

BirdLife recommendations for EU leadership at the Convention on Biological Diversity

The EU Biodiversity Strategy (BDS), released in May 2020, has the potential to be a world-leading plan for nature’s recovery. It includes concrete and ambitious targets for addressing the largest drivers of biodiversity loss, such as agriculture and fishing, and commitments to legally binding nature restoration in the EU. It also proposes a 30% coverage of protected areas, with a third being strictly protected.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy also draws lessons from the Covid-19 crisis underlining that healthy ecosystems are crucial to the survival of humanity. We must continue learning from the global crises to become more resilient to the challenges that lie ahead. Today, more than ever, we need to have the right to a healthy environment recognised as a universal human right and reflected in related policy frameworks.

This new ambitious plan is also an opportunity for the EU to build legitimacy and political coherence by aligning its regional and international commitments. From ambitious sustainability standards in international trade agreements to implementing due diligence on their imports, it is time for the EU to lead by example. We need the EU to build on these regional ambitions, and its commitment to the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature to galvanizing momentum globally towards a strong post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

As Covid-19 pushes the international community into virtual negotiations, the EU must also set the example by addressing as best it can the risks of digital inequality that could hit countries with more unstable internet access. To do so, the EU must ensure that a dynamic dialogue is maintained with other countries, in the most inclusive and participatory way possible. The delay in the process should also be welcomed as an opportunity for the EU and the rest of the international community to hold more in-depth discussions as the physical meetings would have allowed.

In the following document the new EU commitments are compared with the current state of the GBF negotiations, and recommendations are given as to how, in each aspect, the EU can “lead all efforts to agree an ambitious new global framework for post-2020” as stated in the EU Biodiversity Strategy. As the CBD moves towards agreeing a new set of global targets, we have identified the following areas as key places for the EU to use the BDS to champion global ambition:

1. Species recovery
2. Protected areas
3. Large-scale nature restoration
4. Addressing agricultural production and consumption as drivers of biodiversity loss
5. Addressing fisheries as a driver of biodiversity loss
6. Resource mobilisation
7. EU leadership and implementation.

1. Species recovery

| EU Biodiversity Strategy (May 2020) | Latest CBD Post-2020 Framework Draft (July 2020) | Summary key recommendations the EU should champion in the GBF |
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| “The Commission will in particular request Member States to ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030” | “2030 Milestone: The number of species that are threatened is reduced by [X%] and the abundance of species has increased on average by [X%]” | Halt human-induced extinctions from 2020 and reduce the overall risk of species extinctions by 20% by 2030 towards 0% extinction in 2050 |

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| | <p>“Target 3. By 2030, ensure active management actions to enable wild species of fauna and flora recovery and conservation, and reduce human-wildlife conflict by [X%].”</p> | <p>as evidenced by the BirdLife Red List Index.</p> |
| <p>“Member States will have to ensure that at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend”</p> | | <p>Increase population abundance by 20% on average using a 1970 baseline.</p> |
| <p>“Reverse the decline in pollinators”</p> | | |
| <p>On CBD: “The world should commit to no human-induced extinction of species, at minimum where avoidable (as part of a net gain principle)”</p> | | |

Species are the cornerstone of measuring success toward nature’s recovery globally, regionally and nationally. The EU could be stronger on this in the BDS and within the CBD GBF discussions where we need a prominent global goal and ambitious targets for species recovery. Commitments in the BDS speak specifically to preventing extinctions at the global level, and while this is crucial for the next decade, it is only part of the equation. We also need to commit to globally recovering ecosystem functions by 2050 – this is crucial for keeping common species common, measuring biodiversity across all landscapes, and for supporting the EU ambition to reverse the decline of pollinators.

The EU is well placed to champion the following for species in the CBD GBF:

- **Extinctions:** The EU should champion the objective to halt human-induced extinctions and reduce the overall risk of human-induced extinctions by 20% by 2030;
- **Abundance:** The EU should advocate for a recovery of species populations, not just a halt in loss. Hence, it should advocate for an increase of population abundance by 20% on average towards a full recovery of species populations to 1970 levels by 2050;
- **Action:** At OEWG2, the EU supported a new species action target to “Implement intensive management actions by 2030, in situ and ex situ, for species whose survival depends on such actions or whose recovery cannot otherwise be enabled or sustained, such that they have recovered by 2050.” It is positive that a species action target is now in the latest GBF draft, and the EU should continue to support the addition of this target, given that the issue of conservation dependent species should be addressed both in the outcomes (2050 Goals) and actions (2030 action targets) sections of the framework.

