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Agenda Item 9

HOW TO ENHANCE PLANNING, REPORTING, AND REVIEW MECHANISMS TO STRENGTHEN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Government of Norway and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have worked with support from the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to convene a series of workshops aimed at exploring options for enhancing planning, reporting and review mechanisms to strengthen implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
2. The original version of this information document made available for Part I of the meeting held online provided an overview of the discussions at the first two workshops. This revised information document provides an overview of the discussions at all four workshops to help inform Parties as they address agenda item 9 on mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation. The document is being made available in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

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How to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms to strengthen implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the CBD

Report based on discussions in four informal workshops in 2021

Contents

Introduction	3
Overview of issues and their interlinkages.....	4
<i>Planning and NBSAPs</i>	4
<i>Communication of national ambitions</i>	4
<i>National reporting</i>	5
<i>Use of indicators</i>	5
<i>Purpose, scope and possible elements of a global review process</i>	6
<i>Review of ambition</i>	7
<i>Review of progress</i>	7
<i>Potential mechanism(s) for promoting increased ambition and action over time</i>	8
<i>Links between the different elements of global review</i>	8
<i>Timeline and next steps</i>	9
<i>Other important observations</i>	9
Diagram and definitions	10
 Annex 1 - Participation	12
Annex 2 - Key documents workshop participants were asked to consider.....	13
Annex 3 – Summary of discussion at the first workshop	15
Annex 4 – Summary of discussion at the second workshop	20
Annex 5 – Summary of discussion at the third workshop	26
Annex 6 – Summary of discussion at the fourth workshop.....	34

Introduction

During 2021, the Governments of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland convened a series of four informal workshops on ways to enhance planning, reporting and review mechanisms to strengthen implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The aim was to explore different perspectives and, where possible, develop common ground and convergence, in order to facilitate discussion on these issues at meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020), and the Conference of the Parties (COP).

The first workshop (January) focused on planning processes, covering issues such as the role of national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs) and related elements such as ‘national targets’ or ‘national commitments’, and options for the periodic review of the level of ambition and achievement. The second workshop (April) focused on review, covering issues such as global reviews of ambition and progress, and the ways in which national inputs would support these. The third workshop (October) focused on monitoring and reporting, including the use of indicators. The final workshop (November)

covered similar ground to earlier workshops, bringing together key elements to enhance planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

Participation in these workshops was by invitation, with between 30 and 50 people from at least 20 Parties participating in each workshop (see Annex 1 for more information on participants). The co-chairs of WG2020, and the chairs of the SBI and SBSTTA were also invited to follow the discussions, alongside representatives of the CBD Secretariat. Representatives of the Paris-based think tank IDDRI¹ were also invited to provide a link with their informal workshops on similar topics.

The workshops were facilitated by Neville Ash, Director of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and UNEP-WCMC also provided technical support and reporting. The workshops were informal in nature and operated in the spirit of the Chatham House Rule.² Participants were provided in advance of each workshop with an agenda and an annotated list of key documents of relevance to the discussion (see Annex 2). Each workshop took place online over a six-hour period spread across two days. In order to help promote discussion several ‘guiding questions’ were provided to participants in advance.

Overview of issues and their interlinkages

Summary reports were prepared for each workshop and the parts of these reports that cover workshop discussions can be found in Annexes 3 to 6. These discussions relate directly to Agenda Item 9 of SBI-3 and the issues raised in working document CBD/SBI/3/11 and its addenda. They also relate to issues that will be discussed at SBSTTA-24 and WG2020-3. The following provides an overview of the issues covered.

Planning and NBSAPs

- a) There is clear recognition that national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the main planning tools at the national level for implementation of the Convention. These already exist, and it is important that current momentum in implementation is not lost, but rather is built upon.
- b) Once the post-2020 global biodiversity framework has been adopted, Parties will need to consider how its full scope is being addressed at the national level through existing strategies and plans, and what more is needed - for example in the form of updates and/or supplements. The manner and timing of doing so will depend on national circumstances.
- c) Guidance will be needed with respect to review and update of NBSAPs in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and this may need to include guidance on how Parties should address different goals and targets given that not all Parties are at the same starting point.
- d) Many Parties have experienced and are likely to continue experiencing challenges that result from having access to limited human and financial resources. Some participants therefore requested flexibility in any guidance to Parties on how they should respond to adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and where necessary additional resources identified.
- e) Ongoing implementation of other MEAs, including both the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, is also likely to contribute to delivery of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Consideration needs to be given as to how this might be reflected in NBSAPs, and the issues should be addressed in any guidance relating to NBSAPs and national reports.

Communication of national ambitions

- a) It was generally considered important for Parties to communicate their national ambitions relating to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in some manner as soon as is practicable following

¹ See <https://www.iddri.org/>

² See <https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>

adoption. This relates both to communication of intentions at the national level, and as a basis for assessing the sufficiency of the global response.

- b) Any communication on national ambitions to deliver on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would be substantially based on NBSAPs, and might be an integral part of it. Communication in a standard format would greatly facilitate comparability and efforts to assess, review and compile global ambition. To achieve this, guidance would be needed on a common format, whether as part of NBSAPs (for example as an annex) or as a separate document.

National reporting

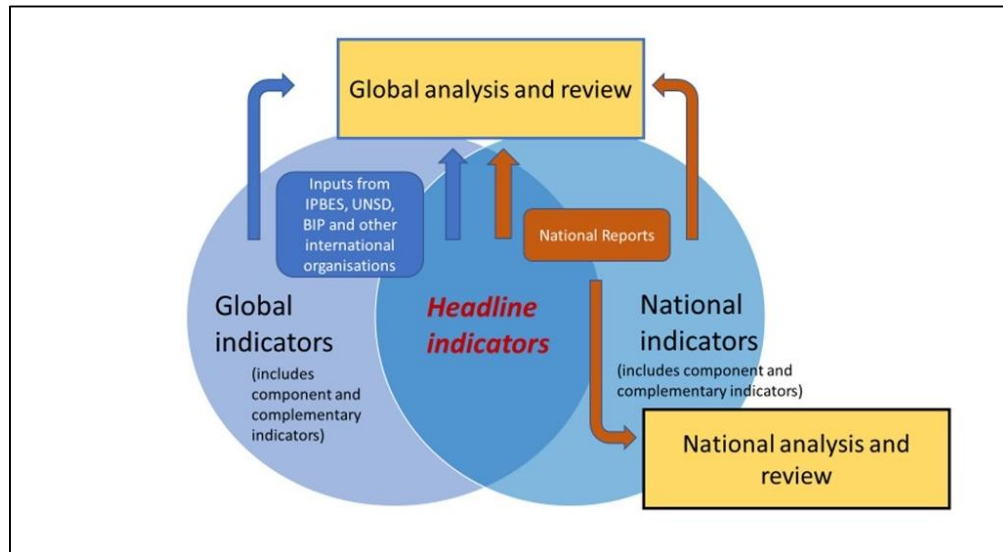
- a) The periodic submission of national reports is mandated by the Convention, and is key to review of progress in implementation, and to the identification of challenges, gaps and barriers that need to be addressed. There was consensus that two national reporting cycles would be appropriate during the period to 2030, to allow for mid-term review and final review.
- b) Both the process of reporting and the use of reported information is more straightforward if reporting formats are simple to use and present information in a comparable way geographically and over time. It is therefore essential to carefully consider the structure and purpose of national reporting and how the reported information will be used, when planning the process and defining templates.
- c) The use of reporting tools, and increased opportunities for expert, peer or Secretariat review of draft reports might help facilitate reporting and increase the value of the process. With respect to the value of the process, it was also recognised that reports to other MEAs are likely to include relevant information, and further consideration needs to be given to integrating reporting more effectively across MEAs.
- d) There may also be value in considering reporting updates in the periods between full reporting, or focused reports on specific issues, although these would likely be voluntary unless part of existing processes (such as regular submission of data on protected areas, indigenous and community conservation areas and other effective area-based conservation areas).

Use of indicators

- a) Indicators are a key part of the monitoring and reporting process, both as a basis for assessment of progress at national and global levels, and as a tool for use in communications. Guidance and as necessary support in use of headline and other indicators will be essential in order to ensure their efficient and effective use in monitoring progress in implementation and impact.
- b) Promoting the use of a limited number of headline indicators is a potentially valuable approach, but more thought needs to be given as to how to select those indicators from the range available in a systematic manner, as there is currently no consensus on the list of headline indicators themselves, nor on the criteria or approach for their selection.
- c) Some potential headline indicators could be aggregated globally from national data now or in the future, while other potential headline indicators are globally derived, and there may even be changes in the origin of indicators over time, as capacities develop. Meanwhile, some indicators are already regularly derived from aggregation of national data – for example those on protected areas. A hybrid approach to use of indicators in national reporting and global analyses may therefore be needed, as illustrated in Figure 1 below.
- d) If COP were to agree on indicators already in wide use and regularly updated, such indicators could be used as a basis for review at each COP without adding significantly to the reporting burden.
- e) Where the desired headline indicators do not currently exist at global or national levels, this will need urgent attention in order to ensure the monitoring framework is fit for purpose. In this regard, consideration could also be given to modelling data where there are gaps in data or available indicators, and validate this when data become available.

- f) It is not considered feasible to develop and implement headline indicators for all elements of all goals and targets. They should therefore be supplemented for reporting purposes by other national and global indicators as part of an overall monitoring framework.

Figure 1: Illustration of 'hybrid approach to use of indicators in reporting



Possible elements of definitions relating to headline indicators

Headline indicators are a small selection of indicators that can be used in a directly comparable way by all Parties, which can be aggregated globally from national data or disaggregated from global data to national scales.

The purpose of having a small selection of headline indicators is to highlight and unify reporting on aspects of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that have broad relevance or high prominence both nationally and globally.

Headline indicators might be available from global datasets (for example the IUCN Red List) or derive from the national level (for example protected areas). Headline indicators might derive from data already regularly submitted by Parties (for example protected areas).

Headline indicators may be part of national reports, although reports would be likely to also include other national indicators. It is important to identify which indicators would come from global sources and which from national sources.

Purpose, scope and possible elements of a global review process

- a) Review at the global level is essential for understanding the extent to which Parties are collectively 'on track' for achieving the goals and targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and therefore on a pathway towards the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature.
- b) There are two dimensions to global review, review of ambition to assess whether enough is being planned, and review of progress to assess whether enough is being done and achieved. Between them these address the following:
 - understanding gaps between aggregate national targets and global goals and targets
 - understanding gaps between national targets and national implementation
 - understanding gaps between national progress in implementation and global goals and targets
 - understanding challenges to national progress, for example with means of implementation
 - understanding gaps between support needed and support provided

- c) Effective review needs to be an ongoing process related to the cycle of meetings of the CBD bodies, with periodic reporting and modalities, formats and timing agreed well in advance. Also important is understanding the role that can usefully be played by other bodies, such as UNEP and IPBES.
- d) The primary purpose of the review process is to stimulate enhanced implementation where this is necessary, including through identifying factors that are preventing or limiting progress and ways to address them.
- e) There are many actors that need to be involved in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and it will be important to also capture information on the contribution of non-state actors. In this regard it is recognised that some Parties already do this when planning and reporting.
- f) In addition to review at the global level, review at the national level should be promoted in order to encourage and facilitate learning and improvements in future planning and implementation. This could usefully also include elements of peer review.

Review of ambition

- a) Review of national ambitions would help understanding of the extent to which the sum of national ambitions is sufficient to meet global goals. However, there are differences of opinion on who should carry out such a review, and concern that it might detract from the more critical focus on implementation and the associated review of progress.
- b) If a review of ambition were to be carried out, the primary input would be the targets identified by Parties in their NBSAPs, understood in the context of how they respond to the targets set in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This was considered above.
- c) For such a process to be established, the necessary inputs would need to be defined, including timelines for review, for presentation of results, and for decision on what comes next, including any political process. However, there was no consensus on whether and how this might be achieved.
- d) Reliable and meaningful assessment of ambition is not a trivial process, although it can be facilitated by good alignment between national targets and global targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Further analytical methods and modelling techniques may need to be developed to support this analysis.
- e) Level of ambition will vary depending on national circumstances, including level of resources available and nature and extent of biodiversity-related issues and priorities. It is important to understand not only the level of ambition, but also the extent to which ambition can realistically be achieved given national circumstances.
- f) In this regard it is also important to retain focus on why achievement in the past has been insufficient, and to continue to consider and address concerns that have already been identified, including in relation to capacity needs and other enabling conditions and means of implementation.

Review of progress

- a) A review of progress in implementation enables assessment of progress in taking actions to address national ambition, and therefore towards achieving global goals and targets. Where data are available, including through indicators, this can be complemented by information on impact of these actions.
- b) Regular review of collective progress in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is important to ensure transparency, to encourage further implementation, and to identify additional support needs. With this in mind, the review will need to address all aspects of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the identified means of implementation and enabling conditions.
- c) National reports and any agreed headline indicators would provide the primary information source for review of progress, and careful thought will need to be given to what national reports should contain and how the information will be used.

- d) There was general agreement that a full review of progress addressing the whole post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be carried out twice during the period to 2030 to provide a mid-term and final review. Some preferred to also maintain an ongoing indicator-based assessment of progress against some goals and targets.

