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22 May 2019

NOTIFICATION

Information note: Ways and means to contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Dear Madam/Sir,

In November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed on specific elements and principles to facilitate a comprehensive and participatory process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, thus fostering the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in an inclusive and transparent consultative process.

In order to provide background about the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to outline various opportunities for Parties, other Governments, and all relevant organizations and stakeholders to participate in, and contribute to, this process, the Secretariat of the Convention has developed an information note on ways and means to contribute to such process. The information note is annexed to this notification.

Furthermore, Parties, other Governments, and all relevant organizations and stakeholders can find all relevant information on the preparatory process and its various elements on the following website: <https://www.cbd.int/post2020>.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points, ABS National Focal Points, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations

Developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Information on ways and means to contribute

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this information note is to provide background about the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to outline various opportunities for Parties, other Governments, and all relevant organizations and stakeholders to participate in, and contribute to, this process.

BACKGROUND

- The year 2020 marks the end-date of the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) and the 20 global biodiversity targets ([Aichi Targets](#)).
- In 2020, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), at its fifteenth meeting, which will be hosted by China, will adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with a view to enabling the achievement of the Convention's 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature".
- In 2018, the fourteenth meeting of the COP agreed on specific elements and principles to facilitate a comprehensive and participatory process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, thus fostering the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in an inclusive and transparent consultative process conducted by the CBD Secretariat with the guidance and lead of the co-chairs of the Open-Ended Intersessional Working Group (OEWG). Information on the preparatory process and its various elements is available, and will be updated regularly, on the following website: <https://www.cbd.int/post2020>.
- All CBD notifications regarding relevant meetings/consultations as well as documents open for comment are available, and will be updated regularly, on the following website: <https://www.cbd.int/notifications>.

OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT TO THE PROCESS

- Participation in global, regional and thematic consultations during 2019-2020.
- Participation in the meetings of the Open-Ended Intersessional Working Group (OEWG) on the preparation of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Participation in meetings of the CBD subsidiary bodies (Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and the Ad-hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions) and expert meetings.
- Submission of views and/or substantive input/comments to the discussion documents on the post-2020 framework, as they are made available for consultation in the CBD post-2020 website.
- Interested Governments, organizations and stakeholders may wish to convene their own meetings/consultations on the post-2020 biodiversity framework and use the results of these discussions as a basis to inform their input to the formal process.
- Interested Governments, organizations and stakeholders may also consider providing human resources, technical and/or financial support for any part of the preparatory process.
- Share experiences and best practices as well as making pledges under the framework of Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.
- Participation in CBD COP-15, to be held in Kunming, China, in 2020.

THE OPEN-ENDED INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES (SBSTTA, SBI, WG8J)

- CBD Parties decided at COP-14, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 2018, to establish an Open-Ended Intersessional Working Group (OEWG) that will undertake the negotiations to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and appointed Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada) as co-chairs. The work of the OEWG will be overseen by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.
- Meetings of the OEWG will be open to representatives of Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, and will be held in accordance with the calendar available at <https://www.cbd.int/post2020> and through notifications at <https://www.cbd.int/notifications>.
- To date, meetings have been scheduled for 27-30 August 2019 and July 2020. Additional meetings may be held and will be specified in the calendar available in the website and through official notifications.
- WG8J-11 (20-22 November) will examine the potential role of traditional knowledge, customary sustainable use and the contribution of the collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- SBSTTA-23 (25-29 November 2019) will review possible elements for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including any implications arising from the IPBES Global Biodiversity Assessment, the draft of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook as well as other relevant information and sources of knowledge. SBSTTA-24 (18-23 May 2020) will consider the draft of the post2020 global biodiversity framework from a scientific and technical perspective.
- SBI (25-29 May 2020) will consider the draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including related means to support and review implementation, with a view to developing a recommendation for COP-15, CP/MOP 10, and NP/MOP 4.
- Non-Party stakeholders can: (1) attend these meetings,¹ (2) follow the negotiations and provide, as appropriate, comments and input, (3) submit additional information as information documents to the CBD Secretariat prior to a SBSTTA/SBI meeting, (4) organize side-events during SBSTTA/SBI meetings.
- Further information on organization and registration for these meetings will be available at <https://www.cbd.int/notifications> and at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/>

GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND THEMATIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The CBD Secretariat is organizing, in collaboration with Parties and partners, a series of global, regional and thematic consultation workshops, and online discussion forums, in order to facilitate dialogue, active engagement and contributions to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Outcomes of these consultations will be shared with the OEWG for its consideration and will be made publicly available on the CBD post-2020 website.

