

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
[secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)

15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),

**Re: SCBD/OES/CP/DC/CE/86582: Preparations of the Post-2020 Strategic Plan**

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Information Note of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 on 'Approaches for the preparation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework'. As suggested, we focus our feedback on ways of engaging various stakeholders and sectors and fostering commitments and strengthened implementation.

**Engagement of various stakeholders and sectors in the development of the strategic plan**

We feel it is important to **inject scientific understanding and credibility** into the discussions on a post-2020 framework for the CBD, which means integrating scientists and science communicators in the negotiation process. One mechanism to do this is through preparatory workshops that feed into CBD meetings. BirdLife International, in conjunction with the United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB), WWF, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and the UK government, is planning a Cambridge conference in mid-2018 on the post-2020 biodiversity strategy to bring together many of the leading thinkers and science communicators in order to increase understanding of how science can inform development of the post-2020 strategy and how this can be most effectively communicated. This will be preceded by a London symposium in February 2018 focused on area-based conservation post-2020, hosted by ZSL and National Geographic Society, in which BirdLife International, UNEP-WCMC and IUCN are also partnering.

It is also important that **Parties are encouraged to establish processes within their jurisdictions to facilitate dialogue among different sectors of government and society**, particularly in preparing national submissions. It would be helpful to highlight any best practice examples of governments establishing consultation processes during the original development of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at the next SBSTTA meeting.

There is a need to **foster private sector partnerships** to help encourage the development and implementation of biodiversity strategies and to consider the role of business in post-2020 global biodiversity targets, including considering whether there could be separate targets for business. The post-2020 framework should also seek to integrate the feedback from the CBD business and biodiversity conferences in 2018 and 2020.

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It will also be important to recognise and explicitly build in the **linkages between the new strategic plan for biodiversity and other biodiversity-related conventions and processes**, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The post-2020 biodiversity targets must be **aligned with and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**, which highlight the importance of tackling drivers of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation across sectors.

### **Fostering commitments and strengthening implementation**

**Creating increased recognition** of the importance of biodiversity for the delivery of critical ecosystem services, alongside the negative impacts to human wellbeing resulting from biodiversity loss, is key to strengthening and mainstreaming both current Aichi Target implementation and the post-2020 biodiversity framework, particularly in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. **Public engagement** is key to helping drive up such political awareness and ambition. We welcome ideas about strengthening implementation and see benefit in further investigating the utility of nationally determined contributions for biodiversity.

There are also regional imbalances both in alignment and progress towards the current Aichi Targets. **Fostering commitments and strengthening implementation at a regional level** should play an increasingly important role in the post-2020 framework. **Inter-regional cooperation** could also highlight lessons learnt and facilitate synergies. We support regional workshops, particularly those that have encouraged Parties to commit to 'priority actions' or action plans, such as the Aichi Target 11 workshops held in 2016-17. This is an important mechanism to **facilitate pledges** and regional cooperation which supports implementation of the CBD.

We stand ready to support the Secretariat and Parties to the CBD in the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework, and look forward to continued engagement and discussion with you on this.

Yours faithfully,

Noelle Kumpel (on behalf of the BirdLife Partnership)

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