



SBI 2/19

## PROPOSALS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Global Policy and Advocacy, 14 August 2018

### Introduction

WWF is convinced that levels of ambition and commitment need to increase in order to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. WWF welcomes the *CBD/SBI/Rec/2/19 - Proposals for a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*. A multi-actor, inclusive, transparent, and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is essential for delivering on an ambitious agenda and for effective mainstreaming biodiversity values into the sustainable development agenda. Such a process is not only needed to mobilise the interest and support of actors from various sectors. It is also essential for arriving at higher levels of ambition and it guarantees full access to information, thereby promoting effective participation.

WWF strongly supports the call for biodiversity champions and ambassadors from a wide range of sectors, organisations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women, youth and scientists. These champions and ambassadors can work with Parties to convey a sense of urgency and increase awareness and ambition across sectors and society, and mobilize collective actions in wider communities to value, protect, conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity.

WWF calls upon the CBD to consider the recommendations below for the process of preparing of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### 1. Process

#### 1.1. Complaints mechanism

The process principles outlined in section V.a are essential for a successful process and for creating trust and ownership amongst the stakeholders. In this context, it is important to make sure that:

- Stakeholders and Parties have a clear understanding of how these principles will be applied; and
- These principles will be adhered to throughout the process.

From a stakeholder involvement perspective, this is particularly relevant for principles (a) participatory, (b) inclusive and (g) transparent.

We therefore recommend inclusion of the following text:

***CBD/SBI/2/17 V.B Oversight and transparency***

ADD paragraph 31 bis:

*The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties will develop and implement strong and clear safeguards, including adequate and timely information sharing to all, to ensure that the principles of participation, inclusiveness and transparency are appropriately applied, so that constructive and respectful information sharing and communication will be maintained throughout the process.*

ADD paragraph 31 ter:

*A permanent complaints mechanism will be established within the CBD secretariat for stakeholders that are of the opinion that the principles of participation have not been adhered to during or after the preparation process.*

## 1.2. High-Level Panel

WWF welcomes the recommendation to explore streamlined options to provide advice and high-level political guidance, such as informal advisory groups and/or a High-Level Panel (CBD/SBI/rec/2/19, rec. 8.a). WWF believes that a High-Level Panel, actively engaging with civil society and other stakeholders, will be the best option to fulfil these roles.

We therefore recommend inclusion of the following text:

***CBD/SBI/2/17 V.B Oversight and transparency***

ADD paragraph 31 quart:

*The Executive Secretary will, in collaboration with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, prepare a proposal for the establishment of a High-Level Panel for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting. The purpose of the Panel will be (1) to advise the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties about the application of the principles for the preparatory process (outlined in section V.A of SBI/2/17) and (2) to increase the visibility and political momentum of the process. The Panel should be gender, culturally and regionally balanced and comprise Heads of States and eminent persons from business, civil society, IPLCs, women, faith based groups and groups representing science and other relevant knowledge systems.*

## 2. Building Political Momentum and increase visibility by 2020

WWF strongly supports the draft recommendation to invite the UN General Assembly to convene a summit at the level of Heads of State/Heads of Government in 2020 to raise the political visibility of biodiversity and its essential foundation to the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 2.1. Inspiring, strong and clear mission

The mission for the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has its end date in 2020. Key challenges in achieving this mission and the related Aichi targets have been weak political will, insufficient public awareness and support for biodiversity conservation and restoration.

WWF strongly agrees with SBI/REC/2/19 A.9.2 that the post-2020 framework should include an inspirational and motivating 2030 mission as a means to build both public and political momentum towards the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

We recommend that the new mission for 2030 should be strong and clear. It should also unequivocally link nature and people by stressing the essential role that biodiversity plays in ensuring human survival, health and well-being for present and future generations. The loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity threatens a broad spectrum of rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water, culture and non-discrimination.

The mission should describe the outcome we want to see in 2030 while the rest of the framework, including the goals and targets, describe how, starting in 2021, this outcome should be achieved. This includes, for example, by actively preventing any extinction and stopping the global destruction of ecosystems.

Therefore, WWF recommends that the process to agree on a mission for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be included in SBI/2/17 and provides the following suggestion to kick-start the conversations:

***“Reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030 and put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet.”***

## 2.2. Harness the power of a movement of non-Party actors for biodiversity

The vision of people living in harmony with nature can only be achieved through action by everybody, Parties and non-Party actors alike. Collective action by all stakeholders, including businesses, cities and local authorities, faith leaders, women, youth, civil society and IPLC and the general public will deliver three outcomes:

- Firstly, it will send a clear signal to political leaders that the world is ready for an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This is likely to result in greater political momentum as decision makers realise there is broad support for an ambitious framework.
- Secondly, it will improve the co-ownership of the process and strengthen the delivery of the post-2020 framework. Only a concerted effort by all actors can deliver the scale of action required for transformational change.
- Thirdly, it will create an opportunity for Parties and stakeholders to share best practice and engage in a dialogue about opportunities and barriers to addressing biodiversity loss.

