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WWF PROPOSAL

ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

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Key messages¹

Nature loss continues unabated and in fact accelerating towards dangerous ecosystemic tipping points. For the most part, the Aichi targets will not be achieved by 2020. We need a turning point, a strong and science based *New Deal for Nature and People by 2020*, to put society on a pathway to restoring nature by 2030. A robust and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework for nature and sustainable development under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity will be a critical component of this new deal.

Political momentum

Political momentum that escalates the critical importance of nature to the heads of state level of the Parties is required to achieve a strong post-2020 framework. This can be achieved by developing a stronger and compelling narrative that positions nature and biodiversity as the foundation of sustainable development, and by establishing a motivated and committed movement of governments and non-state actors in support of the post-2020 framework. Creating an official channel for non-state actors (for example through the Sharm El Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People) will provide them with an opportunity to bring forward voluntary commitments towards the necessary ambition and focus to bend the curve of nature and biodiversity loss. Furthermore, voluntary biodiversity commitments by Parties and other governments should be promoted before and at COP-15 to galvanize political momentum, to incentivize a 'race to the top' and to provide countries with an opportunity to show leadership in addressing loss of nature and biodiversity.

A robust post-2020 framework

Key elements that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework **must have** are:

- **An ambitious and inspiring mission** to reverse the loss of nature by 2030 that is easy to communicate and relevant to different audiences. We believe that we need a new formulation of the mission that links nature conservation and restoration to the human sustainable development 2030 agenda. WWF suggests a mission statement alongside the following wording: *“Reverse the loss of nature by 2030 and put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet.”*
- **Evidence-based, SMART targets** that build on the current Aichi targets but clarify the cause-effect relations between:
 - ✓ **the state of nature**,
 - ✓ **drivers** (e.g. production, consumption, finance) and **pressures** of nature loss, from different **sectors** (egg. agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, extractives, forestry, water and river basin management)
 - ✓ conservation and social, economic and cultural **outcomes and benefits**, and
 - ✓ **conditions** that underpin the post-2020 framework.

¹ See annex 1 for the justification and details of the key messages presented in this document. WWF plans to submit more detailed proposals on new targets in the near future.

- The following areas need to be prominently targeted and enable co-leadership by non-environmental sectors to take collective actions:
 - ✓ Increased **spatial conservation, sustainable use and restoration efforts** on land and oceans, including but not limited to strengthened efforts in the governance of protected and indigenous/community conserved areas;
 - ✓ **supply side** actions such as improving yields and making markets more sustainable
 - ✓ **demand side** actions such as diet shifts and waste reduction.
- **Strong and strategic conditions** need to be established to underpin the post-2020 framework. These include making governments treat the web of life **holistically, good governance** including fighting **corruption**, on fair access to benefit sharing and biosafety, respect of **human rights** including gender equality, **sufficient resourcing** (including build-in national budgeting for nature and redirecting resources away from harmful subsidies), **capacity building** and mutual **learning**, and an ambitious **communications** plan to mobilize the public.
- Substantially strengthened **implementation and accountability mechanisms**, including improved NBSAPs, reporting and a 'ratchet mechanism' to regularly review and increase commitments.
 - ✓ A **comprehensive and integrated approach** to climate change, sustainable development and nature through improved synergies between the relevant multilateral agreements and through greater cohesion with major fora that influence global trade and economic objectives. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, land, rivers, wetlands and oceans, and restoration must be addressed in combination of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Annex 1. Details of WWF submission

1. Context

Nature at risk

Nature continues to be in rapid decline. Scientific evidence shows that human activity is the principle cause of the sixth mass extinction that is currently unfolding. WWF's Living Planet Report (2018) predicts that by 2020 we could lose two-thirds of global wildlife populations compared to the 1970s. Humanity highly depends on nature and nature loss is putting social, economic, and ecological systems dangerously at risk. If this downward trend continues, we will collectively fail to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Aichi Targets: we are not on track

Despite inspiring and continued progress at local level, global efforts to reverse nature loss have lacked political urgency, will and commitment, and effective delivery by CBD Parties. As a result, many essential Aichi Targets will not have been achieved by 2020.

