

Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Comments updated on 11 March 2022 to the First Draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

On 5 July 2021, the Convention on Biological Diversity produced the first draft of the global biodiversity framework (see attached 1). The draft was discussed during online meetings in late summer 2021 at the Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) from 23 August to 3 September, before being presented for consideration at CBD's COP15, in Kunming, China.

On 17 December 2021, the Executive Secretary of CBD, in collaboration with the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group and the Chairs of CBD's Subsidiary Bodies on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and Implementation (SBI), prepared a non-paper containing a revised monitoring framework for measuring the progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The Secretariat remind Contracting Parties that the Standing Committee ((through Decision SC57-26) encouraged Contracting Parties, through their Ramsar National Focal Points, to liaise and engage with their counterparts in the Convention on Biological Diversity and to participate in the development of their national positions related to the CBD's post-2020 global biodiversity framework process, in order to seek to ensure that Ramsar-relevant elements are included within country positions and submissions to the CBD process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Given the importance of this matter to the Convention as reflected in the Standing Committee decisions and in preparation for the third meeting of the Open Ended Working Group of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, SBSTTA-24 and SBI3 the Secretariat has prepared the comments below highlighting the issues identified as being most relevant to the Convention in order to ensure that Parties attending the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group can articulate the importance of wetlands and that the Secretariat can further share them in its participation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

General comments

CBD decision 14/34 as well as several paragraphs of the First Draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, mention that the framework takes into account the long-term strategies and targets of multilateral environment agreements, including biodiversity-related and Rio conventions, to ensure synergistic delivery of benefits from all the agreements and a fundamental contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Concerning the 21 Action Targets, is indicated that actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.

To be In line with the above, it would be important to reiterate the inclusion of indicators and elements of the Convention on Wetlands that are specified in the tables below and that fulfil with the criteria outlined in document CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1. These elements contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework but are not yet reflected:

Comments to Goals and Targets

F. 2050 Goals and 2030 Milestones		
Goal A	Proposed change	Comment
The integrity of all ecosystems is enhanced, with an increase of at least 15 per cent in the area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems, supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species, the rate of extinctions has been reduced at least tenfold, and the risk of species extinctions across all taxonomic and functional groups, is halved, and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species is safeguarded, with at least 90 per cent of genetic diversity within all species maintained.		No change is proposed as in order to be consistent with long term goals, we understand that specifications related to ecosystems are included in the Targets. Specific comments are provided on the relevant targets.
Milestone A.1 Net gain in the area, connectivity and integrity of natural systems of at least 5 per cent	Net gain in the area, connectivity and integrity of ecosystems of at least 5 per cent	Comment -In the Goal and in the Milestone the terms natural systems and ecosystems are used. For consistency, we suggest to use the term “ecosystems”. -In order to measure “gain in areas” is necessary to have indicators on the extent of different types of ecosystems. Specific comments on indicators on extent are provided in the indicators for the Targets.

G. 2030 action targets

1. *Reducing threats to biodiversity*

Target	Proposed change	Comment
<p>Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas.</p>	<p>Add freshwater and marine and coastal:</p> <p>“Ensure that all land, freshwater, and marine and coastal sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas”.</p>	<p>We suggest more consistence in the terminology that is used. We suggest to refer to types of ecosystems.</p>
<p>Target 2. Ensure that at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.</p>	<p>Target 2 Ensure that at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine-coastal and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.</p>	<p>As indicated in previous submissions is very important to make specific reference to coastal ecosystems along 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 and marine and coastal biodiversity. As indicated in this programme, these environments contain diverse habitats that support an abundance of marine life. Some examples of marine and coastal habitats that are wetlands include mangrove forests; coral reefs; sea grass beds; estuaries in coastal areas among others.</p>
<p>Target 3. Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-</p>	<p>Target 3. Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land, freshwater areas and marine and coastal sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity</p>	<p>As suggested for Target 1, we suggest to make reference to types of ecosystems.</p>

connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		
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Implementation support mechanisms

It is important that in this item be more explicit the relevant mechanisms under other conventions to make sure that the post 2020 biodiversity framework leverages work of each MEA as the Convention on Wetlands according to their mandates and Strategic Plans, including existing tools, capacity development efforts, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and resource mobilization.

