

APPROACHES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

I. BACKGROUND

1. The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2020 is expected to update the Convention's strategic plan. This would be done in the context of the 2050 Vision of the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as well the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant international processes, and in the light of an assessment of progress in achieving the goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the current plan as well as of future scenarios of change.
2. While the current focus of activities under the Convention is – and should remain – promoting implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, it is useful to prepare for the decisions that will need to be taken in 2020.
3. Moreover, in Cancun, the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Bureau and for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting, a proposal for a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision XIII/1, para. 34).
4. This note provides an overview of some of the issues to be taken into account to facilitate initial comments and inputs from Parties and observers. An earlier version of this note was prepared for discussion at a joint meeting of the members of the bureau of Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in April 2017.

II. THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND ITS PREPARATORY PROCESS

5. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including a Vision for 2050 and a mission for 2020. It includes twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets, mostly for 2020, organized under five Goals, as well as means for implementation and review. The Strategic Plan has been endorsed or supported by other conventions and the United Nations General Assembly, and accordingly provides a universal framework for action on biodiversity.
6. The Plan includes a target on Access and Benefit-sharing and specifically references the Nagoya Protocol. On the other hand, it was decided at the time, by the Conference of the Parties and the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, that biosafety would be covered as a separate Plan. 2020 will provide an opportunity to develop an integrated framework that applies to the Convention and both Protocols and that is useful to the other biodiversity-related Conventions.
7. The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan remains relevant for the updated plan. The five goals (which are broad and not necessarily time-limited) may also remain relevant. On the other hand the time-bound Aichi Targets will need to be updated and/or replaced.
8. The major steps in developing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 were:
 - A decision by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting in 2008 (Decision IX/9) which provided guidance on the content for the new plan and on the steps to be undertaken in preparing it, with an indicative timetable involving refinement of proposals through various iterations.

- Submission of views by Parties and observers, including scientific and academic bodies, indigenous and local communities and stakeholders, encouraging them, in preparing submissions, to facilitate dialogue among different sectors of government and society
- Consultations through an electronic forum
- Regional workshops among representatives of Parties
- Global consultations among representatives of Parties including a workshop in London¹ and a session of the Trondheim Biodiversity Conference
- Discussions in the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties
- Workshops and expert meetings organized by Parties, partners and stakeholders
- Two iterations of a consultation document prepared by the Secretariat
- Preparation of the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*
- Formal consideration by SBSTTA and the Working Group on Review of Implementation
- A Ministerial meeting of present and former Presidencies of the Conference of the Parties and a High-level retreat among the secretariats of Biodiversity-related Conventions
- A Ministerial meeting on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly
- Consideration and adoption at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

9. The preparatory process for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is summarized in the consultation note prepared by the Secretariat at that time.² Further information and resources are available at the website.³

III. STEPS TO 2020: WHAT IS ALREADY AGREED

10. According to its Multi-year Programme of work to 2020, the Conference of the Parties will consider at its fifteenth meeting the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related means of implementation, including resource mobilization. Of direct relevance to this, the Conference of the Parties will consider at its fourteenth meeting the long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

11. According to paragraph 34 of decision XIII/1, there is a need for a comprehensive and participatory process to develop proposals for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The proposal to be prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau should:

- Include a timetable,
- Take into consideration that the plan must cover the Convention on Biological Diversity and also consider its Protocols, as appropriate,
- Include options for fostering commitments and strengthened implementation,
- Take into account the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,⁴ national reports, and the thematic, regional and global assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,
- Provide for consultations among Parties, and with other Rio Conventions, other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, and inputs from indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders and sectors.

12. In other decisions, the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EM-StratPlan-01>

² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sp/em-stratplan-01/official/em-stratplan-01-sp-prep-01-rev1-en.pdf>

³ <https://www.cbd.int/sp/inputs/default.shtml>

⁴ To be updated in line with the decision adopted during COP 13 in item 19.

- a. Decided to initiate the preparation for a fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which should provide a concise final report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the basis for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting (Decision XIII/29).
- b. Decided to initiate the process for preparing a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, ensuring its alignment with the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the work of the Protocols, and ensuring its coordination with the time table for the development of this framework (Decision XIII/23).
- c. Recognized the importance of the strategic plans of the biodiversity-related conventions, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and any follow-up, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵ and the Sustainable Development Goals, and related reporting and indicators, and called on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue to strengthen its work to enhance coherence and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, including in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and any follow-up to this strategic plan (Decision XIII/24).
- d. *Requested* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to develop, subject to subsequent endorsement by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, proposals for the alignment of national reporting under the Convention and its Protocols to explore options for enhancing synergy on national reporting among the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio conventions (Decision XIII/27).

IV. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

13. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals provide an important enabling framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and for the follow-up to the Plan. The Sustainable Development Goals and related targets comprise an “integrated and indivisible” set. Moreover, more than half of the targets are cross-cutting, linking different goals. Virtually all of the elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are reflected among the goals and targets of the framework, including two Goals (Goals 14 and 15) focused on biodiversity, and many other Goals that include targets related to biodiversity. The 2030 Agenda will be particularly relevant if a new strategic plan is to be developed under the Convention for the decade 2021-2030. However, it should be noted that many of the targets in the 2030 Agenda that are derived from the Aichi targets, still have a target date of 2020.

