

## Convention on Biological Diversity

Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

20 February 2016, 10h00 to 17h00, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre , Kuala Lumpur

### **2020 AND BEYOND: FUTURE DIRECTIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION**

#### **Informal Background Note**

##### **Introduction**

COP-15 in 2020 is expected to update the Convention's strategic plan. This would be done in the context of the 2050 Vision of the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as well the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant international processes, and in the light of an assessment of progress in achieving the goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the current plan as well as of future scenarios of change.

While the current focus of activities under the Convention is – and should remain – promoting implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, it is useful to prepare for the decisions that will need to be taken in 2020. For example, the nature of the “follow up to the Strategic Plan” to be considered at COP-15 in 2020 is still to be decided: would this be a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030 with a new set of targets for 2030?

This informal note provides an overview of some of the issues to be taken into account to facilitate a discussion among the members of the bureau of COP and SBSTTA.

##### **The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**

COP-10 adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including a Vision for 2050 and a mission for 2020. It includes twenty Aichi Biodiversity targets, mostly for 2020, organized under five Goals, as well as means for implementation and review. The Strategic Plan has been endorsed or supported by other conventions and the UNGA and accordingly provides a universal framework for action on biodiversity.

The Plan includes a target on ABS and specifically references the Nagoya Protocol. On the other hand, it was decided at the time by COP and MOP that biosafety would be covered as a separate Plan. 2020 will provide an opportunity to develop an integrated plan that applies to the Convention and both Protocols, as well as, potentially, the other biodiversity-related Conventions.

The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan remains relevant for the updated plan. The five goals (which are broad and not necessarily time-limited) may also remain relevant. On the other hand the time-bound Aichi Targets will need to be updated and/or replaced.

##### **Steps to 2020.**

According to the Multi-year Programme of work to 2020 of the Conference of the Parties (MYPOW) adopted by COP-12 (<https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13394>):

- Each COP will continue to review progress in the implementation of the Plan and achievement of the Targets, and related means of implementation, with interim reviews at COP-13 and COP-14 and a final review at COP-15.
- COP-13 will consider the Implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable development goals and of other relevant international processes for the future work of the Convention
- COP-14 will consider the long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity
- COP-15, in 2020 will consider the follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related means of implementation, including resource mobilization.

The final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, at COP-15, will include consideration of the implications of the IPBES global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

At the same time, the outcomes of the reviews of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol (and its strategic plan) and the Nagoya Protocol, by their respective MOPs, should be taken into account.

SBSTTA-19 recommended that COP-13 initiate the preparation of GBO-5 to provide a concise final report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the basis for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. GBO-5 would include a target-by-target analysis of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and an analysis of the contribution of this progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It would draw upon, inter alia, the 6th national reports, global indicators, and the IPBES thematic, regional and global assessments including relevant scenario analysis and modelling, as well other relevant information. (see <https://www.cbd.int/recommendation/sbstta/default.shtml?id=13425>, Further background information is provided in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/9 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-19/official/sbstta-19-09-en.pdf> )

Annex 1 provides a timetable for these steps, and Annex II provides a schematic representation of the relationship between GBO-5 and the IPBES assessments.

### **Considerations for the Follow-up to the Strategic Plan in 2020**

Work by COP-13 on the implications of the SDGs and other processes, and work by COP-14 on the “long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity” will provide important context for the subsequent preparatory work for COP-15 on the follow up to the Strategic Plan.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals provide an important enabling framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and for the follow up to the Plan. The SDGs and related targets comprise an “integrated and indivisible” set. Moreover, more than half of the targets are cross—cutting, linking different goals. Virtually all of the elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are reflected among the goals and targets of the framework, including two Goals (Goals 14 and 15) focused on biodiversity, and many other Goals that include targets related to biodiversity. The 2030 Agenda will be particularly relevant if a new strategic plan is to be developed under the Convention for the decade 2021-2030. However, it should be noted that many of the targets in the 2030 Agenda that are derived from the Aichi targets still have a target date of 2020.

Other relevant agreements include the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Degradation Neutrality Goal adopted under the UNCCD, as well as key strategies/agendas adopted by other biodiversity-related conventions such as the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and the actions plans to combat illegal wildlife trade.

