**Template for the review of the document on linkages between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development**

**TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS**

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| ***General comments*** | | | |
| **Habitat loss and overexploitation, driven by our rapid population growth, are the primary causes of biodiversity loss which is now happening up to ten thousand times faster than for millions of years before.** A 2019 study published in the [Journal People and Nature](https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/pan3.10041) found that population growth has a consistently negative effect on wildlife across all species and locations in lower income countries. This corresponds with the IPBES’s 2019 Global Assessment which explicitly noted that human population growth is an indirect driver of biodiversity loss and stated: “changes to the direct drivers of nature deterioration cannot be achieved without ***transformative change that simultaneously addresses the indirect drivers.***” There are numerous, authoritative scientific bodies which link rapid population growth and human consumption as key drivers of biodiversity loss – many of these informed our 2019 briefing paper [Human Population and Biodiversity Loss](https://populationmatters.org/sites/default/files/Biodiversity%20and%20Population%20-%20Population%20Matters%20Briefing%202019.pdf). For example, the July 2017 Proceedings of US National Academy of Sciences[[1]](#endnote-1) concluded that *“the ultimate drivers of those immediate causes of biotic destruction [are] human overpopulation and continued population growth, and overconsumption, especially by the rich.”* In Nature Ecology & Evolution, Marques et al examined biodiversity loss and carbon sequestration through the measures of bird biodiversity and deforestation and used decomposition analysis to quantify the particular impacts of drivers including population and affluence. They concluded that any efficiency gains were cancelled by overall growth and the authors concluded that *“Economic and population growth have been driving the upward trend of impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, despite a reduction of the impacts per unit of GDP.[[2]](#endnote-2)”*  To date progress meeting the Aichi Targets is moving slowly and there are many reasons for this, but their failure to address human population growth is certainly among them. At Population Matters we campaign for ethical and empowering solutions to address population growth. We do this through supporting policies which call for universal access to modern contraception; empowering and educating women; alleviating poverty and encouraging and incentivizing smaller families. Numerous studies and evidence shows that empowered women who have full control over their own bodies and lives have fewer children and make key contributions to environmental sustainability. We recognize the complex interrelationships between each Goal – some positive, many negative – but we believe that although tackling population growth will not solve our problems; failure to address unsustainable population growth will prevent us from achieving many of those Goals. Therefore, it is with pleasure we are able to contribute to this peer review process and ensure the population solutions already embedded in SDGs 1, 2, 3,5 & 10 are included in the Post 2020 GBF, to increase the likelihood of meeting the 2030 targets. | | | |
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| ***Specific comments*** | | | |
| **Page** | **Paragraph** | **Comment** | |
| 3 | Goal D | GDF Goal D is also linked with **SDGs Goal 5** – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. SDG 5 must work together with Goal D to ensure women have the right to choose, access to education and therefore empowered to have the means to play a meaningful and productive role in society. For example, at present access to contraception to meet unmet needs has increased by only 2% from 75 percent in 2010 to 77 percent in 2020, according to the UN[[3]](#endnote-3), and the number of girls out of secondary school in Sub Saharan in Africa has *increased* by 7 million due to the region’s population growth[[4]](#endnote-4). | |
| 4 | Target 1& Target 2 | Both of these targets seek to conserve, restore and halt biodiversity loss both on land and below. To do so without factoring the rapid population growth that continues, especially in tropical countries which hold vast areas of biodiversity, will impede the ability to meet the targets. **Suggest including Target 3.7** – By 2030, ensure universal and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes. **Suggest including Indicator 3.7.1** – Proportion of women of reproductive age (age 15-49) years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. **Suggest including Target 4.1** – By 2030, ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education. **Suggest including Indicator 4.1.1** – Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex. | |
| 5 | Target 3 | People living in poverty can have a devastating impact on local biodiversity through the increasing conflict between humans and wildlife and hunting animals for food. Poorer nations have typically higher fertility rates in part due to higher mortality rates thus increasing the likelihood of larger families, which in turn provides security for households in the absence of adequate social protection systems.  **Suggest including Target 1.a** - Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement and end poverty in all its dimensions. **Suggest adding Indicator 1.a.2** – Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection).  **Suggest including Target 5.6 -** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. **Suggest including Indicator 5.6.1** – Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive healthcare. | |
