

# The Work Towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its Relationship to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs



Photo: Tom Palazzo/Chigi

**Biodiversity** and nature's contributions to people are essential for a good quality of life and play a critical role in providing food, clean water, energy, medicines and securing livelihoods, and for regulating climate, air quality, freshwater quantity and quality, and pollination services.<sup>1</sup> Biodiversity is also fundamental to social cohesion, spiritual fulfillment, preservation of cultural heritage, mental and physical well-being, and identity and sense of place.

Biodiversity in all its forms and levels (genes, species, and ecosystems) is therefore a strategic asset for sustainable long-term development. However, the benefits resulting from ecosystems and biodiversity can be distributed unevenly.



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

## SDG Targets and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2010 at its tenth meeting<sup>2</sup>, has been recognized by the United Nations General Assembly as the global policy framework for biodiversity. The Strategic Plan is framed in the context of sustainable development, with a vision of maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

Accordingly, many elements of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been drawn from the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and thereby have 2020 targets, rather than 2030. These are summarized on the next page.

<sup>1</sup> CBD/COP/14/INF/24, 2 November 2018. Key Findings from the four IPBES Regional Assessments of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/X/2, 29 October 2010.

<sup>3</sup> CBD/COP/DEC/14/34, 30 November 2018

## The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity will expire in 2020. In decision 14/34, CBD COP-14 agreed on a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>3</sup>

In paragraph 15 of the decision, the COP noted that several of the biodiversity-related targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have endpoints of 2020, and requested the Executive Secretary to bring the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to the attention of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

### A Transformative, Comprehensive and Inclusive Process

The process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is meant to be transformative and comprehensive. It aims to mobilize broad societal engagement to achieve accelerated and sustainable transformations to implement the three objectives of the Convention, whereby biodiversity and ecosystems are recognized as the essential

## Biodiversity-related SDG Targets Expiring in 2020 \*

**SDG Target 2.5:** By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

**SDG Target 6.6:** By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

**SDG Target 14.2:** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

**SDG Target 14.4:** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

**SDG Target 14.5:** By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

**SDG Target 14.6:** By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

**SDG Target 15.1:** By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

**SDG Target 15.2:** By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

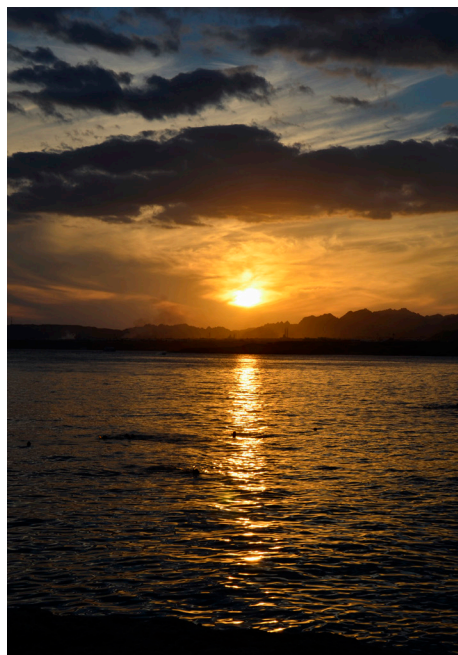
**SDG Target 15.5:** Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

**SDG Target 15.8:** By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

**SDG Target 15.9:** By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

\* From: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>





infrastructure supporting life on Earth, without which human development and well-being will not be possible. It will place biodiversity, its conservation, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, at the heart of the sustainable development agenda, recognizing the important linkages between biological and cultural diversity.<sup>4</sup>

Importantly and in the context of the HLPF 2019 thematic focus, the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be inclusive. Specifically, the process will help enable all relevant groups and stakeholders to provide their views for consideration. This includes Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, United Nations organizations and programmes, other multilateral environmental agreements, subnational governments, cities and local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, women’s groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, citizens at large, and other stakeholders.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> CBD/COP/DEC/14/34, 30 November 2018, Annex, para. 2(d)  
<sup>5</sup> CBD/COP/DEC/14/34, 30 November 2018, Annex, para. 2(d)



## Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals

Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are key for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, it is not surprising that 14 of 17 SDGs include targets that directly reflect biodiversity's important role.<sup>7</sup> Going beyond the direct linkages listed above, there are critical biodiversity dependencies for SDG 2 on zero hunger, including Target 2.4 relating to maintaining ecosystems and improvement of land and soil quality. Similarly, for SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are reflected in Target 8.4 on decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and Target 8.9 relating to sustainable tourism.

An analysis of how biodiversity supports the achievement of the SDGs was published jointly in 2017 by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Including SDG targets 1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.A, 3.3, 3.9, 4.7, 5.A, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 7.A, 8.4, 8.9, 9.4, 11.4, 11.6, 11.7, 11.A, 11.B, 12.2, 12.4, 12.8, 12.C, 13 (all), 14 (all), 15 (all).

<sup>8</sup> Available at: [www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf)

### The State of Biodiversity

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) recently published four landmark Regional Assessment Reports.<sup>6</sup> The findings, based on thousands of sources of scientific as well as indigenous and local knowledge, revealed that “biodiversity (genes, species and ecosystems) continues to be degraded in all parts of the world, with a corresponding loss of nature's contributions to people, hence undermining people's quality of life.”

Furthermore, “few of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are likely to be met anywhere in the world. The evidence suggests that some progress towards many of the Aichi Biodiversity targets is being made in most regions of the world, but this progress appears often to be at an insufficient rate, and for a number of targets there appears to be either no significant change or worse, there is movement away from the target.”

<sup>6</sup> CBD/COP/14/INF/24, 2 November 2018. Key Findings from the four IPBES Regional Assessments of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



**United Nations Decade on Biodiversity**

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