

## **Pledge -> Review -> Ratchet**

# **A proposal to increasing national commitments to achieving the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

This submission to the has been prepared by **WWF-UK** and is designed to be complementary to the paper submitted by WWF International. The latter gives a broad overview of WWF proposals for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This submission specifically discusses the of use of the pledge, review and mechanism as a means of encouraging implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework once it comes into effect, and makes suggestions of actions Parties can make right now to prepare.

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## In a Nutshell...

The **pledge, review and ratchet mechanism** is a system that addresses the challenges faced in implementing previous strategic plans for biodiversity by giving Parties a chance to review their progress towards meeting national commitments and enabling the CBD Secretariat to monitor global progress towards biodiversity goals. This is a simple system that occurs in 4-year stages.

**Pledge:** Parties continue to submit national biodiversity commitments, in a format decided on at COP15, and progress on implementing these commitments gets reviewed in national reports.

**Review:** National reporting allows the Secretariat to do a global stocktake, which can inform members of the convention on progress in reaching the global goals and identify shortfalls.

**Ratchet:** Parties then have an opportunity to increase their ambition in action at the ‘ratcheting moment’ in 2026.

**Repeat:** The cycle starts anew until the next ratchet step four years later in 2030 and so on.

Such a pledge, review, ratchet system is already in use for implementing actions of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, and is gaining interest and popularity from this. In the context of stopping the loss of biodiversity, the pledge, review and ratchet mechanism has real potential to increase engagement across all Parties and engender action to achieve the objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

# WHAT IS PLEDGE -> REVIEW -> RATCHET?

## A quick guide to effective CBD implementation

Despite nearly two decades of setting global biodiversity targets and NBSAPs, our planet is losing species faster than ever before.

Individual commitments and subsequent actions by Parties do not add up to global biodiversity targets, leaving an **implementation gap**.

The **pledge, review and ratchet mechanism** encourages Parties to monitor and assess their biodiversity commitments and increase ambition in action at set time intervals.

By applying this mechanism to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, Parties could make substantial progress in bending the curve.



### APPLYING TO POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



**2018/19 - 2022** Parties to review NBSAPs and identify national biodiversity priorities and capacity to take action, then translate into national commitments that align with the new framework

**2022 - 2026** Implementation begins on goals stated in national commitments. National reporting helps to identify gaps in global implementation in 2024 before the ratcheting moment in 2026

**2026 - 2030** Reviews of national reports and the global stocktake in 2028 will prepare to ratchet in 2030 and can contribute towards the design of the post-2030 CBD framework

### WHAT NEXT? How can parties start preparing for this implementation mechanism?

Engage in discussion with other Parties and stakeholders on the implementation mechanism for the post-2020 CBD framework.

Review current NBSAP within your territory, identifying what is effective and where improvements are needed.

Present Voluntary Biodiversity Commitments laying out where support from other sectors is required.

Consult IPBES, academia, civil society, private sector & IPLCs to make commitments ambitious yet achievable.

The Pledge review and ratchet mechanism is a novel approach so will be challenging. However, by addressing and overcoming the weaknesses of previous approaches, there is a strong case for using this flexible implementation mechanism.

## The challenge

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has used a system of targets to encourage ambition and action over the past two decades. As the Convention celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, the time to recognise where success has and has not been achieved is now. With preparations underway for the third ten-year target cycle – the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework from 2021 to 2030 – this is the opportunity to review and improve implementation by Parties for that period and beyond.

Assessments on the status and trends of biodiversity show an increasing downward trajectory, and the blame is laid squarely on human activity as the leading cause (CBD 2014, WWF 2018). This is consistent with other reports that assess our natural environment, which all show worsening trends and predict of catastrophic impacts on human well-being around the world (UNEP 2012, UNEP 2018a, IPCC 2018).

Similarly, the achievement of targets set under the CBD has been limited. The 2010 Biodiversity Target, which was set in 2002, saw Parties committing themselves to “*achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth.*” Despite being subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly, and incorporated under the Millennium Development Goals, studies undertaken in 2010 highlighted the failure to achieve most of the elements contained and even showed that, despite calling for a significant reduction in biodiversity loss, the opposite was true with declines increasing globally (Butchart *et al.* 2010, CBD 2010).

