



# IUCN's position on selected issues

## Convention on Biological Diversity

### Twenty fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA24)

### Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI3)

3 May – 13 June 2021

#### Summary of Key Messages

IUCN welcomes the decision to hold the subsidiary body meetings in a virtual format, but stresses that it is critical that sufficient time is given to hear the views of civil society during the negotiations. This will facilitate progress on all agenda items towards the adoption of a robust post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at COP15.

IUCN is extremely concerned that, despite good progress, none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets has been fully achieved. The current trajectory of biodiversity decline will result in the precipitous eroding life and livelihoods worldwide. However, it is not too late to reverse this trend if action at scale is taken now.

The Post-2020 framework must aim to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2030, and achieve recovery and restoration by 2050. IUCN's more detailed views are available in its [position on the updated zero-draft of the post-2020 GBF](#).

In particular, IUCN calls for:

- Separate goals for the components of biodiversity: ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, as they have distinct characteristics;
- Strengthening the "line of sight" between the goals and targets in the GBF and NBSAPs. Parties should be required to update existing NBSAPs to reflect the new goals and targets, and include these in their subsequent NBSAPs;
- Transparency with regard to the inclusion in and subsequent implementation of goals and targets in NBSAPs through National Reports, taking into account headline, component and complementary indicators;
- Reference to rights-based approaches, the Gender Plan of Action and the integration of views and actions from Indigenous Peoples and local communities' in the GBF and NBSAPs;
- The establishment of regular 'global biodiversity stocktakes' to enable countries to periodically determine and then enhance, as necessary, ambition, resource mobilization and implementation efforts.
- A robust and transparent implementation mechanism, containing specific guidance for NBSAPs, reporting guidance and headline indicators, independent expert review,
- Significant enhancement in the planning, governance and management of the world's protected and conserved areas. This includes a focus on protecting areas of importance for biodiversity, specifically Key Biodiversity Areas, adding up to a percentage coverage of 30% by 2030
- Recognition of the IUCN Green List to support measurable progress towards the target and an increased focus on better governance and management to deliver effective and equitable conservation outcomes;
- Parties to upscale species conservation measures, essential for the overall achievement of the post-2020 GBF.
- Substantially increased investment and improved policy frameworks to incentivise private and public finance flows A significant increase in efforts to mobilize resources from all sources in a manner commensurate with the level of ambition of the Post-2020 framework is critical.
- Post-COVID recovery to strengthen the business case for conserving and investing in nature highlighting all biodiversity values, social and environmental benefits, economic gains and avoided losses;
- Prioritisation by the GEF and other funding mechanisms of integrated approaches targeting biodiversity loss, health, land degradation and climate change in delivering the post-2020 framework.

For more information, please contact:

Dr Jane Smart  
Global Director,  
Biodiversity Conservation  
Group  
Head, Species  
Programme  
IUCN Headquarters  
[jane.smart@iucn.org](mailto:jane.smart@iucn.org)

Mrs. Sonia Peña Moreno  
Head (a.i.)  
Global Policy Unit  
IUCN Headquarters  
[sonia.penamoren@iucn.org](mailto:sonia.penamoren@iucn.org)

Ms. Victoria Romero  
Project Officer –  
Biodiversity and Climate  
Change Policy Tools  
Global Policy Unit  
IUCN Headquarters  
[victoria.romero@iucn.org](mailto:victoria.romero@iucn.org)

**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)

## Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Agenda item 3 – SBSTTA24; Agenda item 5 – SBI3)

### Proposed indicators and monitoring approach (SBSTTA/24/3/Add1)

IUCN is broadly supportive of the proposed monitoring approach and indicators framework. However, while headline indicators are an important step forward, IUCN notes the importance of measurability of indicators. **The level of disaggregated information will be essential to accurately monitor progress towards goals and targets consistently by all Parties.**

Given the crucial importance of alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is essential that all relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators are included as headline indicators. Thus, as an example, SDG indicators 14.5.1, 15.1.2, and 15.4.1 should be included as a headline indicator. Furthermore, while the current draft of the monitoring framework includes references to inclusive tenure rights as well as inclusive decision-making and holistic governance approaches, it would benefit from stronger linkages to SDG indicators related specifically to inclusive tenure rights and governance, in particular SDG indicators 1.4.2, 5.a.1, and 5.a.2.