2. Protected areas

| EU Biodiversity Strategy (May 2020) | Latest CBD Post-2020 Framework Draft (July 2020) | Summary key recommendations the EU should champion in the GBF |
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| <p>“Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU’s land area and 30% of the EU’s sea area and integrate ecological corridors”</p> | <p>“Target 2. By 2030, protect and conserve through well connected and effective system of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures at least 30% of the planet with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity.”</p> | <p>The EU should advocate for the effective protection of at least 30% of the world’s most biodiverse land and seas.</p> |
| <p>“Strictly protect at least 10% of the EU’s land and sea areas (a third of protected areas), including all remaining EU primary and old growth forests.”</p> | | <p>This target must include indicators for coverage of key areas for biodiversity, high quality management, effective protection and adequate financing.</p> |
| <p>“Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately”</p> | | |

The ambitious targets on protected areas (PAs) set in the BDS position the EU as a world leader for nature protection and align with the existing international momentum for a 30% protected and conserved area target on land and at sea.

The EU is well placed to champion the following on protected areas in the CBD GBF:

- The EU should advocate for global high ambition initiatives and for a target to protect and conserve at least 30% of land and seas.
- EU leadership on PAs must be supported by commitments on effective implementation globally, regionally and nationally. Success is not just about quantity, but needs sufficient quality of protection. The EU should lead the call to put an end to ‘paper parks’ by calling for the conditions for effective management and quality of PAs to be more prominently represented in the GBF. The EU should advocate for the adoption of scientifically-robust criteria for the identification of particularly important sites for biodiversity, such as the Key Biodiversity Areas global standard; Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) must be defined following the same criteria, as these must be equivalent to protected areas in terms of actual protection of biodiversity. The Commission should exercise caution in ensuring that OECMs do not become loopholes used to reduce the levels of biodiversity protection.
- Downgrading, downsizing and degazettement (PADDD) is an increasingly serious issue affecting protected areas all over the world. Protection levels should only go up in time through a principle of ‘irreversibility of protection’ for protected areas. The EU should push for an indicator of PADDD and for independent review of such processes. The indicators for PA targets must also include the budget provided for the effective management of the areas;
- This ambitious international approach to effective protection should also ensure that there are no-take zones or areas that exclude extractive and habitat altering activities in all ecosystems on the planet, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Connectivity is crucial to ensure species and habitats can maintain genetic diversity and adapt to a changing climate. Where it is prominent in the BDS, these issues of connectivity are however currently poorly represented in the GBF ecosystem goal/targets. The EU should play a key role in advocating for ecological corridors to be established and their effective functioning secured for the long term.

3. Large-scale nature restoration

| EU Biodiversity Strategy (May 2020) | Latest CBD Post-2020 Framework Draft (July 2020) | Summary key recommendations the EU should champion in the GBF |
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| <p>“The Commission will put forward a proposal for legally binding EU nature restoration targets in 2021 to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters”</p> <p>“At least 25,000 km of rivers will be restored into free-flowing rivers by 2030 through the removal of primarily obsolete barriers and the restoration of floodplains and wetlands”</p> | <p>“Target 1. By 2030, [50%] of land and sea areas globally are under spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, retaining most of the existing intact and wilderness areas, and allow to restore [X%] of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial natural ecosystems and connectivity among them.”</p> <p>“Target 7. By 2030, increase contributions to climate change mitigation adaption and disaster risk reduction from nature-based solutions and ecosystems based approached, ensuring resilience and minimising any negative impacts on biodiversity.”</p> | <p>The EU should champion a commitment for specific national restoration targets, contributing to a global restoration target of at least 15% of the global land and sea area. The EU should start by committing itself to the large-scale restoration of at least 15% of its own territory.</p> <p>The EU should recognise restoration as a global priority to recover biodiversity and mitigate and adapt to climate change. It should make a clear link with the UNFCCC negotiations and call for all countries to include restoration targets in their NDCs.</p> |

As we enter the UN decade on restoration, this is a key area that countries and regions must ambitiously commit to. Reversing the loss of biodiversity, tackling climate change, and preserving the benefits to people are not possible without taking actions to restoring the natural functionalities of our ecosystems. The EU has announced positive steps in the right direction, and now it must channel its commitment into the CBD GBF. The EU should champion restoration in the GBF as a top priority to provide much needed benefits for nature, the climate and people.

