

IUCN's Position Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Convention on Biological Diversity

Fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG4)

21-26 June 2022, Nairobi, Kenya

This position paper presents IUCN's further comments and recommendations on elements of Draft 1 of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). IUCN's proposed wording appears in **bold**, accompanied by a short explanation. This is an abridged version of the complete [IUCN position paper](#) that provides in-depth clarifications as well as concrete proposals for sections B. *bis* and H to K.

To note that IUCN's position on the GBF is guided by related [Resolutions and Recommendations](#) adopted by its Members at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

IUCN urges Parties to increase efforts, be bolder and more ambitious in order to make progress at this session of the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group, and calls on Parties to:

- ✓ Continue negotiations in a constructive manner for an ambitious framework that will catalyse the necessary action and change to achieve the vision of *living in harmony with nature*.
- ✓ Agree on what should be achieved by 2030 and define clear, communicable goals and the actions to achieve them.

Mission

To take urgent and transformative action across society to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and begin restoration for the benefit of planet and people.

- ✓ The wording of the mission must be inspirational and compelling, to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and to achieve a nature-positive world by 2030¹. It must convey that this will not be business-as-usual.

Goals

IUCN proposes disaggregating Goal A into the 3 components of biodiversity.

- **The loss in area, integrity and connectivity of all natural ecosystems is halted from 2020 and reversed by 2050, reducing their risk of collapse².**
- **Human-induced species extinctions are halted from 2020, the overall risk of species extinctions is reduced to zero, and the population abundance of native species recovers to viability by 2050³.**
- **Genetic diversity within and among populations of species has been restored and secured by 2050 thereby ensuring their evolutionary adaptive potential.⁴**

2030 outcomes

- ✓ The GBF needs biodiversity outcomes to be achieved by 2030 to be on track to delivery of the 2050 Goals and 2030 Mission.

¹ In accordance with IUCN's Resolution [WCC-2020-RES-116](#) adopted by IUCN Members at the World Conservation Congress, 2021.

² The stated formulation is derived from key papers in the scientific literature on an ecosystems goal, in particular Nicholson et al. 2021 Nature Ecol Evol

³ The stated formulation is derived from key papers in the scientific literature, such as Williams et al. 2021 Conserv Lett

⁴ The stated formulation is derived from Hoban et al. 2020 Biol Conserv

- ✓ The 2030 outcomes related to Goal A can be captured within the goal.
- ✓ The 2030 outcomes related to Goal D, as they are currently proposed, coincide with Targets 18 and 19.

Section B. bis

A section of the framework containing the principles for its implementation will help frame the necessary conditions applicable to the entire framework, and streamline the wording of the goals and targets.

- ✓ Beyond mere guidance for the implementation of the framework, the elements listed in this new section should be considered as the foundation of the GBF. In its detailed [position paper](#), IUCN presents the principles that should dictate the implementation of the framework.
- ✓ Since many of the elements listed relate to section I – *Enabling Conditions*, IUCN supports bringing these important aspects to the forefront of the framework, and removing section I.

Target 1

Incorporate all terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, retaining and enhancing the ecological integrity and connectivity of existing intact and wilderness areas and known areas of high biodiversity value, including all key biodiversity areas.

- ✓ Ultimately, the intent of this target should be to address land- and sea-use change and the resulting ecosystem degradation and destruction, as one of the major drivers of biodiversity loss, through integrated spatial planning and regulation.

Target 2

Restore the ecological integrity and connectivity of at least 20 per cent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems, focusing on priority ecosystems.

- ✓ The core of Target 2 should remain an ambitious numeric target for the restoration of ecosystems to halt species extinction rates and safeguard the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species.

Target 3

Conserve at least 30 percent each of terrestrial, inland waters, and marine and coastal areas globally, prioritizing areas of particular importance for biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, including all key biodiversity areas, through ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures that are equitably governed and effectively managed, including areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities.

- ✓ The focus of the target should be on quality. The world needs to conserve biodiversity through effective and equitable systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures that are equitably governed and effectively managed and achieve their conservation and social outcomes. This should be realized with the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities, the recognition of the rights to their lands, territories and resources, and respect for their diverse knowledge systems.
- ✓ Areas of particular importance for biodiversity should include all Key Biodiversity Areas as they are identified using the internationally agreed KBA Standard.
- ✓ Target 3 should only refer to protected and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) as defined by the CBD. Sustainable use areas, managed to optimize harvest (including rotation forestry, sustained yield fisheries and crop agriculture) should be addressed in other targets, specifically targets 5 and 10.

Target 4

Undertake urgent management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of threatened species and the genetic diversity of wild native species populations, including through in situ and ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife conflict and coexistence.

