

Evolving proposals for post-2020 global biodiversity framework target(s) to transform our food systems and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030

BACKGROUND

The previous version of this discussion paper aimed to capture the inputs received on food-related targets for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework during the second online exchange on food systems and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, co-convened by Costa Rica, Switzerland, WWF, the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, on November 26, 2020. The paper has then been circulated to the participants and invitees of the online exchange and was open for written inputs from February 2 to March 23.

This April 2021 revised version of the discussion paper aims to further refine food-related targets proposals for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework based on the written inputs received. It focuses on targets. However, we take note that an adequate inclusion of food-related issues will also imply its inclusion at the indicators level as well as, potentially, in the framework's part on implementation.

This will be a living document that we hope can be a good basis for further discussion and consultation. Hopefully, it will be seen as helpful in promoting and capturing convergence among Parties and stakeholder engaging into informal conversations and dialogue on food and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Please note that the views and proposals included in this discussion paper do not necessarily reflect the position of the co-conveners of the online exchanges.

ASPECTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN FOOD-RELATED TARGETS OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework represents a unique opportunity to promote the urgent transformation of our food system for Nature and People. Attention on biodiversity has never been higher and it has never been clearer reversing biodiversity loss, addressing climate change and achieving food security and nutrition depends on shifting food systems towards more sustainable ones.

Based on scientific evidence, growing consensus among food and agriculture practitioners, and the inputs received during the first and second online exchanges, there is a strong rationale, when designing food and agriculture related targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to take into account the need to:

1. **Implement urgent actions needed to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.** This means focusing on *actions* to be taken by *2030 or earlier* to halt the negative impacts of food systems on biodiversity as well as to ensure that food systems have a positive impact on biodiversity (e.g. through connectivity and fostering agrobiodiversity and genetic diversity).

2. **Apply the latest science, evidence and successful practices and approaches** that can deliver the transformations underlined by the IPBES Global Assessment. This implies focusing on actions and levers of change that can foster the transformation we need at all levels, including at local level. For example, it is clear that promotion of *agro-ecological approaches and shifting diets are critical levers of change*.
3. **Ensure that food systems are transformed to deliver for both Nature and People** (contributing to achieve the 2030 Agenda as well as climate and biodiversity goals). This implies emphasizing actions to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in human managed ecosystems to meet people's needs (e.g. food, fiber, fuel) and support conservation goals as well as protecting and strengthening the critical contribution of biodiversity for food production. Without pollinators and an active and diverse soil life promoting fertile soils, we would not be able to produce enough nutritious food. In addition, promoting and safeguarding agrobiodiversity is critical to ensure resilient production and diversity in our food systems and generate positive effects in support of biodiversity and ecosystem services. We should focus on win-win solutions that are good for biodiversity and good for food security, livelihoods and wellbeing of all, including notably small scale food producers, as well as good to adapt to climate change and fight against desertification. Agroecological and ecosystem approaches to fisheries and aquaculture should be supported and up-scaled. How productivity is measured should be reviewed to include the true cost of food and impacts on social and environmental health.
4. **Adopt a comprehensive approach to food systems transformation.** It is clear that focusing on production only is not enough. We also need to address the way we share and consume (and waste) food (including by taking advantage of e.g. research, education and communications) in order to bend the curve of biodiversity loss by 2030. Setting up enabling incentives and adequate communication and public mobilization are critical to enable people to make appropriate choices.
5. **Engage and mobilizing action from all food systems actors, from public to private, from producers to consumers.** This implies ensuring the framework is simple and easy to communicate as and that the language used and approach adopted resonate with and encourage action from stakeholders in the food and agriculture sector. The inclusion of less contentious issues such as soils health and restoration or food waste and loss can help to build common ground between conservation and food agriculture communities. Collaboration among environment ministries, biodiversity stakeholders and food and agriculture, health and nutrition and economy ministries and stakeholders should be strengthened. Parties should clearly commit to involve meaningfully Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the framework.
6. **Ensure that there is a just transition toward sustainable and resilient food systems** and that potential negative impacts on the most vulnerable are avoided at all costs.

REVISED OPTIONS FOR 2030 SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS SMART ACTION TARGETS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Based on the dialogue at the second online exchange on food systems and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the written inputs received on the previous version of the discussion paper, we saw convergence on the need to include (from a food systems perspective) the following elements in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

1. **An ambitious and transformative target on food systems.** This could be an entirely new target (substituting target 9 of the draft 0.5 of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework) or a significantly different version of the current proposed target 9 with significant additions to other proposed targets.
2. **The use of landscape or other related approaches in the management of semi-natural/mixed ecosystems.** This could be included into the proposed targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework focusing on conservation.
3. A target on the need to develop or strengthen national and regional **multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platforms** to lead the implementation of the framework.
4. A target on developing and implementing **nature-positive sectoral plans**, including on food and agriculture, at national, regional and global levels

An ambitious and transformative target on food systems

Option 1: New comprehensive target focusing on transforming food systems substituting target 9

An option to ensure that the framework promotes the much needed transformation of the way we produce, consume and share food is to have a comprehensive target focusing on transforming food systems. It would be included in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework instead of current proposed target 9 and could read as follows:

“By 2030, transform food systems, notably through adequate enabling policy frameworks [-to ensure they contribute to biodiversity, human and planetary health and livelihoods, and provide enough nutritious and culturally appropriate food for all people today and in the future as well as they contribute to address climate change and to combat desertification -] and, in particular:

- a. Ensure agriculture, livestock, forestry, agro-forestry, fisheries and aquaculture production are fully sustainable and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of wild and cultivated biodiversity, including crop wild relatives, by applying agro-ecology and its principles and the ecosystem approach ;***
- b. Given their contribution to food availability and sustainability, support local food producers, processors and markets and strengthen their capacity in protecting and enhancing agricultural biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services;***

- c. Develop and implement effective strategies and plans to protect and support the recovery of agro-biodiversity and the wild biodiversity existing in agricultural landscapes, including, pollinators, natural enemies of pests, and active and diverse organisms critical for soil fertility and soil health, and invest to restore half of the degraded productive soils ;**
- d. Reduce by 50% the global footprint of diets and align human and planetary health as well as reduce by 50% food waste and post-harvest loss to decrease food production impact on biodiversity, notably in terms of land use”.**

This would cover many critical aspects of sustainable food systems (from production to consumption), address how food systems can become more efficient (halving food waste and loss), reduce their impact on environment and biodiversity (diets, sustainable production) as well as how the contribution of biodiversity to food security and nutrition can be strengthened (agro-biodiversity, pollinators and healthy soils).

Other elements, such as zero conversion of ecosystems for food production and sustainable, legal and safe use of wildlife, pesticides, Nature-Based Solutions and ecosystems restoration should be covered in other targets of the framework (e.g. on land use, and sustainable use of wildlife species). Trade related issues could also be covered in other targets of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as they have implications beyond food and agriculture.

This proposed new target should be complemented by a set of indicators to measure its main action-related elements. The elements related with outcomes in the first part of the target (e.g. food security and nutrition, etc.) could be measured but at the goal level.

Option 2: A revised target 9 and additions to other targets

The proposed target 9 of the draft 0.5 of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, if it remains, should be dramatically improved. In fact, many participants of the online exchange saw its focus on productivity as inadequate and problematic. This target should show the linkages between productivity and biodiversity management (with focus on sustainable use).

In order to improve it, a revised target 9 may read:

By 2030, increase by [XX] agriculture and other managed ecosystems productive areas that are under practices based on the sustainable use of biodiversity, such as agroecological and other innovative approaches, and that support and enhance food security and nutrition, farmers’ incomes and livelihood and ecosystem services while delivering dual positive impacts on biodiversity and production systems resilience.

In addition, the following elements could be included in proposed targets 14 and 15

“Target 14. By 2030, achieve reduction of at least [50%] in negative impacts on biodiversity by ensuring production practices and supply chains are sustainable and food waste and loss are halved”.

“Target 15. By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, including by halving the footprint of diets while securing enough nutritious food for all, ensuring people everywhere

understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, and thus make responsible choices, commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions”.

Food waste and loss may also be included into target 15 as it covers both production and consumption aspects.

Inclusion of semi-natural/mixed ecosystems and landscape approaches

More attention should be given to reducing threats to biodiversity in human-managed ecosystem. This could be done by recognizing the ‘landscape and seascape approach’ as a means of managing biodiversity that includes both ‘natural’ landscapes but also multi-use mosaic landscapes that blend many forms of productive use with conservation, including agriculture, woodland, grassland, pastoral lands water bodies and wilderness.

Agricultural land within these landscapes should be managed and governed in a manner that allows inclusive participation and optimizes biodiversity conservation and connects protected areas to permit the movement of species.

The principles of landscape approaches have been well defined and broadly accepted and encompass a much broader set of objectives than ‘spatial planning’, the term included in the current draft of the Framework.

This could be addressed by adapting target 1 and target 2 of the updated 0 draft as follows:

*Target 1. By 2030, [50%] of land and sea areas globally are under spatial planning **and [X%] are under landscape approaches** addressing land/sea use change, retaining most of the existing intact and wilderness areas, and allow to restore [X%] of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial natural ecosystems, including soils, and connectivity among them, **notably though the sustainable use and effective management of mixed landscapes.***

*Target 2. By 2030, protect and conserve through well connected and effective system of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures at least 30 per cent of the planet with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity **and sustainably, effectively and equitably manage 100% of the other inland waters, land, coastal and marine ecosystems.***

Nature-positive sectoral plans of action

It is critical that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provides guidance on how all actors involved in the food systems transformation should come together at national, regional and global level to take coordinated action to achieve the global biodiversity goals and targets. This could be achieved by having the target below committing Parties and other stakeholders to develop and implement nature-positive sectoral plans of action.

“By 2030, develop and implement sector-specific and inclusive national, regional and global plans of action for food and agriculture, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure, tourism, energy and mining, manufacturing and processing, health, education and other relevant

sectors and their national and trans-national supply chains to transition to a sustainable, just and nature-positive circular economy that incorporates the value of biodiversity”

This would ensure that there is a process in place to deliver more concrete and context-specific actions to transform food systems and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. All food systems actors should be involved.

Target on multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platforms

We should avoid looking only at sectoral aspects. Platforms that bring together actors across different sectors have a critical role to play at national, regional and landscapes levels. They are particularly critical when aiming to transform our food systems and can also be very helpful to address possible trade-offs. For those reasons, we need a target on multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platforms. Below you can find a specific wording proposal:

“By 2022, set up or strengthen representative multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platforms on biodiversity, and other such mechanisms that bring together the public and private sectors and civil society at all levels to ensure:

- a. Coordination, transparency and effectiveness for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and***
- b. The full and effective participation of Indigenous People and local communities, women and girls and youth as well as farmers and their organizations in biodiversity-related decision-making and implementation that affects their livelihoods and resources”.***