Potential mechanism(s) for promoting increased ambition and action over time

- a) It is anticipated that there will be a need to encourage and support ongoing improvement in addressing the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This might be through increasing ambition and/or increased effort over time, and through jointly finding ways to address gaps and limiting factors.
- b) Assessment of ambition alone is insufficient as a basis for increasing ambition, as it is also necessary to consider the sufficiency of actions in response to ambition, and the impact of actions taken on progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- c) Efficient assessment of progress on implementation requires a straightforward reporting and review structure that supports Parties at specific points in time to consider individual and collective efforts and progress towards global goals and targets as a basis for planning improvements.
- d) Primary sources of information would be national reports to the CBD, NBSAPs (or parts of them), national reports to other conventions and processes, and global assessments such as those from IPBES, although other sources could also be envisaged.
- e) A simple system is needed for information capture and review that builds on and improves current experience, focusing particularly on improving NBSAPs and national reporting. This will involve considering the planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting and review cycle in a more joined up, structured manner, with each element (e.g. NBSAP, report or review) informing the next step in the cycle.
- f) While any assessment of collective national ambitions and progress in achieving them should be a technical review based on evidence, this should inform COP so that it can decide on further action, however it could also provide input to a high-level political process that can facilitate and promote further action including further access to resources.
- g) In response, each Party would be in a position to then review and assess its own contribution and decide on what they consider to be an effective response in the context of their own circumstances. In this regard, realising the ambition demonstrated by Parties will need adequate resources and capacity to implement, monitor, review and report, and there are there also implications for resource mobilization.

Links between the different elements of global review

- a) There was some concern at the idea of two types of review being undertaken (ambition and progress), and it was considered that these should be seen as two parts of the same overall review mechanism. It was also suggested that a global review process can bring both of these elements together periodically, and further thought needs to be given to how to do so.
- b) Opinion is split on who might conduct any global review process, or parts of it. More independent actors such as IPBES were suggested by some, but it was recognised that the CBD Secretariat has a major role to play. It was also suggested that the review of ambition might be carried out by an independent organization such as UNEP, but that the review of progress should definitely be the responsibility of the Secretariat.
- c) It will be necessary to consider the relationships between the reviews of ambition and progress discussed, and the role of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) assessments, to avoid potential for confusion and/or duplication.

- d) In reviewing both ambition and progress it will be important to recognise the contribution of other MEAs in promoting and facilitating actions that support delivery of the post-2020 framework. It will also be necessary to ensure that the contributions of non-state actors are taken into account appropriately.

Timeline and next steps

- a) It will be important to agree as much as possible of the review process at COP 15, including identifying all the steps in the process up to 2030, and any need for additional guidance. Elements to be addressed at COP 15 should therefore include:
- the global goals and targets, so that Parties know where national effort is needed
 - a monitoring framework including indicators, to assess progress at national and global levels
 - guidance on updating NBSAPs, to provide support where it is needed
 - format of the 7th and 8th national reports to the CBD, at least in outline
 - capacity-building and other support to enable update of NBSAPs and monitoring of progress
 - an overview of the whole reporting and review process, including:
 - components of the system and how they relate
 - all necessary terms/definitions
 - clarity on who will be responsible for what
 - indication of how the results of the review process will be used
 - clear timeline and next steps
- b) If there is to be a review of ambition carried out at COP 16, then COP 15 will also need to address:
- terms of reference for the review of ambition
 - common format for communicating national ambitions in relation to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
 - request to the Executive Secretary to work with partners to collate and analyse information for ambition review
- c) It was recognised that there was still significant work to do to ensure that everything on these lists is ready for agreement at COP 15. It may not be possible to establish at the same time all components of an ideal process for planning, reporting and review mechanisms to strengthen implementation, and therefore it is important to consider what needs to be achieved now and what can be left to COP 16.
- d) It was noted that negotiation on all of the interrelated issues addressed by the workshops was complicated by the fact that different aspects were being addressed in different meetings (SBSTTA, SBI, WG2020) which could lead to challenges in developing and agreeing a coherent approach.

Other important observations

- a) Review, reporting and analysis of ambition and progress will be significantly easier where global targets are clearly and unambiguously expressed in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and SMART in nature.
- b) In order to ensure sufficient ambition and facilitate effective implementation and resource mobilization, a whole of government approach to development and implementation of NBSAPs is essential, with approval of NBSAPs at the highest possible level.
- c) Peer review, whether of national reports or NBSAPS, has the potential to help Parties improve what they are doing based on the experience of others. Further consideration needs to be given to the most effective means of achieving this.
- d) Recognising and reflecting the priorities of other biodiversity-related MEAs is key to ensuring their engagement in implementation of both the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and NBSAPs. With this in mind:

- it is important to encourage cooperation amongst national focal points to the different MEAs in responding to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework within each country; and
- there is need for some form of ongoing dialogue amongst MEAs to increase cooperation in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and supporting its delivery.

Diagram and definitions

Figure 2 on the following page and the definitions below draw substantially on discussion during the workshops. The diagram aims to illustrate the relationships between the different potential elements of a future planning, reporting and review process. This diagram, and the elements of definitions below, are intended to aid discussion and increase clarity rather than to promote a specific conclusion.

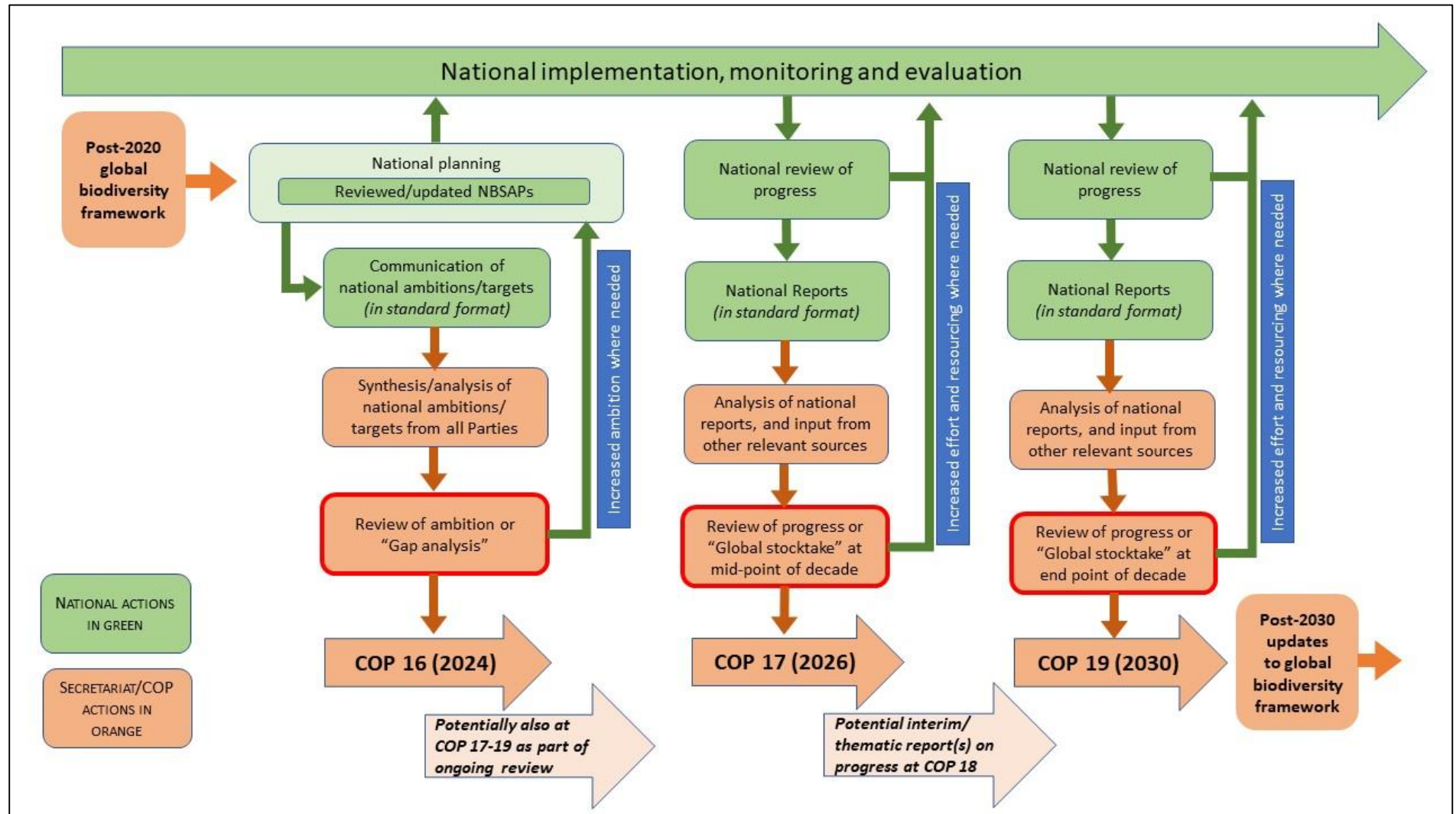
Possible elements of definitions relating to review

A **review of ambition** or ‘gap analysis’ would comprise an analysis of national targets (or any other expression of national ambitions communicated by Parties) and an assessment of the extent to which the sum of national ambitions expressed in these targets aligns with the overall global ambitions of goals and targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

A **review of progress** or ‘global stocktake’ would comprise a review of implementation as communicated primarily in national reports and through the use of indicators, assessing the sufficiency of implementation and impact. The review of progress would also draw on other sources, including assessment processes.

Relevant to both reviews are **contributions made by non-state actors**, and it is important to understand the extent to which information on this is captured within NBSAPs and national reports, and to use other means where this is appropriate.

Figure 2: Illustration of the relationships between the different potential elements of a future planning, reporting and review process



Annex 1 - Participation

Approximately 50 people participated in each workshop. All participated in their personal capacity, with workshops convened under the Chatham House rule. Participants came from the following countries.

Party	First workshop	Second workshop	Third workshop	Fourth workshop
Antigua and Barbuda	X	X	X	X
Argentina	X			X
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	X		
Canada	X	X	X	X
Chile	X	X	X	
China	X			X
Colombia	X	X	X	X
Costa Rica	X	X	X	
Côte d'Ivoire	X			
Czech Republic	X	X	X	X
Egypt		X	X	X
European Union	X	X	X	X
Finland	X	X		X
France	X	X	X	X
Georgia	X	X		
Germany	X	X	X	X
India	X	X	X	X
Japan	X	X	X	X
Jamaica				X
Kenya	X			
Malawi	X	X	X	X
Mexico	X	X	X	X
Norway	X	X	X	X
Portugal	X	X	X	X
Republic of Korea			X	
South Africa	X	X	X	X
Switzerland	X	X	X	X
Uganda			X	
United Kingdom	X	X	X	X

Additional participants were the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Chairs of SBI and SBSTTA, representatives of the CBD Secretariat, IDDRI, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC.

Annex 2 - Key documents workshop participants were asked to consider

Key COP decisions:

- [Decision 14/27](#) Process for aligning national reporting, assessment and review, relating to the synchronized reporting cycles for the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol. The decision also requested the Executive Secretary to identify, in consultation with others, concrete actions to advance synergies on reporting, inter alia, through a number of identified topics.
- [Decision 14/29](#) Review mechanisms, provides the mandate for the work to be undertaken by SBI, and the deliberations to take place at its third meeting, including on possible modalities for applying approaches to enhancing the review of implementation in the process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- [Decision 14/34](#) Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, requested SBI to contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to complement it with elements related to means to support and review implementation

Key requests from the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

- [Recommendation WG2020-2/1](#) The OEWG invited SBI-3 to provide elements to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular with regard to means to support and review implementation, including implementation support mechanisms, enabling conditions, responsibility and transparency, among others.

