NATURE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEOPLE IN THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Policy Brief--August 2021

Conservation International welcomes the First Draft of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework (GBF) as progress toward a fully developed GBF. 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. The focus of this policy brief is on **prioritizing the conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration for the ecosystems most important for providing ecosystem services through new scientific developments allowing for the identification of which places provide the highest levels of services globally (and at national levels)**.

Please find Conservation Internationals' comprehensive policy recommendations on the other goals and targets in the post-2020 GBF here.

Prioritize the ecosystems that provide nature's contributions to people

Healthy ecosystems provide a range of goods and services to people such as supporting economic growth, sustaining livelihoods, and providing the basis for food and water security as well as a stable climate. These are collectively described here as ecosystem services or "Nature's Contributions to People" (NCP).[1] To sustain nature's contributions to people, we must conserve the places most important for providing them, alongside those most important for species and ecosystem representation.

CI remains committed to our previous position that a strong agreement relies on ensuring that nature's role in meeting people's needs is clearly articulated in the goals, targets, and monitoring components of the Framework, with specific focus on maintaining the ecosystems essential for human wellbeing. The theory of change rightly states that transformative actions are necessary to ensure that biodiversity is used sustainably in order to meet people's needs. Certainly, the current structure and focus on sustainable use in targets 9 and 10 is consistent with the previous Aichi targets, however, this alone will not be sufficient to ensure long-term benefits from a wide variety of ecosystem services, especially those that are non-material. Therefore, we **recommend that the targets addressing nature's contribution to people be restructured so that they clearly articulate that the action is the conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration[2] of the places most important for delivering ecosystem services.**

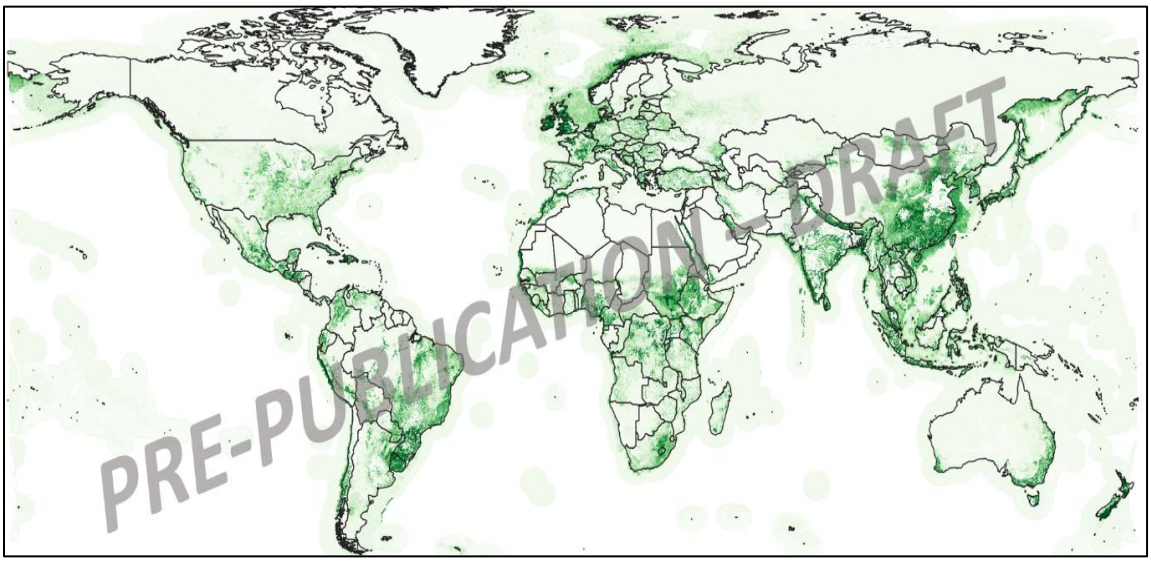
Recent scientific advances in spatial mapping can guide choices for how we manage different resources to ensure that we keep the places we most need for our own wellbeing and to support a transition to a greener and more resilient model of economic development – both at global and national scales. The following maps provide a useful visual to understand how nature's contributions to people are concentrated in some places.

[1] Nature's contributions to people include a range of benefits including clean water, food availability, spiritual connection, and psychological wellbeing, all stemming from multiple aspects of biodiversity: genes, species, and ecosystems. While recognizing there are some differences in interpretation, we use the terms "nature's contributions to people and "ecosystem services" synonymously in this paper.

