



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



INFORMATION NOTE ¹

UPDATE ON THE UN EMG CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON BIODIVERSITY, AT THE TIME OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE OEWG ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

20 February 2020

This note is an update on the work and the exchange of views in the UN Environment Management Group Consultative Process on Biodiversity², for information and consideration of the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

It builds on the key messages of the UN entities and WWF and IUCN as observers to the Consultative Process, compiled in the document : [Overview of UN System Inputs to the Development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#). It includes initial reflections from UN EMG members and IUCN and WWF on the Zero Draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, circulated by the OEWG co-chairs on January 13th, 2020.

The EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity will continue its work alongside the work of the OEWG, to contribute to the deliberations of the OEWG in development of the post 2020

¹ This information document is a living document which provides some inputs by EMG UN member entities and IUCN and WWF as observers to the EMG Consultative Process, to help reflections on the post 2020 global strategic framework on biodiversity. The information document therefore is not a negotiated text and intends only to provide some thoughts that might be useful in preparation of the framework.

² The Environment Management Group is a UN coordination and collaboration mechanism on the environment hosted and chaired by UNEP and composed of 50 UN entities. More information on the EMG and its membership can be found here: <https://unemg.org/about-emg/emg-members/>

EMG invites non-UN entities as observers to its task teams and consultative processes to benefit from their expertise and knowledge as appropriate. More information on the UN EMG Consultative Process on post 2020 global biodiversity framework can be found here: <https://unemg.org/our-work/emerging-issues/biodiversity/>

framework as well as in implementation of the framework. The final outcome of the EMG Consultative Process will be a UN report endorsed by Heads of UN entities on the implementation of the post 2020 global strategic framework to be delivered to the CBD COP15.

ACTIVITIES OF THE EMG CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON BIODIVERSITY

The international community, under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), aims to adopt a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Work is already well underway to prepare for the 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in October 2020 in Kunming, China, when the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework (the post-2020 GBF), currently under development, will likely be adopted.

Following the [request of the Open-ended Working Group \(OEWG\) on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) and building on the EMG's [contribution to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#), the EMG Senior Officials established a Consultative Process in September 2019³ to provide a UN system contribution to the development and implementation of the post-2020 GBF.

The Consultative Process prepared an [Overview of UN System Inputs to the Development of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) in response to CBD Notifications [2018-063](#), [2019-008](#), and [2019-075](#). The Overview listed common messages raised by EMG members (UN entities) and observers (namely WWF and IUCN) in their submissions and included a summary of entities' comments on the 2050 Vision and the 2030 Mission, Goals and Targets. The Overview was considered and commented by the Consultative Process at its [first meeting](#) which was held in the margins of the 23rd meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in November 2019. The co-chairs of the OEWG attended the EMG Consultative Process meeting and shared their perspectives on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and a possible contribution by the UN system, putting emphasis on the urgency of immediate action to halt biodiversity loss while preparing the strategic framework. The co-chairs were informed of the Overview and initial views of the UN agencies on the strategic framework, prior to the issuance of the Zero Draft of the framework.

This note provides a synthesis of the Overview as well as additional views and reflections the Consultative Process on the Zero Draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework published on 13th January 2020. It presents overall views of the Consultative Process on the post-2020 GBF including perspectives on the 2050 Vision, the 2030 Mission, the Goals and the Targets, without highlighting individual targets or indicators. Specific suggestions on targets and indicators have been provided individually by some EMG members⁴ in response to CBD Secretariat Notification [2019-108](#) and during their

³ See <https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Annex-3-EMG-SOM-biodiversity-discussion-FINAL.pdf>

⁴ The agencies (CMS, UNCTAD, CITES/UNU, FAO, UNESCO, UNDESA / UNCEEA, UNEP, UNU, CGIAR/International Treaty)'s and the observers (WWF; IUCN and its subsidiary bodies)'s inputs on the Co-chairs Zero Draft are available at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/submissions/2019-108->

interventions during OEWG 1 and the 23rd session of SBSTTA. It will be further discussed during the [second meeting](#) of the Consultative Process (Rome, 27th February).

The submissions by UN entities included in the Overview and in the present Note represent the views of these entities' Secretariats. The submissions outline UN entities' ongoing biodiversity related work, in line with established mandates received from their relevant governing bodies.

EMG members will continue their collaboration in line with the [terms of reference of the Consultative Process](#), i.a. on the identification of "an approach for a shared follow up, coordination and implementation of the Post-2020 GBF by the UN system, including the potential for UN system entities to be custodians of a biodiversity goal(s), target(s) and/or indicator(s), and UN system support for implementation by other actors". This approach will be explored in a UN system-wide report which after endorsement by Heads of UN entities should be submitted for consideration of the parties to the CBD in COP15. Further updates on the progress of the EMG Consultative Process will be provided to the future meetings of the OEWG.