Documents considered by WG2020-3:

- [CBD/WG2020/3/3](#) First draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- [CBD/WG2020/3/3/ADD1](#) Proposed headline indicators of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- [CBD/WG2020/3/INF/2](#) Proposed monitoring approach and headline, component and complementary indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- [CBD/WG2020/3/CG/4/REPORT](#) Report by the co-leads of contact group 4

Documents considered by SBSTTA-24:

- [CBD/SBSTTA/24/L3](#) Post-2020 global biodiversity framework: scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines
- [Co-chairs' text on item 3](#) Scientific and technical advice on updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines, of the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and [annex](#)
- [CBD/SBSTTA/24/11](#) Report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-fourth meeting (Part I)

Working and information documents made available for the first part of SBSTTA-24:

- [CBD/SBSTTA/24/3](#) Post-2020 global biodiversity framework: scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines
- [CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.1](#) Proposed indicators and monitoring approach for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- [CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16](#) Indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- [CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/12](#) Linkages between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Documents to be considered by SBI-3:

- [CBD/SBI/3/CRP5](#) Options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention
- [CBD/SBI/3/20](#) Report of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on its third meeting (part I)

Working and information documents made available for the first part of SBI-3:

- [CBD/SBI/3/2](#) Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

- [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1](#) Update on progress in revising/updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets
- [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.2](#) Analysis of the contribution of targets established by Parties and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- [CBD/SBI/3/11](#) Options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention
- [CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD3](#) Further information and draft template for national commitments to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (subsequently revised as [CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD3/REV1](#))
- [CBD/SBI/3/4](#) Overview of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process – The Annex to the document presents a list of guiding questions indicating input needed from SBI-3 for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (see part 5. Responsibility and transparency)
- [CBD/SBI/3/INF/8](#) The Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) - A tool for biodiversity knowledge management in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework implementation
- [CBD/SBI/3/INF/11](#) Updated analysis of experience under the Convention and other processes, and considerations for the enhancement of a multidimensional review mechanism

Some key documents produced using national reports as sources of information:

- [CBD/SBI/3/2](#) Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1](#) Update on progress in revising/updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets
- [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.2](#) Analysis of the contribution of targets established by Parties and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.3](#) Review of implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action
- [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.4](#) Progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use of biodiversity
- [5th edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook](#) and [IPBES Global Assessment Report](#)

Other documents:

- [Updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) which has been updated by the Co-chairs of the OEWG after the meetings held in Rome in February 2020
- [IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#)
- Fifth edition of the [Global Biodiversity Outlook](#) and second edition of the [Local Biodiversity Outlook](#)
- [CBD/SBI/3/INF/11](#) Updated analysis of experience under the convention and other processes, and considerations for the enhancement of a multidimensional review mechanism
- Information on the [Trial Phase of an Open-Ended Forum on Review of Implementation held on 16 and 17 September 2020](#) (and [survey results](#))
- [CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/15](#) Report of the workshop “Post2020 global biodiversity framework: commitment, implementation and accountability” held in Brussels in 2019, and related [policy brief](#)
- [Submission from Norway - An implementation mechanism in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
- [Submission from the UK – Cluster approach](#)
- [CBD/SBI/3/INF/19](#) Driving ambition through national biodiversity commitments – bringing experiences from other sectors to bear
- From the climate arena: [Emissions Gap Report 2020](#) and [Adaptation Gap Report 2020](#)

Annex 3 – Summary of discussion at the first workshop

The following is extracted from the report of the first workshop (27-28 January 2021), which addressed planning national actions to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Discussion was organized into four parts covering:

- Aligning national ambition with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (*paragraphs 1-9*)
- Communicating national ambition (*paragraphs 10-18*)
- Mechanism(s) for increasing ambition/efforts/contributions/commitments over time (*paragraphs 19-37*)
- Linking planning efforts across sectors and multilateral environmental agreements (*paragraphs 38-43*)

Aligning national ambition with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

1. Following adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, ***action will be needed at Party level to assess preparedness for adopting and implementing response to the new global targets and identifying level of ambition***. To ensure effective policy and practice, there is a lot of preparatory work needed to get interpretation of the post-2020 framework and targets into national policy and action.
2. Everyone recognises that ***national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the main tool for implementation***, and that it is important to use more effectively the tools that Parties already have. While it will be important to encourage update or revision of NBSAPs to address the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, this will have to recognise national circumstances.
3. Recognising that revision or update of NBSAPs will take time, and also that some Parties have NBSAPs which still have years to run, ***the identification of “national commitments” or “national contributions” has been suggested as a way to more rapidly recognise and communicate what Parties are doing*** to address the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Some see this as a complement to NBSAPs, perhaps as the annex described in the previous point, setting out how the NBSAP and other actions respond to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Others see the concept of national commitments or contributions as something new. Some argue this creates an additional burden. Related to this is the question of whether the identification of national commitments or contributions is a one-off task, or part of an ongoing process, and whether it is a separate instrument from the NBSAP, with reporting requirements.
4. Parties will need time to ***adapt NBSAPs to respond to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, depending on national circumstances***. Some participants suggested that the most straightforward approach could be to identify national commitments or contributions supporting delivery of the post-2020 goals and targets in an annex that could be added to existing, revised or updated NBSAPs. Flexibility is needed to allow adaptation to national circumstances. The content of the annex should build on the existing NBSAPs and activities, and not replace something that is already happening and in place.
5. While there is need for quickness in responding to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, many ***Parties have in place systems for development and implementation of NBSAPs that deliberately involve stakeholders or need to engage with multiple layers of government*** and cannot be done on a short timescale. In this regard, some participants emphasised the importance of developing and integrating sub-national strategies, and others the need to mainstream biodiversity into other relevant sectoral strategies and plans. The concept of national commitments or contributions has been presented as a quick response, but there is concern that this could undermine systems for engaging stakeholders in the process. It is important to adapt and not undermine existing processes.
6. Some sort of standardization or ***common elements across NBSAPs would greatly facilitate comparability and efforts to assess, review and compile global ambition*** in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Further guidance could help improve standardisation and comparability whilst this should not constrain what is essentially a national responsibility and process. For example, the common elements needed as a basis for assessing global ambition could be included in an annex to the NBSAP that could be presented by all Parties, regardless of their national approach to NBSAP update. Questions were raised on whether such guidance should be negotiated at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) or developed subsequently. Recognising the need to start implementation as quickly as possible, earlier is better, which implies the need to work soon on preparation.
7. Whatever approach is followed, there is a ***need to remain aware of the challenges that some Parties will encounter*** in assessing, planning and implementing national response to the post-2020 global biodiversity

framework. For example, it is important to identify both what needs to be done, and the support that will be required in order to do it. In this regard, it was suggested that it may be useful to identify in plans what can be done with existing resources and what else countries aim to do if additional resources are available (consistent with the approach of identifying “conditional contributions” in the context of the Paris Agreement under UNFCCC).

8. Some *Parties have indicated that support for revision of NBSAPs following adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was not timely*, which impacted on delivery, and that experience suggests that GEF funding can take a long time to unlock and therefore may not be an option for supporting quick action. This is an issue that may require further thought, as resource mobilization for rapid response to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be important. Preparation for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (2022-2026) is currently under way and will be discussed at upcoming meetings of both the SBI-3 and COP-15.

9. Attention was also drawn to a *different approach to national planning in response to other MEA COPs and the decisions taken*. The example given was of the chemicals conventions where national plans are regularly updated following COPs and the decisions taken by them. The question was asked as to whether it was valuable to consider encouraging such regular adjustment of NBSAPs or components of them following each CBD COP.

Communicating national ambition

10. It was considered *important for Parties to regularly communicate in some way updated information on what they have committed to do*, as this is needed for assessing whether the sum of national ambition is sufficient for reaching the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It is similarly important to understand and communicate the level of implementation, as ambition is insufficient without action on the ground to meet the stated ambition.

11. However, *there are different options that could be considered on format and timing for providing such information*. For example, this could be maintained as a living document, or prepared periodically in response to a request – potentially for each COP. Whatever option was decided on, this would need to be a streamlined process that builds on existing activities (including the NBSAPs and national reporting), and not an additional burden.

12. *National commitments or contributions are considered to be an integral part of NBSAPs* however, some elements could be communicated in other formats or through other means. This might include the standard format annex referred to earlier (paragraph 6) and could potentially include other mechanisms such as an online portal, perhaps through expanding and strengthening the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM). This might also facilitate more frequent updating of what Parties committed to do, and much of this can be done with existing tools and mechanisms.

13. As was indicated above (paragraph 6), provision of some form of *guidance on a common format for communicating information on national commitments or contributions* to achieving the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is needed, whether the common format is an annex to the NBSAP or a separate document. In order to facilitate synthesis and analysis this should be organized by goals and targets so that ambition, action and delivery can be associated with the relevant goals and targets. There is also value in integrating national response to other relevant conventions, as this is likely to also be relevant. The guidance could also provide links to key information resources where this is thought necessary.

14. It was well understood that timing is a key issue, as *it is important to be in a good position to respond rapidly if ambition and implementation are demonstrated to be insufficient to meet the global goals and targets*. So, it is critical to consider when guidance will be provided, what form of revision or update of NBSAPs will be expected by when, and so on. There needs to be an acceptable balance between ambition and feasibility.

15. *Recognizing and reflecting priorities of other biodiversity related MEAs will be key to ensuring their participation in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework* at all levels. Clearly showing how other conventions help support delivery of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is very valuable, and this may be facilitated by some form of common roadmap for conventions in terms of reporting and communication, and identification of common elements or themes.

16. Simply understanding and reviewing level of ambition will be insufficient. It will be *necessary to recognise and respond to insufficient ambition, insufficient action to respond to ambition, and insufficient impact of the actions taken*. In this regard it will be necessary to consider at some point what would happen if based on analysis of national commitments or contributions, targets and achievements it is identified that global targets will not be met. For

example, will all countries be encouraged to revise their commitments/contributions and NBSAPs, or will necessary actions be more explicitly identified? Also, how will identified challenges to delivery (for example insufficient capacity or resources) be addressed?

17. It is important to recognise that ***it may not be possible to establish at the same time all components of an ideal process for review of progress***, but that a process could be set up that leads to development of a more effective approach in the future. In this regard, it is important to focus both on what needs to be set in place now and what might be needed in the future, as both may need actions to be taken. It took 10 years to develop and adopt what is now known as the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC.

18. Concern was also raised that while a focus on “national commitments” as explained in the SBI-3 document might raise political profile, it was ***vital to avoid this leading to cherry-picking high-profile commitments*** that mask the fact that other issues are not being dealt with. It is important to understand national response to all relevant targets, and even to understand why some targets might not be thought relevant.

Mechanism(s) for increasing ambition/efforts/contributions/commitments over time

19. As was indicated above (paragraph 16), in order to deliver on the goals and targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework it will be important to ***understand what actions and measures are being put in place and when ambition and effort needs to be increased***. Better reporting leads to better understanding, and high-level visibility of gaps is needed in order to encourage response.

20. This concerns not only level of ambition or contribution in terms of targets, commitments and intentions, as ***consideration will also need to be given to levels of implementation, the impact of actions being taken and whether desired outcomes are being achieved***. Increasing effort may be about increasing ambition through revised national targets or making additional commitments or statements of intent, but also important is increased effort in implementation, for example through institutional strengthening or improvement in the actions being taken.

21. ***What is needed is a simple system for information capture and review*** that builds on and improves current experience. Currently the approach to NBSAPs and national reports is not as joined up and efficient as it could be, and it is suggested that a more robust process for review of ambition and implementation (including a “global stocktake”) is needed. It is necessary to think about the planning, reporting and review cycle in a more joined up, structured manner. Each element (be it NBSAP, reporting or review) should inform the next step in the cycle, creating a round of planning and implementation, naturally leading to a ratcheting up of ambition, action and implementation.

22. ***Efficient assessment of progress needs a straightforward reporting structure***. Parties at specific points in time need to consider individual and collective effort towards goals and targets. Assessment of collective effort will draw on national reports complemented by information from other sources, potentially including NBSAPs (or parts of them), national reports to other conventions and processes, and global assessments such as those from IPBES.

23. As was indicated above (paragraphs 6 and 13), a ***common format for providing information on national level of ambition and effort, whether in national reports or in NBSAPs, helps in analysing and understanding progress*** in implementation. Such guidance will also aid understanding of the types of information needed (both quantitative and qualitative), which will vary from one target to another. This may also help in recognising where there are expected to be time lags, whether in terms of putting measures in place or in terms of implementation on the ground.

24. This need not be a completely new process, as Parties can build on what they are already doing. Parties will each need to look at national efforts in relation to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to demonstrate what is already being sufficiently addressed and what further needs to be done. It will be ***important for Parties to submit to the Secretariat information from NBSAPs and their update so that this can be used as a basis for assessment of overall ambition***. As at present, updated NBSAPs or information drawn from them can be placed on the CHM for public access.

25. However, it was also noted that ***review of NBSAPs in response to the new framework is a process that needs stakeholder engagement and takes time***, and this also needs to be considered when discussing what can reasonably be done and by when. In addition, it should be recognised that shorter time granted for full review and adjustment may not be feasible for countries with limited human and financial resources. Additionally, the ability of Parties to carry out activities by specific deadlines is necessarily also affected by differences in national priorities.

26. Concern was also expressed that discussion on this issue may be over-influenced by the Paris Agreement and overlook the specificities of the subject and process - ***the workshop is not discussing a common good, but something that is nationally distributed and needs differing national responses***. Some global targets can be applied universally, and others may need to be adapted to national circumstances. This also has implications for capacity and resource needs.

27. ***Further consideration needs to be given to the form and content of the proposed global stocktake, and the process for developing and delivering it***. Some see the global stocktake as the synthesis of information reported by Parties, for example, while others envision the global stocktake as a process that involves both the reporting and analysis, and high-level review and commitment on what needs to be done as a result. Either way the review, reporting and analysis will not be a simple process given the scope of the targets.

28. The ***global stocktake should help to build political momentum, which then gives political mandate to action at the technical level***, and there is need to communicate the results widely as momentum leads to increasing ambition to address identified gaps. However, concern was expressed about the apparent disconnect between political announcement of ambition and technical level discussions on what is actually being done and achieved.

29. While the global stocktake looks at efforts from a global perspective, ***it is up to each country to review and assess its own contributions and decide on what is considered an effective response***. Some Parties envisage that the global stocktake will lead to increased political commitments and announcements, some envisage national targets being ratcheted up, others envisage a ratcheting up of actions and efforts take to achieve national and global targets as an outcome. Clarity will be necessary on what action is needed, when and from whom in order to be in line with the level of ambition set in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This will be key to encouraging new high-level announcements.

30. However, it might also be useful to think further about what is achievable and what is needed. For example, would it be helpful to have an ***initial global assessment of ambition as a baseline, based on a review of existing NBSAPs and national measures in place against the targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework***. Waiting for an assessment based on national reports and other assessments might mean that the input is received too late to encourage change.

