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Basel, 13 September 2017

**Process and timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
Response to Notification 2017-052**

Dear Ms Pasca Palmer,
Your Excellency,

Thank you for offering us the opportunity to give input on the process for the follow-up to the strategic plan post-2020.

Thank you as well for the compilation of views provided in the document “Approaches for the preparation of the post-2020 global Biodiversity framework”. We agree on the general requirement set out in this documents’ Chapter V (= para 19) that the upcoming post-2020 strategic plan must take into account the decisions already taken and build upon the existing plan. In fact, we would like to suggest changing as little as possible for the upcoming strategic plan – we will explain our position more in detail below. As this consultation concerns, however, the process and not yet the content of the post-2020 strategic plan, we will begin with voicing our suggestions for the process first.



Suggestions on the process towards the post-2020 strategic plan

Recent analysis, as compiled in decision CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/1, and earlier in GBO-4, shows that so far only one of the 20 Aichi targets has been achieved and 2 have already failed, with an increased likeliness that most of the other targets will not be achieved by 2020 either. In spite of the lack of implementation of the targets - or even perhaps precisely because of this – parties are shifting their focus on designing the post-2020 biodiversity framework. At CBD COP 15 in 2020, the new strategic plan of the CBD, which is expected to be valid until 2030, will be decided. At CBD COP 13 it was decided that the process should now be prepared for this.

The following things seem indispensable:

- The process must take place **early** enough and in such a way that the public can participate fully. Online consultation(s) on the contents of at least 2 months duration, whose core outcomes are submitted to the CBD bodies and parties, must be held. In fact, we would suggest setting up 2 rounds of consultations:
 - an early one collecting **general views** on the future strategic plan, This could be based on the document “Approaches for the preparation of the post-2020 global Biodiversity framework”
 - a later one which would **comment on an initial draft** of a future strategic plan. This would, inter alia, enable comments on suggestions made by others, and pinpoint specific questions which were not clear or visible on a more general level.
- It must, on the other hand, the process must run **late** enough to fully integrate the analysis of the previous strategic plan and the GBO-5, and to take the latest findings into account.
- The last (and only those!) CBD-related meetings before the COP 15 after 2018 will have to take on the subject comprehensively. Not only SBSTTA, but also the preparatory, exclusive "think tank" meetings such as the Friends of the CBD meeting and the Trondheim conference as well as the CBD's regional workshops should put their main focus on the follow-up of the present strategic plan.
- Until 2020, the **implementation of the agreed Aichi goals by all actors must be a top priority** and be pushed forward with full force so as not to be empty-handed in 2020. 2020 marks the End of the UN Decade of Biodiversity; it should end successfully.



No experiments! - why the Aichi targets should also apply after 2020

The Aichi targets, adopted in 2010, represent a good and comprehensive overall concept, it includes 20 outcome-based measurable targets. In principle, the arguments raised in 2009 outlining the format of the new strategic plan remain fully valid (see CBD/SP/PREP/1/Rev.1). The consistent implementation of the current strategic plan could, to a very large degree, actually lead to the targeted halt of biodiversity loss; it is therefore well suited for its purpose of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2020, and meeting the convention's three goals.

The process of actually putting it to work has taken quite some time, for example:

- the extent of North-South financing was only agreed in 2014,
- 3 years before the end date of the CBD strategic plan, only 147 of 196 countries have integrated the Aichi objectives,
- the agreement on the indicators for the Aichi targets (2016)
- enshrining the issue of biodiversity in the Agenda 2030

If the CBD 2020 Strategic Plan were to be completely different to the present one, this would jeopardize the work done and the progress made on defining common standards, and require much time and energy to develop new strategies, while ongoing implementation would be stalled. A complete change of the target catalogue is therefore not very useful. It would be like changing horses in mid-stream and make an assessment of the progress considerably harder (lack of comparability with previous years due to different indicators), possibly require a time-consuming revision of national strategies and divert massively from priority 1 - the implementation.

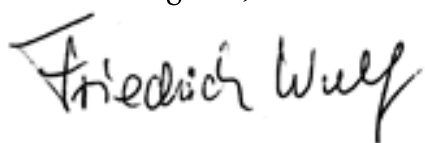
The overall mission of the strategic plan and the 3 goals of the CBD do not change, they cannot without challenging the CBD's very reason of being. The strategic plan is bound by this, and also bound by the UN Agenda 2030, which reflects the strategic plan's objectives in a number of places, notably in SDGs 14 and 15, but also in many other places. Undoubtedly there have been some insights and further developments, which suggest to adapt, or at least to update the strategic plan in a few places. In principle, however, the strategic plan 2020-2030 should differ as little as possible from the current version for the reasons stated. Chapter V of the "Approaches for the preparation of the post-2020 global Biodiversity framework" established by



the CBD secretariat also suggests that there should be few adjustments to the strategic plan. We would be happy for governments to support this view. The fact that the Strategic Plan's goals and targets have not been achieved should not be a reason to change them. Their achievement is necessary and indispensable to preserve life on this planet, and we must not change the strategy simply because we have done too little to implement it.

We will be happy to reiterate our arguments in the course of the further process towards the CBD's post-2020 strategy.

With best regards,



Friedrich Wulf
Head, International Biodiversity Policy
Pro Natura – Friends of the Earth Switzerland
Board member of the CBD Alliance, 2009-2016