Furthermore, climate change, unsustainable use of water, land and biodiversity present one integrated challenge that requires a unified response. Implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements is also sub-optimal, and together they lack alignment and accountability.

Need for a New Deal for Nature and People

The world urgently needs a transformational change to bend the curve of biodiversity loss and 2020 represents the major opportunity for Parties to the CBD, other governments, international and national organizations, non-state actors, IPLC, women, youth and other stakeholders to make this change happen. Therefore, WWF calls for a *New Deal for Nature and People* in 2020 with the aim to reverse the decline in Nature by 2030 for the benefit of present and future generations. The *New Deal* can be the turning point when public decision makers, the private sector and citizens understand that business as usual is not an option and collectively commit to halt the loss of nature that threatens life as we know it. In order to achieve the deal, we will need:

- To radically escalate the political relevance of nature and its fundamental role in achieving sustainable development.
- To galvanize a cohesive movement and collective action across states and non-state actors to drive change,

A strong and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework for nature will be a critical component of the new deal.

2. Building political momentum

Building strong political momentum in the run up to 2020 is of utmost importance to profile and raise visibility in order to strengthen the political relevance of nature and its essential foundation for achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. This means that it is crucial to profile the importance of biodiversity and nature for the future of the planet at high-level events in the coming two years (see box).

There is currently great momentum for nature-based actions and solutions (see for example the recent Global Climate Action Summit) to address climate change; the so-called "forgotten solutions" that are directly linked to the land, water, forest and food sectors. Action in these sectors will directly benefit nature conservation and restoration. There is an important opportunity to bring this message and political capital into the post-2020 framework.

Important opportunities to build political momentum.

Note: this list is not exhaustive.

- World Economic Forum (Davos, January 2019 and 2020)
- IPBES-7 plenary session (Paris, April-May 2019), where the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services will be presented
- G20 Leaders Summit (Osaka, Japan, June 2019) and joint Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transition and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth
- G7 Summit (Biarritz, France, August, 2019)
- HLPF (New York, July 2019 (annual session under ECOSOC auspices) and September 2019 (under UNGA auspices))
- UN General Assembly (New York, September 2019), alongside the UN Secretary General's Summit on Climate Change
- IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, June 2020)
- UN General Assembly (New York, September 2020), to convene a Heads of State/Heads of Government summit on biodiversity

2.1 Engaging with non-Party actors

The vision of CBD's Strategic Plan 2011-2020 'living in harmony with nature' can only be achieved through action by everybody, both Parties and non-Party actors alike. Only 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 wants change and is ready for a strong and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework for nature. This is likely to result in greater political momentum as decision makers realize 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 non-Party actors to share best practice and engage in a dialogue about opportunities and barriers to addressing nature loss.

All non-state actors, in particular businesses, are encouraged to complement voluntary biodiversity commitments by making their own, publicly announced, and verifiable commitments. These commitments should support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at global, regional and national levels.

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 channel to bring forward their own commitments.). The *Sharm El Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People* launched during the High Level Segment ahead of COP-14 is a great launch pad for such engagement.

WWF, a non-state actor, stands ready to also contribute to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The goals that WWF is striving to achieve are presented in Annex 2.

2.2. Voluntary contributions by states

The main objective of voluntary biodiversity commitments by Parties and other Governments should be to galvanize political momentum, to incentivize a 'race to the top' and to provide countries with an opportunity to show leadership in addressing nature loss. The voluntary character of the commitments will give Parties greater ownership of the process, which can further add to the political momentum and enhance the chances of their achievement. The commitments should either be tailored to national priorities and capacities, and/or be focused on supporting regional or global priorities, such as capacity building, financing governance and communication.

WWF recommends the following guidelines for voluntary biodiversity commitments:

- Parties should run a process to define their voluntary biodiversity commitments, that is inclusive of all stakeholders

- The commitments should be commensurate with the ambition of reversing the loss of biodiversity and restore nature by 2030.
- The commitments should be integrated into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and into national reporting processes.
- Non-party actors are encouraged to report their commitments either as part of voluntary biodiversity commitments of Parties and other Governments, and associated with national reporting processes, or in a complementary report presented through the *Sharm El Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People*.