31. It was suggested that the proposed ***global stocktake should take place at the mid-point in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and at the end***, with national reports requested in advance to inform the process. There was also a suggestion to have an update or assessment every two years on what Parties were doing in response to their NBSAPs and other relevant commitments, and two in depth assessments of ambition and progress in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The approach would need to be pragmatic and align with the likely meeting cycle. Attention was also drawn to the approach set out in SBI document CBD/SBI/3/11. The question was also asked as to whether there was actually time for two global stocktakes between the date of adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the final review of implementation and achievement.

32. It was also proposed that ***some form of more focused review could also be done at each COP***, with reporting at an appropriate time ahead of the COP. Such a review could address specific issues or targets, in much the same manner as was done for Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. These may help in adapting the process to make the best use of the time available. In this regard it may not always be necessary to provide new reports, and input could be provided as updates on what has been reported before. It was also suggested that COP updates could maybe also focus on specific themes being discussed and reported at governance body meetings of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, so as to further build links.

33. There was discussion of the ***relationship between the global stocktake, the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) and IPBES assessments***, with some questioning the need for GBO or whether the GBO would evolve into the global stocktake or 'gap report'. Questions were also raised on whether the global stocktake would be led by the CBD Secretariat or carried out independently. For example, assessment of national reports and NBSAPs could be carried out by the Secretariat, and the "scientific" part of the GBO could be delivered by IPBES.

34. It was recognised that ***there is a need to avoid overlap with IPBES work, including a future global assessment***, and to find ways to more effectively use the work of IPBES, including by communicating the findings more effectively for other sectors. It was also noted that the IPBES global assessment had significant impact for those Parties working on their NBSAPs at the time.

35. **Realising the ambition demonstrated by Parties will need adequate resources and capacity to implement, review and report.** Indeed, raising ambition will inevitably place additional pressure on countries already with constrained resources. This has implications for resource mobilization efforts and capacity development. Political support at all relevant levels is therefore critically important. Also important will be efforts to increase mainstreaming at the national level and to look at potential synergies with implementation of other MEAS.

36. In addition to whatever process is established at the global level for review of ambition, implementation and impact, it will be **necessary for Parties to track progress on implementing NBSAPs at the national level as part of an ongoing national process.** Coupled with this there is a need for better scientific understanding on how actions at the local level contribute to globally agreed targets. National ecosystem assessments can be an important part of the planning process, and also help inform this.

37. In all of this it will be important to use **existing tools and processes more efficiently, strengthening what are already available.** A tool currently in the advanced stages of development that can greatly facilitate monitoring and review throughout the cycle could be the Data and Reporting Tool (DaRT) being developed by UNEP with the support of the European Union and Switzerland. This tool, which is currently being rolled out and tested with different Parties and MEAs, allows Parties to upload data at any point in time, and easily extract the state-of-play whenever it is needed, be it in CBD context or the context of other MEAs.

Linking planning efforts across sectors and MEAs

38. A whole-of-government approach involving all relevant sectors is key to effective implementation, and lack of such an approach is part of the reason behind poor delivery against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Consequently, a **whole of government approach to development and implementation of NBSAPs is essential,** with approval of NBSAPs at the highest possible level.

39. It is important to **ensure that other MEAs feel ownership of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.** To achieve this, it is essential that their interests are appropriately reflected in the framework and monitoring framework. This will lead to greater cooperation in implementation, monitoring and reporting, including with respect to support provided to Parties.

40. However, implementation is substantially at the national level, and it is important to **encourage cooperation amongst national focal points to the different MEAs** in responding to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework within each country. This is probably the most effective way to increase 'synergies' in implementation.

41. At the global level increased **collaboration amongst MEAs will be facilitated by alignment of strategies** and plans with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Alignment of reporting is more complicated, but this also needs addressing to facilitate review and reporting. DaRT may be valuable in this regard.

42. There is **need for some form of ongoing dialogue amongst MEAs to increase cooperation** in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This would need to involve both the secretariats and Parties. There may also be value in exploring options for some form of forum where MEAs can come together to review and promote collaboration in delivering the framework.

43. It was noted that **nature-based solutions provide opportunities for responding to multiple agendas,** including not only different intergovernmental conventions and processes (Rio Conventions, Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, etc), but also for working across sectors in the context of mainstreaming.

Annex 4 – Summary of discussion at the second workshop

The following is extracted from the report of the second workshop (9 and 12 April 2021), which addressed review mechanisms. Discussion was organized into four parts covering:

- Purpose, scope and possible elements of a global review process (*paragraphs 1-10*)
- Review of ambition – understanding the extent to which national ambitions are sufficient to meet global goals and targets (*paragraphs 11-21*)
- Review of implementation – understanding the extent to which progress is being made towards global goals and targets (*paragraphs 22-33*)
- Links between the different elements of global review (*paragraphs 34-43*)

Purpose, scope and possible elements of a global review of progress

1. It is well understood that some form of ***review at the global level is essential for understanding the extent to which we are collectively ‘on track’ for achieving the goals and targets established in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework***. We need to understand whether the sum of the ambition demonstrated by Parties when setting targets and planning action at the national level is sufficient to meet the globally adopted goals and targets, and we need to understand the extent to which these ambitions are being realised through implementation.
2. The review process is important for maintaining momentum, and both the review itself and response to that review are critical to ongoing improvement in delivery of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. ***Effective review therefore needs to be an ongoing process related to the cycle of meetings of CBD bodies, with periodic reporting and modalities, formats and timing agreed well in advance***, facilitating both preparation and response. The process needs to be standardised, with clear lines of responsibility, clear identification of the information needed and effective use of indicators.
3. It is ***important that Parties have the capacity and resources to effectively report on progress of implementation of the targets***. This needs to be considered in the context of an ongoing process to collect and manage the data and information necessary for implementing the Convention, rather as a series of separate reports. The focus should be on data and information to support implementation with reporting based on this.
4. The ***primary purpose of the review processes is to stimulate enhanced implementation***. In order to achieve this, it is important to ensure that the right information is being collected to provide the consistent and solid evidence basis needed for taking the necessary action to facilitate and promote implementation. This will require guidance, and must address actions, gaps and challenges and limitations leading to an understanding of what else needs to be done.
5. In order to make progress on implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, ***it will be important to understand what is preventing or limiting progress so that it can be addressed***, and the review process is important in developing this understanding. This may range from adequacy of financial and human resources to effectiveness or otherwise in addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss.
6. To be fully effective in improving ambition and delivery, the ***review should comprise both a technical process and political ‘response’*** to the review findings and recommendations. For example, the review could be associated with a high-level meeting that accepts the review and commits to future improvement, including addressing known gaps and challenges. Associated with this should be the principle of progression, or at least no regression, so that the focus is always on enhancement.
7. National level review is critical for learning and future planning, and development of a ***review process at the global level should be complemented by encouragement for Parties to conduct national-level reviews***. Such reviews could include both internal review as part of the regular planning cycle and should go beyond the biodiversity community. There is also much to be gained from external independent review.
8. At both national and global levels, ***it is important that any review makes use of multiple lines of evidence given the anticipated involvement of multiple stakeholders in implementation*** of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The obligation for implementation is placed on Parties, but input from other stakeholders is needed for full and effective review. This may include, for example, actions relating to the implementation of other MEAs or to

the role that is being played by the private sector. It also relates to the mainstreaming agenda and the relevant actions of other sectors.

9. We know that many actors will be involved in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and there are mechanisms in place to encourage this. ***It will be important to agree some way to understand the contribution that different actors are making, and how this can be built upon.*** For example, there are many platforms that encourage the private sector and others to identify commitments they are making, but the key question is how we gather all this information and include it in the reviews being made and acted upon.

10. One final point relates to the ***importance of transparency in informing and encouraging others.*** Where Parties and other stakeholders are able to communicate externally what they intend to do, what they are actually doing, the intended outcome, and their experiences, then this contributes to sharing of experience and the development of capability, driving ambition through transparency.

Review of ambition – understanding the extent to which national ambitions are sufficient to meet global goals and targets

11. This part of the review process concerns understanding the extent of planned national efforts (level of ambition) and facilitating their improvement, with the aim of ensuring that all national plans taken together are sufficient to deliver global goals and targets. ***Communication of standardised information on the intentions of Parties is critical to understanding adequacy of ambition.*** The source of this information on national ambition could be: the NBSAPs themselves; analysis by Parties of how their NBSAPs respond to global goals and targets; summaries of national targets; and/or lists of contributions, commitments or pledges. The key issue is provision of information in a standard format.

12. The ***process and necessary inputs will need to be defined***, including timelines for review, for presentation of results, and for decision on what comes next, including any political process. Significant attention will need to be given to how Parties will communicate their level of ambition so that the necessary evidence base is available. It was argued that this information will be needed as soon as possible, and some suggested that at least a preliminary review might be needed by SBI-4 in the lead up to COP-16 as a basis for assessment of what else might need to be done to encourage and support raised ambition at the national level. For many Parties such a first assessment might need to be based on what they have already committed to, as many will not have substantially reviewed NBSAPs at this time, however any additional plans or commitments should also be communicated.

13. Provision of clear information on national ambitions is important in helping to make global synthesis, aggregation and analysis of those contributions straightforward. ***Review, reporting and analysis are significantly easier where global targets are clearly and unambiguously expressed and SMART***, which also makes it easier for Parties to link national targets, actions and efforts support achievement of global targets. Where global targets are incompletely defined or not clearly expressed, they are likely to be difficult to transfer to a national setting, difficult to implement, and technically difficult to assess. Having said that, global targets need to apply across a range of national circumstances, so they cannot always be very specific.

14. Concern was expressed by some that ***reliable and meaningful review of ambition is not a trivial process.*** It is unlikely to be indicator-based, and commitments are likely to be expressed in a variety of different ways and may be challenging to link to targets. This concern needs to be taken into account when considering how to collect and use information for any review of ambition.

15. Level of ambition may necessarily vary depending on circumstances, including both level of resources available for implementation and the nature and extent of biodiversity-related issues that need to be addressed. There is therefore some concern that ***it may be necessary to recognise and address ambition in the context of each country's 'starting point', as well as in the context of political will, resource availability, and practicability.*** Recognising this may help in understanding the needs and opportunities, but there remain concerns about those Parties who may not be in a position to realistically increase their levels of ambition.

16. While the focus in this discussion is on ambition, ambition needs to be considered in the context of implementation and achieving better outcomes. Good ambition serves no purpose if it cannot be achieved. ***It is important not only to understand the level of ambition, but also the extent to which the ambition can realistically be achieved given national circumstances.*** Assessment of preparedness is valuable in this regard, and understanding who will implement, who will support, and whether the resources (financial and human) are in place. Without knowing this it is difficult to address needs.

17. Previous assessments have shown that Parties collectively have not been doing enough to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is ***important to maintain a focus on why achievement in the past has been insufficient, and to address those concerns so that we can break the cycle***. If the capacities are not there to realise ambition, then this needs to be addressed. Nobody wants biodiversity loss, so we need to find and address limiting issues. We need the review process to highlight barriers and the need for support in addressing them.

18. There was ***some concern at the idea of two separate reviews being undertaken (ambition and implementation), and it was argued that these should be seen as two parts of the same review***. Having both being undertaken at the same time could be time consuming and potentially confusing. It was suggested that the “gap report” should be part of and feed into the “global stocktake” so that there was in effect one review processes with the ambition review part of the global stocktake. A key issue here is what is done when the report is available, and it was suggested that it would be confusing and resource intensive to have two separate reports encouraging two different types of action. For example, if there was a call to “ratchet up” following an ambition review, and also a call to “ratchet up” following an implementation review.

19. It was ***suggested that review of implementation and response to it seemed far more important than review of ambition***, and that a review of ambition should be carried out once early on in the process, with the focus then being on review of implementation. However, the question was also asked about what should be done if ambition is stepped up once, but the sum of national ambitions is still insufficient to meet the global goal and targets. It was therefore argued that review of ambition needed to be more frequent, although this could be done on the basis of changes since the previous review rather than a complete review each time. Additionally, focus could be on specific targets at each COP.

20. In any review, it will be ***important to recognise the contribution of other MEAs to promoting and facilitating actions that will support delivery of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework***, as well as national efforts to address the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. Hopefully this will already be embedded within NBSAPs and included within national reports (and this should probably be encouraged), but where it is not, additional effort may be needed to capture the information. Where Parties are using the MEA Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) being developed by UNEP this will facilitate drawing on information contained in reports to other MEAs (see also paragraph 31).

21. It is also essential that the contributions of non-state actors are considered in any review processes, so that their contribution to achieving ambition can be understood. ***We need to identify ways to make it easier for non-state actors to identify and communicate the contributions that they are making***. Increasing understanding of and interoperability among the various non-state actor platforms will help in this regard. Increased ambition by the private sector could also be encouraged by involving CEOs in high-level meetings to review ambition and implementation.

Review of implementation – understanding the extent to which progress is being made towards global goals and targets

22. ***Regular review of collective progress in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is hugely important***. The review is more than a report and should comprise both technical evaluation and political consideration of the conclusions and what needs to be done next. This is essential for ensuring that the results of the review lead to further action. The review process should inform further consideration of how Parties contribute to meeting the global goals and targets, including through NBSAPs or other agreed ways to present national ambition, and also support COP decisions on what further needs to be done, including where further support is needed to enhance implementation.