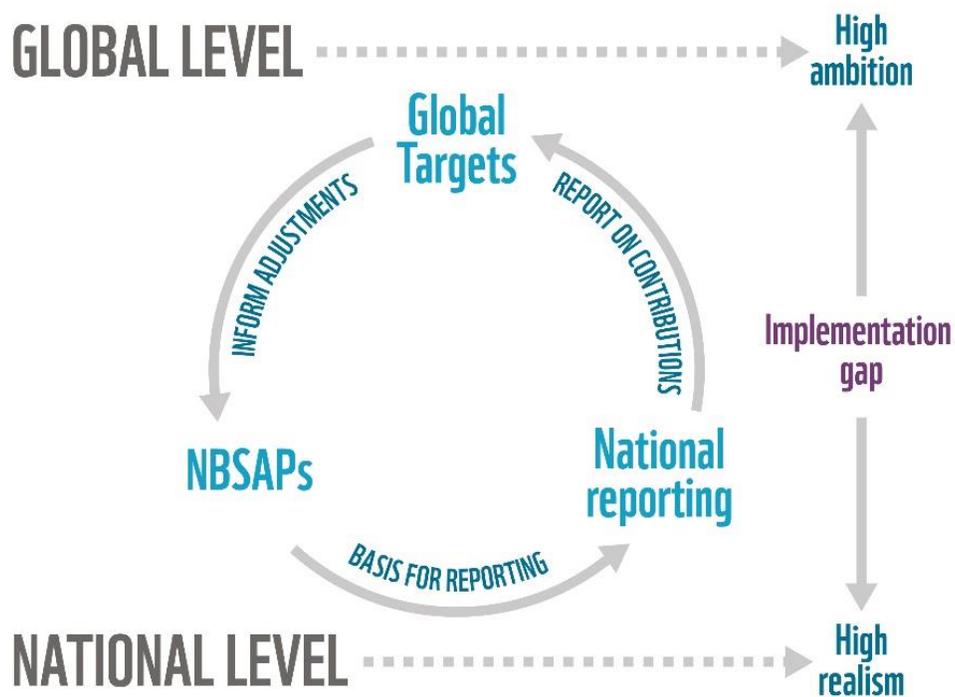
Following the decision on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with its vision of “*living in harmony with nature*” and containing twenty global Aichi Biodiversity Targets, many Parties revised their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to be in line with the new global framework. Currently 97% of Parties have developed at least one NBSAP. NBSAPs are considered a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets that promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the CBD.

A recent review of the post-2010 NBSAPs has shown that the process for their revision was well undertaken, but that there have been some limitations (UNEP 2018b). One of the key shortcomings has been in many cases a lack of ministerial endorsement across government, leading to a lack of subsequent implementation by other ministries and sectors, and in some cases even the Ministries of Environment themselves. This failure to mainstream or ‘sell’ the NBSAPs, and biodiversity conservation more generally, at ministerial level and across governments shows the need to raise the profile of the importance of biodiversity to politicians and public, as well as demonstrating the way forward for successful action. Insufficient recognition of the value of biodiversity by many actors in the private sector is also seen as a major hindrance to effective implementation of the objectives of the CBD.

## The Implementation Gap

Global targets in general, including those set under the CBD, tend to have a high degree of ambition and call on all stakeholders, not just governments, to act accordingly. However, difficulties arise through insufficient implementation at the national level caused mostly by limited levels of human, technological and financial capacities experienced in many, if not all, countries in one form or another (Figure 1).

Despite acknowledgement that political will may be lacking in some countries, as well as contradictory activities and priorities brought on by economic development programmes, the reality remains that the ambition of most global targets cannot be translated into the required level of national level implementation because national implementation is often not prioritised and/or resourced adequately or global targets are too loosely defined for Parties to understand their individual contributions to the global effort.



**Figure 1.** The difference between setting highly ambitious global biodiversity targets and the realities facing many Parties – as reflected in NBSAPs and national reporting – has led to an implementation gap that needs to be addressed (WWF 2019).

