



Official Submission for the Preparations for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Background □

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) aims to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of the benefits of biological diversity. Thriving nature is essential to all life on Earth and human survival. The food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, are all dependent on functioning natural ecosystems. Achieving the aims of the Convention on Biological Diversity is integrally linked with preventing catastrophic climate change and is essential for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Global Deal for Nature - Abstract

The Global Deal for Nature (Dinerstein et al 2019) shows the need to link the goals and actions of CBD and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in order to avoid catastrophic climate change, conserve species and secure essential ecosystem services. As of 2018, less than half of the terrestrial realm is intact, and more than half of the ocean is targeted by commercial fishing, yet conserving all native ecosystems – coupled with energy transition measures – will be required to remain below a 1.5° C rise in average global temperature. The Global Deal for Nature provides a time-bound, science-driven plan to save the diversity and abundance of life on Earth and avert catastrophic climate change.

COP 15 - China

We believe that CBD COP15 in China in October 2020 must result in an agreement with a clear apex target that is easy to understand by the public and political leaders alike, that is measurable, actionable, and based on the Aichi framework and supports the sustainable development goals. Everything that CBD aims to achieve (e.g., halting extinction, preserving ecosystem services) falls under this umbrella target.

Thus, we call for safeguarding half of the Earth in its natural state, with integral, functioning, and connected ecosystems that continue to provide for humanity and the rest of life on the planet. Building upon Aichi target 11, area-based targets should be “ecologically representative” with minimum targets set for each of the world’s eco-regions. Some eco-regions with “particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services” will have much higher targets than others. Therefore we call for science-based targets that set aside political demarcations and are guided by a global prioritization analysis including, but not limited to, biodiversity resilience, carbon storage, water security, and food provision.

2030 Target

In particular, we call for a milestone of at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 30 percent of oceans to be safeguarded through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative, well-connected systems of highly protected areas and Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures by 2030. The continued leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities – as well as the importance of traditional and local knowledge – and their critical role in achieving a sustainable future should be implicit in the OECMs.

To meet this vision, the entire planet must be managed sustainably, supported by truly sustainable production and consumption, a circular economy, and the sustainable and equitable sharing of benefits from nature.