23. In addition to considering progress in achievement of goals and targets, ***the review should consider the whole post-2020 global biodiversity framework including the identified means of implementation and enabling conditions***. This would include consideration of the links to other action plans (e.g. on local government) and strategic frameworks (e.g. on capacity development). It would identify any associated challenges and gaps, and where strengthening is needed.

24. ***National reports provide the primary information source for review of implementation, and careful consideration needs to be given to what national reports should contain*** in addition to the headline and other indicators. In this regard there is a need to be mindful of resource implications, and to make sure inputs are used efficiently. Additional sources of information for the review are expected to include the context provided by global

assessments and indicators, as well as independent scientific analysis. A review of potential information sources other than NBSAPs and national reports, and how they might contribute to a global review of implementation, may be valuable.

25. ***While the use of headline indicators will be important, there may be more immediate progress being made in implementation by Parties than is apparent from the indicators used.*** For example, specific actions such as development of species management plans, or the identification of harmful subsidies, could be undertaken relatively quickly but the impacts might not be apparent for some time. The review process should take into account such incremental milestones for implementation, and this issue also needs to be taken into account when selecting headline indicators.

26. It is ***important to focus on what the review is intended to achieve and design a process based on this***, rather than thinking about how it relates to the Global Biodiversity Outlook as currently constituted, or what is meant by a “global stocktake”. At the same time, it is important to consider how the review process and its outputs might relate to other processes such as IPBES, and how it can make use of the outputs of these processes.

27. ***When developing the review process, it is important to recognise that many Parties have rather few staff with a broad range of responsibilities.*** Review takes time if it is to be done in the right way, and there are trade-offs to be considered. Impacts on biodiversity have different timings, and some changes will happen slowly and others more quickly. They therefore do not need to be reviewed with the same periodicity. Meanwhile where key individuals are already under pressure it is important to ensure that the benefits of review and reporting are clearly understood and delivered, and that reporting tools and processes make the task as straightforward as possible.

28. It was suggested that the ***review system should be flexible for Parties, recognising resource constraints***. For example, it would be helpful to design national reporting formats that highlight differences from previous reports, rather than repeating what has been said before. Aim to minimise the burden, build on data and information already available to national focal points, and essentially develop a system that is as simple as possible for achieving the output that we need to deliver.

29. There was general agreement that a ***review of implementation addressing the whole post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be carried out twice a decade***, as there needs to be sufficient time to influence, and hopefully enhance level of implementation through the duration of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This should be aligned with the national reporting cycle so that reports can make the necessary input, although the process would also draw on NBSAPs. However, it was also suggested that narrower focus thematic reviews could be carried out at every COPs, possibly including links to the work of other MEAs in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

30. Further ***consideration needs to be given to who should be responsible for carrying out the global review***. While it is recognised that the CBD Secretariat will have a major role to play, opinion was split on the extent to which they currently have capacity to do so, and there were suggestions that such review might be better carried out independently or at least involving other technical agencies. Whatever is decided, resources will be needed for carrying out a meaningful review engaging the right people.

31. Attention was drawn to ***previous good experience in tracking progress in achieving Aichi Target 11 and encouraging further action based on the analysis***, and the question asked as to whether this sort of practice be extended for appropriate targets or parts of them (recognising it is unlikely to be relevant for all). In the case of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures there are databases that Parties already submit data to, and regular report (“Protected Planet Report”) are prepared by UNEP-WCMC.

32. If reports prepared for other MEAs and organizations are to be used in helping to assess progress in implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, then it would be ***valuable to engage with those MEAs and other organizations to discuss common reporting needs and formats***. This needs two-way engagement, including engagement with development of their reporting formats and processes. It is important to make clear what information is needed and why. However, it was also noted that where Parties are using the MEA Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) being developed by UNEP any information can be uploaded once and be used for reporting under any MEA whenever needed.

33. With respect to the engagement of other MEAs in supporting implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, it was noted that there was a ***challenge in that the framework was being negotiated by CBD Parties and there were concerns that during negotiation specific gaps and issues identified by other MEAs were not being addressed***, which might then limit their opportunities for engagement. For example, the Convention

on Migratory Species has been vocal on the need to embed connectivity in the framework. Other MEAs want to support implementation, so they need appropriate language.

Links between the different elements of global review

34. It was suggested that the SBI working document (CBD/SBI/3/11) has too many different elements in terms of a review process, and that ***what is needed is a clearer understanding on what exactly is necessary for assessing implementation and to encourage enhanced implementation, and then design a process to achieve this.*** It is important to get all aspects of the review process right from the start, with all Parties able to engage.

35. There is broad ***agreement that it is necessary to review both the level of ambition set by Parties and the implementation.*** However, while some feel that separate reviews (ambition and implementation) would be unnecessary and potentially confusing, others feel that a more regular review of ambition (possibly at each COP) could be readily achieved as an updating exercise, which could then inform steps that need to be taken. The aim of this would be to draw attention to obvious gaps and then hopefully encourage action to address them.

36. Nonetheless, ***a global review process can bring both of these elements together periodically,*** and thought should be given to do so and to use them as a basis for making improvements. The review process would draw heavily on NBSAPs (including potential annexes) and national reports as key inputs from Parties to the process. The cyclic nature of the process is important, including knowing what the follow up will be.

37. It will be ***important to agree as much as possible of the review process at COP-15,*** including identifying all the steps in the process up to the end of the life of the framework. It was suggested that the elements to be addressed at COP-15 should include:

- Monitoring framework (to the extent possible) and headline indicators
- Updated guidance on NBSAPs
- Common format for communicating national ambition in the NBSAPs
- Request to Executive Secretary to collate and analyse information for ambition review
- Format of 7th and 8th National Reports to the CBD
- Approach to global stocktake report/GBO – further details can be agreed at COP-16
- Clear timeline and next steps

38. It was recognised that there is still ***significant work to do to ensure that everything on this list is ready for agreement at COP-15.*** It seems likely that further work will be needed between SBI and COP, or perhaps even before the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. More thought needs to be put into possibly modalities for achieving this, while recognising for some it is a matter of agreeing principles and elements first, and then details later.

39. The timeline and next steps will need to include ***further consideration of how to address gaps identified through the review process, including through use of high-level events.*** High-level events could be a good way to achieve increased profile and commitment for addressing gaps and challenges, particularly if the gaps and needs are as tangible as possible. Such events could also include participation of CEOs of major companies.

40. ***Concerns were raised about the shortening of the period of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework because of the delays in negotiating and adopting it due to the pandemic,*** and the question was asked as to whether we could really make all the necessary adjustments to plans and implementation during the available time. One participant suggested that this is exacerbated because of differences in format and approach between the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the updated draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Everything takes time and resources.

41. However, it was also recognised that ***different parts of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework might have different timeframes,*** with some focusing on delivery by a specific date, while other aspects of implementation might be open-ended. Also, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be seen as the next part of the plan on the road to 2050.

42. An observation was made on the ***need to find ways to take into account limitations and opportunities that are outside the mandates of those working on biodiversity.*** For example, elements of free trade agreements might be difficult to influence but they are directly relevant to both mainstreaming and addressing drivers of biodiversity loss. This may also necessitate the development of further indicators.

43. Referring back to earlier discussion on Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, the point was made that having a driving force or champion could be instrumental in achieving success, and ***the engagement of key individuals or organizations championing particular parts of the framework can be very effective***. Diversified responsibility is potentially very important in this regard, including the role of other organizations in providing support (for example FAO, or the Ramsar Convention). It was also recognised that UNEP has the mandate to take a much more active role.

Annex 5 – Summary of discussion at the third workshop

The following is extracted from the report of the third workshop (4 and 7 October 2021), which addressed monitoring and reporting on progress towards implementation. Drawing on the discussion the summary was organized into four parts covering:

- National reporting (*paragraphs 1-13*)
- Use of indicators (*paragraphs 14-29*)
- Monitoring and review of progress at the global level (*paragraphs 29-41*)
- Bringing key elements of discussions together (*paragraphs 42-48*)

National reporting

1. **Article 26 of the Convention requires each Party to report on the measures that they have taken to implement the Convention, and their effectiveness in meeting its objectives.** This is important to the review of progress and identification of barriers to implementation. The Secretariat periodically summarises and synthesises information from national reports as a basis for a review by the Conference of the Parties (COP) of collective progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and as a basis for identifying areas where further action and support is needed.
2. In order to facilitate global review of progress, it was suggested that ***national reports should as far as possible be comparable across Parties***. Keeping the report format simple makes reports easier to produce and easier to use, making the reporting process less resource demanding. Appropriate tools can also make reporting easier,³ and some also suggested some form of peer review, or review by the Secretariat or appropriate experts. Consistency in reports will not only support an overall assessment of progress, but also help to draw out common issues and further contribute to a review of progress by COP.
3. There was general ***consensus that a national report every four years covering all targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would allow for a mid-term and final review*** of progress in implementing the framework. These reports would respectively allow for identification of areas where progress is insufficient and needs strengthening, and identification of needs and lessons learnt to inform the next round of strategic planning. This timing is consistent with the approach for the Strategic Plan 2011-2020, but many interventions emphasised the need for reports to focus on global targets. However, the point was also made that there might be different reporting times for different issues, and that more frequent update reports may be useful for specific issues.
4. It was suggested that ***a full national report every four years could alternate with a shorter biennial update report***, ensuring regularly collated updates on national implementation and achievement of NBSAPs, thus enabling each COP to consider elements of progress in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In order not to overburden parties with reporting obligations, such reports should be template-guided, short and based on information readily available or part of existing information streams.
5. It was suggested that more ***focused reports can also be provided on specific issues on an 'as needed' basis***. For example, there is a precedent of voluntary thematic reports (e.g. on mountain ecosystems, protected areas), and reports on financing are being submitted by Parties. Both have informed discussion at subsidiary body meetings and at COP. Additionally, the World Database on Protected Areas⁴ is updated as information becomes available and is regularly used to inform CBD discussion on Aichi Target 11, and this sort of approach may be appropriate for other data/issues.
6. It was noted that ***the longer the report, and the more text based, the more difficult it is to standardize***, and this is not helped by multi-purpose reporting where there is need for flexibility for Parties to delve deeper into issues that are important for their purposes. The need for engagement of all stakeholders in reporting impacts timing, and particularly so when the report format is longer, and more text based. Some Parties had to add executive summaries to their reports to increase their value for domestic purposes.

³ Within the EU, monitoring and reporting on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 is becoming more dynamic and indicator-based, updated online as information becomes available rather than at a specific moment in time (see the target tracker currently under development at <https://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/kcbd/dashboard/>)

⁴ See <https://www.protectedplanet.net/en>

7. **Concerns were shared over the length of the sixth national report, and whether all of the reported information was needed.** For some Parties, compiling the report had been a major exercise, not only because of the length itself, but also because of the need to involve all other relevant stakeholders including other sectors and subnational governments. This need for contribution and review by multiple contributors also has implications for the use of reporting tools, because of the need to track who has contributed what during the process of collation and review. There were also some concerns relating to the use of the CBD online reporting tool.

8. It is **important to think carefully about the structure and purpose of national reporting so as to ensure effectiveness.** Where Parties update their national biodiversity indicators on an annual basis, reports based on these could also be submitted annually without significant additional work. This would not be feasible or appropriate for more extensive text-based reports. However, more extensive reports bring different challenges that also need to be considered. For example, preparation of reports of value at both national and international levels creates issues of scale and focus, and thought may need to be given to whether it is appropriate to try to address both objectives with a single report.

9. When considering the form and content of national reports, and how they are used, **it is important to consider the reporting process from a Party perspective.** At the national level it is the planning stage – development and/or review of NBSAPs – that is absolutely critical to ensuring a sufficient level of ambition when the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is adopted, and this is the basis on which resources are identified or sought by Parties. It is difficult for Parties to make significant adjustment part way through implementation of their NBSAPs. This needs to be considered when developing reporting templates and reviewing reported information.

10. Nevertheless, **national reports can be valuable in identifying challenges and barriers to implementation,** helping to identify where capacities and resources are needed to allow for better delivery on the commitments made in NBSAPs and elsewhere. This can include recognition of the importance of capacity-building for monitoring and reporting, which will need significant further support with the proposed move to greater use of headline indicators in reporting. They can also help in identifying implementation and resourcing gaps.

Mentimeter questions to participants on national reports		
Should the format for national reports be aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework such that they cover all its goals and targets?	Yes	19
	No	1
What should be the periodicity for the submission of national reports?	Every 4 years	15
	Once a decade	0
	More frequently than 4 years	4
Should national reports be complemented by information to be submitted at more frequent intervals for specific thematic areas or indicators that might be available e.g. annually?	Yes	15
	No	5

11. Some participants emphasised that NBSAPs should be reviewed and/or updated in some way following adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, but others noted that some Parties had only recently updated NBSAPs and were not planning to update them again straight away. Therefore, it was suggested that **in order to be able to assess whether the sum of national ambition is sufficient to meet global targets it would be necessary to ask Parties to communicate their intended ambition** in some way. It was argued that this is essential to taking early action if ambition is insufficient, but not all were agreed that this should be part of the formal reporting process.

