

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL'S POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS – GENEVA INTERSESSIONAL NEGOTIATION

February 2022

Key recommendations for the First Draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework

- 1) Ensure prioritization of conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration for the places most important for providing nature's contribution to people. We highlight new scientific developments allowing for the identification of which places provide the highest levels of services globally and at national levels.
- 2) Increase level of ambition to create transformational change to reach a nature positive state by 2030.
- 3) Agree to sufficient and comprehensive resources to finance the full implementation of the Post-2020 Framework.
- 4) Ensure the full, effective, and equitable participation of IPLCs in all GBF related processes and adhere to a human rights-based approach that strengthens rights for all.
- 5) Prevent pandemics by addressing upstream drivers of spillover of pathogens from animals, particularly wildlife, to people.

General Comments on the First Draft

The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, while delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, remains as important as ever to set the global trajectory for the efforts needed to reach a nature-positive world by 2030. We continue to view the combination of goals and action-oriented targets as a strong foundation, we support the increased focus on nature's role in providing benefits to people, including services around food, water, and climate, and appreciate the reorganization of the outcome-oriented goals to represent the main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity alongside goals that address resourcing and implementation.

This position paper summarizes new scientific developments that allow us to identify the places providing the highest levels of ecosystem services at global and national levels and suggests how to best use these scientific developments in the goals and targets of the GBF. If we want to sustain nature's many contributions to humans then these places must be prioritized for conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration in the GBF.

To further strengthen GBF, we offer these high-level recommendations:

(1) Prioritize the places that provide nature's contributions to people

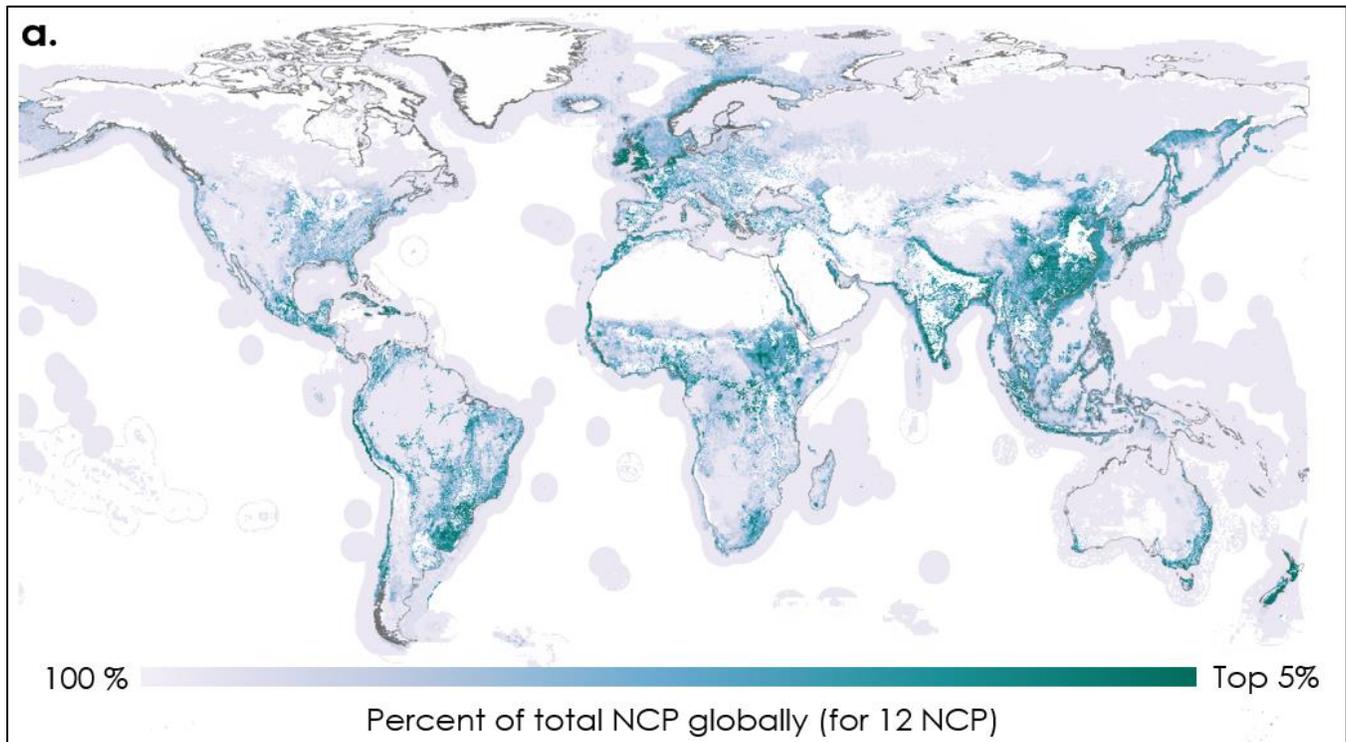
Nature provides a range of goods and services to people, such as supporting economic growth, sustaining livelihoods, and providing the basis for food, water, and climate security. These are collectively described here as ecosystem services or "Nature's Contributions to People" (NCP).¹

We recommend that goal B and targets 8-11 of the GBF be restructured so that they explicitly call for

¹ Nature's contributions to people include a range of benefits. While recognizing there are some differences in interpretation, we use the terms "nature's contributions to people" and "ecosystem services" synonymously in this paper.

the conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration of the **places most important for delivering nature’s contribution to people.**

Knowing where to take action is key to this approach. Recent scientific advances have produced maps showing the global distribution of ecosystems providing services² related to water quality regulation (nitrogen, sediment), food provision (pollination, grazing, riverine and marine fish), timber and fuel production, flood regulation and coastal risk reduction, and access to marine and terrestrial areas for recreation and gathering of resources. These maps allow us to know exactly where the places are that are most important for delivering ecosystem services. This information can then guide choices for how different resources are managed to ensure that these places remain healthy—both at global and national scales.