Enabling conditions

Concerning paragraph 16, the post-2020 framework represents a unique opportunity to approach biodiversity in a cooperative and complementary manner and reflect the priorities and contributions of the Biodiversity-related conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, according to their mandates.

As indicated in previous submissions and at the MEAs consultation (Bern 1 and II workshops) effective implementation, enabling conditions and monitoring of the framework would require ensuring collaboration and synergetic approaches with other relevant multilateral agreements such as the Convention on Wetlands and its role as the lead agency on inland waters for the CBD. This could be underlined in the draft monitoring framework to highlight linkages and agreed key responsibilities and processes by other conventions.

In addition, in this section is relevant to make reference to exiting mechanisms for collaboration and synergies such as the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) bringing together the heads of the Secretariats of eight biodiversity-related conventions and the signature of memoranda of cooperation and agreed joint work plans.

Comments to the Proposed Headline Indicators - CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1 and non-paper on proposed monitoring framework for the post 2020 Global Biodiversity issued on 17 December 2021

In the First Draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, is mentioned that “The framework is complementary to and supportive of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also takes into account the long-term strategies and targets of multilateral environment agreements, including biodiversity-related and Rio conventions, to ensure synergistic delivery of benefits from all the agreements”

Concerning Headline Indicators in reference to the first criteria related to data availability and existing processes, is mentioned that an effort was made to align with the intergovernmental processes under the United Nations Statistical Commission, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Parties to the Convention see an important opportunity in using SDG indicators that are relevant to the post-2020 framework. As indicated in previous submissions some Biodiversity-related conventions are custodians or co-custodians of those indicators. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is the co-custodian with UNEP of SDG 6.6.1 on extent of water-related ecosystems, providing national data from Contracting Parties’ National reports. 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 A.

Since January 2018, Parties to the Convention started to provide this data and reported again in January 2021, 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. The data on inland and human made wetlands, feeds directly into the SDG database contributing to the achievement of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, while avoiding duplication and reducing the reporting burden of Contracting Parties.

SDG Indicator 6.6.1 fulfil with the criteria mentioned in paragraph 4 of document CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1 and in particular, to paragraph 7c) “indicators identified for monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These indicators would not constitute additional national capacity-building needs or reporting burden on Parties as the indicators are already being compiled and nationally validated through other processes”. However, indicator 6.6.1 has not been included in Goal A. The specific reference to the contributions of this indicator are indicated in the headline indicators table below:

Appendix 1

PROPOSED HEADLINE INDICATORS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

NOTE: HIGHLIGHTS BELOW IN RED REFERS TO PROPOSE CHANGES

<i>Proposed goal or target</i>	<i>Proposed indicators₁</i>	<i>Proposed disaggregation</i>	<i>Existing national reporting/validation process</i>	<i>Methodological basis</i>	<i>Global data set for national disaggregation₂</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Goal A. The integrity of all ecosystems is enhanced, with an increase of at least 15% in the area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems, supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species, the rate of extinctions has been reduced at least tenfold, and the risk of species extinctions across all taxonomic and functional groups, is halved, and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species is safeguarded, with at least 90% of genetic diversity within all species maintained.	A.0.1 Extent of selected natural and modified ecosystems (i.e. forest, savannahs and grasslands, wetlands, mangroves, saltmarshes, coral reef, seagrass, macroalgae and intertidal habitats)	By terrestrial, freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystem types: By wetlands By mountains	SDG 6.1.1. (National reports under the Ramsar Convention	UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA): https://seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting Ecosystem types based on IUCN categories SDG 6.6.1. This indicator measures “change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time”, co-custodians: UNEP and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	Near ready** Existing, reporting from Parties to Ramsar Convention since 2018 and in	In A01 on extent is important to use existing indicators that measure extent for ecosystem that have data available and reporting systems .

¹ Indicators marked with an asterisk “*” are not yet developed.

² Two asterisks (**) indicate that additional information will be provided for the third meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in an information document.

