a wide range of operational targets possible to support different national and other processes (e.g. coral reef example).