

# A New Vision for Biodiversity Conservation

Post-2010 Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Fourteenth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA14, 10-21 May 2010, Nairobi, Kenya) and Third Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGR13, 24-28 May 2010, Nairobi, Kenya)

This paper represents IUCN's position on the structure and elements of a post 2010 biodiversity target framework within the context of a new Strategic Plan for the CBD. This position will be submitted to SBSTTA14 and the WGR13, and then amended for submission to CBD COP10 to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010.

## Summary

The Strategic Plan should include and embrace at all levels **all components of biodiversity: ecosystems, species and genes for the benefit of all life on Earth.**

Biodiversity loss is continuing at unprecedented rates and urgent action is needed to ensure the resilience of people and nature and to avoid catastrophic tipping points. Recovering from such dramatic changes in biodiversity is difficult and costly, if not impossible in many instances.

The Strategic Plan should include a Vision for 2050; a biodiversity target (Mission) for 2020; short term targets with milestones for 2015; and indicators to measure progress against these targets. The Programmes of Work of the CBD and the decisions of the COPs should be aligned to the Strategic Plan.

Vision for 2050: **Living in harmony with nature: Biodiversity is conserved and restored, to secure a healthy planet and to deliver essential benefits for sustainable development and the well being of all people and nature.**

Short Mission for 2020: **To have put in place by 2020 all the necessary policies and actions to prevent further biodiversity loss.**

Post-2010 targets must be specific, measurable, achievable, ambitious, relevant and timely. They should ensure that the most important areas for biodiversity are conserved; embrace all biomes and all taxonomic groups, and call for what is necessary to achieve the Mission. Twenty targets are proposed for 2020.

Indicators to measure progress towards the achievement of targets need to be simple, short and understandable.

'Business as usual' will not achieve the 2020 Mission. New supporting mechanisms are required. These include new regulatory frameworks and financial incentives which effectively reflect the values of natural resources; the incorporation of the linkages between poverty, livelihoods and biodiversity into the development sector; cohesion between the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other organisations; strengthening of the science-policy interface; and implementation of an agreed International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).

## For further information please contact:

Dr. Jane Smart  
Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group  
IUCN Headquarters

Mrs. Sonia Peña Moreno  
Policy Officer- Biodiversity  
Tel: +41 22 999 0281  
IUCN Headquarters

IUCN World Headquarters  
Rue Mauverney 28  
1196 Gland  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 999 0000  
Fax: +41 22 999 0002  
[mail@iucn.org](mailto:mail@iucn.org)  
[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

## The biodiversity conservation imperative

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) concluded that 60% of ecosystem services worldwide have become degraded in the past 50 years, primarily because of unsustainable land, freshwater and ocean use practices. Most major habitats have declined in this time and at the species level, *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™* tells us that threatened and at risk of extinction worldwide are 22% of the world's mammals; nearly one third of amphibians; one in eight birds; 27% of reef building corals; and 28% of conifers. Species extinction rates are up to 1000 times average rates in pre-human times and are increasing.

Although information is incomplete on global and local trends in biodiversity, and although baselines and metrics for the assessment of biodiversity components are limited, we know enough to conclude that biodiversity is in serious trouble, and we are undermining the resilience of both people and nature. We will miss the CBD's current target of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, and new knowledge warns of dramatic changes in biodiversity. Recovering from such changes is difficult and costly, if not impossible in many instances. Urgent action is needed to avoid potentially catastrophic tipping points.

## Scope and elements of a new Strategic Plan for the CBD

The CBD's post 2010 Strategic Plan should be short, focused and action-oriented. It should include a Vision (for 2050); a biodiversity target (Mission) for 2020; short term targets with milestones for 2015; and indicators to measure progress against these targets.

The Strategic Plan should cover all three objectives of the CBD; highlight the links between biodiversity conservation and poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It should address the drivers of biodiversity loss and integrate biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies. The need for new and additional financial resources is critical and should be explained convincingly. It should draw upon available scientific evidence including the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3). It should be scalable at national level to drive the action required.

It is essential that the Programmes of Work of the CBD and its decisions be aligned to the Strategic

Plan. To achieve such an alignment it is necessary for all Programmes of Work to include specific targets, and to clearly state which targets each will contribute to in the Strategic Plan, using consistent terminology.