3. Key elements of the post-2020 framework

3.1 Vision

The vision of the current strategic plan of the CBD is: *'Living in harmony with nature'* where *'By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.'*

WWF believes that the key part of the vision (*Living in harmony with nature*) is appropriate and inclusive. Furthermore, a vision aims to provide long-term strategic direction and should, in principle, not be changed after ten years.

Having said that, the second part of the vision (*By 2050....etc.*) could be improved: currently it is formulated passively, too complex, and probably not specific enough. It does not express the urgency of the situation. If the vision were to be redrafted, the text should be written using active wording.

3.2 Mission for 2030: Bending the curve of nature loss

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 financial resources, little public awareness and lack of political support for nature conservation and restoration.

WWF agrees that the post-2020 framework should have 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 for nature.

We recommend that the new mission for 2030 should be strong and clear. The mission should describe the impact we want to see in 2030 while other parts of the framework, including the goals and targets, describe how, starting in 2021, this outcome should be achieved.

WWF² provides the following suggestion to kick-start the conversations:

"Halt the loss of nature by 2030, putting nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of all people and the planet."

3.3 Goals, targets and indicators

Structure

A clear and comprehensive set of goals, targets and indicators is important for many reasons, including for the allocation of efforts and resources, for communication purposes, to monitor progress, and most importantly to galvanize the government and private sectors' action from non-environment sectors on issues such as food production, consumption, financing, investment and infrastructure. We believe that the current set of goals and targets can be strengthened by creating:

² Inspired by a recently published scientific article 'aiming higher' presenting the idea to 'bend the curve' of biodiversity loss.

- A simple overarching “apex goal or goals” that convey the fundamental importance of nature in achieving climate resilience, sustainable and equitable development and the human right to well-being and a healthy environment. The apex goal(s) should present a state (i.e. not a process) to be achieved by 2030 as a stepping stone towards achieving the vision for 2050
- A clearer structure for nature conservation priorities that clarifies the cause-effect relationship between the goals describing the desired state of nature, the pressures and drivers that cause nature loss, and the actions required to achieve these goals.

The targets

WWF believes that the post-2020 objectives and targets should build on the current Aichi targets but with significant improvements.

The targets for the goals should indicate the desired ‘end-state’ of nature by 2030 and its equitable governance and benefit sharing. This includes, for example, actively preventing any extinction of currently threatened species, stopping the global destruction and degradation of ecosystems, and starting the restoration of nature.

The post-2020 framework must have evidence-based, SMART targets that clarify the cause-effect relations between:

- the state of nature,
- the drivers (e.g. production, consumption, finance) and pressures of nature loss, from different sectors (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, extractives, forestry, water and river basin management). The targets regarding these drivers will require mainstreaming biodiversity in these sectors. They will mandate actors from both governments and private sectors to take needed actions.
- conservation and social, economic and cultural outcomes and benefits, and
- conditions that underpin the post-2020 framework, including
 - the linking and integration with other conventions, in particular the nature-related targets in the SDGs, and targets that provide for achievement of the Paris Agreement (for both mitigation and adaptation). Targets identified in the UNCCD should be used as a starting point for identifying land degradation targets in the CBD, paired with the pursuit of a global science agenda to determine the underlying ecological requirements of terrestrial ecosystems in order to support services and functions.
 - the balanced reflection of the three objectives of the Convention (conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits). and
 - good governance, respect of human rights and equity. These are prerequisites to achieve the Aichi targets and will remain of utmost importance for the achievement of the post-2020 goals and targets. WWF recommends developing and integrating a governance and rights-based strategy with targets and milestones to ensure the effective enforcement of existing laws and international obligations with regards to transparency, inclusion, equity and empowerment of vulnerable groups such as Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Targets need to embed key principles: e.g. safeguarding nature and culture diversity; respect of human rights and recognition of the strong connection between human and environmental rights³, and gender equality; the implementation of UNDRIP and the Declaration of the rights of peasants.