Critical Natural Assets – Global assessment: Source: Chaplin-Kramer et al, *in prep.* *Global critical natural assets.* *bioRxiv* 2020.11.08.361014; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.11.08.361014>.

Maps showing the global distribution of irrecoverable carbon, the carbon in ecosystems that must be maintained to meet global climate goals, were recently published in the November 2021 issue of *Nature Sustainability*.³ The maps are available for decision makers to explore at the [Conservation Resilience Atlas](https://irrecoverable.resilienceatlas.org/).⁴

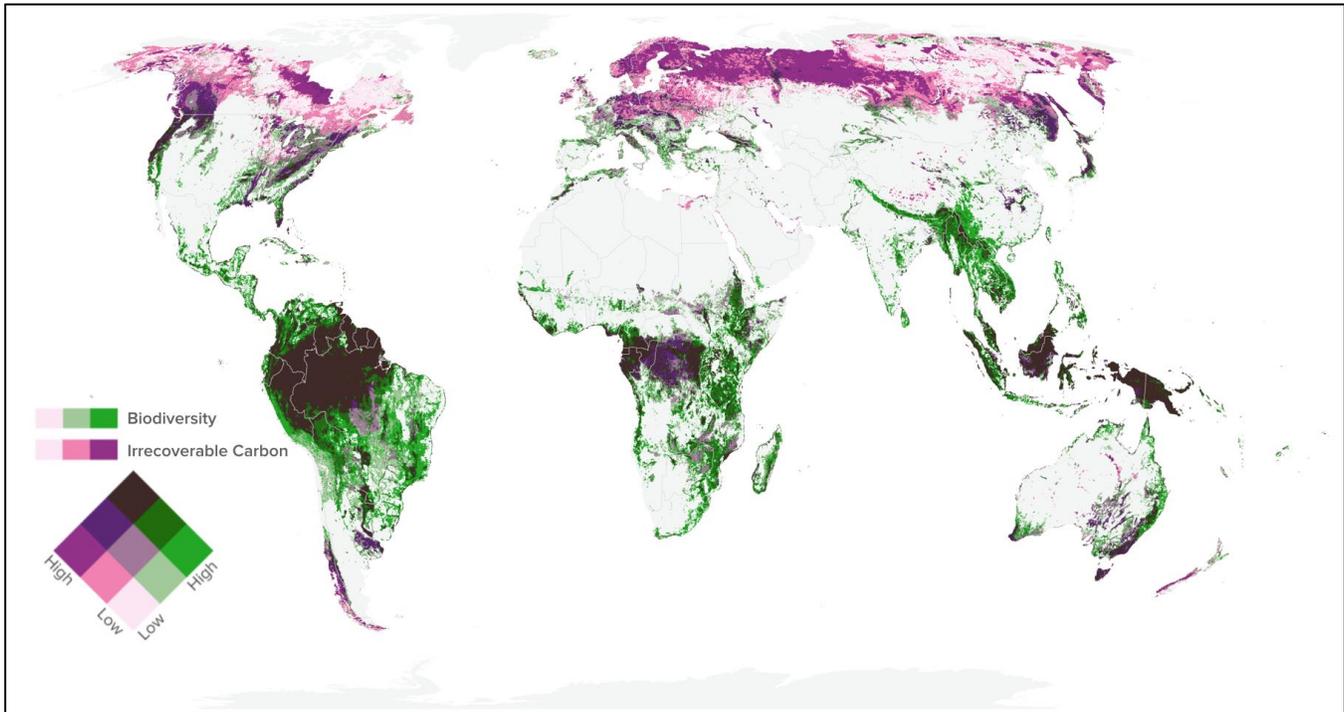
These maps can be used in conjunction with existing data, allowing decision makers to prioritize the conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of areas based on several sets of criteria. For example, the map shown below overlays the global distribution of irrecoverable carbon with biodiversity data on habitat ranges of all known birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, collected by hundreds of scientists

² Chaplin-Kramer, et al., Nature’s Critical Natural Assets. *In peer review.* Pre-print available here: <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-1102108/v1>.

³ Noon, M.L., Goldstein, A., Ledezma, J.C. et al. Mapping the irrecoverable carbon in Earth’s ecosystems. *Nat Sustain* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-021-00803-6>. Goldstein et al. 2020. Protecting the irrecoverable carbon in Earth’s ecosystems. *Nature Climate Change*. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0738-8>.

⁴ Full URL available here: <https://irrecoverable.resilienceatlas.org/>.

over decades. In this case, 75% of irrecoverable carbon and habitat for 87% of threatened species can be found in **less than 14% of Earth's land**, with key overlap in the tropics.



