

Conservation International Submission

Prepared in Response to CBD Notification 2017-052 on Preparations of the Post-2020 Strategic Plan
September 2017

Summary

Conservation International recommends that Parties:

- Create targets that are **concrete and specific** to allow for efficient planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- Ensure new targets are aligned with the overall frameworks of other international agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, to encourage **mainstreaming and integration**.
- Integrate guidance on **resource mobilization** for biodiversity actions at all levels of implementation.
- Create avenues for **non-governmental stakeholders**, including the private sector, to contribute to and report on clear and defined targets.

Conservation International (CI) believes that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an integral international mechanism for encouraging governments, civil society partners, the private sector and donors to work together to protect biodiversity. The vision and goal setting of the CBD strategic process provides critical guidance to stakeholders in many sectors. Therefore, we believe the discussions regarding a new strategic plan to be of great importance and look forward to participating throughout the process.

Conservation International recommends the following considerations be taken into account early in the development process of the CBD's strategic plan:

1. Maintain a High Level of Ambition: The development of the CBD's strategic plan is an opportunity to demonstrate biodiversity's relevance and essential role across society (as confirmed in the [Cancun Declaration](#))¹ and to ensure the integration of biodiversity with other agreements and international bodies. A high level of ambition allows for the recognition of the importance of biodiversity and its contribution to sustainable development and human well-being. We urge governments to ensure the high ambition inherent in the 2011-2020 plan is maintained, using scientific evidence to guide decisions and help define targets.

2. Develop Concrete Replacement Targets: In assessments of country progress, including [an assessment](#)² CI conducted with partner organizations, it is clear that concrete targets with specific metrics are more

¹ Cancun Declaration: <https://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-13/hls/cancun%20declaration-en.pdf>

² Aichi Target Analysis: www.conservation.org/Aichi-Target

likely to be achieved. We need a plan that is not just ambitious, but also includes concrete guidance to give Parties a clear path for implementation and clear metrics and concrete markers to measure progress.

Evidence-based decision making should inform the formulation of these specific targets, as it will give decision makers more information about the social and ecological context for conservation, as well as the impacts (intended and unintended, social and ecological), and relative cost-effectiveness of policy actions. Decision makers need to adhere to science-based approaches when thinking about how to catalyze conservation at scale to make the new targets effective and impactful.

3. Connect the CBD Targets to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Given the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically the SDGs, in driving development action and funding, targets should be formulated to ensure the protection and sustainable management of nature, which is essential for achieving the SDGs. Analysis by CI (pending publication) finds that nearly 30% of the SDG targets are dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems to be achieved - that is, there is a nontrivial dependency between intact natural ecosystems and those targets. Ensuring complementarity between the new CBD strategic plan and the SDGs is therefore critical for efficient implementation of both. Effective alignment with the SDGs can help prevent isolation of biodiversity and ecosystem services from the social and economic goals that they underpin and allow biodiversity values to be mainstreamed into other sectors.

This process can be facilitated by identifying scientifically sound, multi-purpose activities that governments can undertake to achieve multiple international commitments. A compilation of evidence-based examples may be helpful in helping Parties more effectively pursue these activities. Additionally, Parties may benefit from guidance on how to manage landscapes and seascapes, ensuring the acknowledgement of landscapes and seascapes within any new version or replacement for Aichi Target 11 and their importance to conservation and integrated management is maintained in the updated plan.

4. Strengthen Resource Mobilization: Reliable sources of funding are critical to the implementation of any strategic plan, but as noted in previous COP decisions, lack of sufficient financial resources continues to be one of the main obstacles to achieving the Convention's objectives. The post-2020 strategic plan should affirm existing commitments to financing biodiversity, including commitments on financing agreed to in Hyderabad in 2012. The new strategic plan should also incorporate guidance for financing biodiversity actions, drawing on the wealth of research and ideas that have been exchanged in the context of the CBD.

For international funding, linking updated targets to SDGs and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement will help to appropriately direct funding to approaches that maintain the ecological foundation of sustainable development and many effective solutions to climate change.

Guidance for financing biodiversity commitments should include approaches to increasing finance both internationally and domestically. This guidance should include, for example, guidance on integrating biodiversity into international development finance, integrating biodiversity into climate change finance to acknowledge the benefits of biodiversity conservation in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and providing guidance and best practices on the removal of perverse incentives.

5. Ensure Full and Effective Participation: Conservation is a social process with social implications. Different perspectives, including those of both men and women, indigenous peoples and local communities and civil society are needed to achieve a robust outcome for the new strategic plan. CI advocates ensuring full and effective participation from all sectors of society in the development of the strategic plan, for example by providing funding for draft documents to be translated into all official UN languages and for the continuing participation of indigenous peoples and local community representatives to attend meetings and Conferences.

It is also important to seek out and welcome input from indigenous peoples and local communities beyond the narrow scope of specific areas of the Conventions, such as Article 8(j) or 10(c), recognizing that they have valuable scientific, political and socioeconomic experiences beyond these areas which could contribute significantly to the improvement of future goal setting and implementation.

6. Create New Avenues for Commitments: One option for encouraging the engagement of stakeholders could be to take inspiration from the [Voluntary Commitments](#)³ put forward for achieving SDG 14 at the Ocean Conference in June 2017 and create a database for commitments to the concrete targets under the new strategic plan. These commitments would be from non-state actors, intended to complement state commitments to the new strategic plan. This structure would allow all stakeholders, including those in the private sector, to contribute to the process by incentivizing action, and would allow the CBD to more broadly track commitments for biodiversity.

To be effective, however, the new strategic plan would need to ensure the targets put forward are specific enough to provide guidance across sectors for how non-governmental entities can meaningfully engage in the process and evaluate their contributions. This structure would create high-level guidance for non-governmental entities (including NGOs, private sector and academia) on commitments and actions they can take to push targets forward and encourage their further engagement.

As with the current strategic plan, new targets should continue to ensure that there is a place for actions beyond protected areas (including areas under Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes, indigenous lands, and privately protected areas), all of which are critical but underappreciated area-based conservation measures for protecting biodiversity and facilitate contributions by non-governmental entities.

³ SDG 14 Voluntary Commitments: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>