**IUCN further encourages the post-2020 monitoring framework to consider disaggregating relevant indicator data by gender.** This is necessary for the implementation of a gender-responsive post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Relevant indicators include those for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

**IUCN strongly supports the adoption of the monitoring framework and indicators at the same time as the goals and targets.** IUCN recognizes however, that there are many goals and targets for which existing indicators are unsuitable or non-existent and encourages their further development. In this regard, IUCN is supportive of maintaining the framework under review and further supports a continuing role for the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

**Scientific and technical information to support the review of the proposed goals and targets in the updated zero draft (SBSTTA/24/3/Add2)**

**The post-2020 GBF requires a clear "line-of-sight" between goals and targets and their**

**corresponding indicators, with transparent linkages.** This is needed to make national level contributions to global targets - and to the Mission and Vision – evident, comparable and accountable.

IUCN appreciates that all three objectives of the CBD are enshrined in Goals. However, **we argue strongly that ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity must also be included in a distinct outcome Goal**, as in the Zero Draft – these different components of biodiversity differ in their geography and responses to human drivers<sup>1</sup>, as well as in the action needed to address them.

IUCN also emphasizes the **need to integrate a rights-based approach across the GBF**, recognizing that nature, culture and rights are interdependent. In keeping with this, the GBF should recognize and ensure the distinct rights and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples, with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). We further recommend the inclusion of language on appropriate recognition and support for the collective lands, waters and territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

IUCN welcomes the explicit recognition of the importance of maintaining the "tree of life" through the conservation of evolutionarily distinct species, and recommends that this is further be bolstered through the adoption of the relevant suggested indicators.

IUCN's more detailed views are available in its [position on the updated zero-draft of the post-2020 GBF](#).

### Other elements of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

#### *Responsibility and transparency*

It is important that the indicators (headline, component and complementary) are linked to the reporting obligations of Parties. A monitoring framework can only function if Parties transparently and consistently report on the indicators in their regular National Reports. IUCN supports the request to Parties to provide information on the implementation of the goals and targets in their National Reports, taking into account all indicators.

---

<sup>1</sup> Diaz et al. (2020) Science  
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/370/6515/411>

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the means for implementation of the Convention at the national level, and must directly contribute (and link) to global goals and targets. Experience with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 showed that the analysis of national targets as presented in the NBSAPs was not commensurate with the global ambition represented in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. **Incorporation into NBSAPs of national-level “science-based targets”, based on disaggregation of the global goals, is a highly promising approach to achieve this<sup>2</sup>.**

Parties should agree to rapidly update and maintain their NBSAPs to reflect clearly their national contributions to the new goals and targets. Moreover, **IUCN supports the establishment of regular 'global biodiversity stocktakes'** to enable countries to periodically enhance (or 'ratchet up') ambition, resource mobilization and implementation efforts. A principle of progression would apply – Parties would be required to enhance the level of ambition in each new NBSAP compared to the previous one.

#### *Enabling conditions*

While the focus of the ongoing negotiations has been on the goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF, much less attention has been paid to the enabling conditions required for the implementation of the framework. At present, these are a list of principles, but concrete action or guidance, including monitoring elements, is needed if they are to be met.

For instance, synergies with other MEAs, in particular with the Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions and processes, are essential. In this respect, **a tangible action towards enhancing synergies would be to adopt indicators that are applicable across international commitments, to ease the national reporting efforts.** As an example, IUCN provides the Red List Index, proposed as a GBF Headline Indicator, disaggregated to address the policy context of specific MEAs<sup>3</sup>. It will also be important to consider in the monitoring framework indicators and contributions from other MEAs, thus reflecting the all-encompassing nature of the GBF. IUCN also highlights the upcoming UNFCCC Global Stocktake as an opportunity to enhance synergies.