Global Irrecoverable Carbon & Biodiversity. Source: Noon et al. 2021 for Irrecoverable Carbon. BirdLife and IUCN Red List spatial data for birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles

These types of analyses can guide choices for how we manage different resources to ensure that we maintain the places we most need for our own wellbeing and to support a transition to a greener and more resilient model of economic development – both at global and national scales. The key will be to ensure that the most important places are prioritized, while still making management choices that maintain a large proportion of nature through a variety of measures and use levels depending on the sensitivity of the ecosystem and the services it provides. Examples include:

- Upland and upstream forests and other source water areas that contribute to the provision and regulation of water for local and downstream uses may be conserved while still allowing certain kinds of sustainable use;
- Peatlands that hold irrecoverable carbon may require strict protection to ensure that the emissions are not released to the atmosphere; and
- Mangroves that act as nurseries for fisheries and that provide coastal protection can be conserved through community management that also allows for other uses.

(2) Increase overall ambition for transformational change

We continue to recommend an increase in the level of ambition for creating the transformational change needed to ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity by 2030. This increase in ambition is consistent with the high ambition of the UN climate change convention and takes into account the strong synergies between the biodiversity and climate crises as the recent IPBES report details.⁵ While ambitious targets

⁵ Pörtner, H.O., et al. (2021) IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change. https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2021-06/20210609_workshop_report_embargo_3pm_CEST_10_june_0.pdf.

for the state of biodiversity are important, we will not succeed in reaching a nature positive world if we do not also set targets addressing the underlying economic drivers of biodiversity loss.

We encourage Parties to increase ambition on these topics as they enter the last rounds of negotiations and ensure that they maintain and strengthen targets on the integration of biodiversity values into decision making, supply chain considerations and economic incentives and subsidies.

(3) Ensure funding and capacity building

Clear and time-bound agreement on how to finance the framework will be the determining element of a successful GBF process. With an estimated USD700 billion required annually to close the biodiversity financing gap,⁶ overseas development aid (ODA) will be an important part of any financing agreement but what ODA can provide will not be enough. Domestic financing will also be essential. All countries will need to increase investments from all sources, including from the private sector while they simultaneously reduce expenditures on activities and subsidies harming biodiversity.

(4) Ensure inclusive participation and human rights-based approach

Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) are critical partners in biodiversity conservation, caring for areas across the globe containing significant and diverse species and ecosystems. IPLCs are central to the success of the development and implementation of the framework. Therefore, the entire framework must ensure the full, effective, and equitable participation of IPLCs in all GBF related processes and adhere to a human rights-based approach that strengthens rights for all. Currently, the first draft falls short of fully incorporating a human rights-based approach for the achievement of the goals of the CBD. The promotion of human rights should be included as an enabling condition.

(5) Address upstream drivers of pathogen spillover to prevent pandemics

A clear body of evidence shows that most emerging infectious diseases are the result of spillover of pathogens from animals, particularly wildlife, to humans because of anthropogenic environmental alteration.^{7,8} Outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics can be prevented, however, through implementation of evidence-based preventative measures. This will require actions to decrease human and domestic animal contact with wildlife specifically by 1) stopping land use change that drives infectious disease emergence, especially the clearing and degradation of tropical forests; 2) shutting down or strictly regulating wildlife trade and markets (both legal and illegal) that pose public health risks; and 3) improving infection control during animal husbandry. These activities can be implemented with massive return on investment compared to the millions of lives and trillions of dollars lost from pandemics such as COVID-19.⁹ We have suggested changes to two of the targets to address these two necessary actions to support pandemic prevention.

Detailed recommendations on Conservation International's priority goals and targets are below in relation to the first draft of GBF [CBD/WG2020/3/3](#).

⁶ Paulson Institute. (2020) Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap. <https://www.paulsoninstitute.org/key-initiatives/financing-nature-report/>.

⁷ Jones, K., Patel, N., Levy, M. *et al.* Global trends in emerging infectious diseases. *Nature* **451**, 990–993 (2008). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature06536>.

⁸ Plowright, R. K., Reaser, J. K., Locke, H., Woodley, S. J., Patz, J. A., Becker, D. J., Oppler, G., Hudson, P. J., & Tabor, G. M. (2021). Land use-induced spillover: A call to action to safeguard environmental, animal, and human health. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 5(4). [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196\(21\)00031-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196(21)00031-0).

⁹ Dobson, A. P., Pimm, S. L., Hannah, L., Kaufman, L., Ahumada, J. A., Ando, A. W., Bernstein, A., Busch, J., Daszak, P., Engelmann, J., Kinnaird, M. F., Li, B. V., Loch-Temzelides, T., Lovejoy, T., Nowak, K., Roehrdanz, P. R., & Vale, M. M. (2020). Ecology and economics for pandemic prevention. *Science*, 369(6502), 379–381. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abc3189>.

Detailed Recommendations on the Global Biodiversity Framework

Detailed Recommendations

THEORY OF CHANGE

Recommended Text

Para 6: The framework’s theory of change assumes that transformative actions are taken to (a) put in place tools and solutions for *long-term* implementation and mainstreaming....

Current: The framework’s theory of change assumes that transformative actions are taken to (a) put in place tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming....