| 6 | Target 6 | Due to rapid population growth the actual number of people using dirty fuels in Sub Saharan Africa has increased[[5]](#endnote-5). At present 3 billion[[6]](#endnote-6) people in poverty are using dirty fuels an  d 2.3 billion people will still be using them in 2030[[7]](#endnote-7).  **Suggest including Target 7.1**- By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable reliable and modern energy services. **Suggest including Indicator 7.1.2** - Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology. | |
| 7 | Target 7 | Investment in health and education has been proven to be one of the most powerful ways to reduce atmospheric CO2 by 2050. The combination of these factors, because of their powerful population effects, equate to reducing atmospheric CO2 by 85.42 gigatonnes, more than all onshore and offshore wind combined[[8]](#endnote-8). **Suggest including Target 3.7** – By 2030, ensure universal and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes. **Suggest including Indicator 3.7.1** – Proportion of women of reproductive age (age 15-49) years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. **Suggest including Target 4.1** – By 2030, ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education. **Suggest including Indicator 4.1.1** – Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex. | |
| 12 | Target 11 | As populations grow the numbers of climate and rural-poor migrants is increasing everyday causing rises in pockets of extreme poverty and slum dwellings[[9]](#endnote-9). The increased capacity for transporting sewage waste is being compromised as populations grow. **Suggest including Target 6.2** – By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. **Suggest including Indicator 6.2.1** – Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water.  **Suggest including Target 4.3**– By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university. **Suggest including Indicator 4.3.1** – Participation of youth and adults in non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex. | |
|  | Target 13 | Reducing high fertility rates through ethical and voluntary means can support poverty reduction strategies. **Suggest including Target 3.7** – By 2030, ensure universal and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes. **Suggest including Indicator 3.7.1** – Proportion of women of reproductive age (age 15-49) years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. Also include **Indicator 3.7.2** – Adolescent birth rate (aged 10 – 14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group. | |
|  | Target 15 | With population currently projected to increase by almost a quarter, according to the UN’s medium projection[[10]](#endnote-10), *both* population and per capita demand will increase over the next generation. Material footprint per capita in high income countries is 60% higher than in upper-middle-income countries and more than 13 times the level of low-income countries[[11]](#endnote-11). Population and consumption go hand-in-hand so solutions to address consumption also need to address the demands placed on scare resources. Awareness raising and education goals also needs to include education on sexual and reproductive health rights including the choice and benefits of having small families. **Suggest** **including Target 3.7** – By 2030, ensure universal and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes. **Suggest including Indicator 3.7.1** – Proportion of women of reproductive age (age 15-49) years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. Also include **Indicator 3.7.2** – Adolescent birth rate (aged 10 – 14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group. Suggest including **Suggest including Target 4.1** – By 2030, ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education. **Suggest including Indicator 4.1.1** – Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex. **Suggest including Target 5.6 -** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. **Suggest including Indicator 5.6.1** – Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive healthcare. | |
| 24 | SDG14.1 | **Suggest including Target 15** (GBF) By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions. | |

*Comments should be sent by e-mail to* [*secretariat@cbd.int*](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) *by 25 July 2020*

1. Gerardo Ceballos, Paul R. Ehrlich, and Rodolfo Dirzo (2017) Biological annihilation via the ongoing sixth mass extinction signalled by vertebrate population losses and declines, from: https://www.pnas.org/content/114/30/E6089 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Marques, A. et al (2019) Increasing impacts of land use on biodiversity and carbon sequestration driven by population and economic growth. Nature Ecology & Evolution, 2019; DOI: 10.1038/s41559-019-0824-3 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal3> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. UNICEF, 2020, A new era for girls https://data.unicef.org/resources/a-new-era-for-girls-taking-stock-of-25-years-of-progress/ [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Project Drawdown <https://drawdown.org/solutions/health-and-education> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11> [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. United Nations Population Division (2019) World Population prospects https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019\_Highlights.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/goal-12/> [↑](#endnote-ref-11)