

To The CBD secretariat

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Rainforest Foundation Norway's input on scope and content of the post- 2020 global biodiversity framework

Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN) welcomes the opportunity to submit input to the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020 reflects the urgency to halt the loss of biodiversity based on scientific knowledge. The fact that we are not on track is not an argument for scaling down these ambitions. It is a reason to increase the effort.

There is a need for increased efforts across all levels, from companies and individuals to finance ministries. The post 2020-framework must reiterate the international ambitions on biodiversity reflected in the Achi Targets, and provide new tools to stimulate actions that are more efficient.

A post-2020 framework should be based on knowledge of the benefits from biodiversity and intact ecosystems for food systems, water-, climate- and ecosystem services, and the urgent need to protect these ecosystems as the basis for human development. Human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples and ecosystem integrity should be overarching principles in the new framework.

OVERALL GOALS

RFN agrees with the many submissions that argue that the post-2020 framework and targets should build on the current Aichi Targets (CBD/COP/14/INF/16). To emphasise and communicate what is at stake with the loss of biodiversity, a few, broad but concrete, goals should define impact to be achieved by 2030. These overarching goals should commit countries to;

Protect and restore ecosystems:

Uphold and restore nature's fundamental ecosystem functions for food production, water-, climate and other ecosystem services by safeguarding intact natural ecosystems and their biodiversity. Restore degraded ecosystems.

Reform economic and sectorial policies:

Integrate measures for safeguarding intact ecosystems and ecosystem restoration into national development strategies and development policy in all countries. Special attention should be given to agriculture and extractive industries. High income and high consumption countries must implement measures to make sure their public foreign policy and private sector entities supports the global goals of CBD, and do not contribute to loss of biodiversity.

Enhance human rights, IPLCs role and participation:

Safeguard human rights, recognize the importance of participation in decision-making and the key role



of IPLCs in achieving global biodiversity goals. Human rights, IPs rights, the principle of FPIC and respect for collective managed territories by IPLC should be integrated in all relevant work programs in the post 2020 framework.

SCOPE

A new post-2020 agreement must reiterate the mutual dependency between countries and the need for international joint obligations to halt the loss of biological diversity, as formulated in the Conventions threefold objective. National efforts, or “voluntary pledges” modelled after the Paris Agreement, should be additions – not replacements– to existing international obligations and commitments in national commitments.

Further analysis is required to identify success factors and weaknesses of the current strategic plan, built on available knowledge. For instance, we know that one hindrance for implementation of biodiversity targets is the lack of mainstreaming across government ministries and departments. New analyses should therefor focus on how this hindrance can be overcome. Based on this analysis, implementation of the targets can be improved, supported by milestones and stronger review- and compliance mechanisms. As far as possible, one should use indicators and monitoring tools developed under the current strategic plan, to limit the resources put into new plans and bureaucratic planning processes in a post 2020-framework.

Four areas which needs urgent action to make a post 2020-framework efficient:

- ✓ Strengthen communication about the economic consequences of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity destruction. Make visible the dramatic risks and costs associated with the current degradation and extinction trends, and expose the economic losses for nations and enterprises.
- ✓ Increase emphasis on the IPLCs as stewards of biodiversity and ecosystems, and recognize the link between nature and culture.
- ✓ Halt the drivers of biodiversity loss. Public and private enterprises involved in sectors affecting biodiversity and ecosystem integrity should commit to the global biodiversity goals, and be held accountable for their operations.
- ✓ Pick the low-hanging fruits of cooperation. There are important synergies to be achieved from better cooperation between the work under UNCCC and the Paris agreement, the SDGs and the CBD. Important analytic work has already been conducted on areas of overlap between these processes, and in the interest of using resources efficiently, parties should commit to map out the common ground for targets under the various processes on national level as well as internationally.

SOME FURTHER INPUT ON CONTENT

1. Protect large intact forest and primary forest

Tropical rainforests are cornerstone ecosystems for both biodiversity and climate. Earth's remaining large, intact forests and primary forests are unique natural life-support systems, critical to sustain forest dependent communities, Indigenous Peoples and their cultures, biological diversity and vital ecosystem services such as climate stabilization and clean water. In this way intact forest ecosystems are critical not only for conservation of biodiversity, but also for future food production and



achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris-agreement. Retaining and, where possible, restoring the integrity of dwindling intact forest ecosystems should be an urgent priority for global efforts to not only halt the biodiversity crisis, but to adapt to the impacts of climate change and achieve Agenda 2030.