- ✓ Target 4 must include three elements: a) implementation of species-specific actions; b) enabling the recovery of threatened wild species and their genetic diversity; and c) inclusion of both in situ and ex situ conservation.

- ✓ IUCN suggests wording as follows: ***effectively manage human-wildlife conflict and coexistence***. This wording covers both conflict and coexistence.

Target 5

Ensure that the direct and indirect exploitation, use, and trade of wild species is sustainable, legal, and poses no significant risk of pathogen spillover to humans, wildlife, and other animals, and addresses both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

- ✓ The purpose of this target is to address overexploitation and trade, including illegal trade. IUCN suggests replacing ***harvesting*** by ***exploitation*** that is a broader term and encompasses harvesting, logging, hunting, and fishing.

Target 6

Identify and manage pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, preventing, or reducing their rate of introduction and establishment to the extent necessary to achieve the goals, and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, focusing on priority invasive alien species and priority sites.

- ✓ Introducing a percentage reduction, either to indicate the rate of introduction or establishment is arbitrary since it does not assert the level needed for the achievement of the goals. Hence, IUCN proposes adding ***to the extent necessary to achieve the goals***.

Target 8

Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation, adaptation and resilience including through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.

- ✓ The recent adoption of the definition of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) by UNEA-5⁵, based on the [IUCN definition](#), provides an internationally agreed understanding of this concept and should be accepted in the context of the GBF.
- ✓ The [IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#) provides an internationally recognized framework to i) standardize NbS approaches, ii) ensure and respond to stakeholders rights, particularly upholding the right of Indigenous Peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), iii) increase the scale and impact of NbS, iv) prevent unanticipated negative outcomes or misuse, and v) help funding agencies, policy makers, and other stakeholders assess the effectiveness of NbS implementation.

Target 10

Manage for sustainability all areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry and other productive uses, ensuring the sustainable use of biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services and the resilience of these production systems.

- ✓ In the absence of an explicit list of specific approaches that give meaning to the term 'sustainable management', the target should focus on the outcomes to be achieved by it, at the very least ensuring sustainable use of biodiversity and the enhancement of ecosystem services.
- ✓ IUCN supports including "other productive uses" which would avoid having to make a comprehensive list and would encompass ecosystems such as rangelands that cover vast territories.

Target 11

Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.

- ✓ IUCN suggests referring to nature's contributions to people established by IPBES, which encompass eighteen ecosystem services⁶, to avoid an exhaustive list of ecosystem services.

⁵ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39752/K2200677%20-%20UNEP-EA.5-Res.5%20-%20Advance.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁶ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. (2019). *Op. cit.*

- ✓ IUCN supports the reference to Nature-based Solutions (NbS) alongside ecosystem-based approaches to operationalize the target. NbS are designed to optimize ecosystem services tailored to the challenges to be addressed depending on the location.

Target 18

Identify and eliminate subsidies and incentives harmful for biodiversity, reducing them by at least US\$ 500 billion per year, and ensure that all incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations.

- ✓ It is important that the target text includes commitment to the identification of harmful incentives.
- ✓ A reasonable goal is that all Official Development Assistance and other official flows are screened for biodiversity and commitment is made to ensure that no harmful incentives are generated on biodiversity.

Target 19

Increase financial resources from all sources, including domestic, international, public and private sources to at least USD 200 billion per year, including new, additional and effective financial resources, increasing international financial flows to developing countries by at least USD 60 billion per year, leveraging private finance, and increasing domestic resource mobilization.

- ✓ The amount of financial resources allocated domestically versus internationally should take into consideration and reflect the amount of domestic versus international impacts of economic activities on biodiversity.
- ✓ This suggests that if the total financial resources amount to USD200 billion, considering all sources, then designating about 30% (USD60 billion) rather than 5% (USD 10 billion) of them to support conservation internationally seems more appropriate.

Target 22

Ensure women and girls equitable access and benefits from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their informed and effective participation at all levels of policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

- ✓ Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for the sustainable use of biodiversity, and therefore must be an essential component of the GBF. IUCN supports including an additional Target on Gender in the Post-2020 GBF and supports the wording proposed.

Sections H to K

IUCN recommends merging sections H, I and J to ensure a coherent approach to all elements that support effective implementation of the framework.

For enhanced transparency, these sections could identify the support mechanisms; the components of the planning, monitoring and review mechanism and the details for the operationalization can be developed in the relevant COP decisions.

- ✓ Existing thematic and cross-cutting Programmes of work could translate the GBF into specific topics thereby facilitating its implementation and review, and can inform the update/development of national targets. In this regard, IUCN invites Parties to consider establishing a Programme of Work for species conservation, using the Global Species Action Plan to achieve the species-related goal and targets of the GBF.

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