Comments:

- We recommend the insertion of “long-term” into Theory of Change paragraph 6 to recognize the importance of ensuring the permanence of conservation actions and outcomes. The concept of permanence of conservation actions and outcomes is fundamental to ensuring the success of the GBF, providing impetus for long-term and sustained action toward the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.
- We note the need for this inclusion because research demonstrates the widespread extent of impermanence in conservation efforts. Legal changes that temper restrictions, shrink, or eliminate protected areas, known as PADDD (protected area downgrading, downsizing, and degazettement) are widespread globally.¹⁰ Between 1892 and 2018, governments in 73 countries enacted 4,229 PADDD events, affecting more than 2.2 million km² in 3,519 PAs.¹¹ Most PADDD events authorized new or expanded industrial-scale resource extraction and development – undermining the biodiversity values that protected areas are intended to secure. In addition, IPLC lands and territorial rights are under increasing risk of rollbacks to protections.

2030 MISSION

Recommended Text

“*Reverse the loss of biodiversity to achieve a nature-positive world*, ~~to take urgent action across society~~ [to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetics resources], ~~to~~ *and* put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of planet and *all* people.

Current: To take urgent action across society to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetics resources, to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of planet and people.

Comments:

- We support the joint calls for amending the 2030 Mission to have a clearly communicable focus on reversing biodiversity loss and achieving the nature-positive state by 2030.¹² The current

¹⁰ Conservation International & World Wildlife Fund. (n.d.) PADDD Tracker. <https://www.padddtracker.org/>.

¹¹ Golden Kroner, R., et al. (2019) The uncertain future of protected lands and waters. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/364/6443/881>.

¹² Locke, H., et al. (2021) A Nature-Positive World: The Global Goal for Nature (*White Paper*). <https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hubfs/4783129/Nature%20Positive%20The%20Global%20Goal%20for%20Nature%20paper.pdf>.

mission statement does not make it clear that the decline in biodiversity should be reversed by 2030.

2050 Goals and 2030 Milestones

Sections B and D

GOAL A

Recommended Text:

2050 Goal A: The integrity of all ecosystems is enhanced, with an increase, of at least 15 per cent in the area *extent*, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems supporting healthy, and resilient populations of all *native* 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.

2030 Milestone A.1: Net gain in the *extent* area, connectivity and integrity of natural systems of at least 5 per cent.

2030 Milestone A.2: The increase in the extinction rate is halted or reversed, and the extinction risk is reduced by at least 10 per cent, with a decrease in the proportion of species that are threatened, and the abundance and distribution of populations of *native* species is enhanced or at least maintained.

2030 Milestone A.3: No changes suggested

Current 2050 Goal A: 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.

Current 2030 Milestone A.1: Net gain in the area, connectivity and integrity of natural systems of at least 5 per cent.

Current 2030 Milestone A.2: The increase in the extinction rate is halted or reversed, and the extinction risk is reduced by at least 10 per cent, with a decrease in the proportion of species that are threatened, and the abundance and distribution of populations of species is enhanced or at least maintained.

Current 2030 Milestone A.3: Genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species is safeguarded, with an increase in the proportion of species that have at least 90 per cent of their genetic diversity maintained.

Comments:

- We recommend that goal A.1 maintain its reference to extent, connectivity, and integrity of natural systems. We support the proposed use of the term “net” with respect to the 2030/2050 goal on area and integrity of ecosystems. Integrity is the most comprehensive term that examines ecosystem composition, structure, and function, including in relation to its natural state.

- We propose a clarification that an increase in abundance is specific to native species to make the distinction to invasive species which would not be the intent of this milestone.

GOAL B

Recommended Text:

2050 Goal B: Nature’s contributions to people are valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use, *and/or restoration of the places most important for delivering these contributions*, supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of all.

2030 Milestone B.1: *All financial flows are aligned with the Convention through accurate valuation of nature and its contributions to people are fully accounted and in national accounts and financial disclosures*, to inform all relevant public and private decisions *and support the conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of areas providing key ecosystem services*.

2030 Milestone B.2: The long-term sustainability of all categories of nature’s contributions to people is ensured, *with those currently in decline restored and places most important for providing these contributions are conserved, sustainably used, and/or restored*, contributing to each of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

Current 2050 Goal B: Nature’s contributions to people are valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of all.

Current 2030 Milestone B.1: Nature and its contributions to people are fully accounted and inform all relevant public and private decisions.

Current 2030 Milestone B.2: The long-term sustainability of all categories of nature’s contributions to people is ensured, with those currently in decline restored, contributing to each of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

Comments:

- We have suggested changes to goal B and milestones B.1 and B.2 to make clear the long-term sustainability **of nature’s contributions to people is delivered through a combination of conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration**.
- The places most important for delivering essential ecosystem services must be kept healthy. To achieve this, the GBF will need to specify a focus on places of highest priority and specify actions needed to maintain them. Without this approach, areas critical to the health and well-being of millions of people may be overlooked.
- Focusing interventions on areas that are important for species or ecosystem representation as well as vital ecosystems services can support a more efficient investment of effort.
- Prioritization is necessary to ensure that we are conserving and sustainably managing the places most important for meeting human needs, similar to the model of how key biodiversity areas have been identified to facilitate prioritizing conservation actions. This proposed restructuring also facilitates national implementation and allows for selection of clear indicators for monitoring.
- In terms of monitoring, we recommend for countries to monitor the extent and condition of these places and the flow of ecosystem services that they provide in alignment with the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA).¹³

GOAL C

¹³ In this paper, SEEA refers to both the overall SEEA system of statistics and the Ecosystem Accounting framework.