As such, there is a need for future targets and implementation mechanisms to be sufficiently clear to allow for countries to both recognise their role in achieving the global targets, in accordance with national priorities, while also clearly identifying the limitations being faced to allow them to improve implementation at all levels – national, subnational and local.

## A ratchet mechanism for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework



*To ratchet: A situation or process that is perceived to be changing in a series of irreversible steps.*



With the 2020 deadline for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets coming up, and recent reviews showing a likely failure to achieve most of them (CBD 2014, WWF 2018), the time is now to fully consider the future targets under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and how they can be achieved. A proposed process is to consider the use of a pledge, review and ratchet mechanism<sup>1</sup> focusing on increasing in regular intervals ambition in actions, linked to national and global targets, that will encourage Parties to focus on what needs to be done and how they will undertake it.

Most Parties have already undertaken a round of identifying national priorities with the development or revision of their NBSAPs in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Such national targets can be used as a basis to continue forward into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This mechanism would call for countries to identify actions at national and subnational levels as ‘voluntary biodiversity commitments’<sup>2</sup> (VBCs), based on these national priorities, which should be undertaken in a fixed period and increasing in ambition in a periodic manner in the coming years.

National reports submitted to the CBD Secretariat show that there are a considerable number of impediments to effectively achieving both the NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Regularly cited issues include a lack of capacity, funding and appropriate technology, as well as contradictory policies in other socio-economic sectors and weak enforcement legislation. The intention with using a ratcheted VBC mechanism is to focus on gradual, time-sensitive actions to overcome some or all of these challenges in order to achieve better outcomes by the expected 2030 deadline of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In order to set initial commitments, Parties should consider their current national targets in their NBSAPs, recognising that this process is an opportunity to identify key species, habitats and/or ecosystem services of particular national importance. The setting of initial and subsequent national commitments using a ratchet mechanism is also dependent on the availability of current and trend data for biodiversity, ecosystem services and associated threats. As such, the process should be closely linked with a global stocktake process as well as the existing NBSAPs (see Figure 1).

<sup>1</sup> The terms ‘pledge, review and ratchet’ or ‘ratchet mechanism’ have emerged following the agreement of the Paris Agreement, which requires all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to submit their planned efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and to strengthen these efforts over time. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts. There is expected to be a global stocktake every five years to assess the overall progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and to inform the subsequent actions by Parties as well as a ratchet moment every five years where Parties put forward enhanced national action plans that reflect increased ambition. See also Annex 2.

<sup>2</sup> See CBD/COP/DEC/14/34 para 11

National economic and sustainable development plans, sectoral development plans such as those related to agricultural production, tourism, and health, as well as national targets or commitments set under other fora, such as in relation to the Paris Agreement or the SDGs, should also be considered. Recognising the relationship and importance of a healthy natural environment in achieving other commitments should be central to these VBCs. The importance is to recognise the role that biodiversity plays in ensuring sustainable development, and that positive actions that address the drivers and pressures on biodiversity are ultimately a step forward to providing for healthy and prosperous populations and economies.

While the need for revision of NBSAPs post-2020 may be identified, the cost and time required to undertake the process will likely factor highly in their considerations of its immediate need. Following the agreement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at COP10, the revision of many NBSAPs began to occur a few years after the agreement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and, as a result, many are still considered current with deadlines occurring after 2020. As a result, it is recommended that the national implementation of a ratchet mechanism should commence immediately, aligned with existing national targets where appropriate, and subsequently integrated when Parties next revise their NBSAPs.

It would be the role of the CBD Secretariat, financial mechanisms, implementing partners and other governments to support any Parties that have not been able to address the limitations identified and who are failing to achieve or increase their VBCs. Civil society would also play a role in identifying areas that could be improved and offering constructive solutions to addressing the issue. In order to encourage the scaling up of realistic ambition between commitment cycles, Parties should recognise the constructive feedback that would be provided by the CBD Secretariat, implementing agencies such as UN Environment and UNDP, academia and civil society.

