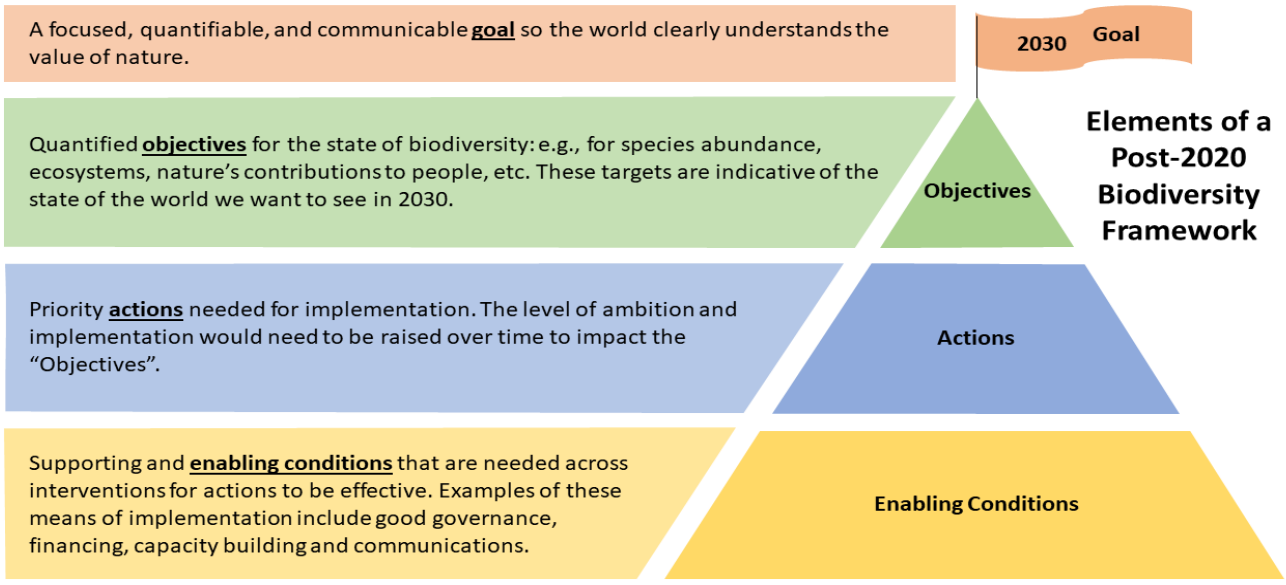
SUBMISSION ON SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

December 15, 2018

As a conservation community, we already know many of the actions we need to take to achieve the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature. If the Aichi Targets, contrary to current trends, are achieved by 2020, we would be well on the way to meeting this vision through the actions they convey. But the slow progress in achieving this harmony with nature indicates a need for the post-2020 framework to give due attention to approaches that focus on action and **implementation**.

Conservation International (CI) fully supports the joint discussion paper submitted during this process in collaboration with peer organizations. The graphic below provides a brief overview of the elements put forward in that document. This approach can comfortably incorporate the content of the current Aichi Targets but in a more focused logic structure that we hope encourages more specific, measurable, and actionable targets at all levels.



CI believes the new global biodiversity framework should be formulated to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of the natural areas that are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. A CBD that stands independent of these other processes will not be effective.

Linking to these other processes requires that we clearly articulate the multiple values of nature – for species, climate, food, water, etc. – and make the case for their contributions. This will increase the visibility of nature's fundamental role in society and economy and will enable the mobilization of a broad audience of stakeholders to act in the interest of nature. A clear and compelling message is also essential to mobilizing a broad constituency for nature, and this may take the form of a state-based "apex target" paired with a simple communications message – for example, a spatial target paired with a message like "The Nature We Need." This would allow for a **global message** that is inclusive of all actors and sectors while allowing for the identification of a more diverse set of needs on the objectives level of this "pyramid" or "mountain" approach referred to in the graphic above.

In the development of any global overarching goal (or "**apex target**"), we should ensure that the process:

1. Considers the multiple values of nature and is based on an assessment of the spatial areas needed for multiple uses,
2. Focuses on the **state of biodiversity** we want to see by 2030 as opposed to the methods by which that state should be achieved, and
3. Is based on science that tells us which specific areas or ecosystems on the planet we need to keep healthy to maintain those different values of nature. This approach will allow us to set sub-targets that cumulatively add up to the apex target.

A single apex target requires a common "currency"; for example, while the Paris Agreement could have focused on parts per million of carbon or the impacts of climate change, countries chose temperature as a single "currency," which ultimately captures all of these other concerns. We need to do the same for biodiversity when it comes to various areas of focus like species, intact landscapes, ecosystem services, etc. This target could be phrased, to give one example, as a state target: "By 2030, X% of earth that is essential for sustainable development is healthy/intact/maintained/conserved". Another possibility is to use a trends target that specifies targets by ecosystem type.

