

IUCN's position on selected issues

Convention on Biological Diversity

Eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions (WG8J-11)

Twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA23)

20-22 November and 25-29 November 2019, Montreal, Canada

Summary of Key Messages

SBSTTA-23 comes at a critical and vital moment for life on this planet; a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that truly tackles the nature emergency is imperative. IUCN's key messages on the development of the framework can be found [here](#).

IUCN welcomes the background documents on informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Specific comments and several points of clarification on these papers are presented in an [Annex](#) to this position paper.

IUCN also welcomes the table in the Annex to CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4 recognising that it is particularly helpful in articulating possible target themes and elements. IUCN has developed proposals for possible targets, target themes and elements using this table as a reference. This can be found [here](#)

IUCN welcomes the prominence given to the four highest-level key messages from the IPBES Global Assessment. These are critical for both the design and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

IUCN encourages Parties to keep in mind the intrinsic links between climate change and biodiversity conservation given the need to improve alignment and effectiveness of current and future strategies to address both challenges simultaneously.

IUCN welcomes the *Possible Elements of Work on the Links between Nature and Culture in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework* highlighting that the framework needs to ensure the conservation of biological diversity, while supporting the diversity of cultures.

IUCN recommends a human rights-based approach for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and including the principles of equity, transparency, gender balance, respect and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' territories, rights and systems of knowledge.

IUCN recommends consideration of a new institutional arrangement to facilitate knowledge exchange, a permanent, open-ended and inclusive IPLCs body, such as a Subsidiary Advisory Body, which could play a strategic role in promoting the traditional knowledge of IPLCs.

IUCN stresses the importance of strengthening cooperation and technology transfer to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and welcomes the options presented in SBSTTA/23/6. IUCN recommends that the draft recommendations make specific reference to the role that can be played by the Rio Conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as the coordinating role of the UN's Environment Management Group. It should be stressed that the endpoint of such cooperation should be enhanced implementation of the framework.

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IUCN presents views and recommendations to the Parties on selected agenda items of CBD WG8J-11 and SBSTTA23. Comments and suggestions to amend and strengthen the contents of particular background documents are provided in an [Annex](#) to this paper.

Scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Agenda item 3- SBSTTA)

IUCN welcomes the information contained in CBD/SBSTTA/23/2 and related addenda, noting that they provide critical considerations for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. IUCN also agrees with the suggested recommendation.

IUCN welcomes the prominence given to the four highest-level key messages from the IPBES Global Assessment. These are critical for both the design and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In addition, the convergence of the messages emerging from the IPBES and IPCC Assessments, and other reports, and the implications of their findings draw attention to the interlinked nature of many global challenges – biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, food security, etc. – highlighting the need for urgent and concerted action.

IUCN would like to clarify, for reasons for scientific rigour, that in paragraph 13 of SBSTTA/23/2, the figure of one million species at risk of extinction (paragraph 13) is based on an extrapolation from The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IPBES Global Assessment Summary for Policy Makers Fig 3).

Regarding the reasons for the varying level of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Targets, and lessons learned from the implementation of the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, IUCN considers that implementation stands to be greatly advanced by supporting the development of specific science-based targets. Such targets articulate how specific actions and actors should contribute to, for instance, higher-level national targets in any particular place through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

It is essential that targets be formulated in ways that avoid possible introduction of perverse incentives.

IUCN concurs that NBSAPs and associated planning processes need to be strengthened by increasing the consistency of metrics and formats. This would allow progress reported by each country to be added to assess overall progress towards the targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Additionally, a mechanism for measuring and reporting contributions of non-state actors through science-based targets towards global target implementation would greatly facilitate both accountability and transparency.

As a global biodiversity framework, it is of the utmost importance that the biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant international agreements contribute to its design and, eventually, its implementation, especially in areas that do not necessarily fall within the scope of the Convention, but address direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss. For instance, through implementation of relevant targets through, inter alia, SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, and 16. Moreover, synergies could be advanced by harnessing indicator disaggregation to allow measurement of progress towards the targets of multiple agreements and conventions simultaneously.

IUCN welcomes the opportunity to review the draft of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO5), and the strong focus on nature-based solutions as possible pathways to reaching the 2050 Vision. In this regard, IUCN highlights the forthcoming IUCN Global Standard for the Design and Verification of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as an essential precursor for increased demand, scaling, quality and credibility for NbS.

