



Comments to the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

2030 and 2050 Goals

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

This goal is in line with the Vision of the Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan that “Wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all” and the priority area of focus for the Convention in the next nine years of “Preventing of stopping and reversing the loss and degradation of wetlands”.

Perhaps marine ecosystems include coastal ecosystems. However, we noted that coastal ecosystems are missing from this Goal. It is very important to specify coastal ecosystems together with marine ecosystems to ensure that they are included in the post 2020 framework. We suggest that the framework is consistent with the language of the CBD marine and coastal programme. As indicate in this programme, these environments contain diverse habitats that support an abundance of marine life. Life in the seas produces a third of the oxygen that we breathe, offers a valuable source of protein and moderates global climatic change. Some examples of marine and coastal habitats that are wetlands include mangrove forests; coral reefs; sea grass beds; estuaries in coastal areas; hydrothermal vents among others.

Appendix 1. Preliminary draft monitoring framework for the 2030 and 2050 Goals

The appendix includes in a preliminary way possible indicators, including those that are already available, 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 “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time” (SDG 6.6.1) as an indicator of Goal 1 “No net loss by 2030 in the area and integrity of freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and increases of at least [20%] by 2050, ensuring ecosystem resilience”. This indicator refers to SDG Goal 6, target 6.6 “Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes “. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is co-custodian with UNEP of this indicator providing national data from Contracting Parties’ National reports. Parties to the Convention started to provide this data since January 2018, linking to their commitment and ongoing work in developing wetlands inventories. Parties are reporting in three categories: marine and coastal wetlands, inland and human made wetlands. This data feeds directly into the SDG database.

Including this indicator will also be consistent with the approach taken in Appendix 1 to refer to other relevant SDG indicators, as well as the importance of ensuring that the post 2020 framework contributes to the achievement of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, while avoiding duplication and reducing the reporting burden of Contracting Parties.

2030 action targets

(a) Reducing threats to biodiversity

1. Retain and restore freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, increasing by at least [50%] the land and sea area under comprehensive spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, achieving by 2030 a net increase in area, connectivity and integrity and retaining existing intact areas and wilderness.

As indicated above coastal ecosystems should be included in the goals and targets of the post 2020 framework to be consistent with the CBD marine and coastal biodiversity programme.

Restoration is a key mechanism to maintain ecosystem services given the status of wetlands loss and degradation (Up to 87% of the global wetland resource has been lost since 1700). Parties to the Convention on Wetlands have recognized the importance of restoration in Target 12 of the Convention Strategic Plan “Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation”. We suggest the same indicator for freshwater, marine and coastal ecosystems.

2. Protect sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, by 2030 covering at least [60%] of such sites and at least [30%] of land and sea areas with at least [10%] under strict protection.

The List of Wetlands of International Importance with 2,375 Sites covers more than 253 million hectares. The Vision for the List adopted under the framework, as amended by Resolution IX.1 Annex B (2005), is: “To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits/ services”. In this regard, it would be important to specifically recognize the role of the List in this action target and to consider protected areas under international designation; such is the case under the World Heritage and the Convention on Wetlands. We suggest this is addressed as an explanatory text.

Appendix 2. Preliminary draft monitoring framework for the 2030 action targets

Draft 2030 targets

Reducing threats to biodiversity

1. Retain and restore freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, increasing by at least [50%] the land and sea area under comprehensive spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, achieving by 2030 a net increase in area, connectivity and integrity and retaining existing intact areas and wilderness.

As for Goal 1, it is important to include “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time” (SDG 6.6.1) as an indicator for this Action Target. This indicator refers to SDG Goal 6, target 6.6 “Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes “. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is co-custodian with UNEP of this indicator providing national data from Contracting Parties’ National reports. Parties to the Convention started

to provide these data since January 2018, linking to their commitment and ongoing work in developing wetlands inventories. Parties are reporting in three categories: marine and coastal wetlands, inland and human made wetlands. These data report directly to the SDG database.

As indicated above, including this indicator will be consistent with the approach taken in Appendix 1 to refer to other relevant SDG indicators, as well as the importance of ensuring that the post 2020 framework contributes to the achievement of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, while avoiding duplication and reducing the reporting burden of Contracting Parties.

2. Protect sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, by 2030 covering at least [60%] of such sites and at least [30%] of land and sea areas with at least [10%] under strict protection.

As mentioned above for this Action target, it would be important to include an indicator on the inclusion of the designation of international designations such as the List of Wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar Sites given their importance in supporting countries in the achievement of national targets such “protected areas increased and improved established” under the Aichi Target 11 of the CBD.

Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming, enabling conditions, outreach and awareness

Is important to highlight the importance of connecting the Global Biodiversity Framework at the national level with the inclusion of the specific priorities of the Convention on Wetlands especially in the National Biodiversity strategies and actions plans.

Effective implementation, enabling conditions and outreach of the framework would require ensuring collaboration and synergetic approaches with other relevant multilateral agreement such as the Convention on Wetlands and its role as the lead agency on inland waters for the CBD (Decision III/21) and the CBD-Ramsar Memorandum of Cooperation (1996; renewed 2011) which contribute to different aspects of the framework.