

CambridgeConservationInitiative

Collaborating to conserve biodiversity

Submission of views on the preparation, scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

This submission is provided on behalf of the partners of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) in response to notification [2018-063](#), on the preparation, scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The CCI is a unique collaboration between the University of Cambridge and leading internationally-focused biodiversity conservation organisations, clustered in and around Cambridge, UK. The partners are: BirdLife International; British Trust for Ornithology (BTO); Cambridge Conservation Forum; Flora & Fauna International; the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); TRAFFIC; Tropical Biology Association; UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); and the University of Cambridge. Cambridge, UK is the hub of the largest cluster of conservation organisations in the world.

The importance of the need to base development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on available evidence

In order to further consider the knowledge that might be necessary to support the development of post 2020 global biodiversity framework, an expert meeting was convened in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 10 to 12 April 2018 by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative. The expert meeting involved invited experts from **25 countries**, including **members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)** of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and **representatives of the Secretariat**. The aim of the expert meeting was to **advance understanding of the importance of the need to base development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on available evidence**. Participants considered what evidence was needed, what the primary sources of such evidence were, and whether there were ways in which the delivery and use of the evidence could be improved.

This submission draws on the discussion during the expert meeting, and on the background materials made available to participants in advance of the meeting as a basis for discussion. It has previously been provided to Parties to the Convention as an INF document for the 22nd Meeting of the SBSTTA CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/31, and second meeting of Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI2) CBD/SBI/2/INF/33. However, the CCI feels that the submission is also relevant in relation to notification 2018-063. Prior to submission to SBSTTA and SBI, these findings were made available to Parties for review. The submission provides options for consideration by Parties and partner organizations for increasing access to evidence that supports the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Please see a report of the meeting attached as an Annex.

Further science that would help inform the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Building on the CCI Framing the Future Workshop in April 2018, CCI has considered further a number of the recommendations made and the need for further analysis and consolidation of scientific evidence to inform the development and implementation of the post 2020 biodiversity framework.

The CCI partners think that further work could be helpfully advanced in the following areas, and are currently planning CCI's contribution to advancing these. This includes (but is not restricted to):

- Increasing understanding of what is needed in order to achieve the 2050 Vision, including identifying the extent to which available evidence is able to inform on the pathways and using scenarios to scope options for action necessary to support delivery of each of the component parts.
- Learning lessons from other sectors e.g. climate change that have applied nationally driven processes/targets to scale up ambition in order to support discussions on how ambition can be derived in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework from national commitments.
- Increasing understanding of the “big ideas” circulating around the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the science underpinning these, to help inform the development of the framework.
- Exploring the role that Conservation Evidence can play in terms of the effectiveness of interventions at the national level.

In addition, communicating and raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity, including through Earth Optimism events and potentially through aligning around a common communication narrative.

The importance, and limitations, of framing biodiversity conservation in economic terms in the post 2020 framework

One of the fundamental drivers of biodiversity loss is the failure of our economic system to recognise biodiversity's value to human wellbeing, which in turn inadvertently incentivises activities that are harmful to nature. Recognising biodiversity as an economic asset pushes back against the idea that conserving the natural world is an obstacle to economic growth and shines a light on the benefits that nature provides to people. Natural capital approaches can also resonate with certain policy and business audiences. In the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, economic approaches to understanding and valuing biodiversity have an important role to play and need to be underpinned by supporting policies to ensure that the values of nature are integrated into decision-making across all sectors of society.

However, whilst such approaches provide opportunities to address the economic invisibility of the natural environment, the limits to current scientific knowledge and the ability of economists to quantify nature's values must be recognised. This is a particular issue for biodiversity, which provides a variety of valuable benefits, many of which cannot be meaningfully quantified or valued in economic terms. More effort is needed to advance appropriate adoption of natural capital approaches and better reflect the values of biodiversity in decision-making.

Addressing the economic drivers of the destruction of nature is a key conservation strategy for most of the CCI partners. The CCI 5-year plan identifies natural capital and ecosystem services as one of 11 priority areas for collaborative work. The CCI Natural Capital Hub creates a unique contribution to guide the development in this field through promoting and developing appropriate use of natural capital approaches to biodiversity conservation.

Please note that some of the CCI partners will also submit individual organisational views to the notification. This submission is intended to support the organisational views submitted by CCI partners.