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OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP
ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK
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Agenda item 4

GLOSSARY FOR THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In recommendation [WG2020-1/1](#), the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework invited the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fourth meeting to carry out a scientific and technical review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines, of the draft global biodiversity framework, as well as the revised appendices to the framework, and to provide advice to the Working Group at its third meeting. Furthermore, in recommendation [SBSTTA-23/1](#), the Subsidiary Body requested the Co-Chairs of the Working Group and the Executive Secretary to take into account the information prepared pursuant to this invitation.
2. On the basis of the above, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group and the Secretariat, under the oversight of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and of the Conference of the Parties compiled a list of annotations to explain terms and concepts in the updated goals and targets ([CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/11](#)). This list has been revised and improved to reflect the changes in the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ([CBD/WG2020/3/3](#)) and builds on the comments received from Parties and stakeholders during the first part of the third meeting of the Working Group, held online from 23 August to 3 September 2021.
3. The present document is meant to assist the Working Group in the review, analysis and deliberations on the goals and targets of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, its monitoring elements and its indicators.
4. The list of annotations contains explanations and related examples of terms and concepts used in the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the draft monitoring framework.¹

¹ The first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is contained in CBD/WG2020/3/3. The list of headline indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is presented in CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1, which also describes the information documents related to the monitoring framework, including those related to the component and complementary indicators and other information related to the indicators.

II. LIST OF CONCEPTS AND TERMS PROVIDED IN THE UPDATED GOALS AND TARGETS

Concept/term	Annotation	Goal/Target
Healthy and resilient populations	Demographically and genetically viable, allowing for long-term survival and adaptability. (CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1 , para. 25)	Goal A
People's needs	People's needs include clean air, water, food, fibre, shelter, a safe climate, energy security (e.g. for fuel, cooking, heating), secure livelihoods, and health and spiritual well-being. (Based on IPBES <i>Global Assessment</i> , 2019)	Theory of change, Targets 9-13
Ecosystem connectivity	Connectivity (i.e. ecological connectivity) is the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth. It may thus also refer to continuous ecosystems often connected through ecological corridors. There are two types of connectivity: structural (in which the continuity between ecosystems is identified) and functional (in which the movement of species or processes is verified). (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13))	Goal A
Ecosystem integrity	“An ecosystem is generally understood to have integrity when its dominant ecological characteristics (e.g. elements of composition, structure, function, and ecological processes) occur within their natural ranges of variation and can withstand and recover from most perturbations” (CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1 , para. 18). Moreover, Add.2 refers to “including species diversity and abundance and communities of interacting species within ecosystems” (para. 21). Indicators of ecosystem integrity may include the “structure, function and composition of an ecosystem relative to the pre-industrial range of variation of these characteristics”. (Hansen et al (2021). Towards monitoring ecosystem integrity within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, https://doi.org/10.32942/osf.io/eyqw5)	Goal A
Natural ecosystems (habitats)	Areas composed of viable assemblages of plant and/or animal species of largely native origin and/or where human activity had not essentially modified an area's primary ecological functions and species composition. (Based on UNEP-WCMC definition of natural habitats, https://www.biodiversitya-z.org/content/natural-habitats)	Goal A
Rate of extinction	The number of species that become extinct in a given period of time.	Goal A
Risk of extinction	The probability that a species will go extinct in a given period of time.	Goal A
Nature's contributions to people	Nature's contributions to people (a concept similar to and inclusive of ecosystem services) refers to all the contributions from biodiversity to people's well-being or quality of life. They include (a) material contributions, such as the production of food,	Goal B, Milestone B.2, Target 11