The EU is well placed to champion the following on restoration in the CBD GBF:

- Currently, targets for restoration are confused within the GBF. We are lacking a prominent goal or target that fully represent the level of nature recovery that we need globally. The EU should champion a commitment for specific national restoration targets, contributing to a global restoration target of at least 15% of the global land and sea area. Considering that all ecosystems in the EU are realistically degraded, the EU should start by committing itself to the large-scale restoration of at least 15% of its own territory in order to contribute to bend biodiversity loss globally.
- Restoration needs to be recognised as a global priority to recover biodiversity and mitigate and adapt to climate change, including through nature-based solutions (NbS). Without exception, NbS should be clearly defined as biodiversity-inclusive and adhere to strict principles of implementation to prevent abuse in the use of these solutions for environmentally harmful purposes. These solutions should be implemented across a diverse range of ecosystems depending also on their threat status or biodiversity importance. As non-exhaustive examples, primary focus should be given to natural and fully functional forests and natural regeneration (allowed to remain/return to old growth, through no human intervention), biodiversity-rich grasslands and savannahs, wetlands and peatlands, rivers, coastal and marine areas (e.g. seagrass, mangroves).
- The EU should strongly support synergies between CBD and the UNFCCC frameworks to ensure that climate actions are aligned with biodiversity needs and benefit both biodiversity and climate/carbon storage at the same time instead of working against each other. For instance, climate targets can encourage the planting of trees, which, when not coherent with ecological principles, often ends up creating more monoculture plantations that are harmful for biodiversity and are unstable as carbon stocks. To achieve this objective, the EU should call for all countries to include restoration targets in their NDCs.

4. Addressing agricultural production and consumption as drivers of biodiversity loss

| EU Biodiversity Strategy (May 2020) | Latest CBD Post-2020 Framework Draft (July 2020) | Summary key recommendations the EU should champion in the GBF |
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| “At least 10% of agricultural area is under high-diversity landscape features by 2030” | “Target 6: By 2030, reduce pollution from all sources, including reducing excess nutrients [by x%], biocides [by x%], plastic waste [by x%] to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health” “Target 9: By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%]” | The EU should advocate for the principle of leaving space for nature on farms globally, including concrete targets (of at least 10%) within highly productive landscapes to be left/restored under natural vegetation. |
| “At least 25% of agricultural land is under organic farming management, and the uptake of agro-ecological practices is significantly increased.” | | The EU should champion a target of at least 30% of food production to be under organic farming globally. |
| “Reduce the risk and use of chemical pesticides by 50%, and the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50%” | “Target 14. By 2030, achieve reduction of at least [50%] in negative | The EU should advocate for a 50% reduction target in the risk and use of chemical pesticides to be implemented at a global level through a mechanism |

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| | impacts on biodiversity by ensuring production practices and supply chains are sustainable.” | developed to ensure that reduction is concentrated among the heaviest users. |
| The losses of nutrients from fertilisers are reduced by 50%, resulting in the reduction of the use of fertilisers by at least 20% | “Target 15. By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, and thus make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions.” | The EU should advocate for a mechanism at global level enabling a significant reduction of nutrient loss and the overall use of synthetic fertilisers concentrated among the heaviest users. |
| No EU commitment on the reduction of meat and dairy consumption in the BDS. | | The EU should concretely advocate for the phasing out of intensive meat and dairy production facilities worldwide. |

The Commission has presented a number of progressive proposals to reform Europe’s agricultural practices, such as unprecedented ambition to bring 10% landscape features and restore biodiversity-rich habitats on actively used farmland, significantly reduce the amount of excess fertilizers and pesticides into the environment and increase agricultural practices that are compatible with biodiversity.

