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Re: Notification 2019-108 - Invitation to submit views on possible targets, indicators and baselines for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Submission by:
Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC)

**Emphasizing Connectivity Conservation
for the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC) extends compliments to CBD Parties and others contributing to the creation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Building on previous submissions,¹ we continue to demonstrate how connectivity conservation can be addressed in the Post-2020 GBF. As terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems are increasingly fragmented to the detriment of habitats, species movement, and natural processes, connectivity conservation provides solutions for reversing biodiversity loss, increasing resilience to climate change, and reinforcing global commitments to area-based and species-based conservation. It is therefore important to note here that, out of the 62 submissions last made in response to Notification 2019-075,² 7 Parties and 17 Observers highlighted the need to ensure that connectivity be a key element of the Post-2020 GBF.

As invited in notification 2019-108,³ we herewith submit the following points to emphasize how to improve the current version and integrate aspects of ecological connectivity into the [Zero Draft](#) of the GBF:

- 1) Re Annex I, Section II.B, Paragraph 10(a), CLLC advises amendments as follows:
*No ~~net~~ loss ~~by 2030~~ in the area, **ecological connectivity**, and integrity of **natural** freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems **including no loss of irreplaceable sites essential for biodiversity relative to 2020 levels by 2030, bending the curve upward to at least [10%] increases by 2040, and positive increases of at least [20%] by 2050, ensuring ecosystem resilience.***
- 2) Re Annex I, Section II.D, Paragraph 12(a)1, CLLC advises amendments as follows:
*Retain and restore freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems **suitable to categorization of varying conditions of fragmentation such as “cities and farms”, “shared lands”, and “large wild areas”, increasing by at least [50%] the ~~amount of Earth’s land and sea area~~ surfaces and subsurfaces under comprehensive***

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/A1452AB3-3E44-7FE1-7CF5-EA6AF2B5542A/attachments/CLLC.pdf>;
<https://www.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/ACB81577-D3E3-063D-1791-E523D2E793B8/attachments/CLLC.pdf>; and
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/Post2020/postsbi/cllc.pdf>.

² <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/submissions/2019-075>.

³ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/submissions/2019-108>.

spatial planning for conservation ~~addressing land/sea use change~~, including protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures, Key Biodiversity Areas, and Ecological Networks, achieving by 2030 a net increase in area, ecological connectivity, and integrity, and retaining existing intact areas and wilderness.

- 3) Re Annex I, Section II.D, Paragraph 12(a)2, CLLC proposes amendments as follows:
*Protect **Key Biodiversity Areas and other** sites of particular importance for biodiversity **through systems of** protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures **that**, by 2030 ~~covering~~ at least [60%] of such sites **and** at least [30%] of **total** land and sea areas, ~~with~~ **and manage** at least [10%] **of the total area** under strict protection **and at least [25%] to conserve ecological connectivity.***
- 4) Re Annex I, Section II.D, Paragraph 12(a)6, CLLC proposes amendments as follows:
*Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction through nature-based solutions, **especially ecological connectivity conservation**, providing by 2030 [about 30%] [at least XXX MT CO2=] of the mitigation effort needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, complementing stringent emission reductions, and avoiding negative impacts on biodiversity and food security.*
- 5) Re Annex I, Section II.D, Paragraph 12(b)8, CLLC proposes amendments as follows:
*Conserve and enhance the sustainable use of biodiversity in **and around** agricultural and other managed ecosystems to support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of such systems, **and reduce negative and enhance positive impacts on natural and semi-natural areas - including maintaining, enhancing, and restoring ecological connectivity - and ~~reducing~~** by 2030 related productivity gaps by at least [50%].*
- 6) Re Annex I, Section II.D, Paragraph 12(c)13, CLLC proposes amendments as follows:
*Integrate biodiversity values **and ecological connectivity** into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts, ensuring by 2030 that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and that biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments are comprehensively applied.*
- 7) Re Annex I, Section II.D, Paragraph 12(c)14, CLLC proposes amendments as follows:
*Reform economic sectors towards sustainable practices, including along their national and transnational supply chains, achieving by 2030 a reduction of at least [50%] in negative impacts on biodiversity **and ecological connectivity.***
- 8) Re Appendix 1. Preliminary Draft Monitoring Framework for the 2030 and 2050 Goals and Appendix 2. Preliminary Draft Monitoring Framework for the 2030 Action Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2f5f/ea7d/3c7ff4e05fb89094a2222144/wg2020-02-03-add1-en.pdf>), CLLC proposes transposing the above amendments to Column A, and in all such instances aligning Columns B and C accordingly to address ecological connectivity aspects.

