



Response of the UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (including the United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre) to Notification 2018-063 from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity inviting views on the preparation, scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Comments on the proposed preparatory process are to be provided to the Secretariat of the Convention by 15 August 2018, while initial views on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (including the resource mobilization component) should be provided by 15 December 2018. The current response concerns the proposed preparatory process. Both UN Environment and UNEP-WCMC have previously submitted comments on the preparatory process and timetable in response to Notification 2017-052. They commented on draft proposals for a comprehensive and participatory process in response to Notification 2017-124. All relevant documents, including earlier comments are available on the webpage set-up by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.¹

It is recommended that the following issues need further consideration by the Conference of the Parties in November 2018 when discussing and deciding on the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These issues have been organized in response to the three areas explicitly identified in Notification 2018-063. A number relate directly to the process already presented to Parties in working document CBD/SBI/2/17.

A: Options for strengthening implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

1. *Ensure that the process undertaken to develop a post-2020 global biodiversity framework includes the concurrent development of indicators, the long-term strategy for capacity-building, and discussions on means of implementation including resource mobilization and communication.* Insofar as this is possible such a framework should encompass all aspects of monitoring, reporting and verification, as well as future knowledge needs for its implementation.
2. *Decide on a process to identify indicators for the elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the same time as the framework is being developed.* As is indicated in SBI recommendation 2/19, this should build on existing indicators, including those listed in decision XIII/28, and those under the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and the indicators for targets under the Sustainable Development Goals. It is important that those organizations involved in developing and delivering indicators for the framework can prepare appropriately and have opportunities to provide advice to Parties, CBD Secretariat consultation documents, and consultation meetings. The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership can assist in bringing together previous experience of developing and using global and national indicators and advise on establishment of the necessary framework and capacity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The work on the post-2020 indicators should include the establishment of baseline values for existing indicators at 2020, and the identification of gaps.
3. *Clearly identify actions that will be undertaken to ensure that options and approaches for resource mobilization are identified at the same time as the other parts of the framework are developed* (SBI recommendation 2/6). Resource mobilization is a topic that will be on the agenda at COP15, and Parties will expect clear advice on resource mobilization linked to delivery of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Work plans should be developed which demonstrate how this will be achieved, including identifying the inputs that will be required.
4. *Continue to ensure close alignment with the process for developing the capacity-building strategic framework* (SBI recommendation 2/8). This has already been identified by Parties as a key issue through

¹ See www.cbd.int/post2020

COP decision 13/23 (paragraph 15m). It is good to see the progress that has been made to date in aligning discussion on these two closely related issues.

5. ***Design a process to review implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the same time as it is developed, in order to strengthen future monitoring, reporting and verification.*** This would include building on existing national reporting processes, and on the already piloted voluntary peer-review. Such a review process could be expanded to also focus on potential national contributions that address global targets, drawing *inter alia* on national indicators, and could potentially also include feedback to the Conference of the Parties through mechanisms such as formal sessions at each meeting.
6. ***Clarify processes and timetables for fully engaging with other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, and biodiversity aspects of other agreements so as to facilitate their full engagement with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and use it as a basis for fostering collaboration and cooperation in implementation of the conventions and enhancing synergies.*** This builds on what has already been tentatively agreed in discussions to date on the post-2020 process and aims to enhance delivery of internationally agreed biodiversity-related goals. The respective decisions, work programmes and policies of the different conventions need to be made mutually supportive and scaled up, including by working closely with implementing partners. Important milestones are the upcoming conferences of the Parties of other conventions,² as these meetings are opportunities to broaden support for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, build up momentum, and for the respective governing bodies to take decisions in support of the framework.
7. ***Consider how to take full and effective account of the findings international assessment processes, including the various IPBES assessments, the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, and the 6th edition of the Global Environment Outlook, when developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*** There are two aspects to this, firstly taking account of the findings themselves in the design of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and secondly considering the further evidence needed to support implementation and designing a research component as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
8. ***Strengthen the future role of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in implementing the Convention and addressing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*** The effectiveness of processes for developing and implementing NBSAPs or equivalent national strategies and plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity varies widely. Building on lessons learned from previous NBSAP processes³ will help Parties to identify ways to improve future NSBAPs and the ways in which they play an essential role in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions in the context of national circumstances. The future of NBSAPs should be directly linked to the discussions on voluntary commitments (see section C), and efforts made to avoid duplication or redundancy with existing NBSAP processes. It would also be valuable to review the effectiveness of NBSAPs in mainstreaming biodiversity as part of development, to strengthen their effectiveness in implementation of not only the biodiversity-related conventions, but also supporting the UNFCCC, UNCCD, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. ***Ensure that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is based on the best available evidence, including through making provision for sound analytical work to support its preparation*** (SBSTTA recommendation XXI/1). SBI Information document CBD/SBI/2/INF/33, recognised in SBI recommendation 2/19, identifies a wide range of evidence valuable for supporting development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It also identifies a number of gaps where further work would be of value. This document and its recommendations, and the background material used in its preparation,⁴