As noted above, the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan “Living in harmony with nature” where “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people” will remain relevant after 2020. Work at COP\_14 on the “long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity” could help to translate this 2050 Vision into more tangible terms, and thus help to guide, for example, the setting of targets for 2030. It could be informed by views from Parties as well as scientific analysis, including through the use of models and scenarios, of global trends.

Ongoing work to strengthen both implementation support mechanisms (resource mobilization, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity building for NBSAPs, etc) and review of implementation (biodiversity monitoring and indicators, national reporting, review of implementation by Parties) will also be relevant for any follow up plan.

### **A Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030?**

The nature of the “follow up to the Strategic Plan” to be considered at COP-15 in 2020 is still to be decided, as well as the steps needed for its preparation. A straight-forward updating would suggest a “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030” with the following features and options:

- Maintaining the 2050 Vision;
- Maintaining or adjusting the five goals;
- Developing new targets, preferably “SMART”, for 2030, by updating the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and/or replacing them, for example substituting process targets with outcome targets and increasing the level of ambition for existing outcome targets.
- Maintaining and updating provisions on means for implementation, including resource mobilization.
- Maintaining and updating provisions on review of implementation.
- Including the Biosafety Protocol (as well as biosafety issues under the Convention) within the scope of the Plan,
- Enhancing the relevance of the Plan to the other biodiversity-related conventions<sup>1</sup>.
- Enhance the links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs and other relevant major global agendas such as the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Degradation Neutrality Goals on the UNCCD, etc.

These issues could be further discussed by the Bureau members.

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<sup>1</sup> The UNEP-WCMC report “Mapping Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets” includes useful information. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/brcws-2016-01/other/brcws-2016-01-unesp-wcmc-en.pdf>

