

Submission of views on possible targets, indicators and baselines for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on the interlinkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change

This submission is prepared by the Global Forest Coalition (<https://globalforestcoalition.org/>), an international coalition of 99 Indigenous Peoples Organizations and NGOs from 64 different countries, in collaboration with Pivot Point and the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and other members of the Climate, Land, Ambition and Rights Alliance (CLARA, <https://www.climatelandambitionrightsalliance.org/>).

Introduction: the need for policy coherence between climate and biodiversity policies

CBD/SBSTTA 23/3 (19 August 2019), acknowledges that biodiversity and climate are interconnected in many ways. While biodiversity is strongly affected by climate change, the conservation of biodiversity, through the ecosystem services it supports, makes an indispensable contribution to addressing climate change. The document also refers to ecosystem-based approaches that contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction thereby reducing the vulnerability of people, especially indigenous people and local communities and those disproportionately impacted, and the ecosystems upon which they depend, in the face of climate change.

The Review of New Scientific and Technical Information on Biodiversity and Climate Change¹ sends across two important reminders;

Protecting and conserving biodiversity and ecosystems is critical in order to maintain and increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people in the face of the adverse effects of climate change, as well as to maintain the capacity of ecosystems to store carbon. And

In order to limit global warming to well below 2°C, and closer to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, strong actions are needed to protect and enhance carbon sinks on land and in the oceans through ecosystem-based approaches as well as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use and other industrial and agricultural activities.

The draft recommendation submitted by the Chair in CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.4 (28 November 2019):

Notes that nature-based solutions (*sic*) with biodiversity safeguards are an essential component of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

Stresses the need for urgent climate action at all levels and across all sectors and the need to address biodiversity loss and climate change in an integrated manner;

Invites the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the associated thematic workshops, to consider the interlinkages and interdependence between biodiversity, climate change, desertification and land degradation when developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular the use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction...

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision

¹ Please refer to <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/326e/cf86/773f944a5e06b75dfc5866bf/sbstta-23-03-en.pdf>

Recognizing that biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and land degradation are inseparable and interdependent challenges of unprecedented severity that must be coherently and consistently addressed urgently in an integrated manner in order to achieve the goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Paris Agreement,⁷ as well as [those voluntary targets concerning desertification, land degradation and drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification], and the Sustainable Development Goals and the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, among other relevant regional initiatives,

Emphasizing that, while climate change should primarily be mitigated by reducing anthropogenic emissions, the enhanced use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction is also indispensable to achieve multiple globally agreed goals including the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Recalling decisions VII/15, IX/16, X/33, XIII/4, and 14/5, and, in particular, the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, the draft of the Chair

Urges Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including productive sectors, to promote and upscale the use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including ecosystem protection and restoration, sustainable infrastructure (sic) and ecosystem management, including agroecosystems, and taking into account their potential for synergies for addressing biodiversity loss and climate change while providing multiple benefits, including for human health, poverty alleviation and sustainable development, as well as their ability to avoid unfavourable trade-offs between climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

The Chair also:

Welcomes the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems; and the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate;

Acknowledges the ongoing joint activities between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on biodiversity and climate change.

Decision 1/CP.25 taken in Madrid at the 25th Conference of the Parties of the Climate Convention (UNFCCC COP 25) *underlines* the potential contribution of nature to addressing climate change and its impacts and the need to address biodiversity loss and climate change in an integrated manner.

The Preamble of the Paris Agreement notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and the importance for some of the concept of “climate justice”, when taking action to address climate change.

This submission refers, in particular, to information and recommendations contained in:

(a) *IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty*

(SR1.5). The report provides information on: projected climate change, potential impacts and associated risks; emission pathways and system transitions consistent with 1.5°C global warming; and on strengthening the global response in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;

(b) *IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems (SRCCL)*. The report provides information on: land-climate interactions; desertification; land degradation; food security; interlinkages between desertification, land degradation, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes including synergies, trade-offs and integrated response options; and risk management and decision-making in relation to sustainable development;

(c) *IPCC special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate (SROCC)*. The report provides information on: high mountain areas; polar regions; sea level rise and implications for low-lying islands, coasts and communities; changing ocean, marine ecosystems, and dependent communities; and extreme, abrupt changes and managing risks;

(d) *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services*. The report assesses the status and trends with regard to biodiversity and ecosystem services, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(e) *IPBES assessment report on land degradation and restoration*. The report provides an analysis of the state of knowledge regarding the importance, drivers, status, and trends of terrestrial ecosystems. The report identifies governance options, policies and management practices to reduce land degradation and to rehabilitate and restore degraded land;

(f) *Missing Pathways to 1.5 degree C (CLARA)*². This report examines three overlapping crises: climate change, biodiversity loss and the growing land and other rights abuses against Indigenous Peoples and local communities who are on the frontline of the climate and biodiversity crises.