IUCN also welcomes the table in the Annex to CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4 recognising that it is particularly helpful in articulating possible target themes and elements. IUCN has developed proposals for possible targets, target themes and elements using this table as a reference. These can be found [here](#).

Furthermore, IUCN notes that both the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science 2021-2030 will be

essential vehicles to drive action and frame restoration efforts.

Crosscutting issues

Gender

IUCN recalls that in [COP Decision 14/34](#), Parties welcomed a gender-responsive and gender-inclusive process to develop a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is critical to ensuring all people are included and enabled as catalysts for realising interlinked global goals. IUCN emphasizes key aspects to consider, including: enhancing women's agency and participation as conservation leaders; promoting and protecting women's equal rights to biodiversity; ensuring equitable benefits; ensuring pervasive gender gaps, such as gender-based violence, are addressed in national strategies and NBSAPs; and establishing gender indicators across targets, as well as one dedicated gender-responsive target.

Harmonization across the Rio Convention spheres and the SDGs will be important to accelerate progress toward meeting goals, including on gender equality; leveraging donor investments, and identifying and building upon promising practices. IUCN draws on extensive experience facilitating national gender-responsive approaches, for example for gender-responsive NBSAPs, to offer Parties and stakeholders cross-sector technical support for realizing and implementing biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development action under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Governance

IUCN recognizes the important work that has been done on protected area governance and social impacts and notes however, that further action is needed to expand and complement this work with more action on governance assessments of landscape and conservation interventions. IUCN's Natural Resource Governance Framework ([NRGF](#)) offers a robust, inclusive, and credible approach to assessing and strengthening natural resource governance, at multiple levels and in diverse contexts.

Biodiversity and climate change (Agenda item 4 – SBSTTA)

IUCN welcomes the note from the Executive Secretary and concurs with the key messages emerging from the review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change.

As the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is underway, IUCN encourages Parties to keep in mind the intrinsic links between climate change and biodiversity conservation given the need to improve alignment and effectiveness of current and future strategies to address both challenges simultaneously.

As Parties to the UNFCCC have been requested to communicate new or updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2020, IUCN welcomes the timely recommendation for Parties to strengthen their efforts to integrate ecosystem-based approaches/ nature-based solutions (NbS) into their 2020 NDCs, and their domestic climate actions, in support of the Paris Agreement. In this regard, IUCN and Oxford University recently released a report on [Nature-based Solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions](#), with recommendations for enhancing climate ambitions and action through NbS. However, IUCN stresses that while nature-based solutions should be pursued wherever possible, these efforts should not detract from the overarching, urgent need to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions from all their current sources and decarbonise the global economy across all sectors.

IUCN also notes the forthcoming IUCN Global Standard for the Design and Verification of Nature-based Solutions as an essential precursor for increased demand, scaling, quality and credibility for NbS, which could support Parties in identifying financing options for ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction.

IUCN further highlights recent research supporting the effectiveness of nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation, and draws attention to forthcoming guidance for monitoring and evaluating ecosystem-based approaches, produced by the Friends of EbA. This work enhances the evidence base for ecosystem-based approaches for

adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including through both quantifying effectiveness and the development of targets to measure progress.

Regarding the suggested recommendation for a COP decision, IUCN highlights the need to ensure that ecosystem integrity and biodiversity are enhanced and not harmed by nature-based climate solutions in carbon-dense ecosystems. An additional paragraph 4bis could thus read:

- ✓ *Encourages Parties to ensure climate action protects biodiversity and ensure ecosystem integrity and, as a matter of urgency, prioritises improving the protection and conservation of all carbon-dense ecosystems such as primary forests, wetlands, peatlands, grasslands and blue carbon systems (i.e. mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrasses).*

Regarding paragraph 6 of the draft COP decision, IUCN suggests that guidance be provided in the context of operationalising the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of EbA and Eco-DRR, and also takes into account latest studies on the impacts of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems (e.g. IPCC special reports on oceans & land, IUCN assessment of WHS glaciers, etc.).