**A stronger alignment between the UNFCCC and the CBD** in recognition of the interdependence

between the climate and the biodiversity crises would reinforce that none of the goals of both conventions is achievable without the others and would encourage a much needed a focus on synergies.

The participation of all relevant stakeholders through multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platforms, and the participation and recognition of rights of indigenous peoples and local communities are also required enabling conditions. The majority of reported protected areas are established and managed by governments. Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities' groups, private actors and shared governance arrangements should receive recognition and support from governments. In particular, **targets for the impacts of protected and conserved areas can benefit from the identification, recognition and reporting of “other effective area-based conservation measures”** meeting the definition and criteria established by CBD COP 14 in Decision 14/8. **IUCN further recommends that the framework recalls the guidance to ensure that protected and conserved area systems and sites are equitable, embodying a respect for rights and identity, for fair and just procedures, and for the equitable sharing of costs and benefits.**

#### *Implementation support mechanisms*

The Long-term Strategic Framework for capacity development, the Knowledge Management component and the resource mobilization strategy provide critical support for the implementation of the Post-2020 GBF.

These mechanisms provide an opportunity for Parties and other organisations to partner for enhanced implementation, including for mobilising financial sources, instruments and channels, both private and public. It is also an opportunity to establish a structure that encourages gender responsive and rights-based implementation.

IUCN points out that the **IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Area Standard** constitutes an implementation support scheme and supports capacity development (see SBI-3, agenda item 7).

IUCN fully supports partnerships and mechanisms for capacity development and technology transfer to enhance implementation. Experience with regional implementation support mechanisms and for translating knowledge into action can build on

---

<sup>2</sup> Andersen et al. (2019) NSR  
<https://academic.oup.com/nsr/advance-article/doi/10.1093/nsr/nwaa186/5896966?login=true>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/search>, select “Red List Indices”

the significant investments being made by multilateral organisations to develop regional information systems and granting programmes, including [BIOPAMA](#), [BEST](#), and [SOS](#). These will also support monitoring and reporting against the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework, and will define needs for resource mobilisation and capacity development.

*The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard*

IUCN's position on the goals, targets and indicators on the Updated Zero Draft has been referred to above. In particular, IUCN wishes to recall CBD Decision 13/2 para (c) which invites Parties to, *inter alia*, "... promote the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas as a voluntary standard to promote and encourage protected area management effectiveness;"

The draft formulation of Target 2 of the GBF, closely aligns with the criteria underpinning the **IUCN Green List Standard**, with its focus on achieving the outcome of protecting and conserving "effective systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures". IUCN's Green List Standard integrates many other assessment tools and methods for Target 2. It can be adapted to the national context while remaining globally consistent. It can therefore help Parties to measure the quality aspects of protected areas coverage and their own performance against Target 2 as proposed. The

Green List also triggers capacity development for any area registering with the [Green List Programme](#).

**IUCN therefore strongly suggests reinforcing the invitation in CBD Decision 13/2 to Parties to use the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Area Standard, and to include this Standard in the monitoring framework for reporting against the Global Biodiversity Framework.**

*The Global Species Action Plan*

Targets in the GBF (not only the obviously critical species related targets) need to be supported by a clear "Global Species Action Plan" to assist governments and all stakeholders implement the actions that need to be taken to bring about the sustained recovery of wild species. This includes preventing extinctions; reducing extinction risk of all species; maintaining abundance of non-threatened species; ensuring that use is legal and sustainable.

IUCN with its Members, partners and the biodiversity-related conventions are developing the Global Species Action Plan (GSAP) to support governments and other stakeholders achieve the species components in the GBF. The GSAP will outline not only the species conservation actions required, but the tools and support mechanisms to implement them.