VBCs could partly be based on conditionality reflecting specific national circumstances. For instance, unconditional VBCs are actions that would be feasible to implement independently, already resourced or perhaps already committed, such as the development of protected area management effectiveness plans, site-based habitat restoration plans or putting legislative and governance frameworks in place. They can be derived from existing NBSAPs and other biodiversity-related plans but should also include additional, new commitments.

Conditional actions can be included as well. They may require additional support, such as the provision of project-specific funding, technology, capacity or linked commitment from other countries. Such actions could include the designation of large marine reserves, the use of the latest technology to combat poaching or addressing unsustainable supply chains.

## The role of global stocktakes

Implementation of a VBC-based approach must be built on data and knowledge. The ability to accurately monitor the status and trends of biodiversity, to identify the drivers and pressures that are causing its loss and enhance management at local, national and international levels, as well as the level of effectiveness of actions, are essential for the successful implementation of the CBD. The need for a global stocktake process is therefore clear.

Monitoring and reporting, that culminate in ensuring accountability by all stakeholders, are important factors. The setting of VBCs should consider how they are linked to the global biodiversity targets, with indicators recognised for reporting on progress. This will reveal trends towards achieving the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

National reporting, as a requirement under Article 26 of the Convention, is expected to provide information on implementation measures taken and their effectiveness. Specifically, the national reports should provide an opportunity to:

- identify the lessons learned by Parties in the implementation of the Convention;
- identify gaps in capacity including technical and financial requirements;
- and formulate appropriate requests and guidance to Parties, subsidiary bodies, the Secretariat, the financial mechanism, and others with relevant expertise to the implementation of the Convention.

As such, the template structure for future national reports should focus on actions in the context of national and global targets, with opportunity to highlight successes and shortcomings. Reports should also note the reasons for slow action, and the capacity needs to strengthen implementation in the next inter-reporting period should be clearly stated. The information should be quickly processed and acted upon by the CBD Secretariat and other support agencies.

National reporting templates need to allow for information from the reports to be aggregated up as far as possible so that a global picture can emerge. Under a pre-set timeframe, linked to national reporting and future Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) production cycles, the picture emerging from the global stocktake will be assessed. Results of this assessment could be presented in a quadrennial 'biodiversity gap report'<sup>3</sup>. This informs the subsequent ratchet step where countries decide how much their level of ambition in action needs to increase to better meet the global targets. The lowering of ambition would not be permitted under this system.

Associated academic and grey literature, such as reports and assessments from Rio and other biodiversity-related multilateral environment agreements, Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO), Global Environment Outlook (GEO), assessments of the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), national and international Red Lists of Threatened Species and Threatened Ecosystems, and the Living Planet Reports, should also be used to support the stocktake by giving overviews of trends and status, and highlighting where actions have been particularly successful and why.

The contributions of civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and others in identifying the areas requiring improvement should be welcomed, especially

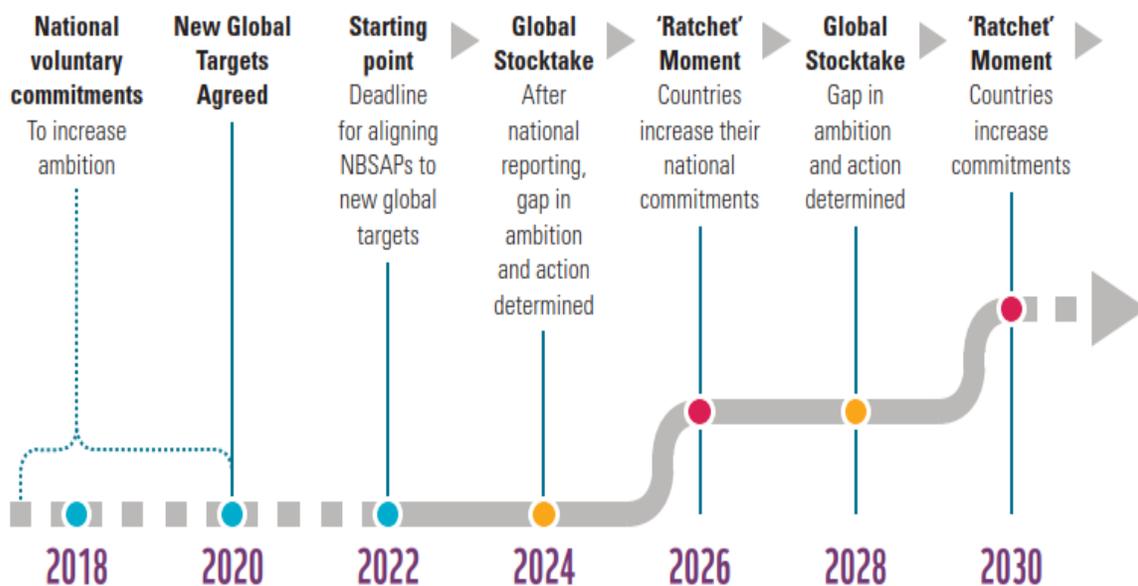
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<sup>3</sup> See UNEPs [gap reports](#) and the UNFCCC stocktaking process for comparison.

