

Informal session in preparation for SBSTTA 24

17-19 February and 24-26 February - Online

FAO Statement: Agenda Item 3 on post 2020-GBF

FAO welcomes the progress made in the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the alignment of the monitoring system to the SDGs.

Change needs to occur at the intersection of humans and the environment, recognizing that the impacts to biodiversity are largely under the influence of human actions. There is a strong need to **engage productive sectors** into the implementation of the Framework — through promoting care for biodiversity across natural, blended and people dominated land and seascapes.

Chair, FAOs Members suggest that the Framework should strongly **promote sustainable use** as a pathway to biodiversity conservation — besides more traditional protected area approaches.

We need to promote well-managed sustainable use in a constructive manner within the Framework, as a positive contribution to biodiversity conservation rather than a threat.

We note that in some cases, SDGs are not adequately referred to in the monitoring framework, and that many indicators would still need to be developed. FAO favours focusing on a reduced number of proven, internationally applicable indicators in order not to delay the immediate implementation and monitoring of the Framework after its approval. At the level of headline indicators, we agree with Parties that the important role of genetic diversity and biodiversity for food and agriculture need to be strengthened.

FAO does not necessarily support defining all indicators prior to the Framework's definition. FAO supports the inclusion of a process for consultation over the period of the Framework, noting the likely change in technology that could impact our ability to describe progress on delivering the Frameworks goals.

We note that in some cases, the relationship between indicators, targets and goals lacks a stringent logic to aggregate from the lowest level to what the higher level supposed to achieve.

We further note that Target 8 on benefits for people covers only wild biodiversity, which provides only a small contribution to biodiversity-people interactions.

Also, Target 9 on agriculture and other managed ecosystems is silent on the links between food systems and people, such as benefits to livelihoods, human health and wellbeing. FAO wonders how “productivity gaps” will be defined.

We welcome the reference to OECMs and would like to stress the need to sustainably manage and restore **ALL areas**, whether natural or productive. We need to holistically maximize opportunities for biodiversity, and ensure ecosystem services are maintained or recovered across an interconnected network of human and natural mediated land and seascapes.

The clear role for involvement of **sustainable use** in delivering the 2030 Goals and 2050 Vision will help to position the Framework into the agricultural sectors, and get greater inclusion of these sectors which is one of biggest challenges to conservation of biodiversity of our time.

As custodian agency for SDGs and Members of the UN Statistics Commission, FAO stands ready to further engage in the development of the monitoring framework.

Thank you chair.