



THE POST 2020

# GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

2030 ACTION TARGET 2

**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**

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<b>Target 2. Ensure that at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.</b>	
<b>Objective:</b> Restoring both converted and degraded ecosystems will be essential to achieve the objective of this target. To reach the 2050 Vision, a significant net increase in both area, connectivity, and integrity of natural ecosystems is needed. A plausible pathway towards such an outcome requires that net gain, or at a minimum no net loss, of ecosystems be achieved globally by 2030 through spatial planning and restoration (20% is suggested as a feasible target based on scientific studies <sup>9</sup> ).	
<b>Component:</b>	<b>Indicators (Headline in bold)</b>
<b>Area of freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems restored</b> – Restoration may include: (a) restoring converted areas back to natural states; (b) improving the ecological integrity of degraded natural areas; and (c) rehabilitating converted and degraded areas (e.g. degraded agricultural lands) to improve both productivity and integrity <sup>10</sup> .	<b>2.0.1 Percentage of degraded or converted ecosystems that are under restoration</b>
<b>Connectivity</b> – Ecological connectivity is important to maintain the integrity of ecosystems and to allow unimpeded movement of species, within and across ecosystems, and the flow of natural processes.	2.2.1 Maintenance and restoration of connectivity of natural ecosystems
<b>Further explanation of target elements</b>	
<b>Degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems</b> – Ecosystem degradation can occur either through a loss of biodiversity, ecosystem functions or services. Natural ecosystems are often degraded prior to being transformed. For example, the degradation of marine ecosystems may take the form of changed trophic structures in a marine community, transformation of the soft and hard benthos or artificial reef construction <sup>11</sup> .	
<b>Priority ecosystems</b> – A recent study demonstrated that ecosystem restoration can be prioritised depending on factors such as biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation (wetlands and forests) or minimizing costs (arid ecosystems and grasslands). Additional priorities may be converted areas within relatively intact tropical forests and shrublands in South America and Africa <sup>12</sup> .	
<b>Linkages:</b>	
<b>Objectives of the CBD</b> – conservation of biological diversity	
<b>Drivers of biodiversity loss</b> – land/sea use change, direct exploitation, climate change	
<b>GBF targets</b>	
<b>Reducing threats to biodiversity</b> – T1 spatial planning, T3 protected areas, T8 ecosystem-based approaches	
<b>Meeting people's needs</b> – T10 managed/productive ecosystems, T11 nature's contributions to people	
<b>Tools and solutions</b> – T20 traditional knowledge & education, T21 equitable participation and rights over resources	
<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	
<b><u>GBO-5 pathways</u></b>	
Sustainable freshwater transition; land and forests transition; sustainable fisheries and oceans transition, sustainable agriculture transition; sustainable climate action transition; biodiversity-inclusive one health transition; sustainable food systems transition	

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<sup>9</sup> One study showed that up to 55 per cent of converted land could be restored while maintaining current agricultural production if existing yield gaps could be closed by 75 per cent, nothing that similar estimates are not currently available for many ecosystems, it was found that restoring 15 per cent of converted lands in priority areas could avoid over 60 per cent of expected extinctions (see Strassburg et al (2020). Global priority areas for ecosystem restoration. *Nature* 586:724–729. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2784-9>).

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<sup>10</sup> In decision 14/5, the Conference of the Parties adopted the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration which could help to inform actions towards the attainment of this proposed target.

<sup>11</sup> See CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/11/3

<sup>12</sup> Strassburg et al (2020). Global priority areas for ecosystem restoration. *Nature*. vol. 586, p. 724–729, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2784-9>