RFN therefore recommend that the post-2020 framework include targets that prioritize the need to secure sufficiently large areas of the remaining intact forests, and that primary forests are protected from exploitation while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples. Countries should develop land-use plans that protect the remaining primary and intact forests, and not allocate such forests to industrial scale logging.

A new target for conservation, built on Aichi target 11, should prioritize conservation activities that provide long-term protection of primary forest and intact forest. Among the most important measures to achieve this is to remove all financial or economic incentives for activities that degrade primary forests or intact forests. The huge potential in linking protected areas and ICCAs should be utilized to achieve the twin objective of securing indigenous rights and securing ecosystem integrity.

2. Participation and human rights

RFN supports the many calls for a post-2020 agreement that is open, transparent and inclusive to civil society.

While the relationship between human rights and biodiversity is increasingly recognized, the escalating harassment and murder of environmental defenders is alarming. RFN applauds the Secretariat's commitment to work on a policy for promoting greater protection for environmental defenders, and a post-2020 agreement must explicitly recognize the rights of civil society actors to a work free from harassments, threats and violence. Protection of biodiversity is often linked to questions about land use and tenure rights, and efforts to secure rights and to solve conflicts through peaceful means with multi stakeholder practices is necessary.

3. Indigenous peoples

Indigenous peoples manage or have tenure rights over as much as a quarter of the world's surface, and their collectively managed territories overlaps with a large proportion of protected areas and ecologically intact landscapes. Achieving the global goals of halting biodiversity loss requires meaningful cooperation with indigenous peoples.

The new agreement must recognize and promote the key role indigenous peoples play in domestic biodiversity policy. Securing greater control over forest lands by indigenous and other rural communities is an undervalued and underfinanced topic in forest protection efforts. The new framework should have targets that prioritize securing land rights for indigenous and other forest-dependent communities, and support plans for the sustainable management of these areas. Free, prior, informed consent should be ensured before any actions are taken on their land.

4. Address cross-cutting issues of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development



A coordinated approach is necessary to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and land and ecosystems degradation, requiring coherence and cooperation between the CBD, the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

The UN Climate Panel estimates that around 20-30 percent of world plant and animal species are at risk of extinction by global warming of 2-3 °C compared to pre-industrial times. Feedback loops between biodiversity and climate change flow both ways— the more ecosystems are degraded, the more carbon is released into the atmosphere, and the harder it will be to mitigate climate change.

The post-2020 global framework must promote cross-convention coordination to jointly address issues related to climate change in line with CBD COP14 closing statement and COP decision CBD/COP/14/L.23. Similarly, the CBD Secretariat has noted how biodiversity affects each of the 17 SDGs and directly contributes to human well-being and development, and where there are overlapping goals and indicators, aligned reporting should be used to demonstrate how biodiversity measures contribute towards achievement of the SDGs.

5. Address the drivers of deforestation: economic incentives and business' responsibility

The current strategic plan has not led to the necessary changes with regard to mainstreaming biodiversity into production, consumption and economic policy. A post-2020 framework for biodiversity must increase the emphasis on how today's driving forces behind biodiversity loss can be halted.

Priority must be put into changing economic incentives, to remove subsidies and other incentives that increase pressure on biodiversity and intact ecosystems. In addition to protected areas and regulations of economic activities, taxation and subsidy policies must be aligned with the goals of protecting ecosystems and biodiversity. Assessments of the effect of economic incentives on protection of biodiversity must be an important part of national reporting in a post-2020 framework

Recent years have seen positive changes and commitment from companies to reduce deforestation of tropical forests as well as other ecosystems. Governments and sub-national jurisdictions should support companies that implement biodiversity protection policies in their supply chains, through public procurement regulations, import regulations and taxation policy.

High income and high consumption countries have a responsibility to avoid negative impacts on biodiversity in other countries resulting from their high consumption, as well as a responsibility to increase their support for biodiversity protection in developing countries.

In 2019 and 2020 the dramatic consequences of biodiversity loss, and the huge gains to be realized by coordinated efforts to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change, should be on the agenda in all discussions on economy and development worldwide. Parties, the CBD secretariat, responsible business enterprises, as well as civil society organisations, should use every opportunity to push the biodiversity agenda into the economic agenda in order to realise a post 2020 biodiversity framework that can deliver necessary change.

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