## Annex I

**OVERVIEW TIMETABLE FOR WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION**

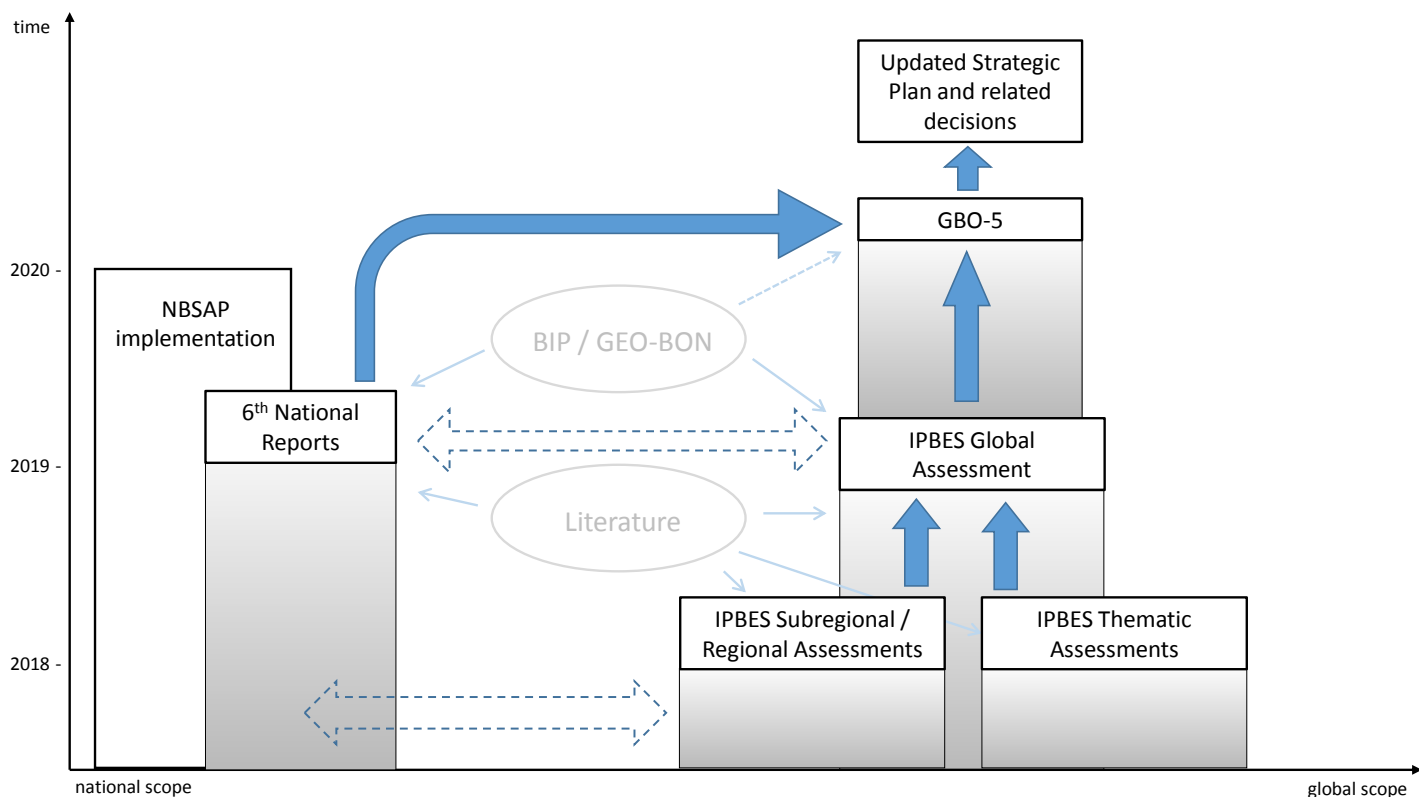
November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of further implications of GBO-4 and other strategic actions on mainstreaming into and across sectors</li> </ul>	SBSTTA-19
April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and assessment of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets – assessment of national targets and means of implementation</li> <li>• Consideration of further support to enhance national implementation, including mainstreaming</li> <li>• Consideration of sixth national report guidelines and proposals for GBO-5</li> <li>• Consideration of IPBES assessments on pollination; and scenario analysis and modelling and implications for the future work of the Convention</li> </ul>	SBSTTA-20 and SBI-1
December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim review of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity / assessment of progress Aichi Biodiversity Targets</li> <li>• Further implications of GBO-4; strategic actions, in particular mainstreaming</li> <li>• Support to enhance national implementation, including Article 12</li> <li>• Determination of funding needs to inform GEF-7</li> <li>• Implications of relevant international processes (SDGs, climate)</li> <li>• Approval of sixth national report guidelines and modalities for GBO-5</li> <li>• Consideration of IPBES assessments on pollination; and scenario analysis and modelling and implications for the future work of the Convention</li> </ul>	<b>COP-13</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation for COP-14 items</li> </ul>	SBSTTA-21
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of IPBES subregional/regional assessments and thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration and implications for the future work of the Convention (tbc)</li> <li>• Preparation for COP-14 items</li> </ul>	SBSTTA-22 and SBI-2
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim review of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity / assessment of progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets</li> <li>• Approaches to living in harmony with nature</li> <li>• Synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions</li> <li>• Consideration of IPBES subregional/regional assessments and thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration and implications for the future work of the Convention (tbc)</li> </ul>	<b>COP-14</b>

1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline for sixth national reports (for example, March)</li> </ul>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPBES Global Assessment approved by IPBES Plenary</li> </ul>	IPBES-7
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of IPBES Global Assessment and implications for the future work of the Convention</li> <li>• Review of draft GBO-5</li> </ul>	SBSTTA-23
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of GBO-5 providing final review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and assessment of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets</li> <li>• Consideration of implications of GBO-5 for the future work of the Convention</li> <li>• Scientific and technical review of draft updated Strategic Plan for 2021-2030</li> <li>• Recommendation to COP on draft updated Strategic Plan for 2021-2030</li> </ul>	SBSTTA-24  SBI-3
4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final formal review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and assessment of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets</li> <li>• Adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030</li> <li>• Determination of funding needs to inform GEF-8</li> </ul>	<b>COP-15</b>

(Reproduced from UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/9 )

## Annex II

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GBO-5 AND IPBES ASSESSMENTS



This schematic representation illustrates the relationship between the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the sixth national reports, the implementation of the NBSAPs, and the assessments of IPBES. Solid blue arrows indicate how information from one product will be used in another. The white boxes roughly indicate when products will be finalized; Note that updated Strategic Plan and related decisions will take place in 2020 at COP-15. The shaded boxes indicate the processes leading up to the finalization of the various products. Double-headed arrows indicate possibilities for ongoing exchange of information during the preparatory processes. (Reproduced from UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/9).