Concept/term	Annotation	Goal/Target
	<p>feed, fibre, medicines and energy, (b) regulating services, such as the regulation of air and water quality, climate regulation, pollination, regulation of pests and diseases and provision of habitat, and (c) other non-material contributions, such as learning, inspiration, health, physical, psychological, spiritual well-being and experiences and supporting identities and culture, as well as maintaining options for future generations.</p> <p>(CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1, para. 35)</p>	
Net gain	<p>A goal either of <i>no net loss</i> or <i>net gain</i> of biodiversity is typically set (also referred to as <i>net neutral</i> and <i>net positive goals</i>, respectively) relative to a predetermined baseline. The process is implemented through national planning processes and negotiations between government agencies, conservation actors, and developers, with elements of the process often formalized within an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. The mitigation hierarchy comprises four broad steps that are intended to be implemented sequentially: (1) avoiding, (2) minimizing, (3) remediating, and (4) offsetting.</p> <p>(See Arlidge et al, “A Global Mitigation Hierarchy for Nature Conservation”, <i>BioScience</i>, vol. 68, Issue 5, May 2018, pp. 336-347, https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biy029; Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme, (2012) Standard on Biodiversity Offsets; and Maron et al. 2018, “The many meanings of no net loss in environmental policy”, <i>Nature Sustainability</i> 1, 19–27 (2018) https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-017-0007-7).</p>	Milestone A.1
Financing gap	<p>The gap between the current total annual capital flows towards global biodiversity conservation and the total amount of funds needed to sustainably manage biodiversity and maintain ecosystem integrity.</p> <p>(Deutz et al (2020). Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap. The Paulson Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, https://www.paulsoninstitute.org/conservation/financing-nature-report/)</p>	Milestone D.1
Spatial planning	<p>Spatial planning is generally understood as a method or public process for analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of activities in a given environment in order to achieve various objectives, including social, economic and ecological (such as biodiversity), that have been specified through a political process. Spatial planning includes land-use planning, marine spatial planning, etc.</p> <p>(See Metternicht (2017). <i>Land Use and Spatial Planning: Enabling Sustainable Management of Land Resources</i>. SpringerBriefs in Earth Sciences. https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319718606)</p>	Target 1
Land and sea areas	<p>It is understood that land and sea areas include all terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, including freshwater biomes.</p>	Target 1, 3

Concept/term	Annotation	Goal/Target
Land-use change	<p>Land-use change includes the conversion of land cover (e.g. deforestation or mining), changes in the management of the ecosystem or agro-ecosystem (e.g. through the intensification of agricultural management or forest harvesting) or changes in the spatial configuration of the landscape (e.g. fragmentation of habitats).</p> <p>(https://ipbes.net/models-drivers-biodiversity-ecosystem-change)</p>	Target 1
Sea-use change	<p>Similarly, sea-use change refers to measures and activities altering the use of marine areas, for example, coastal development, offshore aquaculture, mariculture, oil and gas exploration, and bottom trawling.</p>	Target 1
Intact and wilderness areas	<p>The term “wilderness” is used to describe landscapes and seascapes that are biologically and ecologically largely intact, with a low human population density and that are mostly free of industrial infrastructure. The term “wilderness” is therefore not exclusive of people but, rather, of human uses resulting in significant biophysical disturbance. As a result, wilderness quality is often defined in terms of remoteness from urban settlements and modern infrastructure and the degree of ecological impacts from industrial activity. However, the term is not meant to suggest an area must be completely “pristine” or “untouched” as there are few places remaining on Earth that meet this standard. Further, it must be recognized that the terms “intactness” and “integrity” are measured on a continuum and are not binary.</p> <p>(Cyril F. Kormos, Tim Badman, Tilman Jaeger, Bastian Bertzky, Remco van Merm, Elena Osipova, Yichuan Shi, Peter Bille Larsen (2017). World Heritage, Wilderness and Large Landscapes and Seascapes. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. viii + 70pp, https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2017-028.pdf)</p>	Target 1
Restoration	<p>IPBES has defined restoration as “any intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem from a degraded state” (2019). This definition covers all forms and intensities of the degradation state and, in this sense, is inclusive of the definition adopted by the Society for Ecological Restoration.</p> <p>(https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/fcd6/bfba/38ebc826221543e322173507/post2020-ws-2019-11-03-en.pdf)</p> <p>Ecosystem restoration means “assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact”. Restoration can happen in many ways – for example, through actively planting or by removing pressures so that nature can recover on its own. It is not always possible – or desirable – to return an ecosystem to its original state.</p> <p>(United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/what-ecosystem-restoration)</p>	Target 2

