



3 February 2020

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Acting Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme

By email: secretariat@cbd.int

Dear Acting Executive Secretary,

Submission of views on possible targets, indicators and baselines for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and peer review of a document on indicators

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important process.

About the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA)

ALCA represents a substantial collective of restoration and conservation organisations working with indigenous and non-indigenous landholders on privately owned and managed land. Our members are non-advocacy organisations and together represent a substantial and growing voice in Australia's land management sector. ALCA members are:

- Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust NSW
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Greening Australia
- Landcare Australia
- Nature Foundation SA
- Queensland Trust for Nature
- South Endeavour Trust
- Tasmanian Land Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy Australia
- Trust for Nature (Victoria)

Together ALCA members work across over 3 million square kilometres, with more than 3000 landholders. We have over 50,000 supporters and combined annual turnover exceeds \$250 million.

Australia has the largest area in privately protected areas of any country in the world making those who work on privately owned and managed land a critical voice in Australia's ability to monitor progress and achieve targets.

Summary of this Submission

This submission points to the following as critical to delivering targets and indicators forming part of a robust international framework to halt biodiversity loss:

- Clear, specific wording as to what needs to be achieved.
- Ambitious targets which improve on those set in the past.

Detail of this Submission

Past targets from the Convention on Biological Diversity have been critical to advancing conservation in many countries, including Australia. The current Aichi Target 11 for instance has been important in aiming for more ambitious protected area system development over the past decade. From our experience, the wording of such targets is critical in how member states and the global community respond. More general wording leaves greater room for interpretation, more specific wording less so. Hence, we provide some comments and suggestions for selection of targets in the Zero Draft of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that are of particular relevance to ALCA.

Specifically, we propose the following amendments to the wording of 10a and 12 a(1) to be more ambitious, aiming for the following:

10a. By 2030, achieve net gain in the area and integrity of all freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems against a 2020 baseline, and no loss in ecosystems with high biodiversity and ecological integrity, and by 2050 achieve net gain in all natural ecosystems of at least [20%].

12(a(1) Ensure that 100% of land and sea areas are under comprehensive, multi-sectoral and biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans and policies that prioritize the retention of existing intact freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, achieving by 2030 a net gain in area and integrity of all ecosystems through restoration [and retention of existing intact areas].

Regarding 12 (a(2), we support a 30% target (a target widely agreed by the conservation community) however recommend the following:

- 1) Inclusion of a clear statement that at least two thirds of the 30% target be 'protected areas' (i.e. 20%). Reference to 10% being under 'strict protection' is unhelpful as this term is not defined and could be seen to wind back targets based on stricter forms of protection. As 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs) were only formally defined in 2018 countries will be mostly using 'protected areas' to meet the 17% terrestrial target under Aichi Target 11.
- 2) Inclusion of targets for representation, connectivity, ecosystem services etc, which were all key elements in developing reserve systems in Aichi Target 11. While some elements are included in the Monitoring Framework, experience suggests only matters explicitly spelt out in core targets will get adequate attention and resource.
- 3) Clarification of ongoing use of targets relating to representation. While noting the future importance of targets relating to protection of 'sites of particular importance for biodiversity', these should not come at the expense of targets on representation, where targets use known units such as ecoregions, bioregions and ecosystem mapping and can be used immediately.
- 4) Targets relating to protection of 'sites of particular importance for biodiversity' are not clearly defined. It is assumed these will refer to Key Biodiversity Areas where areas are not consistently identified for many countries or taxa groups meaning that until formally identified, protection strategies are likely to be delayed.

Other targets we also believe require consideration:

- Net gain of native vegetation.
- No extinctions.
- Net gain in critical habitat for threatened species.
- Improvement in ecosystem function and integrity in water dependent ecosystems.

Finally, please note that this submission does not comprise a full submission on the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these comments and development of more explicit targets in greater detail.

Please contact me at nerida@alca.org.au or +61 414 496 129.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nerida'.

Nerida Bradley
CEO, Australian Land Conservation Alliance