Furthermore - corresponding to the above-indicated alignment - the present and/or yet to be identified “Suggested elements of the targets for monitoring” in Column B and “Suggested Indicators” in Column C can be complemented with the following alternates for:

Targets

- By 2030, at least 30% of Earth is covered by well-connected systems of protected areas, Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), other *de facto* core habitats such as Key Biodiversity Areas, World Heritage sites, and ecological corridors, and managed, where appropriate, as ecological networks to protect species, habitats, and flows;

Subtargets

- Ecological corridors and networks are documented, planned, submitted monitored, and reported following authoritative guidance, such as from the IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group;
- Structural and functional ecological connectivity is maintained, enhanced, and restored;
- Maintain large wild areas (areas relatively free of significant human modification) through no new fragmentation, and no loss of natural and intact areas that maintain large expanses of undeveloped land-, freshwater-, and seascapes that already support long-distance migration and dispersal;
- Enhance shared land-, freshwater-, and seascapes (areas consisting of expanses of low human modification) consisting of well-connected ecological networks that serve to enhance connections across expanses, including between large wildlands or core protected areas, ecological corridors, migration routes, and other areas needed to support species dispersal; and
- Restore remaining isolated natural areas and patches of relatively low human modification in and around areas like cities and farms dominated by intense human use, including Key Biodiversity Areas, to not further degrade and to increase connectivity that links ecological networks and increases the size and connectedness of natural habitat.

Indicators

- The increase in patch size distribution of lands free of human modification;
- The decrease in edge-to-area ratio to maximize the distance of core areas from their edges and subsequent fragmenting forces;
- The rate of presence and type of configuration of large blocks of large wild areas free of fragmenting features;
- The number, percentage, total area, and rate increase in square kilometers of protected areas, OECMs, other *de facto* core habitats such as Key Biodiversity Areas, World Heritage sites, and ecological corridors that are connected, where necessary and appropriate, to each other;
- The number of individual, and combined proportions, of ecological corridors and networks in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats;
- The rate of decrease in fragmentation, and increase in maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of connectivity across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats;
- The number and rate increase of countries, their laws, regulations, and policies, and the number of implementing frameworks and initiatives, and human, technological, and investment resources that discourage fragmentation and encourage ecological connectivity conservation;
- The number and rate increase of countries, communities, and partners with coordination mechanisms, mandates, sectoral policies, and monitoring programs that encourage, plan, and guide ecological connectivity conservation, including expanding protected areas, designating ecological corridors and networks, designating special management areas, creating financial incentives, supporting community-based management, zoning regulations, easements and acquisitions, and ecological restoration;
- The rate increase in functional connectivity of focal species that are most sensitive to loss of connectivity within key geographic areas, and that represent a range of habitat preferences, life history characteristics, and dispersal abilities; and
- The number of infrastructure development projects that are planned, designed, constructed, operated, and decommissioned in a manner that avoids protected areas, Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), other *de facto* core habitats such as Key Biodiversity Areas, World Heritage sites, ecological corridors, and networks, and key biodiversity areas, and/or, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for reducing the risks to ecological connectivity, and ensure resilience to climate and natural disaster risks, and reduce carbon emissions throughout the full life cycle of the infrastructure development