

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BRAZIL
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION I

Submission of views on possible targets, indicators and baselines for the post-2020 biodiversity framework

Ref: SCBD/OES/DC/KM/88539; SCBD/OES/DC/AC/88568

BASELINES

Brazil suggests that baselines for area-based targets and goals consider area and type of natural ecosystems before human disturbance. Possible targets for the GBF should thus use the potential natural vegetation of each country as a measurement for the contribution that each Party should commit to under the Convention, i.e. the vegetation that would exist if there had been no human disturbance, and not the remaining natural ecosystem area post-1970.

The rationale behind this is that, if the GBF considers the year of 1970 as a baseline for the efforts that should be carried out in the post-2020 period, as the Global Assessment by IPBES does in the identification of drivers of biodiversity loss, there would be an inappropriate and biased burden on countries that have conserved their natural ecosystems until 1970 and very little on those that historically have cleared theirs in the pre-1970 period. The GBF should, based on the measurement of the potential natural vegetation of each country, calculate the contribution that each Party should make to the post-2020 biodiversity framework. It should also calculate, in monetary and non-monetary terms, fair and equitable compensation schemes for the benefit of countries that have preserved their ecosystems until the 1970s, reiterating that, in view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities.

The measurement of potential natural vegetation can be done with the aid of software/tools such as the “Original Ecosystem Type”, which is used by the PLANGEA Platform. This decision-making platform, which was developed by the International Institute for Sustainability and presented during the Thematic Workshop on Ecosystem Restoration for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 6 to 8 November 2019), helps identify the spatial distribution of ecosystems that existed before significant human disturbance. It has been used in Brazil for restoration projects with recognized success, as presented during the Rio Thematic Workshop.

POSSIBLE TARGETS FOR THE GBF

The following proposals have been elaborated by the Brazilian delegation to the SBSTTA 23, according to the themes proposed in the document “Observations on potential elements for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” (CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4), and submitted by email to the Secretariat during the meeting. Brazil underlines that the Annex to document CBD/SBSTTA/23/L8, which was approved on 29 November 2019, is unbalanced in capturing the

positions submitted by Parties during the SBSTTA 23. Brazil understands that this is part of an ongoing negotiation and looks forward to seeing this rectified.

Habitats: Parties should consider, according to their ecosystems and priorities, a target that combines a [percentage] of ecosystems dedicated to conservation and [percentage] dedicated to use. This combination would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Species conservation: Parties should commit to ex situ conservation efforts by increasing the [percentage] of the conservation of genetic resources through gene banks.

Land-use change: By 2030, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is decreased by [percentage], according to national regulations, and degradation and fragmentation are significantly avoided considering land-use planning approaches and policies that promote restoration and sustainable use, including sustainable management of forests and native vegetation.

Conservation of native vegetation: Parties should commit to a land use nationally determined target in line with Aichi target 11 aimed at conserving [percentage] of native vegetation, considering different ecosystems or biomes, and marine areas under different categories of conservation and protected areas, according to national regulations and priorities.

Connectivity: Parties should commit, according to their ecosystems and priorities, a [percentage] of area to be dedicated to restoration to improve connectivity and sustainable use and thereby generate virtuous circles of poverty reduction and environmental improvement.

Restoration: Parties should promote, support and incentivize restoration of native vegetation and restoration of degraded areas as tools to redress biodiversity loss and promote sustainable use.

Overexploitation: Brazil believes this cluster contains elements that are technically unfeasible within the scope of CBD.

Invasive alien species: Parties should commit to develop national science-based regulations and allocate adequate resources to prevent and control invasive alien species, including through capacity building.

Climate change: Brazil does not accept to negotiate mitigation targets in the context of CBD. Brazil considers the negotiation of mitigation targets in this context inappropriate and far beyond the mandate of the Convention. All targets concerning climate change, in particular mitigation, should be dealt with in the context of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. On the other hand, given the role played by climate change as a direct driver of biodiversity loss, new and additional commitments by developed countries to financing adaptation and risk disaster reduction would contribute to avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and food security.

Pollution: A target on pollution should consider, on the one hand, the impacts of industrialization and urbanization on biodiversity and, on the other, science-based risk assessment frameworks to be adopted by all countries to evaluate the positive and negative impacts of pesticides and other chemicals. In addition, it should consider a substantial increase of cooperation and technology transfer activities, particularly to the benefit of developing countries, to implement alternatives towards more sustainable agricultural production system including new and emerging technologies.

Material goods from nature: A target on material goods should consider the potential of the sustainable use of biodiversity and how it can contribute to the generation of jobs and income, as well as to poverty alleviation.

Regulating services of nature: By 2030, Parties have taken steps to provide technical assistance for small and family farmers for the adoption of sustainable practices. By 2030, Parties have developed and adopted legal instruments to promote payment for ecosystem services for activities associated with food security, forestry and sustainable agriculture.

Non-material (cultural) services of nature: Any target on non-material services of nature should be science-based and accompanied by safeguards regarding potential barriers to trade.

Equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources: Transfers of genetic resources, in whatever form, including through DSI, and benefit sharing, compliant with national laws and implementing international access and benefit-sharing conventions, have increased at least [percentage] per year until 2030, compared to 2020, to promote conservation, sustainable use, benefit-sharing and the development of new cultivars and breeds, new medicines and new biotechnologies as needed to ensure food and nutrition security and health. To achieve, by 2030, a sum of XXX to a Global Benefit-Sharing Fund dedicated to increase by [percentage] the number of in situ and ex situ conservation projects as well as shared with holders of traditional knowledge in projects to improve the livelihood, health and wellbeing of indigenous populations.

Laws, regulations and policies: All targets on regulatory tools to address drivers and use should encompass considerations regarding their impacts on poverty in developing countries.

Sustainable consumption and production: By 2030, Parties will, in accordance with their national and regional priorities and policies, promote the coexistence of different agricultural systems, based on the continuous improvement, use and adoption of good practices, technologies and management approaches that restore, preserve and foster the sustainable use of biological diversity, including the conservation of native vegetation in rural areas. By 2030, Parties have developed and adopted regulations to establish, according to the ecosystems they have and their priorities, [percentage] of area in farmlands dedicated to biodiversity conservation.

Resource Mobilization: The Resource Mobilization strategy of the GBF should be mainstreamed in the whole framework, based on the principles of coherence and of just transition, and applied in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, for the full implementation of the three objectives of the Convention.

Capacity building: Targets on capacity building should be in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention.

Biosafety: By 2030, Parties must have biosafety legislation in place and the capacity to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties, especially developing countries, which provide the genetic resources for such research.

Indicators for biosafety:

- (i) number of countries that have put in place administrative, legislative or biosafety policy measures;
- (ii) number of countries that have activities to promote cooperation in the training of personnel and exchange of experts to provide effective participation in biotechnological research;
- (iii) number of countries that have procedures to promote and advance priority access to the results arising from biotechnology based upon genetic resources provided by another country, particularly those provided by developing countries.