Concept/term	Annotation	Goal/Target
Degraded ecosystems	<p>Land degradation can occur either through a loss of biodiversity, ecosystem functions or services. From an ecological perspective, land degradation may include complete transformation in the class or use of the ecosystem, such as the conversion of natural grassland to a crop field, delivering a different spectrum of benefits, but also degradation of the “natural” or “transformed” system. Natural ecosystems are often degraded prior to being transformed. The transformed ecosystem that results from this conversion can, in turn, be degraded and see a reduction in the delivery of its new functions (e.g. an agricultural field where soil degradation and reduced soil fertility leads to reduced crops).</p> <p>The same concepts are applicable to the degradation of marine and freshwater ecosystems. It may take the form of changed trophic structures in a marine community (through fishing pressure and selective removal of species, transformation of the soft and hard benthos (through repetitive sweeps of contacting gears, such as trawls) or artificial reef construction, to cite only a few examples. In the case of aquatic freshwater ecosystems, the construction of dams and reservoirs over river courses or the conversion of natural wetlands into rice paddies are examples of ecosystem transformation.</p> <p>(CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/11/3)</p>	Target 2
Protected area	<p>A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.</p> <p>(Dudley, N. (Editor) (2008). Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. x + 86 pp. WITH Stolton, S., P. Shadie and N. Dudley (2013). IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidance on Recognising Protected Areas and Assigning Management Categories and Governance Types, Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 21, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xx pp., https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/pag-021.pdf)</p>	Target 3
Other effective area-based conservation measures	<p>A geographically defined area other than a protected area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for in situ conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other locally relevant values are also conserved.</p> <p>(CBD/COP/DEC/14/8)</p>	Target 3
Wider landscapes and seascapes	<p>A landscape is a geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area.</p>	Target 3

Concept/term	Annotation	Goal/Target
	<p>Similarly, a seascape is a spatially heterogeneous marine region that can be delineated at a range of scales and which includes physical, geological and chemical aspects of oceans.</p> <p>(IUCN, https://www.iucn.org/downloads/en_iucn_glossary_definitions.pdf)</p>	
Wild and domesticated species	All living organisms, including fauna, flora, fungi and bacteria.	Goal A, Milestone A.3, Target 4
Recovery	<p>The restoration of natural processes and genetic, demographic, or ecological parameters of a population or species, with regard to its state at the initiation of the recovery activities. It also refers to its past local abundance, structure and dynamics, to resume its ecological and evolutionary role, and the consequent improvement regarding habitat quality.</p> <p>The Green Status assesses species against three essential facets of recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A species is fully recovered if it is present in all parts of its range, even those that are no longer occupied but were occupied prior to major human impacts/disruption; – It is viable (i.e., not threatened with extinction) in all parts of the range; – It is performing its ecological functions in all parts of the range. <p>(IUCN, https://www.iucn.org/downloads/en_iucn_glossary_definitions.pdf; Akçakaya HR, Ferson S, Burgman MA, Keith DA, Mace GM, Todd CR. 2000. Making consistent IUCN classifications under uncertainty. Conservation Biology 14:1001–1013.)</p>	Target 4
Human-wildlife conflict	<p>Human-wildlife conflict is commonly described as conflict occurring between people and wildlife that has an adverse effect on human life, health, well-being, and/or livelihoods. As a result of those actions and threats, humans may damage or eliminate wildlife. These responses can be intentional and unintentional.</p> <p>(CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1, para. 65)</p>	Target 4
Sustainable, legal, and safe for human health	<p>Implies the harvesting, trade and use of organisms at a rate within the bounds of its capacity for renewal, respects international and national laws, is safe for human health, animal health and the environment (e.g. does not contribute to the spread of pathogens or invasive species).</p>	Target 5
Harvest	<p>Involves the gathering, catching or hunting of wild species for human uses.</p>	Target 5
Trade and use	<p>Includes the use of wild species for food and non-food purposes, such as for clothing, medicinal, cultural, scientific, recreational and work-related uses, as well as for selling or trading (i.e. selling of dead or living wildlife and/or products derived from them).</p>	Target 5