² For example, Conferences of the Parties of the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention Migratory Species, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the UN Framework Convention on Migratory Species are all due over the next two years

³ Please see the following assessments launched at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation: Law and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25655/LawBiodiversity_Strategies.pdf) and Assessment of post -2010 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25656/post2010_NBSAP_Assessment.pdf).

⁴ See <http://wcmc.io/5641>

should be considered further as the process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is discussed and implemented in order to facilitate the identification and use of evidence.

10. **Analyse the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in order to identify success factors and weaknesses, and to identify thematic and other gaps.** Such an analysis, which would need to be done as soon as possible, would also reflect *inter alia* on the IPBES Conceptual Framework,⁵ the Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment⁶ and other goals and target systems, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

B: Means for fostering commitments and building political momentum

11. **Develop a rationale (including potentially long-term goals and milestones) for each part of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity so as to increase understanding and recognition of what we are trying to achieve by 2050.** This will help in fostering increased engagement of all stakeholders and facilitate recognition of milestones for achievement by 2030 and 2040, and it could be the basis for encouraging national commitments (see below). Coupling this with further exploration of pathways to 2050 and the use of scenarios and models to explore those pathways will facilitate development of a mission that can be delivered over the next ten years.
12. **Focus on mainstreaming as a key approach for both engagement with other sectors and for delivering transformational change,** building on actions that have already been undertaken by the Convention working with governmental and non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and public and private sectors. This will include linking discussion on transformative change to discussion on mainstreaming and finding ways to embed mainstreaming throughout the processes under the Convention, including its various work thematic and cross-cutting programmes. A separate discussion may also be also required on how to continue to work and build on the adopted work programmes under the Convention.
13. **Draw on scenarios, modelling and analysis to more effectively communicate that increased ambition is both necessary to stay on pathways towards the 2050 Vision, and achievable.** In part this builds on recognition of the value of models and scenarios in SBSTTA recommendation XXI/1. However, using modelling and analysis to test the likely impacts of different scenarios for post-2020 will help to convince on the necessity and achievability of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This would include, for example, analysis of the implications of different ambitions for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
14. **Explore opportunities for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be designed and adopted as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,** recognising that this is the dominant framework at global and national levels for development actions and funding. The adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will coincide with the need to extend the thirteen SDG targets developed from the Aichi Biodiversity Targets which expire in 2020. This is an excellent opportunity for both strengthening the biodiversity-related targets in the 2030 Agenda, and for strengthening the implementation of the CBD as a mainstreamed part of policy and plans for sustainable development. Preparation for this would include raising the awareness of all stakeholders of the existence of the biodiversity-related targets across the SDGs, how they relate to the subjects of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and consideration of revisions and thematic gaps in the SDG targets.
15. **Identify ways to improve and communicate understanding of HOW to integrate the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with other intergovernmental agendas,** including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ and the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement on Climate Change,⁸ Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction,⁹ UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030,¹⁰ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,¹¹ 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,¹² and SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa) Pathway.¹³ This will

⁵ See www.ipbes.net/conceptual-framework

⁶ See <http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=A/HRC/37/59&Lang=E>

⁷ See www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

⁸ See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

⁹ See www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

¹⁰ See <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/184/62/PDF/N1718462.pdf?OpenElement>

¹¹ See www.saicm.org

¹² See www.unenvironment.org/10yfp-10-year-framework-programmes-sustainable-consumption-and-production-patterns