GENERAL VIEWS ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CO-CHAIRS ZERO DRAFT

- 1. Ensuring interlinkages and synergy between the post-2020 GBF and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development**
 - The Co-chairs Zero Draft acknowledges that "past and ongoing rapid declines in biodiversity, ecosystem functions and many of nature's contributions to people mean that most international societal and environmental goals, such as those embodied in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will not be achieved on the basis of current trajectories". It further underlines that "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity will be implemented at the same time as the post-2020 GBF and will create opportunities for synergies but, also, the need to account for and balance trade-offs". The post-2020 GBF should therefore be developed to move forward on the biodiversity agenda in support of the SDGs, by stressing the solutions that biodiversity and nature can offer to humanity for its wellbeing. Almost every action taken on biodiversity can be considered as a nature-based solution: whether it's conservation, sustainable use or benefit sharing.
 - It is therefore important that the post-2020 GBF clearly defines its relationship and synergies with the SDGs. Giving centrality to the SDGs in the structure and wording of the post-2020 GBF would highlight the relevance of biodiversity to each and every SDG, and therefore structure the mainstreaming of biodiversity in all sectoral policies. Furthermore, it would allow for inclusion of biodiversity in the strategies and workplans of international institutions in the frame of their existing mandates under SDGs. The post-2020 GBF can provide a clear view of how biodiversity underpins the implementation of SDGs by providing concrete steps that can be taken by the entire society at all levels in order to move towards sustainable development through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equal sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, including through appropriate access.
 - By ensuring synergy between the 2030 Agenda and the GBF the EMG members will be committed to enhance mainstreaming of GBF across their respective sectors for follow up and implementation as part of their current commitment to support implementation of respective SDG targets and indicators, for example as custodians or lead agencies.

- To the extent possible, consideration should be given to the use or adaptation of the SDGs reporting / monitoring structure and environmental indicators into the post-2020 GBF, including those SDG indicators that are set to expire and be renewed/revised in 2020.
- The EMG Consultative Process will explore the synergies between the post-2020 GBF and SDG commitments and highlight them in its future work, including the accountability of agencies which are custodians of biodiversity-relevant SDG targets.
- In addition, it will be important for the post-2020 GBF to align with and leverage SDG advocacy campaigns and related events in the Super Year for Nature and beyond. These include the launch for the Decade for Action on the 2030 Agenda, the launch of the Decade for Action on Restoration of Ecosystems, the annual HLPF and meeting of the UNGA, as well as other specific SDG events that go beyond the more traditional audiences for biodiversity, i.e. around SDGs linked to poverty eradication, inequalities, women's empowerment, governance, health, and inclusive growth.

2. **Coherence and synergies with other conventions and international agendas⁵ should be a priority**

- Methods should be developed to promote collaboration, cooperation, and integration of the post-2020 GBF with existing conventions and international/inter-governmental instruments and agendas. There should also be efforts made to reduce duplication in and of existing reporting processes, at national, regional and global levels, so as to reduce redundancy and capitalise on possible reporting synergies for the Post-2020 GBF.
- In order to recognize the strong interlinkages and interdependency across, and promote collaboration with other biodiversity-related conventions, as called for in para 9.c of the Zero Draft, they could be seen as operational arms of an overarching objective, namely the post-2020 GBF. This would not only contribute to enhanced implementation and increased consistency in messaging, but also to building their ownership of the Post-2020 GBF. Ownership of the post-2020 GBF by MEAs on other topics should be also be increased. This could be built through a collaborative approach and a focus on including complementarities.
- There is a unique window of opportunity to develop a post-2020 framework that can better support the integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity (i.e. nature-based solutions) in the new generation of National Determined Contributions (NDC) under the UNFCCC and the Land Degradation Neutrality target setting under the UNCCD.
- Special attention should be paid to ensure that attainment of other agendas does not undermine biodiversity objectives, while at the same efforts are made to leverage these agendas to advance biodiversity goals. In order to help reduce the likelihood of this happening, biodiversity should be mainstreamed into other international agendas

⁵ Coherence and synergies with other conventions and international agendas, such as: Rio +20 Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, existing (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD, etc.) COP decisions, regional water conventions, etc.

and UN processes. For example, biodiversity could be incorporated into UNSCDFs and UN entity strategic plans, and in national accounting and reporting systems.