## **SBSTTA 24**

### **Marine and coastal biodiversity (Agenda item 6)**

#### **EBSAs**

IUCN welcomes the progress achieved during the Expert Workshop for modifying and describing new Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in February 2020, as reflected in Document CBD/EBSA/WS/2020/1/2, and the various annexes that accompany the draft recommendation. IUCN supports efforts carried out so far in clarifying concepts and modalities, and encourages Parties to ensure the EBSA process continues based on the most up-to-date science, with the full participation of relevant experts and knowledge holders. In this regard, IUCN is ready to contribute knowledge for the identification of marine **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), on Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and other relevant knowledge and tools that can provide valuable input into the EBSA process**, including with respect to informing marine protected areas identification, as well as strategic direction and priorities to the development of area-based conservation measures.

#### **Addressing biodiversity concerns in fisheries**

IUCN, through its Fisheries Expert Group has successfully collaborated with FAO and the CBD on the topic of mainstreaming in fisheries, assessing the progress toward Aichi Target 6 (CBD Technical Series No. 87) and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). IUCN is committed to pursue this collaboration to work towards greater mainstreaming of biodiversity in fisheries, capacity-building and context specific guidance on the topic, including on gender inclusion and responsiveness.

#### **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**

IUCN welcomes the report of the Thematic Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and supports the request to review and revise the Programme Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity so that it fully supports the implementation of the Post-2020 GBF in relation to marine issues.

**IUCN encourages Parties to ensure that threats to marine and coastal biodiversity, as well as its conservation and sustainable use, are appropriately addressed in the Post-2020 GBF,**

through relevant goals and targets, and reflected in a comprehensive monitoring framework, through appropriate headline, component/complementary indicators. In this regard, IUCN is currently working on a guidance on coastal and mangrove related indicators, targets and their relevance to national reporting.

IUCN highlights its recently adopted Resolution 105<sup>4</sup> which calls for IUCN Members to work towards the prominent inclusion of coral-reef ecosystems in the post-2020 GBF, noting this may be as a measurable, outcome-based 2030 target, as well as in the monitoring frameworks or any other elements of the framework, and to prioritise coral-reef integrity and functioning, including the provision of ecosystem services; and engage in ICRI's Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, including through participation in regional networks and the application of indicators and best practice identified through the Network, to strengthen local and global monitoring capacity.

Finally, **IUCN encourages Parties to recognize the importance of the UN Decade of Ocean Science** in providing critical knowledge for the implementation and monitoring of the Post-2020 GBF.

#### **Anthropogenic underwater noise**

IUCN welcomes the CBD Technical Series on "Anthropogenic Underwater Noise: Impacts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Habitats, and Mitigation and Management Measures" and looks forward to a guidance that can support countries in their efforts to mitigate this particular type of marine pollution. Further, in light of the predicted increase in ocean-based economic activity and industries, with considerable impacts regarding noise pollution, **IUCN encourages Parties to consider existing and emerging long-term policy, management and technological options to effectively address cumulative underwater noise pollution and its impacts.**

#### **Marine Spatial Planning**

IUCN welcomes the compilation of experiences related to marine spatial planning (MSP) and encourage further efforts to enhance national capacity. In that regard, IUCN invites Parties to consider its newly-released guidance for mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> IUCN Resolution [WCC 2020 Res 105](#) - *Conserving and protecting coral reefs through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*

<sup>5</sup> Bennun, L., van Bochove, J., Ng, C., Fletcher, C., Wilson, D., Phair, N., Carbone, G. (2021). *Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development. Guidelines for project developers.* Gland, Switzerland: IUCN

**IUCN stresses that MSP constitutes an iterative and inclusive process**, which can support the synergistic achievement of existing and future biodiversity targets, SDGs and national climate change commitments under the UNFCCC. For this, it is critical to ensure that cumulative impact assessments of human stressors and threats to marine and coastal biodiversity are consistently undertaken across different sectors at national and regional levels, and to consider Nature-based Solutions in the planning and implementation process.

