

# VIEWS ON POSSIBLE TARGETS AND INDICATORS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK RELATED TO THE INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

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3 February 2020

## WWF response to CBD Notification No. 2019-115

### I. GENERAL

WWF welcomes the publication of the zero draft, and the invitation to submit targets and indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to the interlinkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change as inputs for the negotiations at OEWG2 & OEWG3.

The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework must be a comprehensive plan and spur all sectors of society and governments into ambitious, urgent and transformative action, and acknowledge that climate change and biodiversity loss are inseparable threats to humankind and must be addressed together. Indeed, the theory of change in the zero draft "*recognizes that urgent policy action globally, regionally and nationally is required to transform economic, social and financial models*", and it lists important principles, such as a rights-based approach, intergenerational equity, the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the need for synergies.

Whilst WWF strongly supports these essential components of a successful framework, we believe that the zero draft still falls short of providing a framework for transformative change needed to both halt and reverse biodiversity loss, to achieve the vision of living in harmony with nature and to enhance ambition from countries that is urgently needed to address the biodiversity and climate crisis, together.

WWF believes that the framework would benefit from a more robust and comprehensive integration of interlinkages with Climate Change:



#### 1. Increasing the level of ambition

Greater ambition is necessary to create transformation. The mission statement should be formulated to reflect a stronger level of ambition and urgency to halt and reverse biodiversity loss while also addressing the climate crisis through appropriate ecosystem based approaches. Goals and targets needed to be commensurate with that mission.

*WWF proposes the following mission statement: By 2030, halt and start to reverse the loss of biodiversity and put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of all people and the planet.*

We believe that this mission clearly articulates what needs to be done and what can be done in the next ten years.



#### 2. Addressing all drivers of biodiversity loss, including climate change

Paying more attention to tackling climate change as a major driver of biodiversity loss, including ways to transform food and agricultural systems, finance and economic systems, as well as consumption patterns and governance; and tackling the biodiversity and climate crisis through a complimentary approach of ambitious emission reductions associated primarily with land use changes.



### **3. Addressing productive sectors**

Including priority strategies and mechanisms to involve key sectors that both impact and/or rely on biodiversity and climate (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure, and mining and energy) to translate the theory of change which '*assumes that a whole-of-government and society approach is necessary*' into action.



### **4. Helping nature to adapt**

The rate of climate change and its impacts are accelerating and we are far from being on track to stay below the maximum 1.5C change that science recommends. The world is losing ecosystems and their contributions to human well-being at an unprecedented rate. The current rate of nature loss is many times higher than the naturally occurring 'background' extinction rate. As the recent report from IPBES spells out, climate change is disrupting ecosystems around the world. Rising temperatures, ocean acidification, changing patterns of precipitation and the spread of invasive species are all testing the abilities of natural systems to adapt. This alarming trend not only contributes to climate change but also is magnified by its impacts. In short, the challenges of land degradation, biodiversity loss and global warming are fundamentally entwined, as are their solutions. If we are to rely on nature to help people adapt to the effects of the climate emergency, we need to help nature itself adapt to climate change. We request the adoption of a principle of managing the risks that climate change poses to nature, and we would welcome specifying goals and targets that foster the identification, protection and effective management of ecosystems' resilience.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

Biodiversity loss, climate change and unsustainable development are inseparable challenges caused by (the same) interdependent drivers and they must be addressed together to maximize co-benefits and manage trade-offs (without prejudice and respecting the mandates of each convention and agreement). Parties and secretariats to multilateral environmental agreements must be encouraged to move away from convention- and agreement-specific debates and decisions, towards overarching discussions on how sustainable--climate resilient--development can be achieved through the coordinated and aligned implementation of individual multilateral environmental agreements.

Strong synergies exist between the objectives of the CBD and UNFCCC. In order to limit global warming and achieve a safe, resilient and sustainable future, alongside the needed transformations in global energy, urban, industrial and land use systems, strong actions are needed to sustainably manage, protect and enhance resilience in ecosystems that contribute to fundamental aspects of human welfare ( i.e. water regulation, food provision, materials, etc.) and those carbon sinks on land and in the oceans, which will also contribute to our mission for the proposed post-2020 global biodiversity framework of reversing the loss of biodiversity. Recent authoritative research indicates that nature-based solutions can provide an important portion of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed between now and 2030 to stabilize warming to below 2°C; however WWF strongly encourages for urgent action towards meeting the 1.5°C target, recognizing that failing to meet it will bring catastrophic consequences for biodiversity. Ecosystem and freshwater conservation and management can be a more cost-effective and sustainable way to reduce people's vulnerability to climate change impacts, while maintaining or restoring local, regional and/or global ecosystem services that are essential for long-term resilience.

## **III. POTENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK RELATED TO BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should define the desired state of nature and of nature's contributions to people by 2030, and provide comprehensive guidance to the actions

required by all stakeholders from all sectors across governments and society to bend the curve of biodiversity loss.