- The entire post-2020 GBF should refer to the aesthetic, spiritual, religious, cultural and recreational values of biodiversity and ecosystems, and recognize that the enjoyment of the right to culture, children's right to play, freedom of religion, as well as other human rights, are all highly dependent upon the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. At the same time, efforts can be continued to monitor and leverage ongoing efforts to recognize a healthy environment, including ecosystems and biodiversity, as a basic human right, as well as the importance of Principle 10 procedural rights related to biodiversity and the management of natural resources.
- Synergies between regional CBD COP consultations on the GBF and inter-governmental meetings held by regional committees should be explored and mobilised. These should be used to mainstream biodiversity into regional policy agendas and regional issue-based coalitions, and to enhance transformational change for the biodiversity, climate change, environment and 2030 agendas.

3. **Responsibility, accountability, commitment and liability should be increased**

- The Aichi Targets lacked effective implementation, and so it is crucial that the post-2020 GBF increases responsibility and accountability for, and commitment and liability to achieving the objectives and targets of the Post-2020 GBF. Stronger and more transparent monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms could facilitate this and need to be included. Such mechanisms should be transparent for accountability reasons but also to share best practices for national policies, processes and 'champion initiatives'.
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- Transparency around current biodiversity expenditures and financial needs is crucial to increase responsibility and accountability for the framework. It can also increase commitment and support resource mobilization from all possible sources towards the achievement of the GBF.
- Community-based monitoring is also an important consideration for accountability and liability reasons. National commitments should therefore be available for indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and other communities to inform, track progress, and implement as relevant.
- Environmental human rights defenders play a critical role in the conservation of biodiversity, this role and the need to protect them should be explicitly addressed in the Post-2020 GBF.
- The post-2020 GBF should require regular review and periodic 'global stocktakes' of commitments, including voluntary commitments, in order to identify whether they require 'ratcheting up'. Such global stocktakes should use global and national indicators in addition to sectoral indicators and could occur through one or more specifically designed complementary mechanisms. This will enable the identification of implementation gaps and will therefore facilitate actions to improve implementation.

4. **Connectivity should have a central focus, potentially as one of a set of top priorities**

- Connectivity should be centrally included in the Post-2020 GBF, either as a stand-alone target or as part of other relevant goals, milestones, and/or targets. Regardless, it should be a central consideration in implementation. It encompasses interacting considerations of land/seascape, ecological, habitat, evolutionary process connectivity

which are all relevant to genetic, species and ecosystem diversity. Connectivity is relevant to addressing concerns related to climate change adaptation, migratory species, genetic diversity, habitat fragmentation, ecological functioning, city planning, ecosystem restoration, etc. Considerations for the inclusion of connectivity as an element of the Post-2020 GBF should include attention to retention of intact wilderness but should also incorporate biodiversity in productive and urban areas.

5. Addressing direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, stakeholder and sectoral engagement

- It is critical that the post-2020 GBF tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss, including ways to correct systemic market and governance failures, transform food, agricultural and commodity systems, redirect financial flows, integrate biodiversity into economic planning and incentive systems as well as production and consumption patterns. promote ecosystem-based mitigation of and adaptation to climate change as well as disaster risk reduction, and galvanize a critical mass of public and private sector action. This should start with a clear commitment to reduce the negative ecological footprint of production and consumption. The post-2020 GBF should include targets, priority strategies and mechanisms to involve key sectors that impact on biodiversity (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, infrastructure and energy, extractives and manufacturing).
- A commitment to develop - with the adequate involvement of all relevant stakeholders and rights-holders - sector-specific national, regional and global plans of action for food, agriculture and commodities, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure and energy, extractives and manufacturing, should be included in the post-2020 GBF.
- Furthermore, the post-2020 GBF should promote actions to align financial flows with the goal of halting biodiversity loss and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services. This includes the more efficient use and prioritization of existing public, private, domestic and international resources, as well as reforming subsidy systems that fully considers nature and social concerns, while also planning policy responses that do no harm, Leave No One Behind and ensure a just transition.
- Incorporating sustainable trade, as a target, sub-target or means of implementation, into the post-2020 GBF could help Parties orient their laws and policies toward furthering the implementation of their CBD obligations.
- Governance (including adherence to environmental rule of law and international human rights law, and safeguards), integration, finance, capacity building, stronger science and data for policy making (i.a. with the development of links between IPBES and IPCC workplans), should be included in the post-2020 GBF as enabling factors.
- Diverse stakeholders (IPLCs, youth, women, local governments, civil society, the private sector) should be engaged in the development, governance, monitoring and implementation of the Post-2020 GBF. Guidelines and capacity-building should also be provided to facilitate and enable their involvement. Adequate mechanisms, such as empowered, functional, fully inclusive and representative multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms at national and, when relevant, regional and sub-regional levels, should be set up or strengthen the participation and engagement of all stakeholders in action planning, advice and implementation.
- The Post-2020 GBF should explicitly state that the necessary updates to NBSAPs should not delay the implementation of recently completed NBSAPs.