Key to establishing a motivated and committed movement of non-Party actors in support of the post-2020 framework is to provide them with an official mandate and (where required) support from Parties that gives them a platform to bring forward their own commitments. Lessons could be learnt from the UNFCCC process where, at UNFCCC COP20 in Lima, Peru, a high level ‘Action Agenda’ summit brought Parties and non-Party actors together to showcase their contributions, discuss solutions and challenges and drive the political agenda. Based on the success of this event, Parties decided to convene the summit annually. This went alongside a technical examination process that connected Parties and non-Party actors to jointly identify opportunities for enhanced action. These activities were reflected in a COP20 decision and resulted in solidifying the role of non-Party actors in the Paris Agreement. (See Annex 1 for COP20, COP21 and Paris Agreement text)

WWF does not propose to copy these efforts but believes that the CBD can draw lessons from them, including the fact that in order to unlock the power of non-Party actors, they need a mandate and dedicated space to contribute to the COP. Such engagement should be supported

and facilitated by the Secretariat and the Parties. WWF recommends that this mandate and space should be created at COP14 to allow enough time for non-Party actors to organise themselves in a participatory way and provide their commitments ahead of COP15. The planned approach with specific for a such as business and biodiversity forum and other fora at COP14 coupled with a COP decision on the role and involvement of non-Party actors, including municipalities, civil society and businesses, would be a good starting point for improving such engagement.

WWF recommends the inclusion of language on the role and contributions from non-party members in paragraph 32 along those lines:

*Invites the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties to convene a high-level event on enhancing action to combat the loss of biodiversity at the fifteenth conference of the Parties to create an opportunity for non-Party actors to demonstrate relevant leadership initiatives and offer Parties and Observers input on barriers and opportunities for enhanced action.*

### 2.3. Modalities of voluntary national commitments

The main objective of voluntary national commitments should be to galvanise political momentum, to incentivise a 'race to the top' and to provide countries with an opportunity to show leadership in addressing biodiversity loss. The voluntary character of the commitments will give Parties greater ownership of the process, which can further add to the political momentum. The commitments are likely to be tailored to national capacities and realities, thereby enhancing the chances of their achievement.

WWF recommends the following guidelines for voluntary national commitments:

- Parties should run a process inclusive of all stakeholders to define their voluntary national commitments.
- The commitments are commensurate with the ambition of reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2030.
- The commitments will later be integrated into National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs), or at least included in national reporting processes.
- Non-party actors, including the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, are encouraged to report their commitments either as part of voluntary national commitments, and associated national reporting processes, or as additional voluntary commitments.

## 3. Strengthening Implementation of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

### 3.1. Upgrade NBSAPs and national reporting to provide a global overview

An important step to strengthen implementation will be to upgrade the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as well as the existing national reporting mechanisms so that their accuracy can be improved and they can be aggregated to provide a global picture and then be used for stock-taking and tracking of ambition and progress at global level, as well as assessing any gap or shortfall in collective action, including capacity gaps at national level.

The graphic below outlines WWF's recommendations for how the current system could be adjusted to enable this gap analysis: The new global targets, set in 2020 at a high level of ambition, should inform the NBSAPs and it should be expected that they might be slightly

adjusted to reflect the new global targets as well as any voluntary national commitments that might have been made in the run up to 2020. National reporting should aim to show how the NBSAPs are delivering against the global targets.

If national reporting templates are amended in a way that allows them to aggregate assessments, on the basis of which a global overview of the current status of ambition and actions could be created. This global overview would in turn enable assessments of progress towards the global targets and any gaps that need to be addressed.

These amendments would improve accountability and reporting, and - as experience has shown - adding stocktaking and review moments incentivises countries to increase implementation.



### 3.2. Introduce a ratcheting mechanism

WWF agrees that learning lessons from the implementation mechanism for the Paris Agreement, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), could inform the further improvement of the implementation mechanism for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. We believe that the most attractive feature related to the NDCs is the increase of national ambitions at regular intervals, through the so called ‘ratcheting mechanism’. This mechanism ensures that national contributions are regularly updated so that they will add-up, over the short- to mid-term, to the agreed global targets.