We also welcome important first steps to reducing the impact of European production and consumption on other countries through the initiative to address environmental duty of care and due diligence across economic value chains, including on avoiding or minimising the placing of products associated with deforestation on the EU market.

There are concerns about how sector-based actions for biodiversity is represented across the GBF where the drivers of biodiversity loss need to be more explicitly addressed.

The EU is well placed to champion the following on agriculture in the CBD GBF:

- The GBF does not sufficiently address the need to produce food and other agricultural products in a way that improves biodiversity across agricultural land. It instead focuses on agricultural productivity and even includes a quantitative target on reducing productivity gaps (in target 9). This is misplaced here, as increasing production can adversely affect biodiversity (if done in an unsustainable way) and is not in the CBD’s mandate. The target should instead focus on biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. The EU should build on its regional commitment to champion the integration of biodiversity in agriculture in the GBF, raising awareness of the importance of leaving space for nature (provided that this is done at the farm level or the most local management area possible). It should advocate with the global community to include a minimum 10% area target for maintaining and restoring natural vegetation within highly productive landscapes in order to bring back essential ecosystem services such as pollination and pest control. The recognition from the EU that “more biodiversity often helps lead to more agricultural production” is a game changer that listens to science and open the path to a more long-term vision. This shift of paradigm needs to be understood and supported by the international community if we want to ensure food production in the long-term and be more resilient to climate change;
- As part of this, the EU should ensure that these measures primarily benefit biodiversity and do not follow dangerous offsetting schemes. For instance, the EU should support a global moratorium on clearing native vegetation: where old landscape features exist on productive landscapes, they should not be converted with other landscape features for the sake of it, but instead be protected;
- The EU regional pesticide reduction target matches initial ambitions within the GBF. The EU should build on this proposal and champion a reduction of 50% of pesticides globally, with mechanism developed to ensure that reduction is concentrated among the heaviest users. This target would be a significant step towards the gradual phase out of toxic chemicals in the environment;
- BirdLife acknowledges the EU’s ambitious regional commitment to bring at least 25% of EU agricultural land under organic farming management. However, the EU should set the bar higher globally and advocate for at least 30% of global food production to respect the principles and technics of organic farming through farming and grazing practices that increase biodiversity, enrich soils, and enhances ecosystem services;

- The EU must be coherent in its commitment to sustainable supply chains and reflect its commitments on due diligence across the value chains in the GBF by establishing clear liability rules for importers, processors and retailers of commodities. These should ensure zero conversion of high carbon and high biodiversity habitats and zero overfishing;
- The EU should concretely advocate for the phasing out of intensive meat and dairy production facilities worldwide, and production methods that convert natural ecosystems into artificial grasslands. The international community should also commit to adopt concrete measure to reduce the environmental footprint of the production of such animal products overall and encourage nature-friendly farming practices. This means that the effort must be global and the EU can no longer offset its numbers of livestock by importing animal products from elsewhere;
- The EU should also promote a debate on dietary shift, so that countries can develop policies to promote healthy and fair nutrition that is compatible with biodiversity conservation.

5. Addressing fisheries as a driver of biodiversity loss

| EU Biodiversity Strategy (May 2020) | Latest CBD Post-2020 Framework Draft (July 2020) | Summary key recommendations the EU should champion in the GBF |
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| <p>“At least 30% of the sea should be protected in the EU.”</p> <p>“At least one third of protected areas – representing 10% of EU sea – should be strictly protected”</p> | <p>“Target 4: By 2030, ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species of fauna and flora, is legal, at sustainable levels and safe.”</p> | <p>The EU should advocate for a target to protect and conserve at least 30% of seas, including no-take zones as part of the management of these areas.</p> |
| <p>“The by-catch of species threatened with extinction must also be eliminated or reduced to a level that allows full recovery. (...) the by-catch of other species must be eliminated or, where this is not possible, minimised so as not to threaten their conservation status.”</p> | <p>“Target 8: By 2030, ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, livelihoods, health and wellbeing, for people, especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild species of fauna and flora (monitoring elements of this target refer to fish stocks, sustainable fisheries management and population and extinction risk in bycatch species)”</p> | <p>The EU should advocate for the bycatch of all non-target species to be minimised and where possible eliminated.</p> |
| <p>“Fisheries-management measures must be established in all marine protected areas according to clearly defined conservation objectives and on the basis of the best available scientific advice”</p> | <p>“Target 15. By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, and thus make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions.”</p> | <p>The EU should advocate for any harvest to be kept under the safe ecological limits of populations, taking into account the importance of foraging fish for other species.</p> |
| <p>“Marine minerals in the international seabed area cannot be exploited before the effects of deep-sea mining on the marine environment, biodiversity and human activities have been sufficiently researched, the risks are understood and the technologies and operational practices are able to demonstrate no serious harm to the environment”</p> | | <p>The EU should advocate for the CBD to set an ambitious complementary mandate to the International Seabed Authority by calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining activities.</p> |
| <p>“Support the conclusion of an ambitious legally binding agreement on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) by the end of 2020”</p> | | <p>EU must advocate for the creation of an international court system to deal with infractions in the high seas.</p> |

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| <p>“Zero tolerance towards illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing [IUU] - combat overfishing, including through WTO negotiations to ban harmful fisheries subsidies”</p> | | <p>EU should advocate for an agreement to ensure that enforcement authorities from different countries can cooperate in pursuing and arresting offenders in international waters.</p> |
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Although implementation is still lagging behind and marine protected areas are often poorly managed, the Commission has committed to lead the world on ocean governance and must apply this leadership in following science when it comes to sustainably manage fishing activities and protecting fragile marine ecosystems.

More than ever, the resilience of our oceans is in peril and the CBD GBF is way too weak to enable effective international cooperation on ocean governance. The EU must champion concrete actions to restore marine ecosystems if we are, together, to keep benefiting from the countless services the world’s oceans provide.

The EU is well placed to champion the following on marine protection in the CBD GBF:

- Advocate for a target to protect at least 30% of seas globally (as part of overall demands on protected areas). These protected areas should be based on Key Biodiversity Areas that are identified using a scientific and objective global Standard adopted in 2016. The exclusion of non-selective fishing gears and meaningful no-take zones should be part of the management of these protected areas.
- The global framework is currently very weak in encouraging sustainable fisheries management. The EU should advocate for any harvest to be kept under the safe ecological limits of populations in order to preserve marine ecosystems’ ecological balance and ensure global food security on the long-term;
- The EU is also well placed to trigger the debate and advocate for the bycatch of all non-target species (e.g. seabirds) to be minimised and where possible eliminated globally. For instance, a percentage of the number of fleets applying bycatch mitigation measures should be included in the monitoring framework to assess the progress made towards achieving global bycatch mitigation. The EU should also call for a target and process for phasing out the types of gear with inherently high levels of ecological harm such as driftnets, bottom trawling, fishing aggregated devices (FADs).
- To better conserve nature and adopt solutions that enable to preserve a healthy environment, we need continued scientific data that provide knowledge on the threat of human activities to biodiversity. The CBD is a key framework to enable synergies between regions to increase the collection and monitoring of such comparative data to better preserve biodiversity, in particular in the case of regions where there are no RFMO (e.g. in West Africa). The EU should advocate for data collection protocols used by fishermen and women, and observers at sea, to include sections on bycatch. To improve scientific knowledge and better protect oceans, scientific observers should be on 100% of fishing fleets to assess the impact of fishing on marine ecosystems.
- More than 80% of oceans is still unmapped and unobserved, most of it being the deep sea. The global community should stop deep-sea mining and the EU should strongly ask the CBD to set an ambitious complementary mandate to the International Seabed Authority by calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining activities.
- Illegal fishing adversely affects legitimate commercial fishers as well as marine ecosystems. The EU’s commitment to zero tolerance towards IUU fishing is a significant step ahead if effectively implemented. The EU must ask that all vessels worldwide, regardless of size, carry fishing monitoring systems to be tracked at all times. Furthermore, remote electronic monitoring needs to be rolled out, in particular for vessels in the high seas where inspections are lower. Tackling IUU requires strong international cooperation, to monitor and control fishing activities, particularly in the high seas. To align with its regional commitment and work towards its implementation, the EU must advocate for the creation of an international court system to deal with infractions in the high seas. It also needs to ensure that there is cooperation between jurisdiction when IUU is signalled and an agreement to ensure enforcement authorities can pursue and arrest offenders in international waters.
- Finally, the Commission should globally acknowledge that aquaculture can be highly impactful to the marine environment and advocate for closed-circle aquaculture and extensive nature-based farming systems globally.

6. Resource mobilisation

| EU Biodiversity Strategy (May 2020) | Latest CBD Post-2020 Framework Draft (July 2020) | Summary key recommendations the EU should champion in the GBF |
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| <p>“To meet the needs of this strategy, including investment priorities for Natura 2000 and green infrastructure, at least €20 billion a year should be unlocked for spending on nature. This will require mobilising private and public funding at national and EU level, including through a range of different programmes in the next long-term EU budget.”</p> <p>“Moreover, as nature restoration will make a major contribution to climate objectives, a significant proportion of the 25% of the EU budget dedicated to climate action will be invested on biodiversity and nature-based solutions.”</p> | <p>“Target 17: By 2030, redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, including [X] reduction in the most harmful subsidies, ensuring that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity”</p> | <p>By 2030, develop and implement regulatory measures on national, regional and global level to align public and private financial flows with the three objectives of the Convention.</p> |
| | <p>“Target 18: By 2030, increase by [X%] financial resources from all international and domestic sources, through new, additional and effective financial resources commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework and implement the strategy for capacity-building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation to meet the needs for implementing the post2020 global biodiversity framework”</p> | <p>By 2030, double EU financial flows from all sources to low-income countries for biodiversity action including through its Official Development Aid (ODA), and ring fence 50% of the EU External Financing Instruments (EFIs) to address biodiversity and climate change programmes.</p> |
| | | <p>EU should stand up for an unambiguous GBF target to eliminate ALL harmful subsidies and incentives or repurpose them to biodiversity-positive incentives.</p> |
| | | <p>The EU should lead by example and mobilise 20bn EUR annually from its own and Member States’ budget for biodiversity, starting by allocating 10% of the MFF to biodiversity</p> |

Financial resources are a prerequisite to implement any Biodiversity Strategy in Europe and globally. If the EU wants to lead the world for the implementation of an ambitious Post-2020 GBF, it has to champion an ambitious “resource mobilisation component” which must be an integral part of the GBF. Part of this must be ambitious targets around additional domestic and international public and private funding flows, the elimination and repurposing of harmful subsidies and incentives as well as regulatory measures to mainstream biodiversity into the financial sector. Each target must be underpinned by milestones and indicators, as well as implementation support mechanisms, such as obligatory national financing plans, capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation.

The CBD is a key framework to translate the EU’s objectives for a Green Recovery post-Covid-19 and enable a global green transition. For that purpose, all parties should make biodiversity a central component of their national recovery plans. However, it is also important to bear in mind that short-term recovery measures must support but not jeopardize, neither replace longer-term resource mobilisation for the implementation of an ambitious GBF.

The EU is well placed to champion the following elements for the “resource mobilisation component” of the GBF

- To live up to its ambition of leading globally by example, to its economic situation compared to most other regions in the world and to its past and present ecological footprint, the EU must pledge, in advance and independent from the negotiations, for significant progress on resource mobilisation.
- Ensure that unlike under the previous Strategic Plan of the CBD, Resource Mobilisation becomes an integral part of the GBF, adopted and implemented simultaneously as all other targets. By 2030, develop and implement regulatory measures on national, regional and global level to align public and private financial flows with the three objectives of the Convention.
- Advocate for a target of increasing domestic resource mobilisation for all Parties, including setting up national finance plans for the implementation of updated NBSAPs by 2025.
- The multiple crises on the planet do not allow to waste money in harming the environment. Healthy ecosystems and a stable climate are a pre-condition for the survival of humanity. The EU should stand up for an unambiguous GBF target to eliminate ALL harmful subsidies and incentives. They can also be repurposed to biodiversity-friendly incentives. To achieve this, national action plans and milestones are needed.
- Biodiversity needs to be integrated into financial decision-making and strategies, biodiversity risks, impacts and opportunities need to be part of disclosure requirements. The EU should advocate for a target for developing regulation, metrics and taxonomy for public and private finance by 2025.
- As the challenges of implementing an ambitious GBF will increase, the EU should collectively commit to:
 - Double their financial flows from all sources to low-income countries for biodiversity action, including through its Official Development Aid (ODA) by 2030, as well as a substantial increase of support in capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation.
 - Ring-fence 50% of EU's External Financing Instruments (EFIs) to address biodiversity and climate change programmes of recipient countries.
 - Allocate 10% of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework to domestic nature conservation measures. Combined with Member States co-financing, this could address the estimated funding needs of approximately 20-25 billion EUR annually. In addition, the EU needs to mobilise 150bn EUR until 2030 for restoration of ecosystems.
- Moreover, the EU NaturAfrica initiative written in the Biodiversity Strategy could be a unique opportunity for the EU to tackle the impacts of its activities in Africa, foster best practice and support the African continent in protecting its rich biodiversity. The EU should follow regionally assessed needs, including its "Larger than..." conservation strategies for Asia, Latin America and Africa, and make sure that the objectives of this initiative are mainstreamed across all EU policy areas.

7. EU leadership and implementation

| EU Biodiversity Strategy (May 2020) | Latest CBD Post-2020 Framework Draft (July 2020) | Summary key recommendations the EU should champion in the GBF |
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| <p><i>On CBD: "A much stronger implementation, monitoring and review process. (...) There should be a regular review cycle to look at progress towards the targets, with the ability to ratchet up action if needed. These reviews should be based on an independent, science-based gap-analysis and foresight process, with common headline indicators for all Parties."</i></p> | <p>"2050 Goal D: Means of implementation is available to achieve all goals and targets the Framework Milestones: i. By 2022, means to implement the Framework for the period 2020 to 2030 are identified or committed ii. By 2030, means to implement the Framework for the period 2030 to 2040 are identified or committed"</p> | <p>The EU should lead by example and advocate for a stronger implementation framework providing a science-based, independent and transparent review on the progress of the Parties to meeting the targets.</p> |
| | | <p>The EU should call for CBD, UNFCCC and the Sustainable Development Goals' implementation processes to be strongly aligned.</p> |

The objectives of the GBF should be binding for parties in order to ensure that effective actions are taken at global, regional and national levels to reverse the twin biodiversity and climate crisis and support the Sustainable Development Agenda within the next ten years. When defining and implementing the GBF, it is also crucial for the EU to recognise the rights and central role of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women, in biodiversity conservation.

The EU is well placed to champion the following for an effective and accountable implementation mechanism of the GBF:

- Ensure that the GBF relies on a strong implementation framework, including robust, science-based, independent, accountable and transparent monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) processes which facilitate the accurate tracking of country-level progress towards reaching the 2030 targets and the 2050 vision.
- The call for a global biodiversity stocktake, a regular review of implementation effectiveness on a relevant timeframe, and which allows for the ratcheting of action, should be central to the EU position.
- SMART targets and goals must be underpinned by a SMART and comprehensive monitoring framework which includes common headline indicators that can be disaggregated to a regional, national, and -if appropriate- sub national level.
- The EU should support the translation of global and regional level targets quickly after the adoption of the framework to the national level. NBSAPs – which should be spatially explicit - should be considerably strengthened and aligned to deliver the full ambition of the GBF, and strongly allied to deliver biodiversity components, which progress the vision of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Agenda.
- NBSAPs and National Reports must have some elements of a standardised template, to improve consistency, comparability, and transparency, and enable an aggregation of progress from the national to the global level.
- CBD and UNFCCC processes must be aligned through:
 - Formally linking CBD commitments with NDCs;
 - Synchronising reporting, assessment and review of climate and biodiversity plans;
 - Creating formal coordination structures;
 - Screening of climate and energy plans by a CBD peer review to ensure it is coherent with biodiversity plans.
- The EU should be a leader by example and build its legitimacy as such by demonstrating to the world how concrete actions can be rapidly taken to deliver on the biodiversity goals and targets within the coming years. The EU needs to recognize that its own ecological footprint on global biodiversity is substantial and to enable the needed transformative change, it must mainstream biodiversity action into all policies.

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