when they offer practical opportunities for addressing the challenges identified. Contributions from non-state actors, including the private sector, may also consider the use of innovative financial mechanisms that can support conservation, as well as critical reviews of current management structures that enhance the effectiveness of state and non-state actors to achieve the commitments arising from the CBD.

## Implementing a pledge, review and ratchet mechanism under the CBD

The proposed ratchet mechanism seeks to encourage Parties to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses in their current conservation initiatives, to identify their national priority actions relative to their national and global biodiversity targets, and to periodically scale up ambition and action over time. Figure 2 shows a proposed timeline with a 4 year pledge -> review -> ratchet cycle to implement such a mechanism.



**Figure 2.** A suggested timeline for the implementation of a ratchet mechanism for national voluntary commitments under the CBD in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (WWF 2019).

### First four-year period: 2018/19-2022

#### 2018/19-2020

Beginning in the intersessional period between COP14 (2018) and COP15 (2020):

- Parties should consider their current NBSAPs, national reports and other related documents to identify their national priority actions. Such priorities can relate to specific species, habitats or genetic diversity, as well as important ecosystem services. This process should be led by the National Focal Points and undertaken through broad consultation or with a core group of key stakeholders (ministries, municipalities, NGOs, IPLC representatives, private sector, academia, etc.).

- These priority actions can be linked to current national targets in the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets but should go beyond 2020 assuming they will be also contribution to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (bearing in mind that the targets can be further adjusted once the post-2020 framework is agreed up until 2022).
- Such VBCs should specify actions at local, national and international levels, and include the roles of state and non-state actors, as well as the necessary support required such as funding, capacity building, etc.
- The development of initial VBCs should be started immediately, with submissions to the CBD Secretariat as soon as possible.
- They should be submitted as VBCs to the CBD Secretariat prior to COP15.
- A decision at COP15 will endorse an approach based on pledge, review and ratchet cycles and call on all Parties to implement it.

#### *2020-2022*

Following the agreement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its targets, Parties will be expected to align their NBSAPs with the new global targets, and to integrate their VBCs into existing national plans.

- Light touch review of NBSAPs to see if and how they need to be adjusted in light of the agreed new global CBD framework and revise if needed.
- Future revisions of NBSAPs should also align with the VBCs, with the VBCs forming communicable, action-focused and adaptable 'Action Plans' in NBSAPs to undertake certain actions within the subsequent four-six year period (up to COP18 in 2026).

### **Second four-year period: 2022-2026**

During the second four-year period implementation should be undertaken by all stakeholders, both state and non-state, and at all levels – local, national and international.

#### *2022-2024*

- As part of the global stocktake process before COP17 (2024), the seventh round of national reports, likely due in 2023, should focus on the abilities and experiences in carrying out the actions identified, as well as the trends in biodiversity and its threats as is usually reported in national reports.
- Subsequent reviews of the national reports will identify further capacity needs, as well as achievements made, which will help support partners at national and international levels to focus their activities where they can have the greatest impact.
- The global stocktake will be presented in 2024.

#### *2024-2026*

- While implementation continues in 2025-2026, up to COP18, Parties will identify how they need to increase their ambition in action for the following four-year period that will be reflected in new or enhanced VBCs presented in 2026.
- Based on capability and constraints, these actions should be either of the same or ratcheted up to a greater level of ambition, depending on the level of achievement to date. Lowering the level of ambition is not permitted.
- The ratcheting moment will take place in 2026.

### **Third four-year period: 2026-2030**

During the third four-year period, Parties will continue to implement the increasingly-ambitious national commitments identified, with a specific focus on achieving the 2030 national and global biodiversity targets.

#### *2026-2028*

- Actions should be primarily linked to improving biodiversity trends on the ground and enhancing ecosystem services, such as implementing ecosystem restoration or invasive alien species eradication plans, as opposed to supporting actions such as developing strategies or undergoing further consultations.
- The global stocktake will be presented in 2028.

#### *2028-2030*

- Linked to the stocktake, the eighth national reports, likely in 2027, will again focus on the national trends in biodiversity and its threats, as well as on the abilities to carry out the actions identified.
- Reviews of the national reports at COP19 (2028) will be expected to show positive trends towards achieving the 2030 global biodiversity targets, and help to dictate implementation of the Convention in the post-2030 period leading towards successfully achieving the 2050 vision.<sup>4</sup>
- The ratcheting moment will take place in 2030.

### **Beyond 2030**

The stocktake and pledge, review and ratchet cycle can continue beyond 2030 based on the then newly agreed CBD framework 2031 to 2040.

2030 offers a special opportunity to also better align CBD targets with whatever goals and targets will follow the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that expire in 2030 as well as the next generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, most of which also expire in 2030.

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<sup>4</sup> By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

## Further considerations on the ratcheting mechanism

Currently, the ratchet system is relatively untested and, while it is an approach being championed through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)<sup>5</sup>, it is still in its initial stages of development. However, it is receiving considerable attention owing to its straightforward and innovative approach that was seen as having the capacity to eventually deliver the level of action scientists say is required to sufficiently bend the emissions curve.

Easily communicable actions and priorities that can be measured and improved upon are a key factor of this system because that helps keeping the public and political momentum going which is important for implementation. Communicable goals are a form of publicity and awareness raising for citizens, businesses and others to rally behind in order to generate a sense of unity and mutually supportive positive action. Another positive outcome for the national commitments would be that such commitments could be a means to 'sell' the importance of biodiversity to other sectors.

Also worthy of note, is the approach being taken through the protected areas targets. To date, it has also been a type of ratcheting mechanism that has shown considerable success. The protected areas component of the 2010 Global Biodiversity Target<sup>6</sup> was achieved for some ecoregions (CBD 2010), while the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11<sup>7</sup> has been extrapolated to show successful achievement of the terrestrial spatial target with considerable efforts towards also achieving the marine spatial target (CBD 2014). This form of increasing the level of ambition through each target cycle would appear to be effective, if not perfect. Despite positive action being taken towards the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Ambitious/Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) aspects of the protected areas targets, the less numerically-based sub-targets, such as management effectiveness, have shown less success.

Despite being a potentially challenging approach for many countries to adopt, as well as difficult to aggregate results to show global progress, such a mechanism could allow for the widely varying forms of biodiversity present across countries throughout the world, as well as the divergent socio-economic realities faced, to be more comprehensively addressed than through numerous, loosely-defined global biodiversity targets. Even with the initial challenges in identifying the VBCs and integrating them into existing NBSAPs, the process should quickly demonstrate effective progress in helping to achieve the objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to reverse the loss of nature by 2030.

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<sup>5</sup> See also from Paris to Beijing: Insights gained from the UNFCCC Paris Agreement for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

<sup>6</sup> At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.

<sup>7</sup> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.

## What to do next?

### *Designing and agreeing the ratcheting process*

- Parties with the support of the CBD secretariat should immediately start consultations on the implementation mechanism, preferably as part of already planned consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Organise workshops, roundtables, presentations and other opportunities to consult among Parties and with stakeholders on the implementation mechanism.
- Consider interlinkages of implementation discussions with related topics such as resource mobilisation and target setting (as targets should be set in a way that allows a global stocktake).

