

THE CENTER FOR  
**LARGE LANDSCAPE  
CONSERVATION**

Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
World Trade Centre  
413 St. Jacques Street, Suite 800  
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14 December 2018

**Re: Invitation for views on the preparation, scope and content of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**

**Submission by: The Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC)**

Connectivity Conservation in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Current conservation science is clear that Protected Areas cannot thrive if they are isolated islands, especially as the impacts of climate change increase. Connectivity is widely recognized as a key component of nature conservation and a requirement for effective terrestrial and marine protected area systems and networks. In this context, connectivity refers to processes by which genes, species, populations, nutrients, and processes move among distinct habitats or ecosystems.

For both terrestrial and marine environments, connectivity conservation is becoming a central theme in conservation biology, management, and policy, and is gaining increased attention for its potential to arrest biodiversity loss and increase resilience to climate change. Connectivity Conservation will enhance the long-term integrity of formal Protected Areas that are increasingly under threat from unmanaged development and increasing global change resulting in isolated islands of habitat.

Connectivity science recognizes that habitats and species function best as part of large, interconnected networks that are maintained and protected. Recent reports indicate that although globally 14.7% of all land is in protected areas, only 7.5% of this land is connected with other protected areas.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, while almost 71% of the Earth's surface is covered by vast interconnected oceans, only about 7% of it is under some kind of protection.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, the Center for Large Landscape Conservation calls for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to include a milestone that by 2030 at least 30% of Earth be covered by well-connected systems of protected areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and managed, where appropriate, as ecological networks. This is an important next step to reinforce global commitments and investments in place-based and species-specific conservation.

Gary Tabor, President

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320717312284?via%3Dihub>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.protectedplanet.net/marine>