## **Biodiversity and agriculture (Agenda item 7)**

IUCN welcomes the Note from the Executive Secretary on the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity and updated Plan of action, which contains useful data on measures that promote soil biodiversity in NBSAPs, and interesting insight on the contribution of soil biodiversity's to the SDGs and to sustainable land use options for the post-2020 Framework.

**IUCN invites Parties to consider its report *Common Ground restoring land health for sustainable agriculture*<sup>6</sup>** that provides clearer recommendations in relation to:

- The importance of shifting away from thinking of agriculture in terms of 'food, fibre and fuel' (and other products), towards thinking in terms of 'production, water, climate and nature';
- The importance to recognize biodiversity as a key asset for agriculture production systems and conversely the crucial role these systems can play in biodiversity conservation.
- The need to adopt policies and programmes that contribute to develop agroecological and regenerative practices that are beneficial for both land and soils biodiversity. We highlight the recent IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions<sup>7</sup> in that regard
- The necessity to consider soils as a critical natural capital, requiring protection and long-term reorientation of public and private financial flows;
- The importance of establishing clear targets, including for soils biodiversity, aiming for a net-positive impact on key indicators of biodiversity by 2030;
- And last but not least, the importance of a renewed dialogue between agriculture and

and Cambridge, UK: The Biodiversity Consultancy  
<https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2021.04.en>

<sup>6</sup> Larbodière et al. (2020). [Common ground : restoring land health for sustainable agriculture](#). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. Also available as Other Documentation for SBSTTA.

conservation actors to improve inter-sectoral coordination and inclusive governance.

IUCN globally supports the current draft plan of action 2020-2030 of the international initiative. It is comprehensive and covers the most relevant field of activities to promote soil health into policy, practice, knowledge and monitoring. However, as its scope is very wide, Parties need to understand how they will contribute to translate it into action, and how progresses towards its implementation will be monitored.

Finally, IUCN suggests the draft recommendation in SBSTTA/24/7/Rev.1 to be modified to read:

7. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, **in close collaboration with relevant international conservation organizations**, to facilitate the implementation of the plan of action, following the successful approach of the previous plan;

## **Biodiversity and Health (Agenda item 9)**

The COVID-19 pandemic has forcefully brought into focus the linkage between nature conservation and the emergence of zoonotic diseases. **Protection and restoration of intact nature significantly lessens the risk of zoonotic disease outbreak and this must be a key consideration in an ambitious conservation agenda for the CBD.** An Addendum to the IUCN Programme "Nature 2030" is under development to reflect the implications of the pandemic and responses to it for the Union, which can in turn provide input to the CBD on this crucial issue.

The impact of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss on health outcomes is most significant among vulnerable people, particularly those directly most reliant on natural resources. IUCN recommends that particular attention be paid to the link between management of natural resources and biodiversity and whole health and

<sup>7</sup> IUCN (2020). Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.  
<https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2020.08.en>

wellness. Recent IUCN publications<sup>8</sup> and briefs<sup>9</sup>, highlight how gender-based violence is linked to natural resource governance and exacerbated in times of scarcity and threat, significantly impacting the resilience of diverse people across communities, and provide indigenous solutions and proposals for integrated environmental and health measures in response to the pandemic.

## **Invasive alien species (Agenda item 10)**

IUCN fully support the findings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Invasive Alien Species. IUCN concurs that there remains an **urgent need to develop and apply methods to prioritize pathways of introduction for preventing invasions, and to prioritise invasive alien species for more effective management.** IUCN also supports the important call for the collation and dissemination of knowledge and data on the socioeconomic and cultural impacts of invasive alien species, alongside their environmental impacts.

IUCN agrees that the development of co-ordinated national strategies and action plans are a key tool to implement actions to minimize incursions and prevent and mitigate impacts from invasive alien species.