## A Vision for 2050

The Vision should constitute a long-term target for 2050:

**Living in harmony with nature: Biodiversity is conserved and restored, to secure a healthy planet and to deliver essential benefits for sustainable development and the well being of all people and nature.**

A 2050 vision should aim not just to halt loss of biodiversity but also comprehensively restore the populations, habitats and ecological cycles that enable biodiversity and ecosystem services to persist. A forty-year time horizon is appropriate for such a Vision given that the restoration of forests, wetlands, coral reefs, and other habitats depend on species and processes that can have generational periods of as long as decades.

## A Mission for 2020

The Mission (post-2010 target) should be formulated in terms of a level of change rather than a rate of change ("maintain and restore levels" rather than "reduce the rate of loss"). It also needs to respond to the critical need for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management, to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

To fulfil an ambitious Vision for 2050 it is necessary to, at the very least, aim at maintaining biodiversity and the health of ecosystems at current levels – in particular, by setting a Mission to prevent further species extinctions, loss of habitats and erosion of genetic diversity (e.g. of crop wild relatives). The following Mission for 2020 is suggested:

**To have put in place by 2020 all the necessary policies and actions to prevent further biodiversity loss, thus ensuring the continued provision of ecosystem goods and services, preventing irreversible environmental change, and avoiding dangerous consequences for humankind and other life on earth.**

To prevent further biodiversity loss it will be necessary to initiate urgent, concerted and effective policy reform and action as soon as possible. To ensure that the necessary actions have been initiated for achievement of the Mission,

it is essential that progress be scrutinised in 2012, coinciding with the Rio + 20 milestone. Progress should be also reviewed in 2015, making use of knowledge gained from reporting against the MDGs. The timescale necessary for ecological restoration aligns with the 2050 Vision.

A short version of the Mission:

**To have put in place by 2020 all the necessary policies and actions to prevent further biodiversity loss.**

## 20 Targets for 2020

The post-2010 targets must be developed to call for what is necessary to achieve the Mission. They should be specific, measurable, achievable, ambitious, relevant and timely. Targets should include consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, restoration, ecological and biological connectivity; ensure that the most important areas for biodiversity are conserved; and embrace all biomes and all taxonomic groups. They should be formulated according to a Pressure (encompassing Drivers and Threats)—State—Benefits (or Impacts) —Response framework. Targets should apply the precautionary principle.

The targets should be scalable at a variety of geographic levels to allow Parties to incorporate them into National Strategies and Biodiversity Action Plans (NBSAPs). Critically, they also need to be established to facilitate the involvement of the economic sector – and link to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Mechanisms for addressing the indirect drivers should be proposed. The compliance issue should be addressed e.g. through the adoption of new protocols.

The direct drivers - climate change, resource consumption, pollution (including acidification), marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitat fragmentation and destruction, unsustainable use of wild living resources, invasive species, emerging infectious diseases and bycatch - and indirect drivers (e.g. resource consumption, globalisation, trade, demographic drivers) need to be addressed specifically and explicitly through the targets.

The CBD has proposed a framework of 20 targets for 2020 arranged under five Strategic Goals. The table below shows IUCN's suggested modifications of the targets proposed by the CBD. Interim milestones will need to be developed for 2015 to monitor progress on implementation.

## Indicators to measure progress against targets

Indicators for the post 2010 targets should draw on existing indicator work. Many require further development, most need more data to be collected, and there are serious gaps to be filled, for example on ecosystem goods and services, and ABS. Although the choice of indicators will depend on the choice of targets, it is also important to ensure that the necessary data is available for their development.

In addition to being measurable, indicators need to be simple and understandable (and clearly linked to the targets) to facilitate communication of the indicator set through clear, policy relevant messages. They should be supported by adequate finance, and take into consideration the costs of monitoring.

Indicators for the post 2010 period should ideally be scalable at local, national and global levels; be adaptable for use by other sectors, e.g. business; and make use of both scientific information and traditional knowledge. As with the targets, the indicators should be formulated within a Pressure (encompassing Drivers and Threats)—State—Benefits (or Impacts) —Response framework.

Robust indicators to measure the objectives of the CBD concerned with sustainable use and ABS need to be included. An indicator to demonstrate and measure the strong links between cultural and biological diversity (including ethical and faith-related issues) is essential. Indicators adopted for the achievement of the MDGs (e.g. The IUCN Red List Index) should be incorporated into the framework wherever feasible.

## How can the Mission be achieved?

'Business as usual' will not achieve the 2020 Mission. New supporting mechanisms are required.

**Financial Resources:** It is essential that Parties and other stakeholders have the means to achieve the Strategic Plan. Capacity at ministerial level should be enhanced to ensure sufficient resource allocation to support biodiversity conservation. Parties should implement new financial incentive mechanisms that mobilize both public and private investment in biodiversity conservation and restoration.

