

BirdLife International

Key elements for a transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Version 15 September 2019 for consideration by the Co-chairs of the Open Ended Working Group on post-2020

We suggest the following elements be included in the structure of the post-2020 biodiversity framework¹.

RATIONALE INCLUDING CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES

This should outline the **decline in biodiversity and ecosystem services**, the need for **transformative change**, the framework's **theory of change** and **UN-wide focus**, and a set of core **principles** covering **cross-cutting issues** such as human rights, gender, shared but differentiated responsibility and the precautionary principle.

CURRENT 2050 VISION

"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".

PROPOSED 2030 MISSION

"Put nature on a path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people and the planet by halting biodiversity loss and reversing declines".

SMART² TARGETS, WITH IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES, MAPPING A PATH TO THE MISSION AND VISION:

OBJECTIVES: RECOVER THE STATE OF NATURE

- **Halt overall species' population declines** by 2030; **prevent human-driven extinctions of known threatened species**; and **improve the status** of 30% of known threatened species by 2030.
- **Safeguard, buffer and connect our remaining intact ecosystems, reduce the loss and degradation of natural habitats, and restore degraded areas**, ensuring **connectivity and resilience** of ecosystems and **provision of essential ecosystem services** through seascape- and landscape-level **conservation at ecologically-relevant scales**.

ACTIONS: PROTECT NATURE AND TACKLE THE DRIVERS OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS

- Tackle **illegal and unsustainable hunting, fishing, harvesting and trade of wildlife**, and eradicate or control and prevent the spread of **invasive alien species**, particularly on islands.
- By 2030, document, retain and restore the **value of all sites of significance for biodiversity, including key biodiversity areas, through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures** covering at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water environments and 30% of marine environments.

¹ This paper is a work in progress from the BirdLife Partnership of 115 national partner organisations. Please see separate more detailed position papers on specific post-2020 targets/themes, including species, site conservation, implementation and mainstreaming, with more to follow.

² Specific, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic & Time-bound, to which we add Unambiguous & Scalable: Green et al. 2019

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- To meet global goals on climate change and sustainable development, promote **nature-based solutions that integrate and support biodiversity**, prioritising conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems.
- Ensure our food, fibre and raw materials come from **land and seas well-managed for nature** (e.g. agricultural or forestry resulting in at a minimum no net loss of biodiversity), through legislation, incentives, standards and certifications for **sustainable supply chains**, and employing robust **strategic spatial planning** and **cumulative risk assessment** to safeguard the most important and sensitive areas for biodiversity.
- Remove **harmful economic subsidies**, reduce **unsustainable consumption**, incentivise **sustainable diets**, and reduce countries', businesses' and consumers' **ecological impact** on the planet (e.g. via agriculture, forestry, fishing, extractives, energy), including through policies, regulations and incentives for a **circular economy**, full **internalisation of environmental externalities** (incorporating the benefits as well as costs of biodiversity into the global economic system), biodiversity-positive **trade agreements** and other mechanisms.

ENABLING CONDITIONS: ENSURE COMMITMENT, FAIRNESS, INCLUSIVITY AND CAPACITY

- Enable more **inclusive decision-making** in decisions affecting nature (especially by empowering and engaging indigenous people and local communities), and ensure the **equitable and just sharing of benefits** from nature.
- Significantly increase the **mobilisation and efficient use of financial resources** through both international and domestic measures, doubling financial flows and ensuring investment priorities align with this.
- Increase **political commitment**, engage the **public**, build **capacity**, support **empowerment** of civil society and communities and provide **access** to justice and environmental information, to ensure **all state and non-state actors are able to play an active role** in contributing to achieving the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION: COOPERATE TO DELIVER AND DEMONSTRATE SUCCESS

The framework must include a **binding and transparent system of national reporting and accountability** which **integrates with that of the Sustainable Development Goals and other policy processes** and is accompanied by regular **monitoring of progress** at the national and global level, including through independent sources of information and indicators. Where relevant, responsibility for delivering targets should be **shared with or owned by other sector(s) and government department(s)**, or delivered through an 'all of government' approach.

BirdLife International is the world's largest conservation partnership, with 115 national Partners, and is the pre-eminent international authority on bird conservation. BirdLife is the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Authority mandated to collate and regularly update the extinction risk threat status of all birds globally.

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