

Key Elements and Innovations for the CBD’s Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework: A Collaborative Discussion Piece

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Recommendations for the Post-2020 Framework

- Create a simple overarching “apex goal” that conveys the fundamental importance of nature in achieving climate resilience, sustainable development, and human well-being.
- Outline a clear logic structure for biodiversity priorities that clarifies relationships between specific targets and drives implementation of the actions needed at all levels to achieve larger objectives for the state of biodiversity.
- Ensure the targets on all levels are clear, concise and quantifiable, to clarify the actions needed and enable progress to be measured.

Nature is the infrastructure that supports all life, but has not been adequately recognized as a key element of economic and social stability. In 2020, the Parties to the CBD will agree to a new global biodiversity framework aimed at halting and reversing the concerning trends of biodiversity and nature loss, using nature sustainably, and ensuring the sharing of its benefits. The new framework must set clear and ambitious long-term goals for the recovery of biodiversity and nature, and drive more effective implementation of action at the global, national, local, and sectoral level.

The CBD can play a key role in defending nature and its role as essential to all life. 2020 needs to be a turning point in creating a movement of shared ownership for nature’s role across institutions, fora, and sectors - it’s a moment for the importance of biodiversity to resonate beyond the technical sphere and have its impact felt in all sectors. All Parties and non-state actors need to use the events over the next two years to create visibility for nature and biodiversity. The content below is intended as a **discussion piece** for both Parties and non-state actors involved in this process, outlining an innovative logic structure and important elements for what this approach would entail.

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN INNOVATIVE AND EFFECTIVE APPROACH

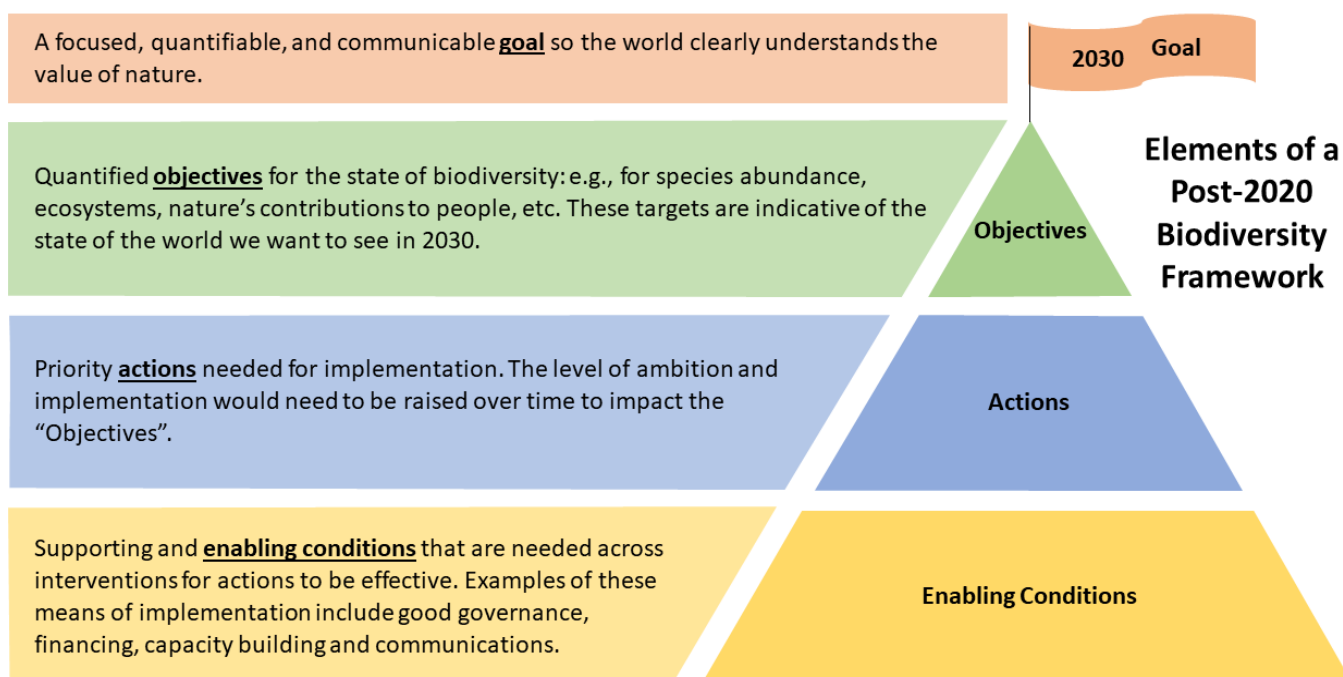
The content of the CBD’s current Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Targets - while considered to be comprehensive and ambitious - would benefit from a more straightforward **logic structure** to facilitate implementation and highlight key linkages between the targets themselves. Reorganizing and refining the content of the 2011-2020 strategy in a way that makes the linkages and relationships between the targets clear would be a useful starting point in determining how the post-2020 framework could be organized. We also need to ensure the targets agreed upon are specific and quantifiable.¹ In that spirit, we share the

¹ We note related recommendations (specify the goal, identify indicator metrics, and identify actions) presented in the following publication: Mace, G. M., Barrett, M. Burgess, N. D., Cornell, S.E., Freeman, R., Grooten, M., Purvis, A. 2018. Aiming higher to bend the curve of biodiversity loss. Nature Sustainability DOI: 10.1038/s41893-018-0130-0

diagram below as a starting point to rethink the current elements and move to an innovative and effective approach that helps drive implementation. We chose a pyramid to show the different foundations, building blocks and elements needed to arrive at a comprehensive new strategic framework.