WWF proposes that a comprehensive post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be structured according to the following essential elements that incorporate the interlinkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change:

- 2030 Mission
- Global goals for 2030, that contribute to achieving all three objectives of the Convention
- Global targets and indicators to achieve the global goals

The following framework connects the proposed elements to be considered in the **post-2020 global biodiversity framework**, as they relate to climate change:

#### IV. PROPOSED TARGETS

The table below explains the targets and links them to the zero draft document. See the attached document for detailed WWF response to the zero draft.



PROPOSED TARGETS	LINK TO (WWF RESPONSE TO) ZERO DRAFT	BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE
<b>2.1 ZERO Loss of natural carbon sinks</b>	Goal (d) (iv)	Enhanced ambition from countries is urgently needed to achieve both the goals of the CBD and the Paris Agreement. Climate action from nature, or ecosystem based approaches (natural climate solutions), including for example forests, grasslands, and coastal wetlands, has the potential to provide over one-third of global reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, ensure

		the integrity of ecosystems and ecosystem services and contribute key adaptation benefits
<b>2.2 HALVE</b> Carbon footprint of production and consumption	New goal proposal	<p>It is critical that this target is added to the framework because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It responds to the second objective of the Convention;</li> <li>• It will enable the transformative change we need to achieve;</li> <li>• It addresses a critical direct and indirect driver of biodiversity loss (i.e. carbon emissions related to our consumption and production model) that will determine whether we succeed both in halting and reversing biodiversity loss and fighting climate change.</li> </ul>
<b>2.3 ALL</b> People have secured, enhanced and fairly shared of Nature's benefits derived from resilient ecosystems	Goal (d)	Nature and its contributions are essential for humanity to survive and thrive on this planet. Yet ecosystems and biodiversity are in rapid decline due to changes in land and sea use, the direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution, and invasive species. Many of these drivers are entwined with, and aggravated by climate change.

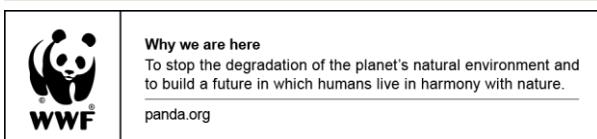
## V. DRIVERS AND PROPOSED SUBTARGETS

DRIVERS AND SUBTARGETS	LINK TO (WWF RESPONSE TO) ZERO DRAFT	BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE OF PROPOSAL
3.1 No net loss of natural carbon sinks.	Goal (d) (iv)	The earth's natural carbon sinks are also places of exceptional importance for biodiversity conservation, and are facing major threats. The carbon stored in those ecosystems is fundamental to achieve the 1.5C Climate target and should be a priority for area-based conservation targets.
3.2 Global emissions from Land Use Change is reduced to zero ( by 2030).	Goal (d) (iv)	According to IPBES, land use change is the single most important driver of biodiversity loss. The IPCC also states that it is one of the most important sources of GHG emissions. As a consequence, tackling land use change is imperative to address both biodiversity loss and climate change.
3.3 An increase, with adequate social and environmental safeguards, of nature-based carbon removal approaches.	Goal (d) (iv)	WWF considers that carbon dioxide removal approaches are among those which would increase carbon sequestration in natural systems and have other benefits which together outweigh the costs. Such approaches should be prioritized provided they adhere to strict environmental and social safeguards and consider storage permanence – i.e. they have benefits for nature, people and climate.
3.4 Reduce the negative carbon footprint of production and consumption.	New goal proposal	It is critical that the framework addresses the ecological footprint (and carbon footprint as part of it) of production and consumption. WWF proposes that this target focus on action that economic sectors can undertake to accelerate the transition to low carbon and sustainable food systems.

<p>3.5 Securing access to safe and affordable water sources for human water security through restoring, protecting and sustainably managing ecosystems of critical importance for water regulation.</p>	<p>Goal (d) (ii)</p>	<p>Nature's contribution to human welfare is largely associated with the integrity, connectivity and appropriate management of resilient ecosystems that can support the ecological process that are also important for water regulation.</p>
<p>3.6 Halving the number of people affected by or at risk of disasters through restoring natural infrastructure, sustainable land use practices, and investing in natural systems and nature-based solutions.</p>	<p>Goal (d) (iii)</p>	<p>The CBD has a long tradition of recognizing the importance of ecosystem based approaches for disaster risk reduction. WWF's proposal is to develop a target that focus on the people that can benefit from such approaches.</p>
<p>3.7 Ensure that all sites of biodiversity importance are effectively managed through the application of climate-smart approaches that ensures ecosystems' resilience.</p>	<p>Goal (a)</p>	<p>To help nature to adapt, it is fundamental to strengthen the management framework of all places, to ensure that effective climate smart management is in place.</p>

WWF also proposes that these goals and targets will be cross-referenced in relevant UNFCCC documents.

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## ANNEX- ADDITION INFORMATION ABOUT WWF'S WORK ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

For additional information about WWF's ongoing work on Biodiversity and Climate change, please consult the following publications:

- Climate, Nature and our 1.5°C Future: A Synthesis of IPCC and IPBES Reports (Available [here](#))
- Enhancing nationally determined contributions through protected areas (Available [here](#))
- Impact of Climate Change on Species (Available [here](#))
- Carbon dioxide removal, including carbon sequestration in natural systems (Available [here](#))