14. Other relevant agreements include the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Degradation Neutrality Goal adopted under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as key strategies/agendas adopted by other biodiversity-related conventions such as the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and the actions plans to combat illegal wildlife trade.

15. As noted above, the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan “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” will remain relevant after 2020. Work at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the “long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity” could help translate this 2050 Vision into more tangible terms, and thus help guide, for example, the setting of targets for 2030. It could be informed by views

⁵ [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, annex.

from Parties as well as scientific analysis, including through the use of models and scenarios, of global trends.

16. Ongoing work to strengthen both implementation support mechanisms (resource mobilization, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity building for national biodiversity strategies and action plans, etc.) and review of implementation (biodiversity monitoring and indicators, national reporting, review of implementation by Parties) will also be relevant for any follow-up framework.

17. There may be useful lessons from the experience under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in developing the Paris Agreement including with respect to inviting, in advance of the final agreement, commitments from Parties (“interim nationally determined contributions”), in developing mechanisms for enhanced multilateral review and transparency, and in securing high-level political engagement.

18. As part of the preparatory process for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, a synthesis and analysis of inputs from Parties and others was prepared (UNEP/CBD/SP/PREP/1/Rev.1). Many of the considerations raised in this process may still be relevant.

V. OPTIONS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

19. The nature of the “follow-up to the Strategic Plan” to be considered at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2020 is still to be decided, as well as the steps needed for its preparation. A straight-forward updating would suggest a “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030” with the following features and options:

- Maintaining the 2050 Vision;
- Maintaining or adjusting the five goals;
- Developing new targets, preferably “SMART”, for 2030, by updating the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and/or replacing them, for example substituting process targets with outcome targets and increasing the level of ambition for existing outcome targets;
- Maintaining and enhancing provisions on means for implementation, including resource mobilization;
- Maintaining and enhancing provisions on review of implementation;
- Including the Biosafety Protocol (as well as biosafety issues under the Convention) within the scope of the Plan;
- Enhancing the relevance of the Plan to the other biodiversity-related conventions;
- Enhancing the links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant major global agendas such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Degradation Neutrality Goals on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, etc.

VI. OPTIONS FOR THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

20. As noted above, the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is expected to adopt the modalities of a preparatory process on the basis of a recommendation from the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

21. Basic elements of the preparatory process, building on the experience of developing the current strategic plan, would likely include:

- a. Options for submissions of views from Parties and stakeholders, for example in response to a notification, and through on-line forums and discussions groups;
- b. Regional and global workshops involving representative of Parties and others;
- c. Consultations with other biodiversity-related conventions, Rio Conventions and other relevant United Nation processes;

- d. Preparation by the Secretariat of discussion documents, on an iterative basis, to support the above;
 - e. Fostering the organization by third parties, of workshops, expert meetings, and other inputs organized by Parties, partners and stakeholders;
 - f. Formal consideration by SBSTTA and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, prior to submission to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - g. High-level meetings to foster political support;
22. In addition, consideration may be given to additional elements of the process, for example, by inviting voluntary commitments from Parties in advance of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Such ideas would need early consideration by Parties at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
23. In any case, some activities in advance of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation may be desirable to ensure engagement of partners in the process. In particular, early engagement with the biodiversity-related conventions is needed, particularly with respect to those conventions that are holding meetings of their governing bodies in 2017 or 2018 (see Annex A). Similarly, early engagement with other United Nations process, such as United Nations Environmental Assembly and the technical committees of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations may be advantageous.
24. Further to paragraph 34 of decision XIII/1, the Secretariat will prepare a draft proposal for a comprehensive and participatory process, for further peer review, and subsequently for consideration by the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.
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Annex A: Dates.

Event	Dates	Venue
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Conference (C-40)	3-8 July, 2017	Rome, Italy
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	10-19 July 2017	New York, USA
UN Convention to Combat Desertification, COP13	4-15 September 2017 (11-12 September is HLS)	Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China
Committee on World Food Security (CFS-44)	9 – 13 October, 2017	Rome, Italy
UN 72 General Assembly	12-25 September 2017	New York, USA
Convention on Migratory Species, COP12	22-28 October 2017 (22 October is HLS)	Manila, Philippines
7th session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	30 October- 3 November 2017	Rome, Italy
21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention	14-15 November 2017	Paris, France
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP 23	6-17 November 2017	Bonn, Germany
Third UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3)	4-6 December 2017	Nairobi, Kenya
	2018	
Sixth session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-6)	19-25 March 2018	TBC
Food and Agriculture Organization Committee on Fisheries (COFI 33)	9-13 July 2018 (tbc)	Rome, Italy
Food and Agriculture Organization Committee on Forests (COFO 24)	16-20 July 2018 (tbc)	Rome, Italy
High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	TBD July 2018	New York, USA
UN 73 General Assembly	TBD 2018	New York, USA
Food and Agriculture Organization Committee on Agriculture (COAG-26)	1-5 October, 2017	Rome, Italy
Committee on World Food Security (CFS-46)	14-18 October, 2017	Rome, Italy
Ramsar Convention, COP 13	21-29 October 2018	Dubai, UAE
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP24	3-14 December 2018	TBD