12. Many Parties will review their NBSAPs following adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, aligning them with both the new global framework and the monitoring framework. However, **there are national processes that need to be followed to ensure ownership and engagement in revision of the NBSAP, and these need to be respected.** The time necessary for doing this is even longer in federal countries, for example. There is therefore potential merit in retaining previous plans, at least in the interim, and introducing an addendum which refocuses it on the post-global biodiversity framework.

13. Many MEAs will have a role to play in supporting implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and it was suggested that there should be **consideration of how to integrate reporting more effectively**

across MEAs, relating this to more standardised reporting and reporting tools so as to achieve a more holistic approach and understanding. It was also suggested that this would be easier if the same tools and approaches were used by everyone, and that the CBD COP should consider this in the context of inviting other MEAs to contribute to the global stocktake.

Use of indicators

Mentimeter questions to participants on headline indicators			
To me, headline indicators are... [Free text]			
The most important indicators	Key performance indicators	Mandatory global objective	
Allow to track progress	Indicators measuring big goals	Affordable	
Indicators to understand a global trend	Giving general overview on target progress	Easy to produce – if not they shouldn't be headline indicators	
Major themes related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	National data which can be aggregated to give a global picture	A tool to measure at the global level, something all Parties report on	
No fixed number, select most relevant by objective first completed by targets	Are complex global-level indicators which can also be relevant at national level	Focus indicators – would cover the most important part of the post-2020 framework	
An indicator common to all Parties to communicate the progress to the targets and goals	Standardized set of data that all Parties use to measure progress towards specific goals and targets in the GBF	An indicator that may give information on progress globally regarding some general agreed topics among Parties	
Can capture the overall scope of the goals and targets	Can be used for high-level communication purposes	For creating and maintaining awareness	
Separate from global data that is produced at global scale	Should capture the attention of decision makers and public	Not too many – give simple overall messages	
A specific tool to be supplemented by other tools	Relevant indicators – should track the main part of progress	Both globally and nationally relevant	
Broader indicators for measuring attainment of an objective	Key indicators on headline issues that can be used by all Parties		
A few indicators provided by all Parties in a standardised way, aggregated at global level to track progress on key common measurable targets		Broad enough to cover the breadth of action needed to reach vision	
How many headline indicators should there be? [Free Text]	<div>As few as possible</div> <div>Ideally one per goal</div> <div>6-8</div> <div>less than 10</div> <div>10 or less</div>		
	<div>10 or less major themes</div> <div>12</div> <div>15</div> <div>At least 1 per target</div> <div>1 per target</div>		
	<div>1 per target max</div> <div>20</div> <div>22</div> <div>Ideally 1 per goal-target</div> <div>25</div> <div>40</div>		
To what extent do your existing national monitoring systems across government deliver the proposed headline indicators at the national level?		Very little alignment	5
		Some indicators delivered	10
		Many indicators delivered	1

14. Indicators have **value both in high level communication and in supporting more specific assessments of progress against goals, milestones and targets**, and as such they are a key part of reporting process. A well-coordinated monitoring and reporting framework with harmonized indicators will provide an important opportunity for review and assessment at all appropriate levels. Further work is needed to refine the monitoring framework so that it is well-aligned with reporting needs, and there is need to increase focus on this in the lead up to COP 15 – timing is a key challenge.

15. It is **essential to make progress in upcoming meetings on the list of headline indicators, and how Parties will be supported in implementing them**. Support is needed so that Parties can implement headline indicators appropriately. Agreement on headline indicators will need to be related to consideration of national monitoring needs and the necessary capacity-building. Such considerations will also relate to complementary indicators, which will be needed for use at the national level, as appropriate to and adapted to national circumstances.

16. Further thought needs to be given to the **extent to which aggregation of national headline indicators would provide the information necessary for assessing global progress**. It was observed that so far there are more global indicators that can be disaggregated at national level, rather than national indicators that can be aggregated globally. There is a recognised challenge, as disaggregating global indicators to national level depends on national relevance and circumstances, as well as methodical accuracy.

17. The **draft targets have significantly more elements than can be covered by headline indicators alone**. While it is necessary to reduce the number of headline indicators in order that all Parties will be able to report on them, a better understanding is needed of how these will be selected and used. Additionally, it will be necessary to supplement headline indicators with other indicators at the national and global levels where appropriate, including from subsets such as the component and complementary indicators that have already been identified in SBSTTA documentation.

18. There is **need for further guidance on how indicators will be used in the reporting and review process**. Headline indicators would only be part of the monitoring framework, as other national and global indicators would also be needed (recognising the work of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and the use of indicators in assessment processes such as those overseen by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)).

19. Many of the **proposed headline indicators do not currently exist at global or national levels, so work on this is critical** to ensuring that the suite of headline and other indicators is fit for purpose, and adequately covers goals and targets in a balanced way. This may necessitate some prioritization, so that headline and other indicators focused on urgent issues (such as addressing drivers of biodiversity loss and biodiversity mainstreaming as political response) are developed for use rapidly. It may be necessary to continue to develop indicators whilst implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

20. If COP were to agree on headline indicators and other indicators that were already in wide use and regularly updated, **such indicators could be used as a basis for review at each COP without adding significantly to the reporting burden**. For example, there are several indicators on protected areas compiled from national sources which use data and information that is already available. There is scope for being more inventive and flexible, using readily available indicators and tracking tools which allow for more regular review and help maintain momentum.

21. Work is under way on a **proof of concept for a 'target tracker' which might assist Parties in monitoring progress in implementation and review** while avoiding duplication. While there are costs involved in developing this, the technical development is not the key issue. What is most important is finding an appropriate level of standardisation across scales and sectors, and understanding the most effective way to bring together national data and data from global metrics and indicators. Clear definitions and understanding are very important.

22. There is **widespread recognition of the need for a reduced number of headline indicators, but no common view on how the number should be reduced**. Important to the selection will be balance across goals, communication potential, and feasibility, and it may not be appropriate to exclude indicators not yet available if this would compromise balance. There is also concern that lowering the number of headline indicators potentially leads to reliance on existing global indicators and moving away from developing consistent national approaches. Suggestions have been made on clustering headline indicators around groups of goals and targets,⁵ and criteria have also been suggested.⁶

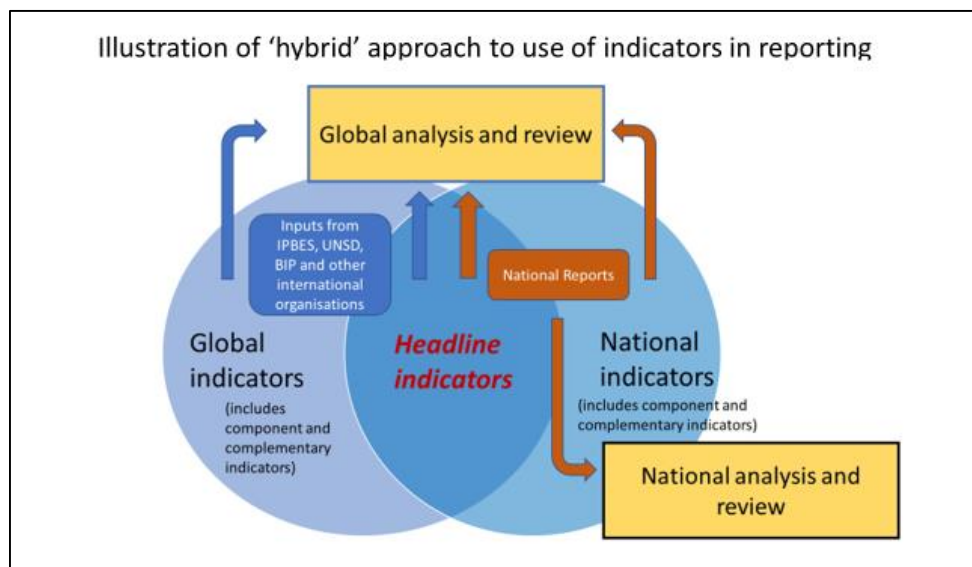
23. When using indicators for **review at the global level, a hybrid approach will be needed with both global indicators and those built up from national inputs**. Headline indicators can either be developed by disaggregation of global data or by the aggregation of national data or indicators. There are limitations on the number of headline indicators that can be produced using these approaches. A comprehensive global analysis and review of progress

⁵ UK proposal for clustering available at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cbdocumentspublic-imagebucket-15w2zyxk3prl8/1e588e51b3c0baee3fa04d65cd2f588e>

⁶ See CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16 (www.cbd.int/doc/c/a6d3/3108/88518eab9c9d12b1c418398d/sbstta-24-inf-16-en.pdf)

will therefore need to use the limited set of headline indicators (available at both national and global levels) supplemented by other national indicators used in national reports, and other global indicators and inputs from other global assessment processes. Additionally, there may be cases where regional indicators are useful, or those from other geographical areas.

24. The following two slides were introduced on the second day as a summary of discussions on the first day to provide further ‘food for thought’.



Possible elements of definitions

Headline indicators might be available from global datasets (for example the IUCN Red List), whereas others come from national level (for example protected areas). Headline indicators may be part of national reports, although these would be likely to also include other national indicators. National reports would therefore also deliver indicators. Important to identify which indicators come from where.

Headline indicators are a small selection of indicators of that can be used in a directly comparable way by all Parties, which can be aggregated globally from national data or disaggregated from global data to national scales.

The purpose of having a small selection of headline indicators can be to highlight and unify reporting on aspects of the global biodiversity framework that have broad relevance or high prominence both nationally and globally.

It is not currently feasible to develop and implement headline indicators for all elements of all goals and targets. They should therefore be supplemented for reporting purposes by other national and global indicators as part of an overall monitoring framework.

25. There was general appreciation for both slides, which ***usefully illustrate a hybrid approach to use of indicators by the Convention***. Consistency amongst Parties is necessary, but circumstances vary. In this regard it would be sensible to clearly identify which indicators are expected to come from national reports, and which from global processes - as that helps to identify the reporting burden on Parties. Headline indicators need to be meaningful, and should be developed according to their specific circumstances on a case-by-case basis. There may be a gradual transition to use of national data, so we should probably plan for this. The relative mix of nationally and globally derived global indicators may change over time.

26. It was suggested that ***another important element could be that headline indicators derived from national data should be “add-up-able”***, and more effort might be needed to reinforce this aspect, which was important with respect to encouraging responsibility. It also relates to proposed approaches to working with national statistics offices and the UN Statistics Division. More standardisation will be needed to allow for aggregation from national to global indicators and metrics, and this will need guidance, robust biodiversity monitoring protocols and capacity development.

27. Recognising that not all indicators will be available from day one, **it is possible to model data where there are gaps, then validate when data becomes available**. Models are improving significantly, and new ways of filling gaps could be explored to cover the interim period until national data and indicators are sufficiently available. Some indicators will take time to develop and gain traction, particularly where goals/targets are more abstract in nature. What is important is that we have tools to show whether or not we are going in the right direction, and whether we are doing it fast enough. However, if modelled data is to be used for a global stocktake sort of quality control working with Parties will be necessary to validate it.

28. A **range of other indicator-related issues were touched on, but not explored in depth**, including the following: (a) the need to align the monitoring framework with biodiversity-related indicators already in use and in development by other MEAs and processes, including the SDGs; (b) agreement on baselines in order to be able to set up appropriate indicators to measure progress; (c) recognition that some indicators may be more appropriate for tracking local issues, and may not have value in assessing global trends; and (d) the need to keep in mind what countries are capable of delivering, and think about the relevance of global indicators in this context.

29. It was recognised that trying to simultaneously consider goals, targets and indicators, as well as the monitoring process itself, was complicated and iterative, and that there was still some way to go in the discussions. In addition, it was important to plan for transition, as it was very unlikely that all elements of the monitoring framework could be in place from day one. The **UK offered to support further informal discussion on these issues and invited views** on this, include what issues might be covered in such a meeting, who should be involved, what is the best timing, etc.

Monitoring and review of progress at the global level

Mentimeter question to participants on review at the global level		
What should be periodically reviewed at the global level? <i>[Multiple choice]</i>	Ambition (<i>what Parties plan to do</i>)	3
	Implementation (<i>actions taken</i>)	10
	Effectiveness (<i>outcomes of implemented measures</i>)	7
	All the above	5

30. There was **broad agreement that some form of global stocktake was needed to review progress in implementation** of the Convention, include review of progress in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This should be overseen by SBI on behalf of COP, which would assess collective progress, relating this to capacity-building and resource mobilization, and informing further planning. The review would be comprehensive and facilitative, based on input from all relevant sources, and synchronised where possible with IPBES assessment reports.

31. **Some participants felt that all or part of the global review process should be done by an independent body**. For example, the global analysis could be done by IPBES, acting in a similar manner to the role played by the IPCC for UNFCCC. This could draw on similar inputs, including the agreed headline indicators, national reports, and inputs from the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other international organisations.

32. Some considered that the stocktake could address two basic questions: **is implementation on track and in line with the communicated NBSAPs/national targets/commitments, and are we on track to achieve the outcome-oriented goals?** If the answer to the first question is no, then it is necessary to take action to increase implementation, and if the answer to the second question is no, then it is necessary to improve both implementation and ambition.