Explicit mandates to existing funding bodies such as the GEF in support of the CBD Strategic Plan and biodiversity target framework should be

confirmed. In addition, new funding options need to be developed such as the Green Development Mechanism.

**Engagement with the economic sector:** the Strategic Plan should invite and facilitate its implementation by economic sectors, such as agriculture and industry. New and innovative financial instruments need to be developed (particularly those targeted at the poor), such as payments for ecosystem services, extended environmental responsibility and consumer labelling schemes.

The findings of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study (TEEB) are particularly relevant. This global study on the economics of biodiversity loss draws together knowledge and expertise in the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions in response to growing evidence of the impacts of biodiversity loss. Simple guidelines on economic methods to effectively account for the values of natural resources (and the costs of their loss) need to be developed, disseminated and used.

For instance, the Satoyama Initiative, led by the Government of Japan recognises the potential of socio-ecological production systems for optimizing biodiversity conservation and the conservation of cultural services in a sustainable manner.

**Engagement with the development community:** Traditionally engagement with the CBD has been through environment ministries. There is a real need for the other ministries and development agencies to engage to strengthen synergies between poverty reduction, economic development and biodiversity conservation. Poverty reduction plans should recognise the links between biodiversity and poverty and identify concrete actions and appropriate financial instruments to deliver positive outcomes. Guidance on governance mechanisms for biodiversity mainstreaming needs to be developed.

**Cohesion between the MEAs and other organisations:** A new era of cooperation between the CBD and other global and regional agreements is overdue. Relevant elements of the Strategic Plan should be incorporated into other multilateral environmental instruments:

- The Strategic Plan should contribute to the achievement of the MDGs;
- There needs to be complete synergy in the implementation of the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD. The three conventions were born from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and the 2012

“Rio+20” Conference provides a means to pursue improved integration;

- Other biodiversity-related conventions (CITES, UNESCO WHC, Ramsar, CMS, ITPGR) should adopt relevant targets from the CBD Strategic Plan;
- More cohesion between all UN conventions and organisations (e.g. UNDP; WTO; WHO; UNEP Regional Seas Programme) through the UN Environmental Management Group (EMG) is necessary;
- Stronger links need to be built between the CBD and the IUCN family of Members, Commissions, and Secretariat.

**Research, monitoring and assessment:** Regular assessments of the status of biodiversity and ecosystem services would significantly benefit implementation. This could be provided through an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This mechanism needs to strengthen urgently the science - policy interface, particularly in relation to evidence on the importance of biodiversity for improving the resilience of people and nature as well as for local and national development, livelihoods and human wellbeing.

**Engagement with the public sector and other stakeholders:** the Strategic Plan should be established to help facilitate its implementation by planning and development authorities in both urban and rural areas. Other stakeholders including community groups, indigenous peoples and faith-based institutions should be engaged.

**Communications:** The world at large does not understand the role of biodiversity in relation to the survival and well-being of humankind. There is an urgent need to widely adopt the viewpoint that conservation is a not luxury, but the foundation of life, livelihoods and development. There is a need to further enlist the commitment of civil society to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the CBD. Efforts to better communicate the relevance of the CBD objectives with biodiversity considerations in other sectors is critical - supported by packages in multiple languages and use of current communication tools.

**Other support Mechanisms:** It is important to translate the elements of the Strategic Plan into national level biodiversity targets. Additional support should be provided to developing countries for revising NBSAPs for implementation within a multi-sectoral stakeholder base. Formulation of the International Regime on ABS (which it is essential to adopt at COP10) takes into account capacity building at national and regional levels.