Nature-culture links in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Agenda item 5 – SBSTTA; agenda item 6 - WG8J)

Recognising that the connection between culture and nature provides a crucial, untapped potential for achieving life for humanity in harmony with nature, IUCN welcomes the *Possible Elements of Work on the Links between Nature and Culture in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, and fully supports the proposed decision in SBSTTA/23/4 and the tasks identified in the annex.

IUCN recalls the proposals for a “Global Alliance for Nature and Culture” made at COP14, and welcomes the pragmatic approach in framing priorities for work and inviting a significant broadening of the Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, as a crucial element of the post-2020 Framework. In this regard, inviting additional partners in the culture sector, including ICOMOS

and ICCROM to contribute to the work programme is crucial in operationalising these ideas.

Concerning the integration of nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, it is important to ensure that the framework is conceived using language that resonates with the different ways in which cultures perceive their relationship with nature, and to support coordinated actions that respond to the diverse connections of nature and culture at the local level. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework needs to ensure the conservation of biological diversity, while supporting the diversity of cultures. This includes, as a priority, the conservation of co-evolved bio-cultural diversity of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the traditional and local knowledge that infuses and is reflected by most landscapes and seascapes of conservation significance. Conservation approaches in urban and peri-urban areas also reflect a response to the connection of nature and culture, as part of nature’s contributions to people.

Finally, a new focus on culture responds to the findings of the IPBES global assessment, and its recommendations for action to deliver transformative change. IUCN welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this process in the lead up to CBD COP15.

Indigenous peoples and local communities, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Agenda item 5 - WG8J)

IUCN recommends a human rights-based approach to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and including the principles of equity, transparency, gender balance, respect and recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ territories, rights and systems of knowledge. The framework should also provide a platform for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, consider their worldview, their harmonious relationship with nature, their perspective on sustainable development, and be culturally appropriate. In line with these points, IUCN highlights the importance of IPLC participation in the thematic consultations convened for the post-2020 biodiversity agenda and framework, and calls upon all involved in the CBD process to continue

supporting the effective participation of IPLCs in the preparation of inclusive recommendations.

Recognising the need to better provide advice regarding indigenous peoples' issues across the Convention, and the desire for a new institutional arrangement to facilitate knowledge exchange, IUCN recommends the consideration of a permanent, open-ended and inclusive IPLCs body, such as a Subsidiary Advisory Body, which could play a strategic role in promoting the traditional knowledge of IPLCs and provide a learning platform. Such an option could improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of Parties, including in the implementation and monitoring of programs under the Convention and its Protocols, the development of new Programs and agreements on joint appropriate actions.

A new IPLCs institutional arrangement would provide high-level advice on relevant issues through analysis, appropriate policy recommendations and options, in order support implementation of the Article 8(j) and related provisions. Further, the new arrangement would ensure IPLCs full, equitable, effective, direct and meaningful participation in all activities and at all stages of implementation, providing recommendations, lessons learned, advice and information directly to the COP.

Technical and scientific cooperation (Agenda item 7 – SBSTTA)

Technical and scientific cooperation has a critical role to play in addressing the continuing loss of biodiversity, ensuring that the use of biodiversity is sustainable and in the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from its utilization. IUCN stresses the importance of strengthening cooperation and technology transfer to support the post-2020 global

biodiversity framework, and welcomes the efforts to present the draft proposals in SBSTTA/23/6.

IUCN agrees that enhanced technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would indeed require an effective governance structure, efficient operational mechanisms and adequate financial and human resources. The two options presented in CBD/SBSTTA/23/6 merit further discussion as most probably a combination of elements from both options could result in a comprehensive overarching mechanism. Careful consideration must be given however to the resources needed – both human and financial – as well as the potential duplications with existing mechanisms.

In this regard, IUCN recognises and highlights the need for a programmatic and coordinated approach that would provide opportunities for synergies, and gains in efficiencies, including for mobilizing financial and human resources.

IUCN recommends that the draft recommendations make specific reference to the role that can be played by the Rio Conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as the coordinating role of the UN's Environment Management Group. It should be stressed that the endpoint of such cooperation should be enhanced implementation.

In particular, as a partner organization in many of the initiatives implemented to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, IUCN suggests adding a reference to "the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its expert Commission mechanisms" in Annex I, paragraph 24.

Finally, IUCN notes that further comments on the draft proposals will be submitted by January 2020.