33. While **some participants saw the need for a review of ambition based on sum of national ambition, there was no consensus**. Some felt that this was outside the mandate provided by Article 26 of the Convention, while others saw defining ambition as an essential part of planning, which was fundamental to implementation. There was concern that a review of “promises” as part of the stocktake undertaken by the Convention could take attention away from committing to and implementing actions that need to be taken and might even create an incentive to make promises without thought to follow up.

34. Nonetheless, **it was recognised that a global assessment of ambition can happen anyway without being part of the formal reporting and review mechanisms of the Convention** and it is useful to review ambition early in the

process (e.g. COP 16) so adjustments can be made if necessary. This could be based on shared information rather than reporting, and if there is no appetite for it to be carried out by the Secretariat as part of the global stocktake it could be carried out independently in much the same way as the UNEP global gap analyses in the climate change context.⁷

35. **Emphasis was placed again on the importance of effective planning at the start, and ensuring alignment of ambition in NBSAPs with global goals and targets.** This requires early review – in particular at the national level, but potentially also at COP 16 – of the match between NBSAPs and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, making it easier for planning action to be taken. Then check mid-term on progress and success in implementation, and consider challenges that need to be addressed in further improving implementation where necessary.

36. **There is a clear need to encourage ongoing improvement, including increased effort or ambition over time where appropriate.** Some refer to this as a ‘ratcheting up’ mechanism (which implies a step up with no slip back). This is generally seen as an interplay between NBSAPs and global stocktake, but there are different views on whether this is an implicit effect of periodic review at national and global levels, or a more overt step in the review process. Note in this regard the relevance of the ongoing work by the Secretariat in advance of SBI to review both ambition (based on NBSAPs) and progress in implementation (based on national reports).⁸

37. However, the view was also expressed that **discussing the notion of a ratcheting up mechanism could be perceived as prejudging the outcome of the global stocktake**, already assuming that ambition, action and outcome will be insufficient. The relevant COP will certainly decide on what is needed, based on the findings of the global stocktake.

38. It was recognised that **it is easy to agree that we need to focus on achieving implementation and realising ambition practically, but how to do this needs different approaches in different places**. There is need to increased transparency, but it is for each Party to determine how it responds. For example, it is easy to decide politically to increase protected area coverage, but in order to achieve this, pragmatic approaches with a range of responses are needed to actually build the network and make it deliver what is needed. The approach needed depends on circumstances.

39. There was some discussion on the **role of the Global Biodiversity Outlook as part of the review mechanism, how it related to an IPBES global assessment**, and whether this was duplication or whether GBO provided a particular CBD-related focus. GBO has an ambition to review national reports and national level progress, supplemented by other information. Some felt that this aim had not been fully achieved because of the format and timing of receipt of the national reports.

40. **Some questioned the value of GBO in its current format, while recognising the unique value of the Local Biodiversity Outlook.** While recognising that IPBES is an independent process making its own decisions, it may be possible to align activities and timing more effectively. It is also important to note that GBO is not a systemic part of the Convention, but a product periodically requested by COP. GBO could be redefined (or stopped), and review could be carried out in different ways, for example with more basic analysis done by the Secretariat.

41. Some participants recognised the **value of national ecosystem assessments in helping provide the scientific evidence on progress made toward implementation** of NBSAPs, and potentially also helping to provide input to national reporting, which then feeds into the global review process. National ecosystem assessments also provide expertise and knowledge that is then used in other assessment processes including those of IPBES.

Bringing key elements from discussions together

42. This theme was not explicitly discussed during the workshop, but a number of comments made in discussion under other themes are pertinent and are summarised here.

43. It was observed that the issues are so related that the discussions at the CBD meetings in January are going to be a logistical challenge, further complicated by the iterative nature of the discussion. It is therefore **valuable to have discussions on aspects of planning, reporting and review ahead of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the open-ended working group**. It also seems likely that there will be gaps in knowledge that it might take time to

⁷ See www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2020 and www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2020

⁸ CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.2 (www.cbd.int/doc/c/f1e4/ab2c/ff85fe53e210872a0ceffd26/sbi-03-02-add2-en.pdf)

complete. It is important to define the whole accountability and monitoring framework, then we can address gaps to meet identified needs.

44. During CBD and CBD-related meetings, there are many issues being discussed and negotiated concurrently, this includes goals, targets and indicators, and in the case of these workshops planning, monitoring, reporting, indicators and review mechanisms. It is **important to discuss these issues in relation to each other, and to work towards everything delivering to a common approach**. Everything needs to come together without confusion, and without duplication of effort, streamlining what we are doing and working towards a common goal.

45. It was **recognised that any global compilation/review is going to be facilitated by standardised approaches**, including headline indicators and reporting templates. It will also be facilitated by clearly understood and well-integrated processes for monitoring, reporting and review. There is no point in standardising at the global level unless as part of a defined review process.

46. A number of references were made during the workshop to tasks that might be carried out by the secretariat to support implementation of the monitoring framework. It was suggested that **Parties may want to look at the various elements of work that might be carried out by the Secretariat and cost them**, and then decide on best allocation of resources across planning, reporting and review.

47. It was noted during the discussion that there were **several terms that were not understood, and several areas where there was insufficient clarity**. This implies more work will need to be done in particular to define terms, and to make clear what is intended. Examples include 'stocktake' and 'review', both of which were being used by different people to mean different things. The term 'ratcheting up' was also poorly understood. Consistent use of terminology is needed, and the glossary needs to pick up on all these terms.

48. Finally, given the number and complexity of tasks still to be done, **thought might need to be given to what actually needs to be completed by COP 15**, and what can be put in place over the longer term.

Annex 6 – Summary of discussion at the fourth workshop

The following is extracted from the report of the fourth workshop (24-25 November 2021), which aimed to bring together the key elements to enhance planning, monitoring, reporting and review, drawing on discussion in the previous workshops. Discussion was organized into four parts covering:

- Planning national targets/actions/contributions/ambition to implement the global biodiversity framework, and communicating them (*paragraphs 3-15*)
- Monitoring and reporting (*paragraphs 16-24*)
- Global review of ambition and progress (*paragraphs 25-41*)
- Key interlinkages and feedback links among the different elements for enhancing planning, reporting and review (*paragraphs 42-46*)

1. It is important to ***identify clearly which elements of the framework need to be in place by the end of COP 15, and what can be considered later at COP 16, and to plan and act accordingly***. This will help in deciding priorities, in focusing attention, and in identifying what preparatory work and more detailed discussions need to be carried out when. It is also helpful to know which elements need a flexible approach, which need a standard approach, and what guidance is needed by when. All of this is relevant to the issues under discussion in this workshop and was also touched on in earlier workshops. In this regard it is helpful to bring together issues discussed in earlier workshops, as a basis for preparing for the upcoming negotiations.

2. There is ***recognition of the intertwined nature of the topics being discussed***. Parties have a lot of common aims, although circumstances and views also differ to some extent. Discussion is further complicated by the fact that different topics come under different items of the agendas of the different meetings (SBSTTA, SBI, WG2020), and even within the working group discussion on different parts of the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework is carried out separately. There is a need to look at both the framework and monitoring framework in the whole, to ensure that they are appropriately consistent and balanced. Clearly, there is a need for a future-proof structure or an approach that can help Parties with future implementation

Planning national targets/actions/contributions/ambition to implement the global biodiversity framework, and communicating them

3. There is general ***consensus that the following needs to be agreed at COP 15*** to enhance planning and implementation:

- the global goals and targets, so that Parties know where national effort should be focused
- a monitoring framework including indicators, to assess progress at national and global levels
- guidance on updating NBSAPs, to provide advice and support where it is needed
- capacity-building and other support to enable update of NBSAPs and monitoring of progress
- an overview of the whole reporting and review process, including all necessary terms/definitions

It will be important at COP 15 to develop an understanding of the main elements for planning, reporting and review to strengthen implementation. Details can be worked out later.

4. There are different views on the ways in which review of ambition might be carried out, and ***some Parties believe that COP 15 will also need to agree guidance on a format for communicating information on national ambition or targets*** to facilitate review of ambition at COP 16 and identification of gaps. Other Parties consider that this information is already included in NBSAPs (which Parties are expected to submit to the Secretariat anyway) and does not need to be communicated separately. However, it is also recognised that not all Parties will have revised their NBSAPs by COP 16, leading to the suggestion that some form of communication of intent would be valuable where a revised NBSAP is not available or has already been submitted prior to COP 15.

5. In order to ensure effective implementation, it will be ***important to understand the monitoring framework and who is responsible for what***, and this is likely to need further guidance and support. In this regard, simple monitoring and reporting processes, with headline indicators that are easy to implement and understand, will greatly facilitate implementation. Whatever the targets there will need to be strengthened national monitoring and assessment, and resources will be needed for this.

6. Communicating progress in implementation towards the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through national reports will be critical. The ***format for national reports needs to be agreed at COP 15***,

and then supported as necessary by further guidance which could be developed subsequently. Some Parties consider that technical expert review of national reports would be beneficial and, if this is to take place, it would also need consideration of the approach, process and methodology to be followed.

7. **Any review of contributions, ambition or implementation will require terms of reference and/or guidance to be agreed in sufficient time**, including addressing the purpose of the review as well as how and when it is to be carried out. If any sort of review is to be carried out at COP 16 then the terms of reference and/or guidance will need to be agreed at COP 15. Otherwise, the process(es) can be set out in general terms at COP 15 and subsequently agreed in detail at COP 16.

8. Ideally all Parties would review and update their NBSAPs as soon as possible after COP 15 adopts the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and any associated guidance, action plans, etc. However, **flexibility is needed in the guidance for review and update of NBSAPs**, as some Parties will inevitably take longer than others to complete their review. Reasons for this might include the availability of resources (human and/or financial), and the time needed for carrying out a sufficiently participatory and inclusive process.

Mentimeter question to participants on NBSAPs		
When do you consider it necessary for the NBSAPs to be updated/revised by?	COP 16 (2024)	18
	COP 17 (2026)	1
	Neither of these	1

9. To assist national planning, **guidance may also be needed on how Parties should address different goals and targets** in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and this may need further technical and scientific support. There is a challenge in that not all Parties are at the same starting point, and support and capacity-building may be needed. For example, it may be important to clarify what types of actions are needed at the national level in order to support delivery of each of the globally adopted targets. This guidance is also relevant to the means of implementation required for delivering national actions. Clarity is an important prerequisite for rapid implementation.

10. There is recognition that **implementation of other MEAs is also likely to contribute to delivery of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**. This raises questions on how these activities are reflected in NBSAPs, and how the actions taken, and their impacts are reflected in national reports. The issue therefore needs to be addressed in any guidance relating to NBSAPs and national reports, including possibly on how to draw on reports prepared for and submitted to other MEAs.

11. It was suggested that **while there are lessons that can be learnt, there are significant differences between CBD and UNFCCC** with respect to transparency, and it is not possible to simply transfer what is done in one forum into the other. This applies to planning, monitoring, reporting and review, and the ways in which reviews are used as a basis for encouraging further action.

12. The **contribution from non-state actors is also important**, and further thought will need to be given to how this is encouraged and tracked at both national and international levels. There appear to be differences between Parties in the ways in which the role and contribution of non-state actors is already addressed in NBSAPs and national reports.

13. Recognising and responding to the urgency of the situation is critical. The Convention is already being implemented based on existing NBSAPs, and some Parties are already in the process of revising NBSAPs to align with timing on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. **It is important that current momentum is not lost, but rather is built upon**. Critical to this for many Parties will be ensuring the means of implementation and the further application of key approaches such as mainstreaming into other sectors.

14. Much of what has been discussed will require guidance and associated support, and in some cases templates (which will themselves require guidance). It is **important that all relevant templates and guidance are readily accessible**, with everything available in the same place.

15. It may take time to develop the ideal system for monitoring, reporting and review, so consideration may need to be given to elaborating a **transition phase into a future ideal system**. This may include some one-off activities that are useful for getting the process under way. Solutions may not be on the table, but hopefully elements of those solutions are.

Monitoring and reporting

16. Moving from use of 'global indicators' to ***using indicators derived from national data and indicators could be a 'game changer'***, but it needs to be clear how this is going to work given differences in national circumstances.

17. Monitoring of progress needs to be done at both national and global levels, and it is important to identify what needs to be done by Parties, and what needs to be done at the international level. There is therefore general ***consensus that the following needs to be agreed at COP 15*** to enhance monitoring and reporting:

- a small set of headline indicators, anticipating that most will be ready to use or at an advanced stage of development, but recognising there may be some gaps where further development is needed
- outline guidance to support Parties in the adoption and use of headline indicators and other indicators that may be useful at the national level depending on circumstances
- establishment of an AHTEG on indicators to address gaps, and to develop more detailed technical guidance on development and use of indicators, including aggregation for global review
- recognition of the support that will need to be made available to enable all Parties to effectively implement the monitoring framework
- broad content and draft templates of the 7th and 8th national reports, which will be reviewed and adopted at COP 16 following further inputs from the indicator AHTEG

18. There is ***need for consistency, and communication between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the monitoring framework and the reporting and review process***. This relates to the selection of headline indicators, the form and content of national reports, and the ways in which both are used. The vision/trajectory/journey needs to be in place, even if not everyone can do everything at once. There is also a need to ensure there is no duplication.

19. ***For the monitoring framework and headline indicators to be adopted at COP 15, Parties will need to clearly understand what is expected***. This includes not only knowing what indicators are available and how they will be used, but also understanding what information will be provided by Parties and what information will be globally derived. Decision on this depends on the willingness of Parties to contribute to aggregated global indicators from national data. In this regard there remains some concerns about the potential complexity of the proposed approach, particularly for developing countries with relatively limited resources.