Concept/term	Annotation	Goal/Target
Pathways (for introduction of invasive alien species)	<p>Pathways, also referred to as vectors, are the means by which alien species are introduced to new environments. Depending on the ecosystem, there are likely to be a number of different pathways for the introduction of alien species. Common pathways include shipping (ballast water, boat hulls and shipping containers), the accidental or intentional introduction of species from agricultural or aquaculture activities and the escape of species introduced to a new environment. Pathways will vary between countries and will need to be identified in order to be effectively addressed.</p> <p>(Based on Aichi Target 9 – quick guide - https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/targets/T9-quick-guide-en.pdf)</p> <p>Pathways are categorized as per the classification recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity, comprising release; escape; contaminant; stowaway; corridor; unaided.</p> <p>(See CBD/SBSTTA/18/9/Add.1, para. 12, based on Hulme et al. 2008, <i>Journal of Applied Ecology</i>); see also: Faulkner et al. 2020, “Classifying the introduction pathways of alien species: are we moving in the right direction?” <i>NeoBiota</i> 62: 143-159, https://neobiota.pensoft.net/article/53543/)</p>	Target 6
Priority sites (in relation to impacts from invasive alien species)	<p>Ecosystems and habitats which are sensitive and susceptible to biological invasions and areas where impacts of invasive alien species on native components of biodiversity, as well as on social, economic or cultural values are high. Priority sites may include island ecosystems, protected areas, priority ecosystem restoration sites, areas with endemic species, areas with intensive farming and aquaculture, and sites of particular importance for biodiversity. Priority sites may be designated internationally and/or at the national level on the basis of their conditions and circumstances.</p> <p>(See also CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1, para. 76)</p>	Target 6
Pollution (from all sources)	<p>The indirect or direct alteration of the biological, thermal, physical or radioactive properties of any medium in such a way as to create a hazard or potential hazard to human health or to the health, safety or welfare of any living species.</p> <p>(UNEP, LEAP, https://leap.unep.org/knowledge/glossary/pollution)</p>	Target 7
Not harmful (to biodiversity and ecosystem function)	<p>Different metrics will be needed for different types of pollution. However, “not harmful” should be understood to mean not having a negative impact on either or all of the three components of biodiversity, i.e. on genetic, species and ecosystem diversity.</p>	Target 7
Pesticides	<p>Pesticide means any substance, or mixture of substances of chemical or biological ingredients intended for repelling, destroying or controlling unwanted live organisms that are harmful to human, crops, or animal health or to the environment, or that can cause damage to human activities.</p> <p>(FAO, WHO, <i>International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management</i>, 2014.</p>	Target 7

Concept/term	Annotation	Goal/Target
	http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/CODE_2014Sep_ENG.pdf	
Ecosystem-based approaches	<p>Defined as the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. This term may refer to a wide range of ecosystem management activities to increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of people and the environment, including to climate change and disasters.</p> <p><i>(CBD Technical Series No. 85, Synthesis Report on Experiences with Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, 2016.</i></p> <p>https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-85-en.pdf, p. 16)</p>	Target 8
Customary sustainable use	<p>The uses of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.</p> <p>(CBD, https://www.cbd.int/traditional/what.shtml)</p>	Target 9
Sustainable agriculture and aquaculture	<p>The vision of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for sustainable food and agriculture is one in which food is nutritious and accessible for everyone, and where natural resources are managed in a way that maintains ecosystem functions to support current, as well as future human needs.</p> <p>(FAO, http://www.fao.org/sustainability/background/en/)</p>	Target 10
Sustainable forestry (management)	<p>In its broadest sense, sustainable forest management encompasses the administrative, legal, technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the conservation and use of forests. It implies various degrees of human intervention, ranging from actions aimed at safeguarding and maintaining forest ecosystems and their functions to those favouring specific socially or economically valuable species or groups of species for the improved production of goods and services. In addition to forest products (comprising both wood and non-wood forest products), sustainably managed forests provide important ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and the protection of water resources.</p> <p>(FAO, https://www.fao.org/sustainable-forests-management/en/)</p>	Target 10
Green and blue spaces	<p>Areas of vegetation, inland and coastal waters, generally in or near to urban areas including green roofs and walls, and other green infrastructure. These can have a range of positive effects on human physical and mental well-being and provide opportunities to reconnect with nature. Green and blue spaces also provide important habitats for species, improve habitat connectivity, provide ecosystem services and help mediate extreme events, if managed with such objectives in mind.</p>	Target 12
Financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values	<p>“Aligning flows” means channelling financial investments – public and private – towards economic activities that enhance our stock of natural assets and encourage sustainable consumption and production.</p>	Target 14