	<b>SCBD proposed targets for 2020 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/10</b>	<b>IUCN proposed targets for 2020</b>
	<b>Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</b>	<b>Strategic Goal A: To reduce the pressures (indirect drivers) of biodiversity loss</b>
1	By 2020, everyone is aware of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to protect it.	By 2020, everyone is aware of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to protect it.
2	By 2020, the values of biodiversity are integrated by all countries in their national accounts, national and local strategies and planning processes, and by business, applying the Ecosystem Approach.	By 2020, the values of biodiversity, and the opportunities derived from its conservation and sustainable use, are recognized and integrated by all countries in their national accounts, national and local strategies and planning processes, and by business, supported by effective economic incentives.
3	By 2020, subsidies harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied	By 2020, subsidies harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied.
4	By 2020, Governments and stakeholders at all levels have formulated, and have begun to implement, sustainability plans to keep the use of resources within ecological limits.	By 2020, incentives to encourage efficiency in production are used to reduce the use of resources and production of waste to within ecological limits by enabling and promoting technology transfer and cooperation.
	<b>Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.</b>	<b>Strategic Goal B: To reduce the pressures (direct drivers or threats) that result in biodiversity loss.</b>
5	By 2020, the loss and degradation of forests and other natural habitats is halved.	By 2020, the loss and degradation of natural habitats and ecosystem integrity is halted.
6	By 2020, overfishing and destructive fishing practices are eliminated.	By 2020, pressure on marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems through overharvesting is halted and destructive harvesting practices are eliminated.
7	By 2020, all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably	By 2020, all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, or subject to mining and energy production, are managed according to sustainability criteria; including through the development and adoption of certification schemes.
8	By 2020, pollution from excess nutrients and other sources has been brought below critical ecosystem loads.	By 2020, pollution from excess nutrients (e.g. nitrogen and phosphorus), and environmental toxins, has been brought below critical ecosystem loads
9	By 2020, pathways for the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species have been controlled and established alien invasive species are identified, prioritised and controlled or eradicated.	By 2020, new introductions of invasive species are prevented, currently established invasive species are identified, prioritised and accordingly controlled or eradicated, and emerging infectious diseases of wildlife controlled.
10	By 2020, manage the multiple pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change and ocean acidification so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	By 2020, the impacts of climate change and of ocean acidification on ecosystems have been reduced, and mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change that support and conserve biodiversity have been agreed and implemented.

	<b>SCBD proposed targets for 2020 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/10</b>	<b>IUCN proposed targets for 2020</b>
	<b>Strategic Goal C: Safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</b>	<b>Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</b>
11	By 2020, at least 15% of land and sea areas, including the areas of particular importance for biodiversity, have been protected through representative networks of effectively managed protected areas and other means, integrated into the wider land- and seascape.	By 2020, all terrestrial, freshwater and marine key biodiversity areas have been protected through representative networks of effectively managed protected area systems integrated into wider land- and seascape, and the total global coverage of recognised protected areas (according to the IUCN categories) is at least 15%.
12	By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented.	By 2020, the extinction of threatened species in the wild has been prevented
13.	By 2020, the status of crop and livestock genetic diversity in agricultural ecosystems and of wild relatives has improved.	By 2020, genetic diversity of wild and domesticated crop relatives and livestock is effectively conserved in situ and ex situ.
	<b>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystems.</b>	<b>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystems, including for climate change adaptation and mitigation.</b>
14	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, and contribute to local livelihoods, are safeguarded or are being restored, and adequate and equitable access to essential ecosystem services is guaranteed for all, especially for indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable.	By 2020, biodiversity and ecosystems that provide essential services, and contribute to local livelihoods, are safeguarded or are being restored, and adequate and equitable access to essential ecosystem services is guaranteed for all, especially for indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable.
15	By 2020, the contribution of biodiversity to ecosystem resilience and to carbon storage and sequestration is enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded forest landscapes, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	By 2020, terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity that provides critical services for building socio-ecological resilience for climate change mitigation and adaptation is safeguarded and restored.
	<b>Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through planning, knowledge management and capacity development, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.</b>	<b>Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through planning, knowledge management and capacity development, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.</b>
16	By 2020, each Party has implemented an effective national biodiversity strategy, contributing to the achievement of the mission, goals and targets of the Strategic Plan.	By 2020, each Party has implemented an effective national biodiversity strategy, contributing to the achievement of the mission, goals and targets of the Strategic Plan.
17	By 2020, access to genetic resources is enhanced, and substantial benefits are shared, consistent with the international regime on access and benefit sharing.	By 2020, access to genetic resources is enhanced and effectively regulated through the International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), and substantial benefits are equitably shared.
18	By 2020, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices are protected and their contribution to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity is recognized and enhanced.	By 2020, traditional knowledge, and related innovations and practices, and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities over these are protected, and their contribution to the sustainable management of biodiversity is recognised and enhanced.
19	By 2020, knowledge and technologies relating to biodiversity, its value and functioning, its status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved and widely shared.	By 2020, current scientific information and technologies on biodiversity, its value and functioning, its status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved and continuously widely shared with decision makers.
20	By 2020, capacity (human resources and financing) for implementing the Convention has been increased tenfold.	By 2020, capacity (human resources and financing) for implementing the Convention has been increased tenfold, including through each OECD Party contributing at least 0.3% of GDP to national biodiversity conservation measures in addition to 0.7% for development assistance.