Global Consultations

- The **9th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity** will be held from 2-5 July 2019, in Trondheim, Norway, and will also serve as a global consultation on evidence from the natural, economic and social sciences and traditional knowledge systems in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. More information is available at: <https://trondheimconference.org/>.
- Other global consultations may be organized at a later date. Information on these will be made available at <https://www.cbd.int/post2020> and through notifications at <https://www.cbd.int/notifications>.

¹ Must be duly accredited and registered by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Regional Consultations

Regional consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework have been organized and held as follows:

- **Asia and the Pacific**, 28 Jan-1 Feb 2019, Nagoya, Japan: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/post2020-ws-2019-01/documents>
- **Western Europe and Others Group and other members of the European Union**, 19-21 March 2019, Bonn, Germany: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/post2020-ws-2019-02/documents>
- **Africa**, 2-5 April 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/post2020-ws-2019-03/documents>
- **Central and Eastern Europe**, 16-18 April 2019, Belgrade, Serbia: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/post2020-ws-2019-04/documents>
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**, 14-17 May 2019, Montevideo, Uruguay: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/post2020-ws-2019-05/documents>

Thematic Consultations

Thematic consultations will be convened on specific issues (such as resource mobilization, digital sequencing information, capacity-building, communications, marine and coastal biodiversity). The following consultations have been or are currently being organized:

- Gender — Expert Workshop to Develop Recommendations for Possible Gender Elements in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework 11-12 April 2019 in New York, USA: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/GB-OM-2019-01>
- Consultation workshop among biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework 10-12 June 2019 in Bern, Switzerland

Other thematic consultations will be organized at a later stage and may be organized by the CBD Secretariat or by other organizations in collaboration with the Secretariat. Further information will be posted on the post-2020 webpage (<https://www.cbd.int/post2020/>) and at <https://www.cbd.int/notifications> as it becomes available.

Online Discussion Forums

Online discussion forums will be organized on an as-needed basis on specific issues. Current discussion forums include:

- Integration of Article 8(j) and provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and its Protocols, 19 February – 12 March 2019. This Forum was held in English, French and Spanish. For more information: <https://www.cbd.int/tk/future.shtml>

Other online discussion forums may be organized by the CBD Secretariat or by other organizations in collaboration with the Secretariat. Further information will be posted on the post-2020 webpage (<https://www.cbd.int/post2020/>) and at <https://www.cbd.int/notifications> as it becomes available.

DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT DELIBERATIONS ON THE POST-2020 FRAMEWORK

- Deliberations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be informed by various sources of information. Stakeholders may provide their information relevant to the post-2020 process through various means as described above.
- The co-chairs of the OEWG, with the support of the Secretariat, will issue various documents based on information submitted by Parties and stakeholders. There will be opportunities for public comment on these documents as they become available. An initial [discussion document](#) on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework has been prepared by the Secretariat based on submissions received and with the guidance of the co-chairs of the OEWG. This document reviews relevant decisions, summarizes the initial views of partners and

observers, and provides a number of questions to stimulate discussion. In addition, a supporting [information document](#) provides a comparative analysis of the initial views received from Parties and stakeholders. All stakeholders are encouraged to provide their views on these documents, as well as any other views on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, by 15 April 2019 to secretariat@cbd.int.

- Based on the inputs received on the above-mentioned initial discussion document, a second discussion paper focusing on possible elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to be made available in June 2019.
- The 5th edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-5) will assess the level of achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and will serve as one of key sources of information for the post-2020 discussions. An indicative timeline for the preparation of GBO-5 has been provided in [decision 14/35](#), which includes a period during which the draft will be open for public comment (estimated December 2019 – January 2020). More information is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/>.