LEVEL 1: ENABLING CONDITIONS

The base of the “pyramid” is comprised of strategies for **enabling conditions** that are needed for the success of any action or intervention presented in the layers above and can ensure actions move forward effectively. These conditions should include specific targets to allow for progress to be measured. These targets should answer the question of *how* governments and non-state actors can enable effective implementation.



We recommend that strategic means of implementation are incorporated as foundational to the post-2020 biodiversity framework, including targets for the following:

- good governance, including effective enforcement of laws, transparency of process, and empowerment of vulnerable groups such as Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities,
- provision of sufficient resources from national, bilateral and multilateral sources, and non-state actors,
- an ambitious communications plan to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity for people’s well-being and the foundational role of nature in everyday life,
- building additional capacity and support the removal of barriers to reduce gaps in implementation and reporting, and
- generating and sharing information to serve better implementation aims.

LEVEL 2: ACTIONS

In the middle of the pyramid, there is space to specify the **action targets** needed from both Parties and other actors to achieve the objectives required. Some of these actions would address direct pressures of biodiversity loss and can generate immediate results at the objectives level, while others would address underlying causes or drivers of biodiversity loss. Overall, these interventions will allow governments to identify *what actions* are needed to conserve nature and use it sustainably.

These actions include concrete and unambiguous targets addressing activities within the responsibility of environment ministries, for example:

- expanding protected and conserved areas and strengthening their management, and ensuring similar expansion and strengthening of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), including Indigenous and Conserved Communities Areas (ICCAs),
- supporting the conservation of particular species,
- increasing efforts to restore ecosystems and habitats to bend the curve on biodiversity loss.

An additional area of focus can include the implementation of activities that are the responsibility of other ministries or branches of government, in order to hold other sectors accountable for mainstreaming biodiversity. Examples include:

- phasing out harmful subsidies,
- incorporating the value of biodiversity into national accounting processes,
- minimizing the impact of infrastructure and related sectors on biodiversity, and
- recognizing the positive impact of healthy ecosystems on human health.

For these actions, countries should use a ratcheting mechanism similar to the Paris Agreement to ensure ambition is increased within countries' National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). This would provide a predictable framework for evaluating global progress to conserve biodiversity and for increasing ambition for implementation to a point where the 2030 mission could be achieved.

LEVEL 3: STATE OF BIODIVERSITY OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

At the top level of the pyramid, we need to define the **'objective' targets** for the state of biodiversity we want to see by 2030. These should be spatially-based and quantified. These objectives will specify effective conservation of all Key Biodiversity Areas and other important *specific locations* in ecosystems worldwide that need to be better managed, preserved, or restored, to prevent the loss of threatened species, maintain species abundance, ensure ecosystem service flows, etc, and achieve the end state of biodiversity we want on a global scale.

LEVEL 4: STRATEGIC GOAL - MISSION FOR 2030

The post-2020 framework must unite Parties and non-state actors under **a shared, ambitious and quantified 2030 Goal that is reflected in the mission for 2030**, based on the existing commitment to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and nature. This "apex goal" should show the cumulative impact of

the objectives and answer the question of *why this strategy is needed*. The 2030 Goal itself should be a measurable milestone on a longer pathway of change, a trajectory to achieving the 2050 vision of “living in harmony with nature”. It could be centered on the existing language of the CBD, but needs to be underpinned by a clear definition of what this means in practice, ideally through a well formulated metric (or set of metrics) to assess its success or failure. The Goal could be accompanied by a common and compelling message on the importance and value of biodiversity and nature for people’s well-being to ensure that other actors and sectors understand the fundamental role that nature plays.

Moving towards an innovative structure for new targets is, of course, not sufficient to solve the challenges of creating an effective framework for the next decade. Effective implementation is also needed, including accurate reporting combined with improved and transparent review mechanisms. These pieces of structure and process are interlinked, as neither will work effectively without the other, and we look forward to providing recommendations on implementation in due course. The NGOs putting this paper forward also look forward to engaging in discussions about how these details can evolve as we move toward 2020.

If scaled effectively, the framework presented above would lead to quantifiable outcomes for the state of biodiversity in the world. If implemented, this framework could put the world on the path to achieve the CBD’s ambitious 2050 Vision of a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

Contacts

This discussion paper was a collaborative effort by the following organizations.

Birdlife International: Melanie Heath, melanie.heath@birdlife.org

Conservation International: Rowan Braybrook, rbraybrook@conservation.org

Global Youth Biodiversity Network: Christian Schwarzer, christian.schwarzer@gmail.com

International Fund for Animal Welfare: Matthew Collis, mcollis@ifaw.org

Rare: Ariane Steins-Meier, asteinsmeier@rare.org

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Georgina Chandler, georgina.chandler@rspb.org.uk

The Nature Conservancy: Linda Krueger, lkrueger@tnc.org

The Pew Charitable Trusts: Masha Kalinina, mkalinina@pewtrusts.org

Wildlife Conservation Society: Alfred DeGemmis, adegemmis@wcs.org

WWF: Guido Broekhoven, gbroekhoven@wwfint.org