Using the improved existing NBSAPs and national review mechanisms outlined above, this ratcheting mechanism could follow a four year cycle as outlined below:



WWF recommends the inclusion of text in SBI/2/17 on '*enabling a ratchet mechanisms that allows for periodic review and increase of actions and commitments*' in the instructions for implementation.

### 3.3. Integrated approach to biodiversity, climate and sustainable development at all levels

WWF recommends that the national implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework strives for integration with other national implementation plans, for example national SDG implementation plans or NDCs for Climate Change as well as other relevant national action plans. Given the finite resources available and that action on biodiversity can benefit from and support actions in other areas, an integrated approach is a more efficient and more effective approach.

- It is more efficient because duplications in effort and resource allocation can be eliminated.
- It is more effective because it attenuates the potential negative trade-offs of a siloed approach to implementation and amplifies positive synergies and co-benefits between different national action plans.

WWF encourages Parties to create an enabling governance structure for an integrated approach at national level and to support efforts to improve greater integration across relevant UN processes at global level. This could include a stronger mandate for the UNCCD, UNCBD and UNFCCC Joint Liaison Group to also include recommendations on implementation.

### 3.4 Strengthen the means of implementation, especially financial resourcing

Currently, the significant delays in achieving the Aichi Targets are to a large extent due to the lack of resource mobilisation, subsidies harmful to biodiversity especially in the agricultural sector, in addition to the challenges described in paragraph 2.1 above. WWF recommends that designing an effective and comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy should be discussed and developed as an integral part of the post-2020 framework process and be completed as part of the full post-2020 global biodiversity framework. International flows of resources from all sources, including through the financial mechanism, remain crucial for implementation. In this context, WWF would like to invoke the commitments made by Parties in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for sustainable development related to the protection and preservation of the planet, natural resources, biodiversity and climate.

Greater mobilisation and more efficient use of financial resources from international, national and other sources, including the private sector is required. At the same time, the in-kind contributions of local communities and indigenous peoples to implementation should continue to be

recognised. Synergies with resource mobilisation for related areas of sustainable development such as climate change, forestry, water, etc., should be pursued and be made more effective.

WWF also calls upon Parties to progressively phase out harmful subsidies and put in place the right policy, legal and regulatory environment to identify and generate innovative sources of financing, such as payment for ecosystem services and fiscal policy supported investment in natural capital.

## **ANNEX 1: UNFCCC COP DECISIONS RELATED TO NON-PARTY ACTOR ENGAGEMENT (THE 'ACTION AGENDA')**

### **COP-20 decision in Lima:**

19. Decides to continue the technical examination of opportunities with high mitigation potential, including those with adaptation, health and sustainable development co-benefits, in the period 2015–2020, by requesting the secretariat to:

(a) Organize a series of in-session technical expert meetings which:

(i) Facilitate Parties in the identification of policy options, practices and technologies and in planning for their implementation in accordance with nationally defined development priorities;

(iv) Provide meaningful and regular opportunities for the effective engagement of experts from Parties, relevant international organizations, civil society, indigenous peoples, women, youth, academic institutions, the private sector, and subnational authorities nominated by their respective countries;

21. Welcome the Lima Climate Action High Level Meeting convened by the President of the Conference of the Parties on 11 December 2014 and encourages the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties to convene an annual high-level event on enhancing implementation of climate action;

### **Paris Agreement:**

116. Acknowledges with appreciation the results of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, which build on the climate summit convened on 23 September 2014 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

117. Welcomes the efforts of non-Party stakeholders to scale up their climate actions, and encourages the registration of those actions in the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action platform;

119. Also encourages non-Party stakeholders to increase their engagement in the processes referred to in paragraph 109 above and paragraph 124 below;

120. Agrees to convene, pursuant to decision 1/CP.20, paragraph 21, building on the Lima-Paris Action Agenda and in conjunction with each session of the Conference of the Parties during the period 2016–2020, a high-level event that:

(a) Further strengthens high-level engagement on the implementation of policy options and actions arising from the processes referred to in paragraph 109 above and paragraph 124 below, drawing on the summary for policymakers referred to in paragraph 111(c) above;

(b) Provides an opportunity for announcing new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions, including the implementation of policies, practices and actions arising from the processes referred to in paragraph 109 above and paragraph 124 below and presented in the summary for policymakers referred to in paragraph 111(c) above;

(c) Takes stock of related progress and recognizes new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions;

(d) Provides meaningful and regular opportunities for the effective high-level engagement of dignitaries of Parties, international organizations, international cooperative initiatives and non-Party stakeholders;

121. Decides that two high-level champions shall be appointed to act on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties to facilitate through strengthened high-level engagement in the period 2016–2020 the successful execution of existing efforts and the scaling-up and introduction of new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions...





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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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