[2] The impacts of restoration will vary by ecosystem service/nature's contribution to people. Some services may demonstrate increased performance in response to ecosystem restoration, but others may not (e.g., reversion of deforested grassland to forest may improve water services but may decrease grazing/pollination services). Therefore, our proposal is to use restoration when it is the appropriate tool for ensuring ecosystem services.

Figure 1 shows places where nature is delivering high levels of 12 different ecosystem services occur – these ecosystem services are 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, with the highest performing areas in green.

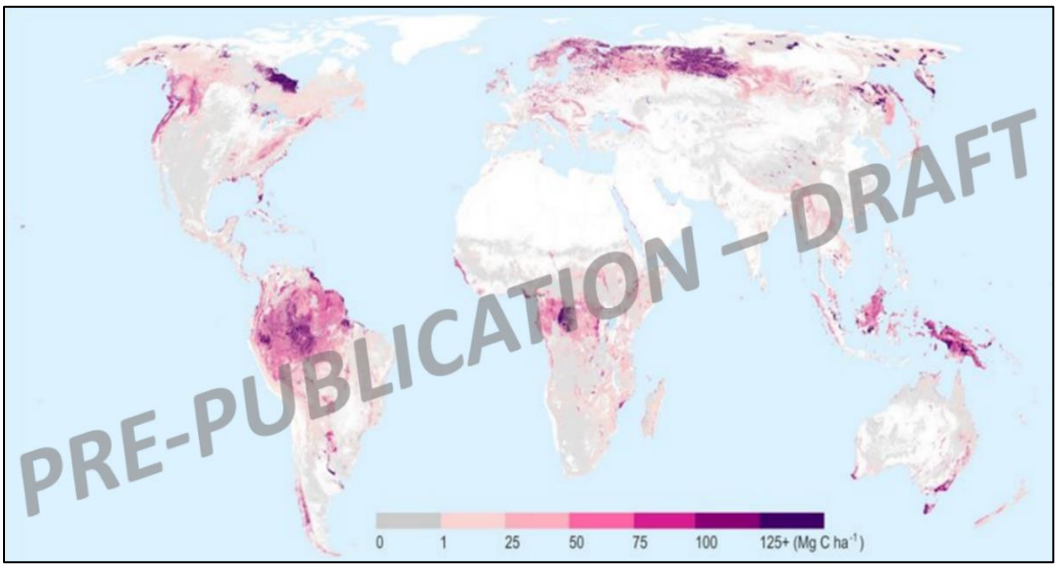
Figure 1: Global ranking of Nature's Contribution's to People.



*Source: Chaplin-Kramer, et al., **in peer review**. Partners on mapping multiple ecosystem services: Natural Capital Project, Stanford University, University of Minnesota, King's College London and many additional data providers. Further details on data and methodology can be provided upon request. Note these maps are pre-publication drafts and subject to change.*

Figure 2 shows the global distribution of irrecoverable carbon, this is the carbon stored in the Earth's biomass and soils that is under human control and would be impossible to recover by 2050 if released into the atmosphere. Areas with zero irrecoverable carbon are displayed in grey to demonstrate the footprint of global manageable carbon. Maintaining this carbon in the ecosystems where it currently exists is essential to meeting global climate goals and should be integrated into the GBF.

Figure 2: Irrecoverable carbon in Earth's ecosystems.



*Source: Noon et al. Mapping the irrecoverable carbon in Earth's ecosystems. **Under review**. Based on published concept: Goldstein et al. 2020. Protecting the irrecoverable carbon in Earth's ecosystems. Nature Climate Change. https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0738-8. Further details on data and methodology can be provided upon request. Note these maps are pre-publication drafts and subject to change. Partners on mapping irrecoverable carbon: University of Wisconsin-Madison, The Nature Conservancy, Woods Hole Research Center, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. The framework study (Goldstein et. al. 2020) is available: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0738-8.*

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Suggested Text for the Global Biodiversity Framework

Goal/ Target	Current Text (CBD/WG2020/3/3)	Suggested Text
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.	No changes suggested.
2030 Milestone B.1	Nature and its contributions to people are fully accounted and inform all relevant public and private decisions.	*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, contributing to each of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.	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.
Target 8	Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtC02e per year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.	Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtC02e per year to global mitigation efforts *through the conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration of 100% of the ecosystems most important for delivering these contributions*, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.
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.	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 100% of the ecosystems most important for delivering these contributions* ~~of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species~~ and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.
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.	Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation*,* ~~and~~ sustainable use*, and/or restoration of 100% of the ecosystems most important for providing ecosystem services,* increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.
Target 11	Maintain and enhance natures' contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people.	Maintain and enhance natures' 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 100% of the ecosystems most important for delivering these contributions*.