

SBSTTA24 informal meeting February 2021
Statement of the Center for Biological Diversity

Thank you to the CBD Secretariat, to SBSTTA and the chairs for this opportunity to submit a statement. This statement is provided on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.

The impact of the past year on all our lives and the global economy cannot be understated. IPBES has warned us that we are in an era of pandemics, and if we fail to heal our relationship with nature, the next pandemic will be on the horizon by 2030. This global catastrophe arose in the midst of a major biodiversity crisis in which we stand to lose over a million species unless we change business as usual and while our climate is also in crisis.

With the very fabric of life hanging in the balance, we urge CBD Parties and stakeholders to increase their ambition in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the related monitoring framework and indicators to address the biodiversity crisis and the subsequent risk of zoonotic spillover more effectively.

We must first recognize that we will only meet people's needs, now and in the future, by reducing the threats we face – increasing pandemics stemming from our unhealthy relationship with nature, our consumption of natural resources far beyond the levels our planet can sustain, and our changing climate.

To address these threats, the new targets to guide our work over the next decade must be reviewed to reflect enhanced ambition:

- The goals and targets must ensure that we end human-induced species extinction and ensure the recovery of those species that are threatened.
- Target 4 must be based on the precautionary principle and ensure that we eliminate non-essential commercial exploitation of wildlife as rapidly as possible, taking account for the need for just transitions, and ensuring any remaining wildlife exploitation is legal, sustainable, and effectively regulated in order to provide benefits such as nutrition and livelihoods to people.
- The new targets must ensure that we fully and highly protect natural ecosystems – including land, inland waters and oceans –and improve the integrity and increase the connectivity of protected areas while assuring Indigenous Peoples' needs and uses and recognizing their long history of conservation and incorporating community conserved areas.
- Our ambitions must be matched with adequate financial resources to address the severe threats we face, including by ensuring that all subsidies align with the new Framework.

Only after we have reviewed and set ambitious targets can we establish the necessary monitoring framework and indicators to help ensure we reduce the threats that face us.