(g) *The Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI)*³ which aims to contribute to the implementation of the CBD's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets by providing policy advice on effective and appropriate forms of support for community conservation.

2) Baselines, targets and indicators

Integration between the UNFCCC and the CBD is important. However, we must ensure that biodiversity stays at the forefront of all decisions and implementation in this Convention, and raise the awareness of the importance of biodiversity in the climate convention. Any measures that

² Please refer to

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b22a4b170e802e32273e68c/t/5bef947f4fa51adec11bfa69/1542427787745/MissingPathwaysCLARAreport_2018r2.pdf

³ Please see <https://globalforestcoalition.org/campaigns/supporting-community-conservation/>

enhance carbon stocks but decrease biodiversity and ecosystem functioning are, negative and, in fact, cannot be called Nature Based Solutions.

It is important to align a post-2020 global biodiversity framework with other international frameworks, in particular, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to enhance the enabling environment for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Aligning the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with the 2030 Agenda will help to avoid the isolation of biodiversity from other global economic and social goals. It will also allow biodiversity to be better mainstreamed into development processes and thus for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be implemented more effectively.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should not be less ambitious than the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The current plan should serve as a “baseline”. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be used as a starting point for negotiating a more advanced and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Biodiversity science is unequivocal about the fact that the planet cannot afford another 30 years of biodiversity loss. For that reason, the post-2020 biodiversity framework should include a set of ambitious biodiversity targets for the period between 2020 and 2030 with associated indicators, and interim milestones while recognizing that the Aichi Targets have to be achieved immediately. The post-2020 framework cannot reduce the level of ambition of current Aichi Targets.

This is meant in part to align it with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is relevant. The rationale for the 2050 Vision should be further developed, and the possible need for milestones for 2030 and 2040 should be explored. The 2030 milestone and baselines as well should serve as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision.

3) The central role of community conservation

Community led Conservation is key to halt deforestation and biodiversity loss. This is the key message that comes out of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI), a global initiative facilitated by the Global Forest Coalition which has documented bottom-up participatory assessments by 68 communities in 22 different countries of the resilience of their community conservation and restoration initiatives.⁴

Forests under the management and governance of Indigenous Peoples and local communities not only have higher rates of biodiversity than those protected under conventional state-led conservation measures, but also have lower rates of deforestation. Additionally, this type of practices reinforces cultural identity, traditional knowledge, attacks the loss of biodiversity and constitutes a tool that can help to recognize and strengthen the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in achieving the CBD vision of “*living in harmony with nature*”. Women play a central role in such initiatives, and their differentiated roles, rights, needs and aspirations should be respected.

The post2020 framework could bring together, elevate and propose targets and indicators that address the procedural and substantial human rights that enable communities to defend nature in the face of corporate exploitation - from rights of participation and inclusion, free prior and

⁴ See www.climatelandambitionrightsalliance.org/case-studies for different examples of community-led conservation efforts led by GFC and CLARA partners.

informed consent, and defence of environmental defenders to the economic and social rights of farmers, fisherfolk, IPLCs and pastoralists who pursue biodiversity based livelihoods.

We strongly support the following target suggested in CBD/COP/14/INF/16:

By 2030, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Conventional approaches of formally setting aside 17%, or even 30 or 50% of the planet's ecosystems will be insufficient to halt biodiversity loss or climate change. For that reason, it is important that the post-2020 biodiversity framework embraces a much stronger focus on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) like ICCAs and other community conservation initiatives that can be applied on a country-wide scale. The post-2020 biodiversity framework, in this regard, should adopt a set of targets and associated indicators that go beyond addressing simply participation of IPLCs and other rightsholder groups like women and ensure equitable governance of protected areas and ICCAs.

The post-2020 biodiversity framework should have clear and implementable targets to support community conservation, including policy measures that recognize the role, rights, traditional knowledge, collective actions and customary sustainable use practices of groups like women and Indigenous Peoples in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation.

Complementary to such rights-based approaches, a specific target on recognizing the territorial and land tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities embodying sustainable lifestyles, and women, should be adopted.

The framework should also include a specific target on recognizing, on basis of Free Prior and Informed Consent, Indigenous Peoples and local communities conserved territories and areas (ICCAs) and Sacred Natural Sites.