Recommended Text:

2050 Goal C: The benefits from the utilization of genetic resources *and associated traditional knowledge* 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.

2030 Milestone C.1: No changes suggested.

2030 Milestone C.2: No changes suggested.

Current 2050 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.

Current 2030 Milestone C.1: The share of monetary benefits received by providers, including holders of traditional knowledge, has increased.

Current 2030 Milestone C.2: Non-monetary benefits, such as the participation of providers, including holders of traditional knowledge, in research and development, has increased.

Comments:

- We recommend reinserting the reference to traditional knowledge as included in the zero draft.

GOAL D

Recommended Text:

2050 Goal D: The gap between available financial and other means of implementation, and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed, *including by significantly increasing finance from all sources for the implementation of the framework, and halting or redirecting public and private financial flows that are harmful to biodiversity.*

2030 Milestone D.1: Adequate financial resources to implement the framework are available and deployed, progressively closing the financing gap up to at least US \$700 billion per year, *by significantly increasing finance from all sources for the implementation of the framework and halting or redirecting public and private financial flows that are harmful to biodiversity by 2030.*

2030 Milestone D.2: No changes suggested.

2030 Milestone D.3: No changes suggested.

Current 2050 Goal: The gap between available financial and other means of implementation, and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed.

Current 2030 Milestone D.1: Adequate financial resources to implement the framework are available and deployed, progressively closing the financing gap up to at least US \$700 billion per year by 2030.

Current 2030 Milestone D.2: Adequate other means, including capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to implement the framework to 2030 are available and deployed.

Current 2030 Milestone D.3: Adequate financial and other resources for the period 2030 to 2040 are planned or committed by 2030.

Comments:

- We are pleased to see the estimate of the biodiversity finance gap referenced in the milestone and we note that the successful implementation of the GBF will require filling this gap by securing solid and sustainable financing from a variety of sources and redirecting or halting public and private financial flows that are harmful to biodiversity.
- Resourcing for capacity building should be made available both to Parties as well as to stakeholder groups such as women and IPLC's given their important role in conservation and management.

2030 Action Targets: Section E

Reducing threats to biodiversity

TARGET 1 (Spatial Planning)

Recommended Text: Ensure that all *freshwater, marine and terrestrial* land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive, *climate smart, equitable and transparent* spatial planning *processes* addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact natural ecosystems *and key biodiversity areas* and wilderness areas.

Current 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.

Comments:

- Spatial planning processes can be an important tool for managing risk to biodiversity from changes in use of land (including freshwater systems) and marine (including coastal) systems, but only if the spatial planning aims to support the health of ecosystems as a primary aim as opposed to using spatial planning to advance non-sustainable outcomes, such as monoculture crops or environmentally degrading building practices.
- We suggest including the term "climate-smart" as spatial planning should account for the projected impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems in order to design conservation networks that are responsive and resilient in a changing climate. Recent science advances allow us to identify areas key to conserving species in the future as they move in response to climate change.¹⁴

TARGET 2 (Restoration)

Recommended Text: Ensure that at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems *have met international standards for successful* are under restoration, ensuring *contributing to an overall increase in the abundance and distribution of native species as well as ecosystem integrity and connectivity, with a focus on those natural* among them and focusing on *priority* ecosystems *critical for both biodiversity and human wellbeing*.

Current 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.

Comments:

¹⁴ The Spatial Planning for Protected Areas in Response to Climate Change (SPARC) project was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to provide information that can help countries plan more effectively for conserved areas considering the effects of climate change. Recent science advances allow for the identification of areas key to conserving species in the future as they move in response to climate change. Maps and methodology available at: L. Hannah, et al., 30% land conservation and climate action reduces tropical extinction risk by more than 50%. *Ecography* 43, 943–953 (2020). <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ecog.05166>.

- We are encouraged to see a stand-alone goal on restoration. We suggest several improvements to strengthen this target.
- First, restoration should be done under international standards and balance biodiversity, community, ecosystem services, and carbon benefits. This means a shift away from one-size-fits-all monoculture ecosystem cover (for example, monoculture tree plantations) and towards strategies like assisted natural regeneration, applied nucleation, and direct seeding that involve enhancing nature’s ability to regenerate ecosystems.
- We also note that restoration efforts should take into account assessments of nature’s contributions to people so that people benefit from ecosystem restoration.
- Lastly, we are also encouraged by the focus on connectivity and inclusion of a variety of ecosystem types but note that the experience of on the ground restoration has shown that it is important to pair restoration with conservation activities through a landscape approach to reduce displacement/leakage of land use. This avoids undertaking restoration efforts that cause land use change in a previously unimpacted area.

TARGET 3 (Area-Based Conservation Measures)

Recommended Text: Ensure that at least 30% globally of *freshwater, marine and terrestrial* land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved *for the long term* through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well- connected systems of protected areas, *Indigenous Peoples territories and community conserved areas*, and other effective area-based conservation measures *that prohibit harmful industrial and non-industrial activities*, and *are* integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Additionally, ensure that, by 2030, the rights of IPLCs who traditionally govern and conserve lands and waters are appropriately recognized and collectively secured.