The following areas need to be prominently targeted and enable co-leadership by non-environmental sectors to take collective actions:

- Increased spatial conservation (including maintaining the integrity of remaining natural and semi-natural ecosystems), sustainable use and restoration efforts on land and oceans,

³ As stated in the report of the UN Rapporteur (2017), a healthy environment is a necessary precondition for human dignity, and for the exercise of a range of basic human rights. Serious environmental damage amounts to human rights violation. Environmental damage can have negative implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights of the present and future generations. A tide of violence driven by an intensifying fight for land and natural resources, and the pursuit of profit has caused the killing of over 200 environmental defenders.

including but not limited to strengthened efforts in the governance of protected and indigenous/community conserved areas;

- supply side actions such as improving yields and making markets more sustainable
- demand side actions such as diet shifts and waste reduction.

All targets should reflect what needs to be done to reverse nature loss by 2030 and they should be based on the best available science, in particular the IPBES global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services and the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5.

All targets should be clear, concise and SMART, and also address relevant qualitative aspects, to clarify the actions needed and enable progress to be measured. A set of relevant indicators is crucial in that regard.

4. Implementation and reporting

4.1 Improving NBSAPs and national reports

An important reason for the insufficient progress towards achieving the Aichi targets is insufficient accountability. An important step in strengthening implementation and accountability will be to strengthen 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. They can 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 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 and the implementation of voluntary commitments are delivering against the global targets.

National reporting should allow Parties 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. This would also help to ensure increased transparency and enable clear communication about progress and lack thereof.

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



4.2 Ratcheting mechanism

WWF believes that the experiences 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 for nature. 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 activities are regularly updated so that they will add-up, over the short- to mid-term, to the agreed global targets. It also supports transparency and accountability of the implementation framework.

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



4.3 Integration and coherence of all relevant agreements

There is no viable global solution to either nature loss or the climate crisis without addressing the forest, food and land sectors and their linkages. How we use land, and the sea, can no longer be part of the problem. It must be part of a coherent solution spanning across sustainable development, climate change, biodiversity, and others. In order to tackle nature loss, through an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework, we must change the way in which we address climate change, and vice-versa. Better forest and habitat conservation and restoration, more efficient food production (on land and from the oceans) and consumption, and improved sustainable land use, which will all help conserve nature, can deliver up to 30% of the climate solutions needed by 2030. This will require working together across all sectors of the economy and addressing the drivers of nature loss.

WWF encourages Parties to create an enabling governance structure for this integrated and coherent approach at national level and to support efforts to improve greater coherence and integration across relevant UN processes at global level.

- At the global level, this could include:
 - Stronger mandates for the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC Joint Liaison Group and the Biodiversity Liaison Group (members: CBD, Ramsar convention, CMS, WHC, CITES, ITPGRFA) to also include recommendations on joint targets development and implementation.
 - To use the new post-2020 biodiversity-related targets, for SDG goals/targets that expire in 2020.
 - To maximize ecosystem based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation within the UNFCCC, including the enhanced and improved nationally determined contributions to be submitted in 2020 and thereafter.

- To integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations throughout the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for nature, including in the implementation mechanisms.
- Integration and effective coherence also require improving the collaboration between the different financial mechanisms for each convention, including:
 - To intensify efforts to mobilize resources that are consistent with an integrated approach and that maximize co-benefits between the different conventions and other relevant international obligations. To eliminate or reform incentives, including subsidies, that are harmful for nature or for the goals of other conventions.
 - To strengthen the Biodiversity Safeguards of all financial mechanisms, as per the relevant decisions and guidelines of the CBD.
- At the national level, WWF recommends that the 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. An integrated approach is more efficient and more effective, given the finite resources available and that action on nature can benefit from and support actions in other areas. It will attenuate the potential negative trade-offs of a siloed approach to implementation and amplifies positive synergies and co-benefits between different national action plans.
- Different approaches to sustainable use of land and oceans must be part of that coherent solution: better forest and habitat conservation and restoration, more efficient food production (on land and from the sea) and sustainable consumption, and improved sustainable use of land and oceans, which will all help conserve biodiversity and restore nature, can also deliver substantial contributions to climate solutions.

5. Conditions that underpin the post-2020 framework

The following strong and strategic conditions need to be established to underpin the post-2020 framework.