¹³ See www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1537

include interaction at meetings and engaging with the work done under these other processes in order to identify areas of mutual interest from a biodiversity perspective. This also relates to the earlier reference to making full and effective use of assessments, some of which come from other sectors/interests including the various IPBES assessments, and the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

16. ***Identify ways for more fully engaging with the UN system while developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular with regard to outreach to other sectors, and facilitating engagement with those sectors.*** This will include traditional partners such as UN Environment, the UN Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, but should also extend to other thematic clusters such as the chemicals and waste cluster as well as the regional seas agreements. It will also include other members of the UN Environment Management Group (EMG)¹⁴ who have already demonstrated willingness to identify how the biodiversity agenda is relevant to other sectors through recent discussions on mainstreaming in the context of the human security framework.¹⁵ The UN system should also be engaged in technical cooperation, for example through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the UN Biodiversity Lab (a new interactive platform for geospatial data), online reporting and other knowledge management tools, and the various assessment processes.
17. ***Make effective use of relevant intergovernmental and other key meetings that could increase the engagement of other sectors.*** This would include, for example the UN Climate Summit scheduled for September 2019 where considerations should include opportunities relating to nature-based solutions, and synergies between the biodiversity and climate agendas. The fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) will be addressing innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production, which provides opportunities for increasing understanding of the relationship between different agendas. UNEA-4 provides also an opportunity to build up momentum for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The meetings of the World Economic Forum and global meetings related to, for example health, agriculture and extractive industries, should also be used to raise awareness and engage stakeholders in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
18. ***Develop mechanisms through which the private sector can fully engage, and can input evidence of their approaches, experiences and good practices.*** While the process discussed to date (for example in working document CBD/SBI/2/17) makes clear reference to the engagement of the private sector, this is essentially passive, and assumes their involvement in consultations. A more proactive approach to engaging the private sector will lead to their greater engagement, and a broader involvement in both developing and delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
19. ***Learn lessons from other processes that have succeeded in achieving ambitious goals leading to transformational change, or which have managed to get on the pathway for achieving change.*** This would include developing an understanding of why and how some major ambitions have been achieved in other fields (such as global eradication of polio), and where societies or important actors have changed. To what extent have bottom up approaches been successful, and/or to what extent is effective communication a major factor in leading to change. What were the factors triggering such changes? Such an input might support both development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and any associated communication strategy. Identification of other examples of systematic and transformational changes would provide a basis for further exploring needs and opportunities change, and what is needed to bring it about.
20. ***Develop and deliver a communications strategy as soon as possible for significantly raising the profile of biodiversity and its contributions to other sectors (and vice versa).*** A communication and outreach strategy for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be important (SBI recommendation 2/19), however perhaps even more important will be communications and outreach in the lead up to the 2020 COP-15 so as to substantially increase engagement and understanding with respect to the importance of biodiversity to delivery in other sectors.

C: Exploring the need for, and modalities of, voluntary commitments

21. ***Identify other programmes and processes that have used calls for voluntary commitments as a means for achieving ambitious goals, analyse the extent of their success, and identify lessons that have been learnt that might be applicable to a similar approach under the Convention.*** This will help in defining the extent

¹⁴ See <https://unemg.org/>

¹⁵ See <https://unemg.org/images/emgdocs/Dialogues/ND5/UNEMG> - Biodiversity and Human Security Dialogue_Final 1.pdf

to which such an approach might be useful in the context of addressing achievement of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and in identifying what means might be successful and why. Such an analysis would need to be completed in advance of COP-14 to inform negotiations.

22. ***Develop and agree a process and timetable for putting in place a call for voluntary commitments by all key players, should the evidence suggest that such a process could be effective.*** This would include defining the shape or template for national commitments, and what their focus and scope might be (for example through drawing on the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, or making use of the existing Aichi Target Framework, or the SDG framework). For Parties, the process would also define how such commitments might relate to and build on commitments they have already made through their existing NBSAPs, and the options to consider a longer-term process that adopts a ratcheting approach over a cycle that aligns with the opportunities for the Conference of the Parties to review progress towards the 2030 mission and 2015 Vision.
23. ***In the context of voluntary contributions, explore opportunities for developing and agreeing a process by which the private sector can make and contribute their voluntary commitments.*** This could be integrated with a broad call for voluntary commitments including Parties, or it could be part of a separate process focused on further encouraging the engagement of the private sector in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.