In 2020, IUCN launched its standard for classifying alien species in terms of their environmental impact, the Environmental Impact Classification for

Alien Taxa (EICAT), and the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group (IUCN ISSG) continues to develop and apply its sister scheme the Socio-Economic Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (SEICAT). In addition, IUCN ISSG has led the development of the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS), a product of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASI Partnership) launched during CBD COP11. This register presents verified national checklists of introduced and invasive species, available on the CBD country profile page. IUCN also serves as the custodian agency for SDG Indicator 15.8.1 on policy responses to invasive alien species, and urges the strengthened application of this indicator in the CBD, including in the GBF.

Through IUCN's tools, datasets and networks of experts, IUCN is ready to support Parties and others in developing and implementing science-based national strategies, action plans, policies and regulatory mechanisms required to meet a post 2020 target on IAS, and to help monitor its progress.

IUCN also welcomes the work undertaken by the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and by the World Customs Organization to address the risks posed by e-commerce of living organisms, and will continue to support the development of a globally harmonized classification and labelling system for consignments of environmentally hazardous living organisms.

---

<sup>8</sup> Castañeda Camey, I., Sabater, L., Owren, C. and Boyer, A.E. (2020). Gender-based violence and environment linkages: The violence of inequality. Wen, J. (ed.). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 272pp. <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2020.03.en>

<sup>9</sup> [Amplifying indigenous voices - IUCN indigenous members' solutions and challenges related to the COVID-19 crisis](#)

## **SBI3**

### **Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan (Agenda item 3)**

IUCN welcomes the Review of Implementation of the 2015 - 2020 Gender Plan of Action (GPA). **IUCN recommends that the development of the post-2020 gender plan of action follows both a consultative and participatory process engaging Parties and relevant stakeholders** structured to hold clear actions, activities, SMART targets, and gender-responsive indicators. The new GPA must include specific timelines, activities, indicators, and key and supporting actors<sup>10</sup>.

IUCN welcomes efforts to include Parties and stakeholders in the review of the updated draft outline of a new Gender Plan of Action for the post-2020 period. The updated draft outline constitutes a strong start for the design of the new Gender Plan of Action, and IUCN welcomes future opportunities to contribute to its development and full implementation for a gender-responsive post-2020 era. IUCN particularly welcomes the inclusion of attention to gender-based violence (GBV) as a pervasive barrier to meeting CBD's goals, along with interlinked sustainable development goals, and concurs that building knowledge, capacities, collaborations, data, and interventions to eliminate GBV in relation to CBD's themes is fundamental to a rights-based, gender-responsive approach, as well as to actually sustaining a healthy environment.

Finally, IUCN encourages continued efforts to align the GPA with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and notes for example, that the outline should go further to support and encourage protection for **women environmental defenders, including indigenous women environmental defenders**, to recognize how their role is fundamental to meeting CBD's goals.

### **Resource mobilization and financial mechanism (Agenda item 6)**

IUCN welcomes the recommendations of the Panel of Experts and supports the three elements for Resource Mobilization suggested in CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.3:

1) Reducing or redirecting resources causing harm to biodiversity; 2) Generating additional resources from all sources to achieve the three objectives of the Convention; and 3) Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use.

However, the **current draft of the Post-2020 GBF falls short of the ambition needed to change the global economic system in order to reverse nature loss by 2030.**

Specific supplementary action is required in several areas. First, **substantially increased investment and improved policy frameworks to incentivise private and public finance flows** to improve the health of underlying natural assets, together with a framework that enables local businesses, finance institutions and communities, including those of under-represented and marginalised constituencies, to benefit from training to build investments that generate nature as well as economic benefits.

Second, **increased public finance from consumer countries** that reflects their responsibility in generating negative impacts on biodiversity in production zones. Bilateral aid to this end should in particular support transition of agriculture to zero negative or net positive impact on biodiversity. IUCN recognises the efforts made by organisations like the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation to support this aim.