Current 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.

Comments:

- We are encouraged to see the added focus on areas most important for delivering nature’s contribution to people and the integration into wider landscape and seascapes in this target on area-based conservation, and recommend that the final text maintain this formulation.¹⁵
- We recommend revision of this target to ensure that protected and conserved sites are effectively conserved for the long term.
- We note also that equitable management and governance of protected and conserved areas are as important as effectiveness. We therefore recommend inclusion of text on securing IPLCs lands, tenure rights, and responsibilities of area-based conservation, as IPLCs play a critical role in the conservation of nature, noting that IPLC resource governance systems are varied and are area-based. We also note the lack of safeguards for IPLCs as the target is currently presented.

¹⁵ Murphy, SE, Farmer, G, Katz, L, et al. (2021) Fifteen years of lessons from the Seascope approach: A framework for improving ocean management at scale. <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.423>.

- We recommend prohibition of harmful industrial or non-industrial activities within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

TARGET 4 (SPECIES)

Recommended Text: Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict, *and prevent land-use induced pathogen spillover between humans, wildlife, and other animals.*

Current Target 4: Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Comments:

- In addition to species management and addressing human-wildlife conflict, target 4 can help address the root cause driving the emergence of many infectious diseases. Specifically, this target should call for the need to avoid ecological disruption from land-use change of functioning and biodiverse ecosystems for activities such as agriculture or urbanization that results in increased contact between people and domestic animals with wildlife, thereby providing opportunities for pathogen spillover.
- Scientists agree on the need to protect the places that provide nature's health-related contributions to people, specifically, those that strengthen the barriers to pathogen spillover and protect human health from zoonoses.¹⁶ There is also a risk of "reverse spillover" or "spillback" of zoonotic pathogens from humans to wildlife from land-use change that can pose a major threat to biodiversity.
- Surveillance data on infectious diseases of public health concern (e.g., Ebola, rabies, Marburg), many of which are caused by pathogens that can be transferred from one species to another, are already routinely collected in many countries by Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Environment. These data can be leveraged to monitor progress on this Target for prevention of land-use induced spillover. Specifically, a headline indicator such as "Incidence of infectious diseases in humans and domestic animals that have wildlife origins and incidence of infectious diseases in wildlife that have human or domestic animal origins" can be determined from existing datasets at the national level and then aggregated at the regional and global levels by entities such as the World Health Organization and the Food and Agricultural Organization.

TARGET 5 (HARVESTING AND TRADE OF WILD SPECIES)

Recommended Text: Ensure that the harvesting *exploitation*, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health, *effectively regulated and enforced, and poses no risk of pathogen spillover to humans, wildlife, or other animals.*

Current Target 5: Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.

¹⁶ Plowright, R. K., Reaser, J. K., Locke, H., Woodley, S. J., Patz, J. A., Becker, D. J., Oppler, G., Hudson, P. J., & Tabor, G. M. (2021). Land use-induced spillover: A call to action to safeguard environmental, animal, and human health. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 5(4). [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196\(21\)00031-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196(21)00031-0).

Comments:

- Conservation International supports the intent of this target, to address the threats posed to biodiversity, ecosystems, and human health and wellbeing from unsustainable or unsafe exploitation and use of wild species. However, as with target 4, further clarification is needed to ensure the GBF reflects the actions that can be taken to avoid threat of future pandemics of zoonotic origin.
- While we welcome the current formulation of this target with 'safe' as referring to human health, the target does not define appropriate thresholds of risk. We support the call to define this as "posing no risk of pathogen spillover" in line with precautionary, science-based approaches.¹⁷
- We strongly urge Parties to ensure that target 5 clearly states that no exploitation of wildlife (plants and animals) should be allowed unless it is demonstrably legal, sustainable, well managed, effectively enforced, and presents no risk to human or animal health.

Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

General Comments:

- Certainly, the current structure and focus on sustainable use in targets 9 and 10 is consistent with the previous Aichi targets, however, this alone may not be sufficient to ensure long-term benefits from a wide variety of ecosystem services, especially those that are non-material. Therefore, we **recommend targets 8-11 below be restructured so they clearly articulate that the action is the conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration of the places most important for delivering ecosystem services.**
- The proposed text below restructures these targets around the categories of Nature's Contributions to People for climate, food, and water. We recommend moving target 8 to the group of targets associated with nature's contributions to people.
- Research supporting this prioritization is presented in the overview section of this document. We note that this research methodology can be utilized at the national level.
- As mentioned in the goal B section above, the current structure of targets 8, 9, 10, and 11 does not support a consistent approach to implementing or monitoring efforts related to nature's contributions to people. The revised approach supports a focus on **measuring the extent, condition and integrity of places supporting benefits to people.**
- At this stage of the negotiations, it is more important than ever to ensure that the targets are scientifically based, well understood and consistent to allow for standardized monitoring wherever possible.

TARGET 8 (Meeting People's Climate Needs)

Recommended Text: Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem based approaches and *through the conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration of the places most important for delivering these contributions*, contributing at least 10 GtCO_{2e} per year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.