- making governments treat the web of life holistically,
- good governance including fighting corruption, on fair access to benefit sharing and biosafety,
- respect of human rights including gender equality,
- Sufficient resources from national, bilateral and multilateral sources, and non-state actors (including build-in national budgeting for nature and redirecting resources away from harmful subsidies),
- An ambitious communications plan to mobilize the public and to raise awareness on the importance of nature for people's well-being,
- Adequate capacity building and mutual learning to reduce gaps in implementation, and efficient sharing of information and knowledge.

The following sections further discuss several of these conditions.

5.1. Resource mobilization

The significant delays in achieving the Aichi Targets are to a large extent due to the lack of resource mobilization and to subsidies harmful to nature especially in the agricultural sector, in addition to the challenges described in several sections above, including the lack of mainstreaming. WWF calls on Parties to integrate the design of an effective and comprehensive resource mobilization strategy into the development process for the post-2020 framework. As a result, a new resource mobilization strategy, which must reflect the financial needs to achieve a post-2020 framework, should be an integral part of the overall post-2020 global framework. WWF highlights the following points:

- International flows of resources from all sources, including through the Global Environment Facility as the financial mechanism to the convention, remain crucial for achieving the

results needed. In this context, WWF would like to encourage Parties to honour the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for sustainable development and other financial instruments related to the protection and conservation of natural resources, biodiversity and climate.

- Synergies with resource mobilization for related areas of sustainable development such as climate change, forestry and water, should be pursued and be made more effective to make best use of scarce resources.
- Greater mobilization and more efficient use of financial resources from international, national and other sources, including the private sector is required.
- The in-kind contributions of local communities and indigenous peoples should continue to be recognized and values appropriately.
- 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.

5.2. Communication

WWF wants the language of the post-2020 framework to be accessible for different groups and audiences. The messages should be formulated positive, easily shareable and engaging. WWF believes that this will help to communicate the content of the post-2020 framework much better and make it more relevant for broader non-environmental audiences which are critical for the achievement of its objectives and the 2050 Vision 'living in harmony with nature'.

WWF stresses the importance of supporting the implementation of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework through targeted and widespread communication efforts at all levels, building upon CBD's Framework for a communications strategy (decision XIII/22; <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-22-en.pdf>) and existing communication strategies of Parties, other governments and non-state actors. It is necessary to build momentum at an early stage and continue to raise public and political awareness throughout the implementation phase of the new framework.

In that regard, WWF acknowledges the recently announced initiative of the Environment Minister of El Salvador and supported by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), the Executive Director of UN Environment, and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) promoting a UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. This would give a unique opportunity to accompany the post-2020 biodiversity framework with a focused communication strategy to restore nature within the next decade.

5.3. Capacity building, Cooperation and Mutual Learning

As the urgency of biodiversity loss increases, the need for timely and sufficient capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation, and knowledge sharing will grow in the post-2020 period. Sharing knowledge of appropriate conservation measures on the ground, approaches to sustainable use and benefit sharing, results of communication activities and financing mechanism is of utmost importance.

Capacity building is particularly important for better integration of the knowledge of indigenous and local communities and social science in biodiversity-related decision making.

Therefore, WWF welcomes continued efforts by Parties, other governments and relevant organizations to provide financial, technical, and human resources to support the implementation of these activities. Tailored strategies with specific targets and milestones should be developed for each topic.

Annex 2. WWF's mission and global goals

Our mission is *to stop the degradation of our planet's natural environment, and build a future in which people live in harmony with nature.*

Around the world, we focus our efforts toward achieving **six major goals**. We want to ensure that:

- the world's most important fisheries and ocean ecosystems are productive and resilient and improve livelihoods and biodiversity;
- the most threatened and ecologically, economically and culturally important species are secured and recovering in the wild;
- the integrity of our most important forests, including their benefits to human well-being, is enhanced and maintained;
- freshwater ecosystems and flow regimes provide water for people and nature;
- a global shift toward a low carbon and climate resilient future is achieved; and
- that sustainable food systems conserve nature and maintain food security.

At the same time, we're concentrating on **three key drivers** of environmental problems:

- transforming international markets;
- moving away from unsustainable financial systems; and
- tackling the inequitable global governance system.

For more information, see: http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/