The number itself is part of the overall puzzle, though – we'll also need to answer the questions of "which nature" and "for what purpose." We recommend focusing on spatial objectives for both terrestrial and marine ecosystems, as this enables the post-2020 process to be **inclusive** of approaches that support the diversity of needs and priorities for humans and nature. We want to ensure the goal includes means for the protection of nature for a variety of needs, including for biodiversity and human well-being. These needs include climate aims (many ecosystems are irreplaceable from a climate perspective), species needs (Key Biodiversity Areas, or KBAs), and human needs (including ecosystem services).

The targets we create on all levels of the pyramid need to be **scalable**. We also recommend that guidelines be developed for these targets to ensure that when actions are scaled, they are still analogous to one another and are able to maintain a high level of quality in the implementation process. This could include guidelines such as the KBA guidelines for identifying critical areas for protection or guidelines for other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) for approaches to conserved areas.

The actions level of the pyramid referenced above would be an ideal option for including a **ratchet mechanism** for post-2020, similar to the Paris Agreement, where ambition can be raised

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over the period of implementation. 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. The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are admittedly more complex and nationally-specific than the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which include a similar ratchet mechanism, and many NBSAPs are already quite ambitious. Therefore a high level summary of NBSAP priorities in each country with a focus on implementation may be a good route, and this abbreviated version of the NBSAP would enable a method for the level of implementation to be increased over time.

Protected areas are an effective method for reaching aims for 2030, but should not be an aim by themselves as they are one tool among many and not an outcome or objective. We need to support and effectively manage other conserved areas as well, including indigenous lands. We also need to ensure that the existing gains from the implementation of Aichi Target 11 are not lost, either through poor management or through protected area downgrading, downsizing, and degazettement (PADDD). Effectiveness measures for protected and conserved areas, including biodiversity outcomes as indicators of ecosystem health, would enable us to focus on the quality of the outcome, while maintaining the quantity of spatial areas as a proxy for the space humanity and nature needs to survive. We also recognize that sustainable use of areas outside of protected or conserved areas is still needed.

Additionally, as we have already moved past the point of optimal health in many natural systems, **restoration** of ecosystems will be a key consideration in post-2020 to improve the health of degraded lands, though we emphasize that the maintenance of currently-standing ecosystems should be the first priority for most governments.

Having targets that are based on the best available science is crucial. Targets need to be based on **scientific evidence** about how much nature is needed to achieve effective biodiversity conservation and improve human well-being. CI would like to stress that there is already a good deal of useful, actionable science available, and waiting for perfect science should not be a barrier to action and implementation. There is enough science available right now to inform targets, including enough to build a specific apex target. Some of these resources include:

- Wood et al. 2018, on the links between the SDGs and nature/ecosystem services.
- Global modeling of natural ecosystem role in supporting human well-being (such as the Natural Capital Project's IPBES work).
- Models of ecosystem services that support the SDGs globally like those created by the Luc Hoffmann Institute and partners.
- The Mapping Ocean Wealth project, which maps several marine ecosystem services globally.
- Griscom et al. 2017, which demonstrates the role of nature in global climate mitigation.
- Artificial Intelligence for Ecosystem Services (ARIES), which has developed globally applicable tier 1 models of several additional ecosystem services (crop pollination, flood regulation, etc).
- Many past and ongoing efforts to identify the most critical areas for biodiversity conservation, relevant for SDGs 14 and 15 (IPBES, SPARCC, biodiversity hotspots, global 200 ecoregions, Key Biodiversity Areas and Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, etc).
- Trends.Earth, which tracks land change and is linked to SDG 15.3,

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- PADDDtracker, which tracks the legal downgrading, downsizing, and degazettement of protected areas worldwide.
- National- and regional-scale mapping of natural capital in the Volta basin, Amazonia, Myanmar, the Bahamas, China, Liberia, Madagascar, Cambodia, and many other regions.

Focusing on the science that is immediately available also facilitates developing **indicators** alongside targets, building on the work carried out by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

Resource mobilization at the global, regional, and national levels is critical to ensure this process moves forward effectively. This has traditionally focused on aid flows between countries, which is a critical piece of the process, but is only a small part of the overall resources needed to transform our world. We should ensure full engagement with other critical aspects of resource mobilization, including reviewing and addressing subsidies that impact nature, engagement with the private sector, and innovative sources of finance like Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES).

Focusing on multiple approaches to resource mobilization improves financial sustainability and also helps to convey the concept of **responsibility**, namely, that governments alone are not responsible for sustaining nature; rather, the nature they steward matters to all of us and needs common support to meet ambitious targets (particularly governments with high biodiversity responsibility but lower capacity).

We look forward to continuing to engage in this process to achieve a simple, inclusive, and actionable strategic plan for post-2020.

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