THE 2050 VISION AND THE 2030 MISSION

- The CBD 2050 Vision, ‘Living in harmony with nature’, outlined in [decision 10/2](#), presents a general direction for the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It presents an admirable goal, but in order to enact the Vision some clarification is required. What exactly is meant by ‘nature’ must be more clearly established in addition to what ‘living in harmony’ entails.
- The prior is not easily done as any conception of nature reflects specific cultural values, but such clarification would nonetheless be useful to orienting action. In terms of ‘living in harmony’, this could be clarified through an emphasis on the planetary emergency and the need for transformational change by drawing straight from the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss identified in the 2019 IPBES Global Assessment report and the Global Biodiversity Outlook.
- Long-term targets that end in 2050 would also be useful to underline the connection between the 2030 Mission and the 2050 Vision, to maintain momentum for attaining the Vision, and to act as landing lights for its attainment.
- In particular, an apex target, similar to the symbolic ‘1.5 degrees’ target of the Paris Agreement, should be developed to support both the 2030 Mission and the 2050 Vision.
- Any targets or goals for 2030 and 2040 should be developed by back-casting from the 2050 Vision in order to ensure that the required actions are proportional to the desired outcomes.
- Such scenarios and models can be both the basis for back-casting and for communicating the rationale for the increased ambition that the post-2020 GBF necessitates and should therefore also incorporate the expected impacts of climate change.
- The 2030 Mission should act as a stepping stone for the 2050 Vision. It must incorporate a gender and broader inequalities and rights-based perspective and should contain an explicit connection to the SDGs. References to the full and effective participation of women and girls should be aligned with agreed language, i.e., “equal” rather than “equitable” participation.
- Focusing the post-2020 GBF on wellbeing and ecosystem services not only highlights the link between society and nature but can also be used to promote actions that enhance both, as well as growth.
- The 2030 mission should help countries prioritize biodiversity investments and interventions that meet commitments to multiple conventions and international agendas.
- The 2030 Mission should identify key triggers for necessary systemic changes such as redirecting financial flows from nature destructive activities or leveraging legal systems so to create material risks for investments and businesses (i.e. businesses and individuals become legally liable for the destruction of nature, aiming for cascading impacts that can upscale individual efforts).

GOALS AND TARGETS

- Mainstreaming biodiversity, reducing pressures on biodiversity, safeguarding ecosystems, enhancing benefits from biodiversity, and enhancing implementation could all be included as goals or targets for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- The post-2020 GBF must clarify the relationship between national and global targets. National commitments should be based on evidence of how they contribute to national and global goals, and so a 2030 Mission Apex Goal should be able to be disaggregated nationally, by sector, and for individual actors and stakeholders.
- Targets should explicitly address the drivers of biodiversity loss, all three components of biodiversity (genetic, species, ecosystem) and the processes and patterns relevant to each type.
- The Post-2020 GBF should focus on prevention of adverse impacts and will benefit from a categorisation of the targets. This could potentially be based on the drivers of biodiversity loss they will contribute to address, but the existing Aichi Goals or whichever goals the Post-2020 GBF adopts could also be used. Other suggestions include categorizing targets as aspirational, targets and milestones for the biodiversity community itself, targets and milestones for influence on other sectors, and targets for enabling activities.
- The targets should be science-based, as these typically set a higher level of ambition. These targets should also present an increased specificity and measurability compared to the Aichi Targets. Where possible, targets or sub-targets should be shared with the SDGs and other MEAs to highlight how investment in biodiversity can deliver multiple sustainable development benefits. The Aichi Targets should be used as the base, with identified gaps and bottlenecks being filled. Furthermore, the Post-2020 GBF needs to distinguish between outcome- and process-oriented targets.
- Different conservation tools will likely need their own targets to ensure their effective implementation. There also needs to be a specific focus on improving transboundary and international cooperation. With a broad range of actors involved and a variety of development challenges, it is important to recognise different roles and responsibilities, the differentiation of which should be outlined in the Post-2020 GBF targets themselves. Areas beyond national jurisdiction should be specifically addressed and activities identified to address such issues.
- The goals, targets and indicators should include disaggregation by sex to the extent possible, including in particular, all references to the participation in decision-making processes, the generation and sharing of knowledge, and access to and benefit from resources
- It is very important to explicitly specify coastal and inland water ecosystems together with marine ecosystems to ensure that they are duly included in the post-2020 GBF
- The appendix includes some preliminary, possible indicators, including those that are already available as part of the SDG monitoring, in line with recommendation 23/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which requests the inclusion of information on the availability of indicators for targets included in the zero draft. In this context, it is important to include as much as possible relevant SDG indicators.