Similarly, gender-responsive approaches to biodiversity conservation should be both integrated throughout the post-2020 biodiversity framework, and embodied in a specific target on enhanced recognition of the role, rights and participation of women in biodiversity conservation and restoration.

4) Redirection of perverse incentives and divestment from biodiversity harmful projects

Another essential target toward effective implementation of the post-2020 biodiversity framework is the adoption, by 2030, of regulatory and other policy frameworks that ensure a 100% divestment from activities that cause ecosystem destruction. All perverse incentives that might cause biodiversity destruction and loss should be redirected or eliminated.

Aichi Target 3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) states that subsidies and incentives that are harmful to biodiversity must be phased out or reformed by 2020. It is recognized that accelerating progress of AT3 is urgently needed, and that 'failing to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 jeopardizes the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. This is true for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15.2 aimed at halting

deforestation by 2020 when, at the same time, the very drivers of deforestation are boosted by perverse subsidies and incentives contradicting the aims of the SDGs, the CBD and other globally-agreed targets. Similarly, AT3 is at the heart of land related climate mitigation and climate resilience strategies.

Public investments in biodiversity conservation and restoration, both nationally and internationally, make little sense if they are outpaced by public investments in biodiversity destruction. We welcome the emphasis on addressing drivers of both climate change and biodiversity loss, such as unsustainable livestock production, which is responsible for an estimated 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions. In this respect, addressing unsustainable livestock production and consumption is not just a matter of behavioural change, but is contingent on a redirection of perverse incentives and other regulatory and economic tools. A recent study published by Global Forest Coalition "*Incentivising deforestation for livestock products*"⁵ detailing how support for the livestock sector in the EU and Mercosur countries is subsidising forest destruction, clearly points out how direct and indirect incentives and subsidies in these countries are harming forests and biodiversity and how large agribusinesses obtain the benefits at the expense of the public good and natural resources. Efforts to eliminate and redirect perverse incentives should also include climate policy incentives that promote the planting of monoculture tree plantations or the deployment of bioenergy, including bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), as these activities are having significant negative impacts on biodiversity and food security.

The post-2020 biodiversity framework, therefore, should include a target regarding a 100% redirection and phasing out of perverse incentives, as part of its resource mobilization related targets, which should also include a target on the mobilization of new and additional public financial resources.

5) Addressing consumption and production patterns and related trade

There is clearly an interface between biodiversity, climate change and trade. Indeed, many Parties have identified the need to address the fact that distant areas of the world are increasingly connected by trade and global supply chains, resulting in biodiversity loss in other areas. Setting up of a specific target on trade related impacts is important in this context.

The post-2020 biodiversity framework should renew and make more specific targets on sustainable consumption and production patterns. This should be linked to the target addressing the impacts of commodity trade. One important area that the previous Strategic Plan failed to address was the need for sustainable food systems, and especially the need for a global shift towards more plant-based diets in light of the devastating impacts of large-scale livestock and feedstock production on biodiversity and climate change. For that reason, we recommend the inclusion of a specific target that addresses the shift to more balanced, primarily plant-based diets in countries and societies with high meat and dairy consumption levels.

6) Conclusion

The post-2020 biodiversity framework should include an effective, regular process of reviewing the alignment of national biodiversity targets with the targets stipulated in the post-2020 biodiversity framework, including a limited number of clearly defined interim milestones. There also is a need for a limited set of agreed indicators of progress that are adequate, appropriate, reflective of the targets and milestones, multi-disciplinary and gender-sensitive. The process leading to NBSAPs should be

⁵ Please see <https://globalforestcoalition.org/perverse-incentives-deforestation-for-livestock/>

strengthened by being consultative and inclusive with the active participation of IPLCs, women and youth and communities as rightsholders at the national and sub-national level.

A similar exercise is needed to address the progress made in the preparation and review of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement to halt biodiversity loss, ensuring ecological integrity and ecosystems restoration through an equitable, inclusive and active participation of LCIPs, women and youth with a special focus on governance.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are inseparable threats to Mother Earth and the human civilisation and must be addressed together. A multilateral global framework like the post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework can address climate change and biodiversity loss only when it incorporates a robust set of baselines, ambitious targets and associated indicators that facilitates Rights Based, Equitable and Inclusive, Community Governed and Ecosystems Based approaches that address drivers of both direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss and climate change. This will require 100% divestment from harmful activities that cause deforestation, ecosystem destruction. Perverse incentives that cause biodiversity loss should be eliminated. Public investment must be redirected towards community governed forest and biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration.

Time is limited. We only have a decade left to resurrect our Mother Earth.