

Statement



The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Statement of the Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity (SKBV) of the DFG

By: Markus Fischer (University of Bern), Jonas Geschke (University of Bern), Thomas Potthast (University of Tübingen), Katrin Böhning-Gaese (Goethe University Frankfurt and Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre), Erwin Beck (University of Bayreuth), Christian Wirth (Leipzig University and German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig)

February 2020

The Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity is an interdisciplinary, independent body of experts in basic biological research, which evaluates selected topics on the basis of scientific findings with regard to their social and political significance and advises various bodies of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) as well as national and international governments and policymakers.

At the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-15) in October 2020, a new Strategic Plan of the CBD with new biodiversity targets will be negotiated. Since 2011, numerous measures have been initiated to achieve the current strategic plan of the CBD and its 20 Aichi Targets. Recent science-based reports, such as those from the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)^{1,2}, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)^{3,4} and an independent group of scientists appointed by the UN Secretary-General⁵ show at the highest scientific and political level that the Aichi Targets are unlikely to be met.

Besides the current state of science on the state of biological diversity, the reports also name options for political action to protect and sustainably use biodiversity. Especially relevant for the post-2020 framework and the 2050 vision⁶ of the CBD, IPBES identifies a number of leverage points whose consideration is forward-looking and effective in supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030 with its Global Sustainability Goals. Effective protection of biological diversity as an essential component of sustainable development requires transformative change within societies at international, national and subnational levels, and must be implemented on a broad sectoral basis. The targets that follow on to the Aichi Targets need to be correspondingly ambitious.

¹ See www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services

² See www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/eca

³ See www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl

⁴ See www.ipcc.ch/sr15

⁵ See www.un.org/development/desa/publications/global-sustainable-development-report-2019.html

⁶ „By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.“

A failure of the post-2020 framework negotiations and unambitious goals would have far-reaching negative impacts on biodiversity and society worldwide. Based on our scientific expertise we therefore take the following position on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

The Zero Draft of the post-2020 biodiversity framework is a good starting point

We welcome many elements of the Zero Draft⁷ on the post-2020 framework and the inclusion of the Theory of Change, which allows adaptive and integrative management of the post-2020 framework.

The Zero Draft supports the 2050 vision of the CBD and identifies strategic 2030 and 2050 goals that relate to the three basic objectives of the CBD and nature's contributions to people. Beyond that they should:

- Consider **cross-references** to other important **sustainability topics, relevant conventions** and policy processes and consider the contribution biodiversity can make to climate adaptation and mitigation as well as sustainable development.
- Consider economic, ecological and social dimensions in their interrelation.

With regard to the Zero Draft, we propose the following changes:

10. (a) No net loss by 2030 in the area and integrity of *intact* freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and increases of at least [20%] by 2050, ensuring ecosystem resilience;

10. (b) The percentage of species threatened with extinction is reduced by [X%] by 2030 and their abundance of species has increased on average by [X%] by 2030 and by [X%] by 2050;

10. (d) Nature provides benefits to people *in a sustainable way*, contributing to:

⁷ Document CBD/WG2020/2/3, see www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-02/documents

-
10. (d) (i) Improvements in *food security* ~~nutrition~~ for at least [1.5 billion ~~million~~] people by 2030 and [3 billion million] by 2050;
-
10. (d) (ii) Improvements in *water security* ~~sustainable access to safe and drinkable water~~ for at least [X billion ~~million~~] people, by 2030 and [Y billion ~~million~~] by 2050;
-
10. (d) (iii) Improvements in resilience to natural disasters for at least [X billion ~~million~~] people by 2030 and [Y billion ~~million~~] by 2050;
-
10. (d) (iv) At least [50%] of efforts to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement in 2030 and 2050.

Formulate a stronger 2030 mission

In comparison to the strategic goals, the 2030 mission mentioned in the Zero Draft is too weakly formulated. Essential and necessary information is only found in the footnote accompanying the mission, the mission itself is imprecise. The mission of the post-2020 framework should:

- Be short, concise and convincing in its wording and **call** on the member states of the CBD **to implement the framework**.
- Present an **ambitious** and **inspiring**, but at the same time **realistic** intermediate step towards the 2050 vision.
- Address the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of biodiversity as essential core issues, especially with regard to the links between biodiversity and climate change and with regard to a **socio-ecological, transformative change** towards sustainable development.

We propose as a mission:

“To take urgent action across society to promote and enhance biodiversity for the benefit of nature and people.”

– or the extended formulation:

“To take urgent action across society on international, national and subnational scales to initiate and implement concerted political, economic and societal activities that promote and enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with equitable share of benefits, for the benefit of nature, sustainable development and human wellbeing.”

Specify the action targets

The (action) targets are divided into three parts that are intended to underpin the 2030 mission. In principle, we welcome the targets formulated in the Zero Draft. In *Reducing threats to biodiversity* we particularly welcome the target value of at least 30 per cent of the global land and sea area for the protection of biodiversity and the consideration of the *Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures* (OECM) approach in target 2, as well as the naming of the Paris Agreement in goal 6, which makes a cross-reference to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. We welcome the consideration of nature-based solutions both in target 6 and in *Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing* in target 9. With regard to *Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming* of the framework, we welcome the elimination of harmful subsidies in target 12 and the overall broad consideration of social sectors and stakeholders.