### *Setting VBCs*

In order to implement an effective ratchet mechanism under the CBD:

- Parties should review their current NBSAPs and the state of biodiversity within their territories.
- Parties should review the effectiveness of current action plans and related implementation, with a view to identifying what is/has been effective and where improvements are required.
- VBCs should be developed that lay out clear conditional and/or unconditional actions and timelines for all scales and actors, including where support is required.
- Implementation should begin as soon as possible, and ambition with regards to these actions increased at each 'ratchet moment'.
- The role of the private sector and individuals, not least in helping to address the drivers and pressures on biodiversity and ecosystem services, should also be recognised. The means of how they can contribute to the setting and achievement of these ratcheted VBCs should be explored further through national fora and other platforms.

### *Resource mobilisation and capacity support*

- The CBD Secretariat and other supporting agencies should provide guidance that will aid Parties to consider how their existing NBSAPs, national reports and other policy documents can be aligned with this approach.
- The CBD Secretariat and supporting processes such as IPBES, academia, civil society, IPLCs and other national and international agencies should be ready to help Parties in both setting their VBCs as well as their implementation and subsequent review.
- Funding may be required by some Parties, and should be factored into future financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other sources.
- The role of civil society and IPLCs to support this review and implementation process should be recognised from the outset. While the level of ambition sought may vary between governmental and non-governmental actors, such discussion should be welcomed, and seen as a useful debate to set ambitious but achievable initial and subsequent national voluntary biodiversity commitments.

## Acronyms

CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity  
COP – Conference of the Parties  
GBO – Global Biodiversity Outlook  
GEF – Global Environment Facility  
GEO – Global Environment Outlook  
GHG – Greenhouse gas  
IPBES – Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services  
IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
IPLC – Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities  
MRV – Monitoring, reporting and verification  
NBSAP – National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan  
NDC – Nationally Determined Contribution  
NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation  
SDG – Sustainable Development Goal  
SMART – Specific, Measurable, Ambitious/Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound  
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme  
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme  
UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
VBC – Voluntary Biodiversity Commitments  
WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature

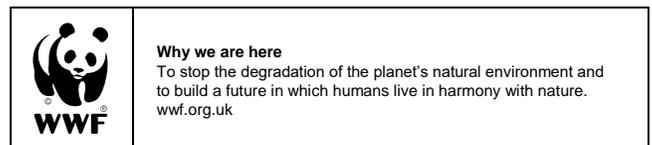
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## **Annex 1: Summary of informal CBD COP14 consultations**

### **Chad**

A positive response to the proposed mechanism.

### **Lebanon**

Positive so long as no additional burden on Parties and linked to support mechanisms. Stressed that such a mechanism should not be implemented before 2020.

### **UK**

They are currently undertaking a review of information from 6<sup>th</sup> National Reports, and the reporting process in general. In the post-2020 framework, they want to see standardised actions for global progress assessment. In the UK, a draft environment bill sets out long-term goals, with outcome indicators and performance measures. Overall, this mechanism would be less interesting to them owing to their own internal systems.

### **Togo**

Positive response as process would allow for the identification of actions on the ground that are integrated with other sectors including private sector and civil society, and a deep dive evaluation of needs.

It should be linked to communication, awareness and education.

### **ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity**

Speaking on behalf of ASEAN members, proposed that such a mechanism should be voluntary, not forced. Foresaw challenges with data and reporting.

### **South Africa**

Feel the current system is haphazard system, and there is a need for better reporting with understanding of limitations. Parties should be scored based on effort.

Currently too many targets and too complex/nebulous to implement, therefore the post-2020 framework should be more action-orientated.

Reporting will always be a challenge, but should not be a reason to hold back.

### **Seychelles**

[Very brief conversation] Seems positive. Their next NBSAP will be developed in 2020/2021.

### **Norway**

Working on something similar around commitments.

Pushing for reducing NBSAPs to more streamlined around commitments and actions.