SHARM EL-SHEIKH TO KUNMING ACTION AGENDA FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

- During the high-level segment of COP-14 in Sharm El-Sheikh, held in November 2018, the Governments of China and Egypt together with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity launched the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.²
- The Action Agenda aims to catalyse a groundswell of actions from all sectors and stakeholders in support of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use, while enabling the mapping of the current global efforts, in order to assess impact and gaps.
- The Action Agenda has three main objectives: (1) to raise public awareness about the urgent need to halt biodiversity loss and restore the health of ecosystems as an essential condition to secure life on Earth in the coming decades; (2) to share best practices and actions that could inspire and support the implementation of nature-based solutions to meet key global challenges, including climate change; and (3) to catalyse cooperative initiatives in support of global biodiversity goals.
- The Action Agenda is hosted on an online platform that will receive and showcase commitments and contributions to biodiversity from Parties and stakeholders across all sectors in advance of COP-15 in 2020 in China. Detailed information and guidance on how to contribute to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda can be found here: <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/default.shtml>
- Individual voluntary commitments or coalitions of action may also be developed and announced by actors such as subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, women, academia, the private and financial sectors, civil society organizations and all relevant organizations and stakeholders. Such voluntary commitments are complementary to and supportive of national commitments.
- It is encouraged that commitments be announced, in coordination with the Secretariat of the Convention, during key international events and meetings. It is also encouraged that all commitments be registered in the online platform of the Action Agenda.

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

- COP-14 and the high-level segment also invited Parties and other Governments to consider developing, on a voluntary basis, biodiversity commitments that contribute to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, strengthen national biodiversity strategies and action plans, facilitate the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and contribute to an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework, without prejudging the outcomes of the process to develop this framework, and contribute to achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

² <https://www.cbd.int/cop-14/announcement/nature-action-agenda-egypt-to-china-en.pdf>

- Parties and other Governments were invited to share information on these commitments through the clearing-house mechanism and other means.
- Parties and other Governments wishing to submit National Voluntary Commitments (NVCs) for biodiversity may consider the following potential scopes and modalities:
 - (a) National commitments are voluntary;
 - (b) National commitments should be developed according to national priorities and circumstances and contribute to long-term sustainable development;
 - (c) National commitments should be commensurate with achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, should be tangible and measurable and contribute to the transformational changes needed on the pathway to achieve the 2050 Vision, including by intermediary milestones, such as 2030 and 2040;
 - (d) The Aichi Biodiversity Targets could serve as a guide for the scope and level of ambition for the development voluntary national commitments;
 - (e) National commitments should represent a progression beyond current commitments under the Convention and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).
 - (f) National commitments may build upon existing national commitments and actions such as those to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the objectives of the Paris Agreement under UNFCCC and the land-neutrality goal under UNCCD, among others;
 - (g) National commitments should support the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations across all economic and social sectors; these could include:
 - (i) A commitment to apply global best practices on environmental safeguards for national investments in projects related to these sectors;
 - (ii) A commitment to apply strategic environmental assessments or similar upstream planning mechanisms to all decisions related to investments in these sectors;
 - (iii) A commitment to utilize new inter-ministerial processes aimed at integrating biodiversity considerations into decisions related to these sectors;
 - (iv) An announcement of new legislation related to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in one or more of these sectors;
 - (v) An initiative to support capacity-building for the mainstreaming of biodiversity in one or more of these sectors;
 - (h) National commitments and other voluntary contributions should be developed and announced prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties so that they may contribute to the development of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework and advance its implementation;
 - (i) National commitments and other voluntary contributions should be communicated in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions.

UNITED NATIONS NATURE SUMMIT 2020

The United Nations General Assembly decided to convene a Summit on biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government ahead COP 15 in 2020, in order to highlight the urgency of action at the highest levels in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Resolution 73/234).

The United Nations Nature Summit, planned to take place at the margins of the opening of the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2020, will represent a unique opportunity for Parties and other Governments to announce actions or commitments towards an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including voluntary national commitments. There will also be an opportunity for indigenous peoples and local

communities and stakeholders across all sectors, including civil society, the private sector, and subnational and local governments, to announce actions or commitments under the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda at the margins of the Summit. These announcements will contribute to the groundswell of cooperative initiatives in support of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use, ahead of the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

SUPPORT TO THE POST-2020 PROCESS

Parties, organizations and stakeholders in a position to do so may also wish to contribute to the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through the following:

- Financial support (meetings/events/workshops, projects, data/studies, communications actions/campaigns, staff costs).
- Technical and expert support to the Secretariat on specific topics (such as communications, social media and web support), including through secondments and partnerships.
- Organization/hosting of consultations (global, regional, thematic) and other relevant events. May include dedicated post-2020 meetings or special consultation sessions at other meetings/events.

Those interested in contributing any of the above are kindly requested to liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention via: secretariat@cbd.int.