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			on Wetlands)		UNDESA metadata base: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/ https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/	
	A.0.2 Species Habitat Index	By species group		GEOBON: https://geobon.org/ebvs/indicators/ (Measures connectivity and integrity of habitats)	Existing, 2001 to present**	
	A.0.3 Red list index	By species group	SDG (15.5.1)	SDG: IUCN: https://www.iucnredlist.org/	Existing, data from 1996 to present	
	A.0.4 The proportion of populations within species with a genetically effective population size > 500	By species group		GEOBON, see: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320720307126	Near ready**	

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Goal B. Nature's contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of all.	B.0.1 National environmental economic accounts of ecosystem services*	By ecosystem type and type of service		UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting: https://seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting . This indicator would be measured in physical and monetary terms and links with the concept of a Gross Ecosystem Product.	Near ready**	
Goal C. The benefits from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably, with a substantial increase in both monetary and non-monetary benefits shared, including for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	C.0.1 Monetary benefits received from utilization of genetic resources as a result of an ABS agreement, including traditional knowledge*	Tbd		CBD: An estimate of monetary benefits would fill a key knowledge gap; however, additional coordination would be required.	Needs developed**	
	C.0.2 Number of research and development products from an ABS agreement*	Tbd		CBD: An estimate of monetary benefits would fill a key knowledge gap; however, additional coordination would be required.	Needs developed**	
Goal D. The gap between available financial and other means of implementation, and	D.0.1 Funding for implementation of the global biodiversity framework*	By funding source		CBD: To be collected through National Biodiversity Finance Plans	Needs developed through national biodiversity finance plans	

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those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed.	D.0.2 Indicator on national biodiversity planning processes and means of implementation*	Tbd		CBD: To be collected through national reporting to capture gaps in alignment with the GBF, mainstreaming and means of implementation.	Needs developed would be collected via self-assessment in national reports.	
Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas.	1.0.1 Percentage of land and seas covered by spatial plans that integrate biodiversity*	By terrestrial, freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystem type		CBD: Collected through national reporting and would link with SDG 6.5.1, 14.2.1 and 15.2.1.	Needs developed would be collected via self-assessment in national reports	Specific comments to the Target are in page 3.
Target 2. Ensure that at least 20% of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.	2.0.1 Percentage of degraded or converted ecosystems that are under restoration	By ecosystem type	FAO through the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	Task Force on Monitoring in support of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: 2021-2030 http://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/resources/detail/es/c/1315004/	Near ready (INF paper from the Task Force)	Indicator SDG 6.6.1 and Target 12 on restoration of the Strategic Plan as well as other indicators related to Ramsar sites from National Reports of the Convention are included in the

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						Monitoring Framework of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
Target 3. Ensure that at least 30% globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	3.0.1 Coverage of Protected areas and OECMS (by effectiveness)	By ecosystem type By key biodiversity area By effectiveness category (PAME) By mountains, By wetlands	SDG (14.2.1, 15.1.2 and 15.4.1)	SDG: Protected Planet: https://www.protectedplanet.net/en	Existing, PA data from pre-1970 to present, OECM data under compilation	Ramsar Sites are part of the Protected Planet. If reference is made to Types, besides mountains, then all the other types must be included
Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species,	4.0.1 Proportion of species populations that are affected by human wildlife conflict			IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force: https://www.hwctf.org/	Near ready, 2020/21**	

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including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.	4.0.2 Number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium or long-term conservation facilities		SDG (2.5.1a)	SDG: FAO: http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/251a/en/ (currently captures plants but there is work on livestock under 2.5.1b which is under way)	Existing, 2000 to present	
Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.	5.0.1 Proportion of wildlife that is harvested legally and sustainably*	By species group By use: domestic or traded		CBD: This indicator would fill a knowledge gap but would require additional research and development.	Needs developed	
	5.0.2 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	By type of fish	SDG (14.4.1)	SDG: FAO: http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1441/en/	Existing, data from 1970 to present	
Target 6. Manage pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, preventing, or reducing their rate of introduction and establishment by at least 50%, and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, focusing on priority species and priority sites.	6.0.1 Rate of invasive alien species spread	By pathway		GEOBON: https://geobon.org/ebvs/working-groups/species-populations/ebv-for-invasion-monitoring/	Near ready will be 1980 forward**	under the Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan Target 4 is focus on invasive species: “Invasive alien species and pathways of

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						<p>introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment". Contracting Parties report on this Target through their National Reports so this Target and indicator (e.g proportion of countries controlling</p>

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						through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems) could be used as an indicator.