Concept/term	Annotation	Goal/Target
	(CBD, https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/a6f8/8ccb/a7cb2a88bd13e86cfc59901a/roundtable-b-finance-en.pdf)	
Biodiversity values	Biodiversity values include diverse considerations from ecological, genetic, economic, cultural, social, scientific, educational, recreational, aesthetic and intrinsic perspectives. Valuation and values of biodiversity require the recognition of a wide range of worldviews and plural value dimensions of the meaning and importance of nature associated with the quality of human life seen as interdependent in terms of biophysical, sociocultural, economic, health or holistic perspectives.	Target 14
Dependencies and impacts on biodiversity	<p>Impacts on biodiversity: positive or negative contributions of a company or other actor toward the state of nature, including pollution of air, water, soil; fragmentation or disruption of ecosystems and habitats for [human and] non-human species; alteration of ecosystem regimes.</p> <p>Dependencies on biodiversity: aspects of nature’s contributions to people [ecosystem services] that a person or organisation relies on to function, including water flow and quality regulation; regulation of hazards like fires and floods; pollination; carbon sequestration.</p> <p><i>(Science-based Targets for Nature (2020): Initial Guidance for Business,</i> https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SBTN-initial-guidance-for-business.pdf)</p>	Target 15
Responsible choices	Responsible choices are critical for eliminating unsustainable consumption patterns, and begin by ensuring that people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity.	Target 16
Biotechnology	Under the Convention, “biotechnology” means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use (Convention, Article 2). Under the Cartagena Protocol, “modern biotechnology” means the application of in vitro nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles, or fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family, that overcome natural physiological reproductive or recombination barriers and that are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection. (Cartagena Protocol, Article 3(i)).	Target 17
Harmful subsidies	<p>“A result of a government action that confers an advantage on consumers or producers, in order to supplement their income or lower their costs, but in doing so, discriminates against sound environmental practices. Adapted from OECD 1998, 2005.”</p> <p>“All other things being equal, the [environmentally harmful] subsidy increases the levels of output/use of a natural resource and</p>	Target 18

Concept/term	Annotation	Goal/Target
	therefore increases the level of waste, pollution and natural exploitation to those connected. Adapted from OECD 2005.” (IIEP, Environmentally Harmful Subsidies (EHS): Identification and Assessment, 2009: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/taxation/pdf/Harmful%20Subsidies%20Report.pdf on pages 15-16).	
Baseline	A fixed reference point that is used for the purpose of comparison.	Monitoring framework
Baseline condition	A reference point for the ecological, economic or social condition describing the state of the system in question. The baseline condition may be associated with a historical state in the past, or a contemporary state observed in a relevant geographic location.	Monitoring framework
Baseline period	A historical period used to identify a specific baseline condition.	Monitoring framework
Reference reporting period	The time period used as the starting point for reporting progress on targets and goals.	Monitoring framework
Headline indicators	A minimum set of high-level indicators that capture the overall scope of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and which can be used for tracking national progress, as well as for tracking regional and global progress. These indicators could also be used for communication purposes. Additionally, some countries may wish to use a subset of these indicators or only the goal-level headline indicators for high-level communication and outreach.	Monitoring framework
Component indicators	A set of indicators for monitoring each component of each goal and target of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the national level as well as for tracking regional and global progress.	Monitoring framework
Complementary indicator	A set of indicators for thematic or in-depth analysis of each goal and target and which are less relevant for a majority of countries, have significant methodological or data collection gaps, are highly specific and do not cover the scope of a goal or target component or can only be applied at the global and regional levels.	Monitoring framework