

Annotated Outline for the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-5) Requests for input from regional consultations

The proposed content for GBO-5 is necessarily tentative and provisional at this stage, as it is dependent on significant sources of information that are as yet either unpublished or incomplete. Nevertheless, planning for the structure and key narrative flow of the Outlook is already under way, in preparation for development of the first draft which must be available for open review before the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in 2019. To assist in this process, the GBO-5 editorial team will be greatly assisted by input from the round of regional consultations established to prepare for the post-2020 framework for biodiversity. This document provides an annotated outline¹ of GBO-5 as currently envisaged, and highlights key questions that may be addressed to participants in the regional consultations. The annotated outline also takes into account decisions 14/35 and XIII/29 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity related to the preparation of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

GBO-5 Outline

1. Forewords

Commissioned from UN Secretary General, UN Environment Executive Director, CBD Executive Secretary

2. Executive Summary and Key Messages

The key messages for GBO-5 will be developed over the next several months, drawing on multiple sources of information. Some of the key issues and messages that will be explored are:

- Reconciling the fact that most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets have not been met but that nevertheless, actions around the world in support of the Targets have had very significant results.
- Exploring examples of radical change from 'business as usual', which if scaled up would set us on a path to slow and reverse the alarming declines in the abundance and diversity of nature.
- Exploring the relevance and role of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity in helping to reach other societal objectives.
- Exploring the need for urgent and rapid action to set us on a path to transform society's relationship with biodiversity and putting us on track to reach the 2050 Vision.
- Exploring the potential impacts of long-term goals, and commitments supported by decision makers at all scales.

¹ The preparation of this outline has been supported by a financial contribution of the government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, as part of their support to the Regional Consultation Workshop on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Asia and the Pacific.

- Exploring the benefits of putting nature at the heart of sustainable development.

3. Introduction

Description of the context of GBO-5 in relation to the previous GBO documents, review of the Strategic Plan, preparations for the post-2020 framework, as well as its relationship with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Climate Agreement.

4. Biodiversity in 2020 – Review of the UN Decade on Biodiversity

This will include target by target analysis of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, each composed of a 2-page spread incorporating:

- Analysis of indicators, synthesis of evidence and final evaluation of progress towards each target and the extent to which it could be considered to be met.
- Case studies illustrating both progress towards the target and remaining barriers.
- Examples of successful transitions that, if scaled up and replicated, point towards transformational change.
- Information related to cross cutting issues, including traditional knowledge and gender.

The section will also analyse the strategic plan as a whole, looking at each of the five goals and drawing lessons for the post-2020 framework.

The following documents are seen as key potential sources for this section:

- *IPBES Global Assessment*
- *IPBES regional and thematic assessments*
- *Sixth National Reports*
- *Update from Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)*
- *Plant Conservation Report (review of progress of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation)*
- *Local Biodiversity Assessment (Forest People's Programme)*
- *FAO State of World reports (Biodiversity for food and agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Forests etc)*
- *Global Land Outlook (UNCCD)*
- *Global Wetland Outlook (Ramsar)*
- *GEO-6*

Question for regional consultations: Which additional sources of information, in particular at regional or subregional scales, should be consulted in this review of the Strategic Plan?

5. Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals

This section will provide detailed background for the relationship between biodiversity and the sustainable development goals, as well as the objectives of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, especially as both mark significant developments since GBO-4. It will include:

- Biodiversity's role in climate mitigation and adaptation as envisaged under the Paris Climate Agreement, and as analysed through the IPCC
- The role of biodiversity throughout the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, not confined to those goals (14 and 15) in which biodiversity is the primary component.
- A review of synergies and trade-offs between these processes and biodiversity objectives, noting the scope for alternative pathways towards climate action and sustainable development depending on the impact on biodiversity.

The following documents are seen as key potential sources for this section:

- The Paris Climate Agreement and background documents
- The IPCC Special Report 'Global Warming of 1.5 deg. C (2018)
- IPBES Global Assessment
- CBD/SBSTTA/21/2/Add.1

Question for regional consultations: Which additional sources of information may be useful for this section, in particular examples at regional or subregional scales of both trade-offs and synergies between climate, sustainable development and biodiversity objectives?

6. Realizing the Vision: potential long-term goals for biodiversity

This section will note the importance of the 2050 Vision in framing action on biodiversity beyond 2020. The potential actionable, long-term goals implied by the Vision, and interim objectives for 2030, will be analysed. Among the areas likely to be addressed are:

- Abundance of wildlife
- Extent of wild places
- Ending pressures that drive species towards extinction
- Diversity of nature in the landscape to support food production and resilient farming communities
- Diversity of nature to support human health objectives

The following documents are seen as key potential sources for this section:

- CBD/SBSTTA/21/2
- IPBES Global Assessment
- Mace et al. (Nature Sustainability, 2018), *Aiming higher to bend the curve of biodiversity loss*
- IIASA (in preparation, 2019): *Reversing terrestrial biodiversity declines due to habitat loss: A multi-model assessment*

Question for regional consultations: Which additional sources of information are essential for addressing the potential long-term goals for biodiversity and achieving the 2050 vision?

7. Transitions to a World in Harmony with Nature

The final section of GBO-5 will examine the changes required to reach the kind of transformations consistent with achieving the goals and realizing the vision examined in the earlier sections. This will include examination of areas in which some of these transitions can already be observed at significant scale, and analysis of what needs to happen if they are to add up to the overall transformational change needed?

The section will include a strong focus on ‘nature-based solutions’, restoration and placing nature at the heart of broader goals for meeting humanity’s needs and wishes for the coming decades. Examples of possible areas to be covered in this section include:

- ‘Ecological intensification’ of food production, including land-sparing technologies and nature-based solutions for addressing pollination and pest control
- Ecosystem restoration and ‘rewilding’
- ‘Natural climate solutions’ – biodiversity-focussed approaches both to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, including resilience to unavoidable impacts
- Ecosystem-based approaches to managing productive and sustainable marine fisheries
- ‘Green infrastructure’ – protecting and restoring natural spaces to reduce erosion, flooding, disaster risk in coasts and river basins
- Recognizing the health benefits of diverse landscapes and ecosystems, including protection and increase of urban green spaces
- Changes in diet and approaches to generation and treatment of waste
- Addressing supply and quality of fresh water through ecosystem and restoration
- Options and mechanisms to support investments in nature.

The following documents are seen as key potential sources for this section:

- IPBES Global Assessment
- IPBES Assessments on Land Degradation and Pollinators
- Sixth National Reports
- Additional SBSTTA and COP technical and information documents (to be identified)

Question for regional consultations: which are some of the key transitions to a more nature-focussed approach within your region or subregion, that may be observed and highlighted for wider application? What sources would you recommend to help GBO-5 to illustrate these transitions?