Current Target 8: Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO_{2e} per year to global

¹⁷ WCS recommendations on Draft 1 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (9 August 2021). Available at: https://c532f75abb9c1c021b8c-e46e473f8aadb72cf2a8ea564b4e6a76.ssl.cf5.rackcdn.com/2021/08/18/4815036zqn_WCS_Recommendations_on_Draft_1_of_the_GBF_9_August_2021_EN_PDF_.pdf.

mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.

Comments:

- We are encouraged to see a clear GHG mitigation and adaptation commitment and note that this estimate of 10 GtCO₂e per year represents the cost-effective climate mitigation, assuming the social cost of CO₂ pollution is ≥100 USD MgCO₂e⁻¹ by 2030.¹⁸
- We also support the focus on ensuring that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and prioritize action in places that contain irrecoverable carbon, as described in the opening of this document along with other high carbon ecosystem types.

TARGET 9 (Meeting People’s Food Needs)

Recommended Text: Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through *the conservation, sustainable management, and/or restoration of the places most important for delivering these contributions* of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Current Target 9: Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Comments:

- Under our suggested formulation, the necessary action to achieve these benefits is the **conservation, sustainable management, and/or restoration of the places most important for delivering ecosystem services**.
- In addition to sustainable management, we support use of conservation and restoration approaches because sustainable management alone may not be sufficient to ensure long-term benefits from a wide variety of ecosystem services, especially those that are non-material.
- We support the inclusion of the focus on vulnerable peoples and protection of customary sustainable use by Indigenous peoples and local communities.

TARGET 10 (Sustainable Production)

Recommended Text: Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation, and sustainable use, *and/or restoration of the places most important for providing ecosystem services*, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.

Current Target 10: Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.

Comments:

¹⁸ Griscom et al. (2017) Natural climate solutions. <https://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645>.

- As with target 8, under our suggested formulation, the necessary action to achieve these benefits accrued from agriculture, aquaculture and forestry is the **conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration of the places most important for delivering ecosystem services**.
- We support a wider use of conservation actions than a singular focus on sustainable use because sustainable use alone may not be sufficient to ensure long-term benefits from a wide variety of ecosystem services, especially those that are non-material but that support these productive systems.
- As with targets 4 and 5, implementation of this target offers an opportunity to avoid threat of future pandemics of zoonotic origin. Productive and resilient agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry requires implementation of robust biosecurity practices, or practices that aim to reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of infectious diseases.¹⁹ Poor biosecurity can contribute to pathogen spillover from wildlife into domestic animals and humans and vice versa, thus threatening human health security and protection of biodiversity.

TARGET 11 (Meeting People’s Water & Air Needs)

Recommended Text: Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people *through the conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration of the places most important for delivering these contributions*.

Current Target 11: Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people.

Comments:

- The current formulation of target 11 does not detail the actions needed to ensure air quality, quality and quantity of water and protection from hazards and extreme events.
- We therefore suggest revisions consistent with the other targets focused on nature’s contribution to people. Under our suggested formulation, the necessary action to achieve these benefits is the **conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration of the places most important for delivering ecosystem services**.
- We support the use of a broad array of approaches from conservation to sustainable use to restoration depending on case-by-case need.

Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

TARGET 14 (Implementation & Mainstreaming)

Recommended Text: Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, *national* accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values *and Parties use legal and regulatory approaches to ensure that biodiversity safeguards and mainstreaming approaches prevent direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity from all public and private activities especially from the finance, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, infrastructure and extractives sectors*.

Current Target 14: Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all

¹⁹ OIE. (2018) Terrestrial Animal Health Code. https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/2018/en_glossaire.htm.

levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values.

Comments:

- This target is one of the most important for achieving the level of transformational change needed to achieve the aims of the post-2020 framework. We encourage Parties to maintain target 14 on the integration of biodiversity values into decision making by explicitly referencing the need for policy (legal, regulatory) approaches that support mainstreaming of biodiversity in the public and private sectors.
- We suggest specifying the sectors most responsible for biodiversity loss according to IPBES (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, infrastructure).
- We also recommend adding language addressing the financial sector and directives to Parties to adopt regulation on the private sector entities operating in their jurisdiction.

TARGET 15 (Supply Chains)

Recommended Text: All businesses (public and private, large, medium and small) assess and *disclose* ~~report on~~ their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, from local to global, and progressively reduce negative impacts, by at least half *by 2025* and *by 2030* increase positive impacts, ~~reducing~~ *eliminate* biodiversity-related risks to businesses and ~~moving towards~~ *achieve* full sustainability of extraction and production practices, sourcing and supply chains, and use and disposal.

Current Target 15: All businesses (public and private, large, medium and small) assess and report on their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, from local to global, and progressively reduce negative impacts, by at least half and increase positive impacts, reducing biodiversity-related risks to businesses and moving towards the full sustainability of extraction and production practices, sourcing and supply chains, and use and disposal.

Comments:

- This target is critical for achieving the level of transformational change needed to achieve the aims of the post-2020 framework and holding businesses responsible throughout their supply chains.
- Reducing negative impacts by at least half seems arbitrary and is likely insufficient in terms of the planetary need by 2030, therefore we have proposed revised text where all businesses assess their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity from local to global, state and act on commitments to eliminate negative impacts on biodiversity and transition to nature-positive production, sourcing, use and end of life practices by 2030.
- Ideally this target would strive to achieve nature-positive supply chains that support the transformation to sustainable development models.
- As businesses will need to implement this target, it is important to have a time-bound target with progressive components – from assessing impacts on biodiversity, to reporting and tackling them – with the aim to transition to nature positive business practices by 2030.