Third, financial institutions should be able to identify and disclose their impacts and dependencies on nature. Proposed regulatory frameworks such as the **Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosure should be made a priority in order that financial flows are moved away from negative impacts on nature and towards positive impact.** Measures of the change in these financial flows will be essential for the development of targets for the financial sector to deliver.

Fourth, to ensure that finance flows move to nature-positive impacts, **substantially increased knowledge of the specific spatial impacts of pressures on biodiversity caused by commodity production, infrastructure development, unsustainable use and invasive species will be essential.** This can be greatly facilitated by the use of artificial intelligence,

---

<sup>10</sup> Details in IUCN submission on views on the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action:



remotely-sensed data, and knowledge from local scientists, communities and Indigenous Peoples. In particular, greatly increased knowledge of the geographical production of certain key agricultural products is necessary and should be driven by demand from financial institutions looking to make accurate assessments of financial risk.

Finally, to enable these conditions to be fulfilled, actionable targets at all levels of the GBF are necessary. All potential contributors to these targets should be able to identify and deliver their specific contribution, meaning that **the metrics to establish and measure progress towards these targets should be scalable, additive, responsive at timescales appropriate to investors and amenable to disaggregation according to stakeholder contributions.**

### **Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and communication (Agenda item 7)**

IUCN welcomes the efforts undertaken to consult broadly on the development of the Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity Development as a crucial element of the GBF that has resulted in a coherent and clear strategy.

**IUCN supports the establishment of an overall coordination mechanism** that enables the collective involvement of committed organisations and partnerships, and ensures capacity-development efforts are accessed in an equitable and inclusive way, ensuring diverse representation. There should be milestones and targets to guide the capacity development efforts in relation to the post-2020 Framework. It will be also be important to coordinate capacity development across biodiversity-related conventions.

The long-term strategic framework envisages commitments by organisations and partnerships to fulfil its purpose. IUCN through its expert networks is well-placed to contribute towards the necessary partnerships. One such partnership involves IUCN with GIZ, UNDP, UNEP, Rare, GRID Arendal, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IFOAM - Organics International, and the World Bank also known as **PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet Partnership**<sup>11</sup>.

The approach adopted by PANORAMA is fully consistent with the meaning and scope of capacity

development set out in the Draft Long-term Strategic Framework, and it embraces all **three levels of capacity development** outlined in the Strategic Framework.

Current themes within PANORAMA include ecosystem-based adaptation, agriculture and biodiversity, business engagement, nature-culture interfaces, sustainable urban development and resilience, protected areas, marine and coastal conservation; and others are being added as the partnership grows.

IUCN proposes that specific reference is made to welcome PANORAMA as a desirable example of the type of partnership and commitment that will facilitate implementation of the Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity Development and the GBF.

Furthermore, IUCN draws attention to the significant efforts being undertaken to develop regional information systems, knowledge management and capacity development, through the BEST (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in European Overseas Territories) and BIOPAMA (Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme). These programmes facilitate regional cooperation, and support monitoring and evaluation functions.

### **Mechanism for reporting, assessment and review of implementation (Agenda item 9)**

Responsibility and transparency in the post-2020 GBF should aim at enhancing Parties' implementation. Measures to improve comparability of national action, clear guidance on monitoring and reporting, and independent review of implementation need to steer Parties in improving individual and collective performance. **Building on existing processes and strengthening synergies with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and processes**, such as the SDGs are necessary to avoid creating undue burden on Parties.

National reports (NRs) under art. 26 of the Convention are, and should remain the main tool for Parties to provide information on action and support measures taken for the implementation of CBD, including the post-2020 GBF. However, reporting should be enhanced and strengthened through various improvements, such as:

---

<sup>11</sup> A document highlighting ways in which the PANORAMA partnership could contribute to the Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity Development and the Knowledge Management Component of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity

Framework has been posted on the SBI-3 documents webpage, under the category "Other": <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/737e/bf60/87c488a8b58aa32bdc8e8e0e/iucn-panorama-infdoc-sbi3-en.pdf>

- 1) Defined, regular intervals (for example every 4 years), allowing timely and updated information from all Parties, in accordance with agreed headline, component and complementary indicators;
- 2) A standard template to ease national processes and to increase comparability;
- 3) Application of “science-based targets”, to reflect potential – and in due course, actual – contributions from each country towards global goals.