20. ***A changing focus from globally derived indicators to a focus on indicators compiled from national data and indicators has technical and resource challenges and is a very different way of working***. It is important to understand the extent to which Parties are ready, and how this monitoring approach might be applied given the differing capacities of Parties. In this regard more thoughts might be given to the future role of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP), and the potential role of BIP members in supporting Parties. More information might also be needed on data platforms that might assist Parties, and advice on development and use of data. There will also be a need for increased focus on strengthening national monitoring systems.

21. ***National report formats need to be as simple and user-friendly as possible***, both for ease of production and ease of use in analysis/synthesis. National reports might not include headline indicators for all goals and targets, some indicators might not be ready, and other sources may be needed. Templates need to be simple but should provide opportunity for narrative that can address national circumstances.

22. Reference was made to the ***value of considering the national monitoring and reporting undertaken in the context of other intergovernmental conventions and processes***, including their data management requirements and indicators. This includes not only other MEAs and the SDGs, but also the approaches promulgated by the UN Statistics Division, Natural Capital Accounting and the recently launched System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. Tools exist to support Parties in reporting to multiple MEAs, such as the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT).

23. Overall, it is ***important to recognise that monitoring, reporting and the use of indicators are tools, and must be planned and used as tools***. These tools should not be allowed to become a burden to implementation. They must be focused on delivering the information that is needed by COP, and all of the information provided must be effectively used. In this regard it was noted by one Party that there was no clear agreement yet on what 'headline indicator' actually means. Are these intended primarily for unifying reporting on core aspects or for high-level communication? The decision on which indicators to use might depend on the answer to this question.

24. Finally, it was noted that the biodiversity community is often looking at trends from the past. However, the speed of change means that it is necessary to look into the future in order to be able to plan more effectively. This requires the development and ***use of scenarios and models to understand the extent to which the actions being***

taken and the results of those actions, are sufficient for achieving the vision, goals and targets that are adopted. This can be done at both national and global levels.

Global review of ambition and progress

25. There are **two dimensions to global review**, review of ambition to assess whether enough is being planned, and review of progress to assess whether enough is being done and achieved. However, there are differing views on how the review of ambition in particular should be conceived and implemented. Discussion on these issues is also hampered by lack of consistency in the use of terms.

26. While the circumstances are not directly comparable, **there is opportunity to learn lessons from UNFCCC experience**. For example, it was agreed at UNFCCC COP 26 that from next year a synthesis report on Nationally Determined Contributions will be prepared annually, as a basis for assessing whether the sum of national commitments is sufficient. However, the more substantive the review, the greater the cost of carrying it out, in particular where independent experts and peer review are also a significant part of the process. This also has potential implications for staffing within the Secretariat overseeing the process.

27. Drawing on UNFCCC experience there are the **following possible components of a global review process for the CBD**, while recognising that this is not all covered by existing mandates. In each case it is important to understand the gaps and challenges in order to consider the most appropriate response.

- understanding gaps between aggregate national targets and the global goals and targets
- understanding gaps between national targets and national implementation
- understanding gaps between national progress in implementation and the global goals and targets
- understanding challenges to national progress, in particular concerning means of implementation
- understanding gaps between support needed and support provided

28. There is broad agreement on the **need to review both ambition and progress in achieving it, including identifying barriers to progress**. A review of ambition could be done at COP 16 based on NBSAPs and/or a separate submission as already discussed. It could also be done as part of a review of implementation. In either case, sharing information on national targets in a standardised way would be valuable in providing clear 'line of sight' between global targets and national targets and facilitate reporting and use of indicators.

29. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be an expression of global ambition, and there is value in reviewing all NBSAPs to assess whether collective global ambition is sufficient. **However, there are differences of opinion on who should be responsible for such a review of ambition**, with some expressing concern that this should not overburden the CBD planning and reporting system and should not detract from the more critical focus on implementation and the associated review of progress.

30. One **alternative is for the review of ambition to be carried out by another organization**, such as UNEP (for example, analysing the gaps between aggregate national targets and the global goals and targets). This could be done at the invitation of COP, with provision of appropriate terms of reference. However, questions were asked about the effectiveness of this approach, and the extent to which the COP has the authority to task an external partner to undertake work like a review, and if so what control or oversight Parties might have over the process, timeline, and final outcome. There were also concerns that putting things out to external processes would weaken CBD.

31. The **review of progress would draw substantially on review of national reports and any agreed headline indicators**, although it would also draw on other sources including inputs from other MEAs and from IPBES. The review of progress could also draw on a range of other sources, including thematic and sectoral assessments, scenarios and modelling, and other indicators. Its development would also be supported by use of tools such as online reporting systems and target tracking tools and use of DaRT by Parties.

Mentimeter questions to participants on review of ambition (Each participant could choose only one option)		
What terms would you use to describe national ambitions?	National targets	15
	National commitments as contributions	3
	National contributions	1
	National actions	1

	<i>National ambitions</i>	1
What term would you use to describe a global review of ambition?	<i>Global ambition review</i>	10
	<i>Global gap analysis</i>	9
	<i>Other</i>	3
When would you consider it necessary for COP to first consider a global review of ambition/gap analysis?	<i>COP 16 (2024)</i>	14
	<i>COP 17 (2026)</i>	7
	<i>COP 18 (2028)</i>	1
	<i>COP 19 (2030)</i>	0

Mentimeter questions to participants on review of progress (Each participant could choose only one option)		
What term would you use to describe a global review of progress?	<i>Global stocktake</i>	13
	<i>Review of progress</i>	9
	<i>Other</i>	1
When would you consider it necessary for COP to first consider a global review of progress?	<i>COP 16 (2024)</i>	2
	<i>COP 17 (2026)</i>	16
	<i>COP 18 (2028)</i>	4
	<i>COP 19 (2030)</i>	0

32. There was some discussion on the ***potential value of peer review of national reports***, and the example that was provided by the Universal Period Review process overseen by the UN Human Rights Council. This is both time and resource intensive but may be worth considering further. Peer review, whether of NBSAPs or national reports, has the potential to help Parties improve what they are doing based on the experience of others.

33. It was noted that consideration would also need to be given to ***encouraging the communication of the commitments and actions of non-State actors and their review***, while taking account of the fact that some Parties might already be addressing this in their NBSAPs and national reports.

34. ***Based on any reviews undertaken, COP would decide what further actions might be needed*** to address any perceived lack of progress and any barriers and challenges identified. However, attention was again drawn to the fact that Parties are not all at the same starting point. Further, they may not all be able to provide the necessary information, for one reason or another. It is therefore important to be clear about priorities. The review of progress needs to identify priority elements to address changes needed by 2030, and to indicate what needs to be done and why.

35. There was general agreement with the idea that ***the review of progress is a process not a single report***, and that this process includes Parties individually reviewing implementation and progress and reporting on it, support from the Secretariat and potentially others in compiling and analysing reports and drawing on other sources, and SBI and COP in reviewing the results and considering options for action and further support. Some felt that this process should culminate in a high-level meeting both for communication and strengthening political mandates. The aim is to improve future action and outcome, encourage a whole of government approach, and mobilise further funding where necessary.

36. Some held the view that ***the Global Biodiversity Outlook does not currently deliver what is needed*** and will need to be restructured if it is to be retained. Currently it is a mixture of assessment and stocktake and is not much based on national reporting. However, instead of creating a totally new mechanism, it would be possible to improve upon the existing ones to ensure that they meet the evolving needs of Parties under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In this regard it was recognised that if national targets are aligned with global targets, and national reports provide comparable information, then it would be an easier task for GBO to analyse this information than has been possible in the past.

How would future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook contribute to reviews of ambition and/or progress... [Free text]

Future editions of GBO would be an outcome of the stocktake	Could be one of the inputs to global review	More comparable insight to Parties' efforts/ambitions
Toward end of decade, inform creation of post-2030 framework		GBO as stocktake
		Provide important checks
GBO should be restructured to cover global and national reports	Complement national evaluation and response measures	
Future editions of GBO would be modified to act as the mechanisms for global review of progress	It would analyse all the inputs and provide clear information on the status of implementation of the GBF and global ambition	
	Future editions of GBO would need to evolve into the global process review, including inputs from IPBES, FAO, OECD, others	
Future editions of GBO would provide valuable analyses on the progress on implementation and gap analysis. Each edition should focus on 5-6 vital targets. Collect national information and complementary global information		An analysis of information from national reports on national progress towards global goals and targets, including headline indicators and other relevant national assessments of progress and barriers to implementation
Need to be specified on their role, favourable as one input (next to others) to global stocktake and summarize national reports but don't duplicated IPBES		No need for GBO as the product is now but revised could feed into a global stocktake
Be based on NRs (and serve as a comparison for independent scientific stocktake)	Both dimensions are needed on GBO using Parties' info (national reports and national sources) in addition to other sources for headline and complementary indicators.	
Be important, as GBO should be enhanced, based inter alia on streamlined indicator-based reporting, taking on board scientific evidence, but without duplicating with IPBES reports.		Future editions of GBO should be replaced by work of IPBES or significantly changed.

37. The workshop was reminded that **with respect to review of both ambition and progress there was existing experience to draw on** in developing any new process. With respect to review of progress, there is significant experience – both good and not so good - with national reports, synthesis of national reports by the Secretariat and their use in the GBO. With respect to review of ambition there is also experience in analysis of targets in NBSAPs by the Secretariat, and the Clearing House Mechanism has also trialled compiling information on national targets.

38. It was suggested that **the current ten-year cycle of review and development of a refreshed strategic approach by the CBD already constituted a form of 'ratcheting up' process**. This has encompassed, for example, review of progress in achieving the Aichi targets, identification of what more needs to be done, development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and commitment at global and national levels. However, it was argued that for various reasons attempts to increase both ambition and implementation need to be encouraged more frequently, as happens now in UNFCCC.

39. However, **some held the view that the CBD does not have a clear mandate for review of ambition and 'ratcheting up'**, and that it was anyway much more important to focus on implementation and progress (for which there is a clear mandate). This was regarded as being particularly important where resources are limited, ensuring the most effective use of resources on action.

40. Whatever form of review is decided upon, the **form and function of the review(s) will need to be agreed at COP 15 even if the details can be left until COP 16**. This could include specification of a 10-year rolling programme up to 2050 for reporting and review, so that Parties know what is coming. Involvement of Parties is critical in whatever review process is developed, as this is essential to governance and buy in. There also need to be clear mandates for the Secretariat.

41. With regard to priorities and timing, **it is important to identify what needs to be done now, and what can be done in the longer term**. This can be considered in two ways. Firstly, what needs to be completed at COP 15 and

what can be left for decision later. However, this also applies at the national level, what needs to be done in the near future, and where are there interim solutions that can be employed pending full implementation (for example on indicators). This also relates to identification of capacity-building and resource needs.

Key interlinkages and feedback links among the different elements for enhanced planning, reporting, and review

42. The following **diagram was introduced to participants as a possible way to conceptualise the process(es) being discussed**, with the aim of helping to focus discussion and decision in the future. In this regard it would also help if the different terms could be agreed at least on an interim basis, so everyone understood what was being discussed.

43. The **diagram was generally thought to be helpful**, and participants made a number of comments that would be helpful in refining it further, while recognising that it is difficult to get all nuances into a single diagram, and that the more detail that is included the greater the likelihood of divergence of opinion. Comments include the following:

- The diagram currently implies that the review or ambition, or gap analysis, would only be undertaken once, however it could be done for each COP as now happens with UNFCCC.
- Some data sources, such as the World Database on Protected Areas, are updated more frequently based on inputs from Parties, and could contribute reports of progress more frequently.
- The option of shorter interim reports to the other COPs could also be included.
- Delivery of the national reports and their review cannot necessarily be in the same year because of delays in report submission; it is vital that national reports are the primary source.
- Although indicated by the dotted line feedback loops, the process to 'ratchet up' ambition and/or implementation is currently unclear and may need more detail.
- Solid line looks like something we do, and dotted line voluntary - is this intended?
- It may be useful to add evaluation to the headline in the diagram so that it reads "National implementation, monitoring and evaluation".
- Need to improve layout so that the timing is clearer, including making the four-year cycle more apparent.
- Diagram does not really capture the notion of review at the national level, and how this relates to the broader framework, nor does it consider peer review.
- Might need more than one diagram, so that more explanation can be provided where useful, including potentially options, contingency planning, and so on.

44. It was suggested that it **might be helpful to accompany the diagram with some further explanations** relating to drawing on IPBES reports and other such sources, links to other MEAs, and capture of information from non-State actors. This approach could potentially also address the issue of how Parties are expected to respond to reviews if this cannot readily be accommodated in the diagram.

45. It was also suggested that it **would also be useful to accompany the diagram with proposed definitions of the terms in the boxes** such as 'gap analysis', 'ambition review' and 'global stocktake'. Again, this might support further discussion by helping to ensure everyone was talking about the same thing.

46. Given it was generally thought to be useful by participants, **the diagram will be revised to take account of the feedback received and included in the information document** CBD/SBI/3/INF/37, which the CBD Secretariat will be asked to re-issue as a revision covering all four workshops (the original document only covering the first two workshops).