In addition, we propose the following specifications:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 12. (a) 1. | Retain and restore <i>intact</i> freshwater, ... in area, connectivity and integrity of <i>habitats</i> and retaining existing intact areas and wilderness. |
| 12. (a) 2. | Protect <i>and effectively and equitably manage</i> sites |
| 12. (a) 4. | Reduce by 2030 pollution from excess nutrients, <i>as well as from</i> biocides, plastic waste and other sources by at least [50%]. |
| 12. (a) 5. | Ensure by 2030 that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species, is <i>limited to</i> legal and at sustainable levels. |
| 12. (a) 6. | Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction through nature-based solutions providing by 2030 [about 30 50%] [at least XXX MT CO2=] of ... security <i>by 2030</i> . |

-
12. (b) 7. *By 2030, ensure the sustainability of the ~~Enhance the sustainable~~ use of wild species while providing, ~~by 2030,~~ benefits, ... and ~~reduce~~ *reducing* human-wildlife conflict ~~by [X%].~~*
-
12. (b) 8. *Ensure the sustainability of the ~~Conserve and enhance the sustainable~~ use of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems to support the productivity, ~~sustainability~~ and resilience of such systems, ~~reducing by 2030 related productivity gaps by at least [50%].~~*
-
12. (b) 9. *By 2030, ensure the sustainability of ~~Enhance nature-based solutions~~ contributing, ~~by 2030, to clean~~ water provision, *inter alia* by *enhancing the use of nature-based solutions* ~~for at least [XXX million] people.~~*
-
12. (b) 10. Enhance the benefits of *urban* green spaces for *biodiversity and human* health and well-being, ~~especially for urban dwellers,~~ increasing by 2030 the proportion of people with access to such spaces by at least [100%].
-
12. (b) 11. Ensure that benefits from the *conservation and sustainable use* ~~utilization~~ of genetic resources, and related traditional knowledge, are shared fairly and equitably, resulting by 2030 in an [X%] increase in benefits *for all*.
-
12. (c) 12. *By 2030, reform incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, in ways positive or neutral for biodiversity, including eliminating the subsidies that are most harmful for biodiversity, ensuring by 2030 that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.*
-
12. (c) 13. Integrate biodiversity values into *international, national and subnational* ~~local~~ planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and *accounting accounts*, ensuring by 2030 that biodiversity values are *internalized and mainstreamed* across all sectors. *This includes aligning financial flows with the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and integrating biodiversity in that biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental actions, assessments and environmental impact assessments are comprehensively applied.*
-
12. (c) 15. *By 2030, ensure that resources ~~Resources~~, including for capacity-building, for implementing the framework have increased from all sources so that by 2030 resources have increased by [X%] and are commensurate with the ambition of the targets of the framework.*
-
12. (c) 17. *By 2030, achieve just and sustainable consumption levels, by ensuring that people ~~People~~ everywhere take measurable steps towards sustainable consumption and lifestyles, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions, achieving by 2030 just and sustainable consumption levels.*
-

12. (c) 19. *By 2030, ensure equitable participation and rights over relevant resources, by promoting* ~~Promote~~ the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and of women and girls as well as youth, in decision-making related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ~~ensuring by 2030 equitable participation and rights over relevant resources.~~

12. (c) 20. *By 2030, ensure new social norms for sustainability, by fostering* ~~Foster~~ diverse visions of good quality of life and unleash values of responsibility *for nature and people,* ~~to effect by 2030 new social norms for sustainability.~~

The contributions of science to the post-2020 biodiversity framework

In the implementation support mechanisms, we welcome the emphasis on the need for capacity building and science and its role in generating and sharing new relevant knowledge in cooperation with technological innovation. Like the Aichi Targets, the goals and targets brought forward in the Zero Draft are based on scientific analysis and knowledge in their entirety. In addition, science can support the negotiation of target values within the goals and targets by providing guidance values in order to develop effective and feasible goals and targets as well as measures for implementation. Similarly, many of the goals and targets are dependent on substantial and robust science in their subsequent implementation.

To support this, we propose the following modification:

13. (c) *The initiation of fundamental and applied inter- and transdisciplinary research programs for the generation and sharing of scientific information and knowledge important to the feasibility, effective implementation, monitoring and review of the framework;*

Promote participation, education and dialogue

In the enabling conditions outlined in the Zero Draft, we welcome the recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and the scientific sector. Cooperation and joint action between stakeholders will be essential for the success of the post-2020 framework. We also welcome the consideration of inclusive policies and the call for political will to acknowledge and implement the post-2020 framework.

Apart from that, we propose the following change:

14. (b) The participation of all relevant stakeholders, including women, youth, civil society, local and subnational authorities, the private sector, *education*, academia and scientific institutions;

Define an apex goal

For effective implementation of the post-2020 framework, the member states of the CBD have to link the post-2020 framework with the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** and **proceed in a systemic and integrative way**. For targeted communication of the post-2020 framework, in addition to a strong mission and correspondingly ambitious goals, a so-called apex goal – effectively a **"2°C biodiversity goal"** – could be helpful. For example, a goal could be declared to halt the loss of 1 million species (the "Save 1 million endangered species goal") or to protect and conserve one third of the earth for biodiversity (the "1/3 Earth goal").

We are convinced that the points which we have raised are important to ensure that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework of the CBD fulfils its mandate and meets scientific and societal expectations to protect biodiversity, promote sustainable use of biodiversity and ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity.