

RESPONSE OF UN ENVIRONMENT TO NOTIFICATION 2017-052 REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity together with the implementation of the other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements is critical for achieving global environmental goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. You seek input in particular on how to ensure full engagement of various stakeholders and sectors in the development of the strategic plan. We encourage you to take the following points into consideration:

- The process leading up to 2020 needs to be as inclusive and as transparent as possible. We need to work with governments and the secretariats of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, UN Environment and other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Such organizations include in particular the International Union on the Conservation of Nature, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme.
- To the extent possible the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should be evidence and science based. It should build on the Sixth national reports and the Fifth Global Biodiversity Outlook, the Sixth Global Environment Outlook, the deliverables of the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular its global assessment. Reports by biodiversity-related multilateral agreements and other governmental and non-governmental organizations on their contribution to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are also important input.
- We propose to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in order to build on it its success to the extent possible. We are for instance welcoming that the Plan has obtained broad recognition, endorsement and support. The Plan has helped to galvanise action and was reflected by the strategic plans of other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements and in the Sustainable Development Goals. You might propose to Parties to agree on the principle that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should not, and in no part of it, fall below the ambition of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. We consider that the 'entry points of actions' identified in the Strategic Plan are still relevant, as is the Vision 2050 and Mission of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
- It is unlikely that all the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will be fully achieved. However there was progress towards many of them. The targets which were measurable at a global level and where the contribution at regional and national levels could be assessed are most likely to be achieved. Some targets are at the core of the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity whereas others are cross-sectoral and require more complex methodologies and measures. We propose to learn from this experience and focus on enhancing the set of targets in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals. A complete renegotiation of targets could be avoided and current targets could be set as default.
- We need to ensure that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework strengthens the position of those who are working with us on implementation. For instance central and local governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations. We need to convey the importance of the Convention on Biological Diversity to decision-makers. Intergovernmental fora, such as conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental meetings and regional ministerial conferences could be used for that purpose.

Another important stepping stone towards 2020 will include the Fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly in 2019.

- We encourage you to start soon with discussing means of implementation, the future of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the future of the thematic and cross-cutting work programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity so that a coherent package can be adopted by the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020. This discussion will benefit from enhanced synergies among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and cooperation with international organizations including UN Environment.
- A post 2020 global biodiversity framework should include a review process. In developing that, to mention some important examples, you can benefit from experiences gained with the voluntary peer-review process for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, the development of a review process for the Convention on Migratory Species and the process on nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement and also the review process of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.
- The post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should be useful for other strategic and action plans developed by biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. It should allow them, if they decide to do so, to update their strategies in the light of it and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The proposed Biodiversity Summit in 2020 can set the frame for the ultimate negotiations at the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Its main purpose should be to increase ambition among governments and give them an incentive to prepare ambitious negotiation mandates. The timing of this summit is critical so that parties have time to respond to the results of the summit when preparing their mandates.
- One idea which you might consider could be to focus the preparatory work for the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on a subset of Aichi targets (6-14) for which the Convention has particular responsibility. These specific targets could be complemented with clearly defined indicators. Those indicators could be designed to be used at national level, aggregated to global level and to be complemented with spatial data. It is important that the conclusions derived from these indicators are scientifically sound, send clear messages and motivate governments and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take action. The specific targets can be designed to directly contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and update those targets under the Sustainable Development Goals which are time-bound to 2020. We targets are updated so that they reflect more closely the overall objectives of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements as well.
- Each target could be complemented by an implementation plan and a preliminary costing which could inform the resource mobilization discussions. To accompany the intergovernmental negotiations, the Secretariat could convene expert teams for each of the targets mentioned in the point above as a starting point. That way a focused preparation could take place without prejudging the outcomes and discussions. The expert teams would be technical, leaving political deliberations to the intergovernmental process. Countries could prepare for 2020 commitments for contribution to achieving each target prior to the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020. A framework for these commitments could be prepared in a way to trigger national-level debates prior to the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties.