

BirdLife International critical elements for a transformational post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

June 2022



A transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework will embody a nature-positive mission underpinned by SMART outcome-orientated goals and milestones, action-orientated targets, and supportive enabling conditions. This must integrate a rights-based approach, include a strong package to recover species and ecosystems through both conservation actions and addressing the key direct drivers of biodiversity loss, and establish an implementation plan and resources commensurate with its delivery. BirdLife's detailed positions on each of the elements discussed are at birdlife.org/post2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE POST-2020 FRAMEWORK

To realise this vision for the post-2020 framework the following elements must be included:

A NATURE-POSITIVE 2030 MISSION

For the benefit of people and planet, take urgent action across society to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and achieve a nature-positive world by 2030ⁱ

The framework must deliver a society-wide mission of being 'nature-positive'ⁱⁱ by 2030, driving concrete actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, tracked through improvements in species extinction risk and population abundance and ecosystem extent and integrity. The mission must be clear, concise, and easily communicable.

ENABLING CONDITIONS: A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH AND ENHANCING SYNERGIES

The framework must integrate rights and enhance synergies with related conventions and global policy processes:

- The framework should fully respect, protect and fulfil human rights in **alignment to State obligations under accepted human rights conventions and declarations**, including ILO169 and UNDRIP (which uphold Indigenous rights) and integrate the newly recognised **right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment**. A rights-based approach means: fully respecting, protecting and fulfilling Indigenous rights, lands, and resources; ensuring free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and other mechanisms for full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples; establishing a strong accountability mechanism; and enhancing access to justice and flows of financial and technical resources, with a focus on capacity building and local empowerment (Section B.bis, Targets 20 and 21).
- The framework should **fully recognise and integrate synergies** across the Rio Conventions, other biodiversity-related conventions, upcoming UNCLOS high seas biodiversity treaty and SDGs to maximise convergence and minimise trade-offs in tackling the interdependent biodiversity, climate and sustainable development agendas. This means committing to more structured engagement and closer alignment of planning, action, targets and finance (e.g. between NBSAPs, NDCs and development plans) (Section B.bis).

MILESTONES TO 2030 INTEGRATED INTO 2050 GOALS

The goals define outcomes for 2050 relating to the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and sharing of its benefits, and means of implementing the framework. Specific and measurable milestones or outcomes for 2030 are needed to clarify what we need to achieve this decade. They are fundamental to enable the tracking of progress towards the 2050 vision. Failing to include 2030 outcomes at the goal level would undermine the opportunity to ratchet delivery, risk slippage in action required to meet the 2050 goals and reduce accountability and transparency.

SMARTⁱⁱⁱ GOALS & TARGETS WITH IMPLEMENTATION PLANS MAPPING A PATH TO THE MISSION & VISION:

These should include quantitative and qualitative elements, where these are supported by evidence, and core, nationally comparable measures, for which a subset can be compiled to track global progress. By 2030 these must:

BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation partnership, with 115 partners. Through our unique local-to-global approach, we deliver high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

For more information, see www.birdlife.org/post2020 or contact:

- Dr Amy McDougall, Global Biodiversity Policy Coordinator (amy.mcdougall@birdlife.org)
- Dr Noëlle Kumpel, Head of Policy (noelle.kumpel@birdlife.org)
- Melanie Heath, Director of Science, Policy and Information Management (melanie.heath@birdlife.org)

PROTECT AND RECOVER THE STATE OF NATURE

- Safeguard, buffer and connect our remaining **intact ecosystems** and **key areas for biodiversity** and reduce the loss and degradation of natural habitats through **comprehensive, biodiversity-inclusive, multi-sectoral** spatial planning of 100% of land and sea at an **ecologically relevant scale**, accounting for threatened species, Key Biodiversity Areas (including IBAs and AZE sites) and protected areas, as a minimum (Target 1).
- **Restore** at least 30% of degraded freshwater, coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems globally, **increasing biodiversity and ecological integrity** and **ensuring connectivity** among them, with a focus on **key areas for biodiversity** and ecosystems of importance for climate change mitigation and adaptation (Target 2). Critical to achievement of this target are working definitions of ‘priority’, ‘degraded’ and criteria for what constitutes ‘restoration’ and the timeframe for achieving this.
- Conserve **at least 30%** of land and sea, especially **Key Biodiversity Areas** and other areas of particular importance for biodiversity, through **effective** and **equitable** management, recognising the role and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as stewards and beneficiaries of biodiversity conservation (Target 3).
- **Increase the ambition for species to, by 2030: reduce extinction risk by at least 20%; halt human-driven extinctions of known threatened species; and increase average population abundance of species by at least 20%** (Goal A). Take action to **recover and conserve the most threatened wild species** through a dedicated species conservation target and associated global programme for action (Target 4).

TACKLE THE DRIVERS OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND SHIFT TO A CARBON-NEUTRAL, NATURE-POSITIVE ECONOMY

- To contribute towards meeting global goals on climate change and sustainable development, **promote the principles of nature-based solutions** that integrate and support biodiversity and the rights of IPLCs, following the [NBS Guidelines](#), and prioritising action as follows: **1. protect, 2. manage 3. restore** (Target 8).
- Address **intensive and unsustainable land and sea use** (including of fisheries) by incorporating sector-specific terminology and indicators and integrating biodiversity values **and safeguards** into sectoral policies and practices to foster and mainstream co-ordinated biodiversity governance (Targets 10 and 14).
- Ensure all financial institutions and businesses **regularly assess and publicly report on their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity** along their **full supply chains and practices** (Target 15).
- Align all **public and private financial flows with a nature-positive economy**, closing the annual \$700 billion biodiversity finance gap, including through the removal or redirection of all **harmful subsidies and incentives**, which make up at least \$500 billion of this gap (Target 18).

DRIVE, MONITOR AND REPORT COLLECTIVE PROGRESS

- Ensure the framework is **complemented by a robust monitoring framework and implementation mechanism** with key elements adopted in parallel at COP15. These elements include: a set of clear headline indicators, complemented by component and complementary indicators to allow robust and comparable monitoring; a process for elucidating national ambition in the first year post-agreement; a clear process for standardised updating of NBSAPs and national reporting; and a timeline for tracking and ratcheting ambition and implementation.
- **Retain the 2030 end point for implementation** of the framework to allow stepwise progression towards the 2050 vision and to preserve alignment with other global goals and processes (e.g., the 2030 Agenda).
- Maximise opportunities to **monitor, ratchet and drive collective progress** towards the global goals by ensuring comparability of national commitments and progress through **aligned common formats** for NBSAPs and reporting, and ideally annual independent reporting of global progress via a subset of headline indicators (e.g., coverage of KBAs by PAs/OECMs and the Red List Index, SDG indicators already reported annually).
- **Fully align NBSAPs and NDCs** to amplify positive outcomes for nature, climate, and people.
- Identify and commit **financial resources** from all sources **commensurate with full and effective implementation** of an ambitious framework, including **an increase in international public finance for biodiversity (primarily grants) to at least \$60 billion per year** from developed countries to developing countries, as part of closing the biodiversity finance gap. **Identify and repurpose subsidies** harmful to biodiversity. Establish and deliver **national biodiversity finance plans**, and a process to track biodiversity finance commitments (both direct and indirect) (Target 19 and resource mobilisation plan).

ⁱ “using biodiversity sustainably and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources” could be added to this

ⁱⁱ A Global Goal for Nature - Nature Positive by 2030 (<https://www.naturepositive.org/>)

ⁱⁱⁱ SMART = Specific, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Time-bound, to which we add Unambiguous and Scalable (Green et al. 2019)