TARGET 18 (Economic Incentives and Subsidies)

Recommended Text: Redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, in a just and equitable way, reducing them by at least *USD250 billion per year by 2025 and at least USD500 billion per year by 2030, with the goal to eradicate the most harmful subsidies*, and ensure

that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.

Current Target 18: Redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, in a just and equitable way, reducing them by at least USD500 billion per year, including all of the most harmful subsidies, and ensure that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.

Comments:

- The reform of subsidies that contribute to biodiversity loss represents the single biggest opportunity to close the biodiversity funding gap.
- As much as USD542 billion per year is currently spent on agricultural, fisheries and forestry subsidies that are harmful for nature²⁰ so, the aim to reduce them by at least USD500 billion per year is appropriate.
- We recommend that this target introduces a clear trajectory to deliver on the elimination of subsidies.

TARGET 19 (Financial Resources)

Recommended Text: *Close the biodiversity finance gap by increasing new financial resources from all sources to by at least USD200 billion per year, including new, additional and effective financial resources and increasing by at least [10] billion per year international financial flows to developing countries, leveraging private finance, and increasing domestic resource mobilization taking into account national biodiversity finance planning, and strengthen inclusive capacity-building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation, to meet the needs for implementation commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.*

Current Target 19: Increase financial resources from all sources to at least USD200 billion per year, including new, additional and effective financial resources, increasing by at least 10 billion per year international financial flows to developing countries, leveraging private finance, and increasing domestic resource mobilization, taking into account national biodiversity finance planning, and strengthen capacity-building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation, to meet the needs for implementation commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.

Comments:

- Ambition in this target will be critical to the delivery of all other targets, as sufficient resources from both private and public sector sources will be essential to closing the gap on finance and capacity.
- As the current biodiversity funding gap is about USD700 billion per year,²¹ the overall finance target must secure a level of ambition that is consistent with this challenge.
- We note the USD200 billion per year referenced in this target refers to new resources, above and beyond the existing levels of biodiversity focused financing.
- We also note the important linkages between target 18 and 19: the combination of new resources (USD200billion/year) and eliminating/redirecting negative financial flows and subsidies (USD500 billion/year) is crucial to close the funding gap (USD700 billion/year).

²⁰ TNC. (2020) Closing the Nature Funding Gap: A Finance Plan for the Planet. <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/closing-nature-funding-gap-global-biodiversity-finance/>.

²¹ TNC. (2020) Closing the Nature Funding Gap: A Finance Plan for the Planet. <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/closing-nature-funding-gap-global-biodiversity-finance/>.

- Financial resources should also be allocated for IPLC led initiatives on biodiversity conservation and the plan for targeted capacity-building efforts must be inclusive of IPLCs.
- The international financing flows from all sources including ODA must be ambitious enough to meet the resource needs of developing countries. It is likely that USD10 billion per year is not a sufficient value to ensure the actions outlined in the GBF can be carried out effectively. Additional consideration is needed on the bracketed figure, and we look forward to providing further analysis.

TARGET 20 (Information and Traditional Knowledge)

Recommended Text:

Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision making for the *use and* effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.

Current Target 20: Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.

Comments:

- We fully support this target given the importance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous peoples and local communities to the health and integrity of biodiversity, particularly because of the long-held custodial relationships that develop between indigenous peoples, local communities, and nature. We note that the treatment of traditional knowledge requires care that should adhere to safeguard principles²² and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), as well as the site-specificity of traditional knowledge, such that no expectation exists that traditional knowledge can be transferred between different bio-cultural systems.
- Consideration should be given to the need to define clear, measurable means to ensure the protection of traditional knowledge.

TARGET 21 (Stakeholder Engagement)

Recommended text:

*Strengthen platforms, policies, and processes, in accordance with national circumstances, to E*nsure *full*, equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect *and secure* their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as women and girls, and youth *and protect those who advocate for environmental human rights*.

Current Target 21: Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as women and girls, and youth.

Comments:

²² For example, see <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/indigenous-peoples-policy>.

- The role and engagement of IPLCs within the development of the post-2020 framework is critical, having significant impact not only on human rights but also the important areas of biodiversity and ecosystem services that are under the governance of IPLCs. We support processes and outcomes that recognize, respect and support IPLC knowledge and leadership.
- We also note that the 'full and effective' participation" is crucial and we recognize that participants should be engaged from the outset of decision-making, and across the period to 2030.

Enabling conditions: Section I

Applying a One Health Approach

We propose adding the following paragraph after current paragraph 17:

18. Additionally, a One Health approach should be employed to recognize the links between the health of people, animals, and the environment, and that healthy communities rely on well-functioning ecosystems.

Comments:

- The new One Health definition jointly released by the WHO, FAO, OIE, and UNEP²³ emphasizes the need for "integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems," which implicitly would require considerations on the benefits provided by biodiversity.

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²³ WHO. (1 December 2021) Tripartite and UNEP support OHHLEP's definition of "One Health". <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-12-2021-tripartite-and-unesp-support-ohhlep-s-definition-of-one-health>.