



## Statement from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED):

### SBI-3 informal meeting, March 2021

Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement to the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. Our statement focuses on opportunities to strengthen the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

IIED is a policy and action research organisation promoting sustainable development and linking local priorities to global challenges. We are based in London and work on five continents with some of the world's most vulnerable people to strengthen their voice in the decision-making arenas that affect them including biodiversity, climate change and development.

We see the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as a major moment in time; to reset humanity's relationship with nature and put it back on a sustainable pathway. But to do this, we must ensure people's needs and rights are at the centre of these discussions. To ensure no one is left behind.

The current draft of the framework is a good step forward. Many of the important elements needed for a successful new framework are there. However, our analysis shows that there are some critical areas where strengthening is still required:

- 1. Equity:** Conservation is critical to reducing biodiversity loss, but many conservation efforts fail to treat people equitably, leading to unjust outcomes. It also undermines the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts. Stronger effort is needed on the recognition of rights, values and interests; fair procedures for making decisions, and fair distribution of resources and responsibilities.
- 2. Development dimensions:** Biodiversity loss has devastating effects on poverty eradication, food security and economic development. Aspects of the draft framework could be strengthened to more explicitly recognise the relationship between biodiversity loss and development issues. For example, noting that biodiversity and healthy ecosystems contribution to the eradication of poverty, and that ending hunger and ensuring food security depends on healthy ecosystems.
- 3. Enabling conditions:** The enabling conditions are vital for defining the parameters that will ensure the post-2020 framework catalyses transformative change. The conditions in the updated draft framework are an important starting point greater emphasis is needed on equitable governance and embedding a rights-based approach.
- 4. Implementation:** Similarly, the implementation aspects in the draft framework could be strengthened including by embedding clear reporting and review requirements to ensure progress is tracked across the whole-of-society.
- 5. Drivers of biodiversity loss:** Addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss is critical. The targets for addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss are scattered and

unintegrated throughout the framework. Focusing one of the four goals on specifically addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss could help to strengthen this focus.

- 6. IPLC participation:** Effective implementation of the GBF requires active involvement of IPLCs as key implementing partners across the Targets. This is especially important noting that approximately 80% of biodiversity is located on lands owned or managed by IPLCs. Giving IPLCs a central role in implementation, including providing pathways for the application of traditional knowledge, can reduce costs and promote sustained outcomes for biodiversity and people.
- 7. Monitoring framework:** Recent updates to the monitoring framework are welcome, though there are some outstanding issues that require attention including:
  - a. Indicators and targets in the monitoring framework need to be developed with IPLCs and an indicator of strengthened land and resource rights is needed. This will help to ensure valuable traditional knowledge of the custodians of biodiversity can be harnessed alongside science.
  - b. Include a new indicator to complement indicator 2.1.7, to ensure both aspects of equitable governance – governance type and governance quality - are addressed.
  - c. Indicators could clearly distinguish between efforts to enhance legal, sustainable use of wild species as a positive conservation mechanism and those that seek to prevent illegal and unsustainable use.

And finally, as we all know, the world is dealing with multiple and intertwined crises – climate change, unprecedented biodiversity loss, rising inequalities and the COVID-19 pandemic. IIED encourages all parties and organisations to join us in seeking out opportunities this year to strengthen the recognition of the links between climate, nature and people. These issues are mutually reinforcing. We can't address one successfully without also addressing the others. 2021, with its major meetings, conferences and dialogues, presents crucial opportunities to address these intertwined crises and pave the way to a better future.

Thank you for your attention. IIED looks forward to working through these critical issues throughout this year with contracting parties and organisations.

Further information on our research can be found at: <https://www.iied.org/>

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