

Bioversity International's views on the preparation, scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

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Agricultural biodiversity or agrobiodiversity is a subset of biodiversity. Both wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity provide multiple ecosystem services that support food production, underpin food security and human wellbeing. We consider that biodiversity conservation efforts in agricultural contexts should better integrate wild and agrobiodiversity approaches. There is potential to better integrate and align efforts and activities to achieve outcomes for both agricultural and wild biodiversity, yet most agricultural and wild conservation strategies continue to be pursued separately. Given that globally, 38% of land is now farmed, agricultural land management is increasingly important for wild biodiversity conservation.

How agrobiodiversity generates ecosystem services

- Crop provisioning; livestock provisioning
- Nutritional and dietary diversity; increased number of functional traits leads to more resistant and resilient crops
- Reduced need for pesticides due to agrobiodiversity-based pest and disease control; complex vegetation structure as filter of pollutants
- Increased carbon sequestration through more continuous biomass; increased soil function and carbon sequestration; increased use of legumes reduces need for NPK use
- Intercropping and interspecific crop diversity providing habitat and resources for natural enemies. Intraspecific diversity suppressing pests and diseases¹

Bioversity International is increasingly seen as the world's leading agrobiodiversity research and innovation centre with expertise on conservation and use of agrobiodiversity, working towards healthy diets from sustainable food systems; productive and resilient farms, forests and landscape; and effective genetic resources conservation and use.

Biological diversity is vitally important to agriculture, food and nutrition security, as well as to the integrity of the natural resources upon which

¹ Attwood et al. 2016. <https://www.bioversityinternational.org/e-library/publications/detail/integrating-wild-and-agrobiodiversity-conservation-poster/>

agriculture depends. It is fundamental to both planetary and human health. Using and conserving agricultural biodiversity in sustainable food systems contributes to multiple Aichi Biodiversity Targets (3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15) and Sustainable Development Goals (2, 3, 12, 13, 15).

Bioversity International agrees with the views reported in the “Preliminary synthesis and analysis of views on the scope and content of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” (document CBD/COP/14/INF16). However, some other critical gaps are noted, such as the importance of mainstreaming agricultural biodiversity in food systems, which needs to be more prominent in the strategic plan, and we hope that our contribution below will help address these gaps. Bioversity International remains available and proud to continue work closely with the CBD on its post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework towards COP-15 in Beijing.

I. TARGETS, INDICATORS AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

Importance of on-farm production of diverse crops and of consumption of diverse diets, including the contribution of wild foods

Bioversity International appreciates that Target 7 and 13 are linked to agricultural production and the conservation of biodiversity (including genetic diversity) but a target is missing related to the importance of on-farm production of diverse crops and of consumption of diverse diets, including the contribution of wild foods (plant, fish, forest products, fruits, nuts, etc) to health and well-being.

The Agrobiodiversity Index as an indicator and implementation mechanism

Despite its importance for nourishing people and sustaining the planet, few decision-makers have well-developed policies to mainstream agrobiodiversity in food systems. In a review of 119 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, only 30% include detailed actions for agrobiodiversity use and conservation. This is partly due to the lack of an agreed, standard way of measuring agrobiodiversity. Without such metrics, decision-makers struggle to formulate concrete actions that they can implement to make food systems more sustainable through increased agrobiodiversity. Gaps in agrobiodiversity metrics also extend to measuring progress on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Bioversity International has received strong demand from public and private sector partners to systematically monitor risks and opportunities related to the presence or loss of agrobiodiversity in our food systems. To address this demand, Bioversity International has developed the Agrobiodiversity Index, the first tool that brings together information on agrobiodiversity in diets, production and genetic resources. The Agrobiodiversity Index, relating to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 7 and 13, helps governments, companies and investors assess risks and seize opportunities in food and agriculture by looking at the status of agrobiodiversity in a selected area. It also assesses to what extent their actions and commitments are contributing to sustainable use and conservation of agrobiodiversity.

With this information, governments will be able to develop more effective policies and strategies to improve diet quality, sustainably use and conserve biodiversity, fight climate change and natural resources degradation. Agri-food businesses, who depend on agricultural production to deliver high yields and quality despite an increasingly changing climate, will have a tool to guide their internal decisions about capital allocation, R&D, procurement strategies, so that they can invest in sustainably diversifying supply chains and product lines. The Index is also designed to support corporate or government issuers to demonstrate the value for money of their agrobiodiversity-themed investments, anticipating their positive impact on agrobiodiversity status or reduction in agrobiodiversity-related risks.

Gender and Youth

The current CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and CBD Decisions focus on recognizing gender roles in biodiversity management (recognition) and on participation and inclusion of women, with some attention to their capacity development, in CBD processes (procedural equity). However, few targets and indicators refer to the needs and contributions of women in biodiversity management and conservation (only Aichi Biodiversity Target 14). The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should go further, to foreground the gender-specific distribution of costs and benefits from sustainable biodiversity management and conservation (distributive equity). Several resources, developed by Bioversity International and partners, exist to support gender-responsive data collection, analyses, and communications, including:

- Practical tips for conducting gender-responsive data collection²

² <https://www.bioversityinternational.org/e-library/publications/detail/practical-tips-for-conducting-gender-responsive-data-collection/>

- Gender matters in forest landscape restoration³
- Practical tips for communicating research findings in a gender-responsive way⁴

In addition, rather than treating gender in a binary way (men/women) the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should explicitly recognize the importance of intersectionality (intersecting and interacting identities –e.g. on the basis of gender, age, socio-economic status, ethnicity) in shaping gender roles in, and outcomes from, biodiversity management. Practical guidance on adopting an intersectionality lens are available⁵.

We also note that in the “Preliminary synthesis and analysis of views on the scope and content of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” (document CBD/COP/14/INF16, page 7), one of the conclusions drawn says “The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should effectively incorporate gender considerations and the perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities”. In this respect, we would also like to see more emphasis on the important role and potential contribution of women and men **youth** in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

II. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Bioversity International urges that wording that recognizes the vital role that agricultural biodiversity contributes to human health and the importance of mainstreaming and safeguarding agrobiodiversity to nourish people and sustain the planet is explicitly referenced in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

III. GAPS IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

Bioversity International notes the gaps summarized from the views reported in the “Preliminary synthesis and analysis of views on the scope and content of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” (document CBD/COP/14/INF16), and would like to mention other major gaps in the strategic plan:

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https://www.bioversityinternational.org/fileadmin/user_upload/research/research_portfolio/Forest_and_tree_diversity/Gender_matters_in_forest_landscape_restoration_infographic.pdf

⁴ <https://www.bioversityinternational.org/e-library/publications/detail/practical-tips-for-communicating-research-findings-in-a-gender-responsive-way/>

⁵ <https://www.cifor.org/library/6793/>

(a) Ecosystems:

- Agricultural biodiversity

(b) Species:

- Diverse crop species and traditional varieties on-farm including neglected and underutilized species with high nutrition potential and resilience to environmental changes

(c) Major groups:

- Farmers including women and men youth

(d) Indirect pressures on biodiversity:

- Simplification of our food system relying on just three crops (maize, wheat and rice) to provide more than 50% of plant based calories

(e) Solutions to biodiversity loss:

- Incentives and markets to create biodiverse food production systems (e.g. Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition project implemented by Bioversity International and national partners)

(f) Implementation issues: (i) Capacity-building; (ii) Resource mobilization; (iii) Mainstreaming;

- Lack of tools to measure agrobiodiversity in diets, in markets and in on-farm production

(g) Human wellbeing:

- Nutritious diverse diets for health