



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**  
**B.P 3502 KIGALI**

**Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD**  
**Executive Secretary**  
**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**  
**United Nations Environment Programme**  
**413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800,**  
**Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada**

**RE: Submission of Country Commitment**

Dear Madam,

Reference is made to your letter Ref: SCBD/OES/ CPP/DC/CE/86582 on preparations of the Post-2020 Strategic Plan and the subsequent information note on ways and means to contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

I am pleased to submit Rwanda's commitments to the process which were developed through consultations made with key stakeholders. The commitments are aligned with our development strategies and international commitments including SDGs, the Paris Agreement among others.

I hereby reiterate our commitment to support the formulation of a comprehensive and ambitious Post-2020 biodiversity framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink over a circular official seal of the Ministry of Environment. The seal contains the text 'MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT' and 'IREMURAMU'.

**Vincent BIRUTA**  
**Minister of Environment**

**Cc:**

- His Excellency The President of Republic of Rwanda
- Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Director General /REMA

**KIGALI**

**Republic of Rwanda**



**Ministry of Environment**

***Submission from Rwanda***

**Ref: SCBD/OES/PPP/DC/CE/86582**

**Notification: Preparations of the Post-2020 Strategic Plan**

---

Firstly, I would like to note the ongoing efforts by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat to guide parties towards a Post-2020 Global Diversity Framework. Including but not limited to the discussion paper released in January 2019 which served as a good overview of submissions from the parties and offered a robust structure for discussions on the post-2020 framework to take place in.

I acknowledge the CBD Secretariat and designated co-chairs' efforts in facilitating the regional workshops particularly the Africa regional workshop that took place in Addis Ababa in April 2019. This offered a good opportunity for African stakeholders to come together and develop a more coherent and inclusive position on the post-2020 framework.

Taking note on the first of the three Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWGs) recently conducted in Nairobi on the 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 to determine the content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework which will be considered for adoption in October 2020 at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 15).

In response to the notification on preparations for the Post-2020 Strategic Plan, the Rwandan Ministry of Environment conducted a national workshop on the Post-2020 Framework to discuss and agree on biodiversity priorities which are in line with ongoing national priorities and suggestions for commitments to be included in the Post-2020 Framework.

This submission is therefore a summary of what we believe can contribute to the post 2020 biodiversity agenda and support the protection of biodiversity both in Rwanda and globally.



With the ongoing process of negotiating a post-2020 Framework, Rwanda has sought to transparently gain a consensus on what ambitious and realistic national biodiversity commitments could look like.

Rwanda remains committed to the goal and objectives laid out in our National Strategy for Transformation (NST1)<sup>1</sup> and other relevant policies including the National Biodiversity Policy<sup>2</sup> and the Environment and Climate Change policy<sup>3</sup>. However, I will seek to review our National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and align the new targets with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global emerging issues.

I recognise that in order to combat the increasing pressure on biodiversity these commitments must be stepped up and integrated more thoroughly into national planning and expenditure.

To that end, I propose the following revised commitments be considered for inclusion in the post-2020 Framework. These build upon a number of the existing Aichi targets and our national Targets, and I believe that they will help achieve the 2050 vision of 'Living in Harmony with Nature.'

Rwanda is committed over the next decade to:

1. Promoting bio-diversity conservation including revitalisation of National Parks to contribute to a Global target of 30% of land and sea under protection by 2030, and 50% under protection by 2050.
  - Maintaining at least 10.3 per cent of land area under protection and exploring the possibility of more national designations of protected wetlands.
2. Protecting biodiversity outside of protected areas through meaningful engagement with local communities and agricultural sector.
  - Strengthen the involvement and empowerment of local communities in instituting measures that protect and preserve biodiversity through a nationwide communications campaign that highlights the value of biodiversity in maintaining food sources, water sources, medication, employment and economic prosperity.
3. Mobilise resources and funds spent on biodiversity preservation and restoration from current 0.9% to 2% of the national GDP. In line with a broader goal to globally commit to double the percentage of GDP spent on biodiversity

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.minecofin.gov.rw/fileadmin/user\\_upload/NST1\\_7YGP\\_Final.pdf](http://www.minecofin.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/NST1_7YGP_Final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/rw/rw-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.environment.gov.rw/fileadmin/Environment\\_Subsector/Laws\\_Policies\\_and\\_Programmes/Useful\\_documents/Final\\_Draft\\_Environment\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.rw/fileadmin/Environment_Subsector/Laws_Policies_and_Programmes/Useful_documents/Final_Draft_Environment_and_Climate_Change_Policy.pdf)

preservation and restoration including but not limited to; implementing payment for ecosystem services(PES).

4. Maintaining at least 30% of the country's forest cover, thus increasing carbon stocks and contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation
5. Ensure establishment and subsequent implementation of biosafety regulations and any associated legal instruments in line with the Cartagena Protocol.
6. Undertake measures to enhance the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing and mainstream into broader environmental policy.
7. Undertake an audit of current information systems and data streams and establish an improved national Biodiversity Information Facility (BIF) to help coordinate biodiversity data collection, management and data sharing to inform national planning and track progress.
8. Promoting transboundary collaboration in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development
9. Striving to prevent the extinction of threatened species particularly for those that are most at risk of extinction and restore species of ecological importance.
10. Seeking to promote better understanding of biodiversity and climate change through integration in the national curriculum.

This list is not exhaustive. However, I believe that if included in the post-2020 global framework these commitments would contribute in securing the future of biodiversity and 'Vision 2050.'

Having discussed these extensively with stakeholders the Government of Rwanda is confident that these commitments will be met and recommends their adoption as part of the post-2020 framework.