The review of national biodiversity planning and implementation of the post-2020 GBF can enhance the visibility of Parties’ performance thus increasing transparency and accountability. It also provides an opportunity to gather experiences and lessons learned as well as facilitating better implementation by identifying, among others, the need for capacity development, the value of shared approaches. The review should be carried out by independent technical experts against agreed standards.

Finally, with regular intervals, **there should be a Global Biodiversity Stocktake overseen jointly by the SBI and SBSTTA to measure collective progress towards the post-2020 biodiversity goals and targets, capacity-building and resource mobilization.** Further clarification will be needed, however, as to the value added of a Global Stocktake in relation to the Global Biodiversity Outlook, which would seemingly consider the same sources of information and would both provide a report on implementation and serve as the basis for any follow-up. Regardless of the mechanism, the purpose should be to raise ambition, inform the next revision of NBSAPs by Parties, and duplication of efforts should be avoided.

Each of the elements for strengthening planning, reporting, and review of implementation is important in itself for enhancing Parties’ capacity to effectively implement the post 2020 GBF. Synchronization of those elements and processes, and procedural predictability present the real benefit for effective implementation as the various elements feed into each other and stimulate concerted action.

## **Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors (Agenda item 11)**

<sup>12</sup> Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam

IUCN welcomes the efforts undertaken to develop the long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation as an important element of the GBF. Action area 5, under Strategy Area III: Mainstreaming biodiversity across society is particularly welcomed. IUCN invites Parties to consider how to further integrate gender in the mainstreaming approach, recognizing that this is a unique opportunity for emphasizing the integrated nature of gender and biodiversity.

Critical in the successful mainstreaming, through the implementation of the Long-Term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM), is the use of a common set of indicators that will enable actors in all economic sectors, including the financial sector, to transparently and meaningfully report-back on mainstreaming efforts and results. The Global Reporting Initiative offers a platform with a global reach for corporate reporting.

To complement this effort, IUCN is collaborating with WWF France and Expertise France to provide 16 pilot countries<sup>12</sup> with technical support striving to accelerate biodiversity mainstreaming into key economic sectors. The [BIODEV2030 Initiative](#) aims to catalyse sector-based commitments emerging from a shared scientific assessment of threats and a multi-stakeholder dialogue. Progress will be presented at CoP15, the outcomes and final commitments will be shared by end of 2021.

Recognising the role that civil society organisations (CSO) can play to accelerate the required change processes, IUCN supports the collection and sharing of knowledge and experiences of the many ways CSO can support business engagement, through the [BioBiz resource guide](#) and the more than [50 PANORAMA solutions on business engagement](#).

IUCN highlights that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) not only address climate change and biodiversity loss, but also provide solutions to other societal challenges, such as food insecurity, land degradation, urban development, access to clean water, finance, and by doing so have impacts on good governance, gender equality and respect of human rights. The IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions<sup>13</sup> consists, among others, of a series of operational tools to help State and non-State actors identify and assess NbS opportunities and to track progress in terms of establishing the right enabling conditions,

<sup>13</sup> IUCN (2020). Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2020.08.en>

delivering NbS on the ground and assessing the broader societal impact of the interventions. Recent reviews of NbS-type programmes have demonstrated significant impact in terms of increased jobs and incomes, thus providing the rationale for considering NbS as an entry point for business to be considered as part of the solution and contribute to address societal challenges (not only climate change) whilst ensuring biodiversity

and ecosystem services are enhanced. It also enables business to secure their supply chains and build in more resilience in their investments.

Finally, IUCN suggests SBI to recommend the Conference of the Parties to adopt, implement and promote the LTAM and the associated action plan, and specifically the five goals and associated targets.