Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Centre
413 St. Jacques Street, Suite 800
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Re: Invitation to provide views on the initial discussion document on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Submission by:
Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC)
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Proposed Target and Indicators for
Connectivity Conservation in the post-2020 framework for biodiversity

Connectivity conservation plays a vital role in halting the loss of biological diversity, combatting climate change, and enabling all life to survive and thrive on Earth. Therefore, avoiding fragmentation, and maintaining, enhancing, and restoring the interconnectedness of ecological systems is essential. As the world embarks on the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, the creation of the post-2020 framework for biodiversity signals a crucial juncture for boosting the ambitions of current conservation targets. Implementing existing targets for ecological connectivity including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, and adopting new targets and indicators, will enable global conservation initiatives to urgently address the drivers of biodiversity loss.

Connectivity conservation is at the heart of reinforcing the health and integrity of protected and conserved areas. It serves as a comprehensive and transformative solution for increasing resiliency and achieving the post-2020 framework for biodiversity across all geographies and sectors of human society. As the numerous submissions to the ongoing consultation process make clear, connectivity conservation is a highly desirable conservation tool that could be better reflected throughout the entire framework by developing specific targets and indicators to guide capacity-building, mainstreaming, and implementation.

To unite the world and take urgent action to avoid further fragmentation of nature and to better protect biodiversity, we therefore reiterate the call for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to include a "Connectivity Conservation Target" that, "By 2030 at least 30% of Earth be covered by well-connected systems of protected areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and managed, where appropriate, as ecological networks."[1]

To achieve the vision of this target, we further propose the following "Connectivity Conservation Indicators":

1) The number, percentage, and total area in square kilometers of terrestrial and marine protected areas, other conserved areas, and Key Biodiversity Areas, that are connected, where necessary and appropriate, to each other;
2) The number of individual, and combined proportions, of connectivity conservation areas in terrestrial, marine, and freshwater habitats;
3) The rate of decrease in fragmentation, and increase in restoration and connectivity of terrestrial, marine, and freshwater habitats;
4) The number of countries, their laws, regulations, and policies, and the number of implementing initiatives that discourage fragmentation and encourage connectivity conservation;
5) The number of countries, communities, and partners working on and encouraging connectivity conservation; and
6) The number of linear infrastructure development projects that avoid connectivity conservation areas, and/or, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for reducing the risks to ecological connectivity.

Gary Tabor
President, Center for Large Landscape Conservation

Kelvin Alie,
Executive Vice President, International Fund for Animal Welfare

[1] See Annex "Suggested Target Formulation and topics", Section (i) "Protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures", number (2) in *Synthesis of Views of Parties and Observers on the Scope and Content of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*. Document: CBD/POST2020/PREP/1/INF/1 (https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/de9c/8c12/7c0cb88a47f9084e5d0b82eb/post2020-prep-01-inf-01-en.pdf).