Encouraging more streamlined reporting

### **Costa Rica**

[By email] Positive towards the approach and feels the post-2020 framework should be linked to an effective resource mobilisation strategy. Will mention this approach to the High Ambitious Group with other Ministers.

### **Ivory Coast**

[By email] Positive response, finding the mechanism to be a useful tool.

Will develop their next NBSAP in 2021. Over the next two years, they plan to evaluate their 2016-2020 NBSAP to measure progress on the objectives formulated, and the constraints or obstacles encountered. They feel this mechanism supports the whole process well into the post-2020 period.

Today, the major problem faced in implementing their NBSAP is the synergy in action and the sharing of information at the levels of all actors. They envisage a strengthening of the capacity of all actors through information sharing as a necessity in order to work in harmony, especially to track progress against commitments.

We believe that support in this sense is more than essential.

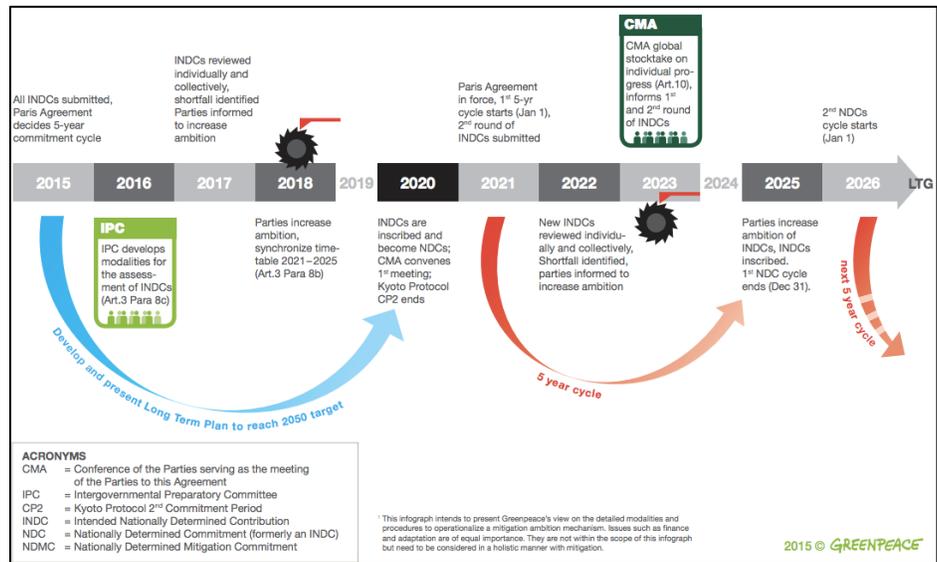
## Annex 2: The ratchet mechanism under UNFCCC

Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has seen a widely varying level of success in the past quarter of a century. From the nadir that was COP15 in Copenhagen, to the euphoric success of COP21 with the emergence of the Paris Agreement, the Convention has experienced much. Despite much optimism that has come with the political decision in Paris in 2015, it remains to be seen to what extent we can all address the causes and impacts of climate change successfully by 2030.

The Paris Agreement seeks to keep a global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the agreement looks to increase the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach such goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework are needed, in line with the national objectives of each Party. The Agreement also provides for enhanced transparency of action and support through a more robust transparency framework.

The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to submit their planned efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and to strengthen these efforts over time. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts. There is expected to be a global stocktake every five years to assess the overall progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and to inform the subsequent actions by Parties. This is essentially the ‘ratchet mechanism’ under the UNFCCC (Figure 3).

As with the CBD, there is a requirement for Parties to submit national reports on progress of implementing the Convention. There has been a long and exhaustive discussion on the role of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), such that the level of emissions and emissions reductions necessary to ensure that efforts to combat climate change are accurately recorded. While difficult metrics to accurately use, there is a large support mechanism in place, not least through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Recent studies have shown the drastic need to increase action to achieve the ambitious Paris Agreement (IPCC 2018), while the current level of ambition provided by the submitted NDCs shows that we are still not on track for successful achievement.



**Figure 3.** A visualisation of the ratchet mechanism under the Paris Agreement.