

Views on the Scope, Content and Structure of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework Input from NatureServe

As requested in CBD Notification 2018-063 (Notification SCBD/OES/DC/RH/KNM/87538), NatureServe offers the following views regarding the scope, content and structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with specific focus on the use of indicators for tracking targets on a forward-looking, continual basis. We thank the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the opportunity to provide input.

Context:

- **Continual tracking of the new Post-2020 Targets** will provide critical, consistent and ongoing feedback to ensure that Parties to the Convention are able to be proactive, anticipating and identifying issues in progress and implementing directional change, as needed, to ensure forward progress on the targets.
- Based on lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 to 2020, there is likely to be substantial agreement among parties and other CBD stakeholders that the **Post-2020 Targets should have, at the outset, a suite of fit-for-purpose indicators.**
- According to the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership INF doc CBD/COP/14/INF/40 the **indicators should be SMART, actionable, scalable** (e.g. able to be used at national and even sub-national scales and easily aggregated to global scales). They should also be **able to be backcast and forecast through modeling**, to allow for improved understanding of alternative future scenarios. Ideally, **the suite of indicators should be integrated** to facilitate better understanding of the relationships between drivers, status, trends and policy response.
- Several decisions made by the Parties at COP14 support the **need for improved indicators and improved access to them.** Parties encouraged the development of data sets that can be disaggregated at different geographic scales and to share this information effectively (CBD/COP/14/L.2). They called for guidance on data sources to support analyses of progress used in national reports (CBD/COP/14/L.7) and urged organizations to make relevant trend and projection data openly available (CBD/COP/14/L.17). Finally, the Parties urged coordination with IPBES to serve the assessment needs for the post-2020 framework as well as the biodiversity and ecosystem services components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (CBD/COP/14/L.22). They emphasized the continued need for work on scenarios and models to assess pathways towards a sustainable future (CBD/COP/14/L.22).
- Depending on the outcome of discussions during the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, there **may also be a need for verification mechanisms which allow for calculation of voluntary national contributions and commitments** to determine their net impact on influencing progress on the targets. Such verification would also promote strengthened ambitions for national contributions.

Recommendations:

Considering the above points, we invite Parties to the CBD to consider the development of an online indicator visualization tool ('Post-2020 Target Tracking Tool') that will allow Parties to continually explore and vet the proposed Targets as the framework develops to ensure the final negotiated suite of targets are measurable, actionable, and scalable over space and time. **Creation of a post-2020 Target Tracker will ensure that *measurable and meaningful indicators will be available at the outset to track progress toward achievement of the Post-2020 targets.*** Development of the post-2020 Target Tracker would be a collaborative effort between UN Environment's World Conservation Monitoring Centre and NatureServe.

The Post-2020 Target Tracker will ensure there is **an online platform, directly tailored to the new targets, that allows for continual tracking of the targets** through the provision of regularly updated indicators upon the adoption of the new Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. The tracker could provide, at a glance, **the latest state of play for the indicators** chosen to track the post 2020 targets by drawing in **indicator updates as soon as they occur**. Some indicators get refreshed very regularly – e.g. WDPA is now updated monthly while other indicators may be updated less frequently.

We also propose that **this tracker could be available shortly before/at COP15 to illustrate the process for tracking voluntary national contributions** through the medium of selected indicators, and to **illustrate the current status of progress at the outset of the post 2020 framework** in relation to the scale of ambition for the new targets.

The target tracker could show the agreed targets and their associated date stamped indicators updates at national and global levels **using the kind of visualisation approaches now online through the Biodiversity Indicators Dashboard**, using both historic trend data and, where available, any forward extrapolations or modelled data to show the timeframe between 2020 and 2030 (the life of the new Strategy). Such a system could also integrate the scenario models being developed for IPBES to allow Parties and others the ability to **explore and visualize alternative futures and pathways towards the targets and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity** (therefore supporting Decision CBD/COP/14/L.22).