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POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK SYNERGIES

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WWF suggestion for synergies and alignment with other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Summary

Successful implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will require action by multiple stakeholders across numerous sectors and processes. A key enabling condition for this, as identified as in the zero-draft¹ of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, is enhanced synergies between the Convention of Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments. This is because biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and unsustainable development are inseparable challenges caused by the same and/or interdependent drivers: they must be addressed together to both maximize the potential for co-beneficial implementation and manage trade-offs. While WWF acknowledges that a significant amount of work has already been carried out to formulate recommendations to increase synergies across these agreements, processes and other instruments, it recognizes that much still remains to be done to implement these recommendations.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework presents a good opportunity to put key recommendations in place. Therefore, to increase synergies between the Rio conventions, other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments, and Agenda 2030, WWF recommends that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

1. **Systematically cross-maps its goals and targets** with those present in other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments (and their strategies, plans, objectives) and ensures the consistent use of indicators; and
2. **Seeks to reinforce synergies in implementation and enabling conditions** among biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments.

Definition of synergies and scope considered

For the purpose of this document, synergies “include all activities that aim at enhanced collaboration of MEAs through linking processes in a way that increases the effects of the sum of the joint activities beyond the sum of individual activities, and thus making efforts more effective and efficient”².

¹ See: [CBD/WG2020/2/3](#)

² See: UNEP-WCMC (2012), [Promoting synergies in the biodiversity cluster](#)

Synergies with other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments have been identified as a key enabling condition in the zero-draft³ of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework - as well as mentioned by many conventions and organizations before this. They are indeed instrumental for the success of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework because biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and unsustainable development are inseparable challenges caused by the same and/or interdependent drivers: they must be addressed together to both maximize the potential for co-beneficial implementation and manage trade-offs.⁴

This briefing focuses primarily on *synergies* with other Rio conventions, other biodiversity-related conventions and processes, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Creating synergies with processes or agreements beyond biodiversity (e.g. WTO) is also essential. This should go hand-in-hand with *mainstreaming* biodiversity in other sectors, which is equally important to achieve real gains for biodiversity and which should also be actively promoted through the post-2020 framework. WWF has published propositions about mainstreaming elsewhere⁵.

Our proposals build on the work to date by the CBD, including through COP decisions⁶, the informal advisory group on synergies⁷ and the consultation workshop of biodiversity-relevant conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework⁸, which all present recommendations and suggestions to enhance synergies. It aims to provide a contribution to the discussions in the OEWG and SBI3 about strengthening synergies in the post-2020 framework.

Promoting synergies and alignment with Rio, other biodiversity-related conventions and processes and the SDGs: a key opportunity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Parties and secretariats to biodiversity-related agreements, processes and instruments must try to move towards overarching discussions on how sustainable development can be achieved through the coordinated and aligned implementation - while respecting the specific mandates of each agreement, process or instrument.

Whilst the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the global development agenda, the Rio Conventions provide the strategic frameworks that coordinate broad environmental actions. The other biodiversity-related agreements, processes and instruments tend to focus on specific environmental actions, as illustrated in figure 1. below.

³ See: [CBD/WG2020/2/3](#)

⁴ See: WWF (2018), [Avoiding Triple Jeopardy Report](#)

⁵ See e.g.: [WWF position on key elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework \(Nov. 2019\)](#)

⁶ See: [CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24](#) and [CBD/COP/DEC/14/30](#)

⁷ See: [CBD/SBI/2/INF/14](#)

⁸ See: [CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2](#)

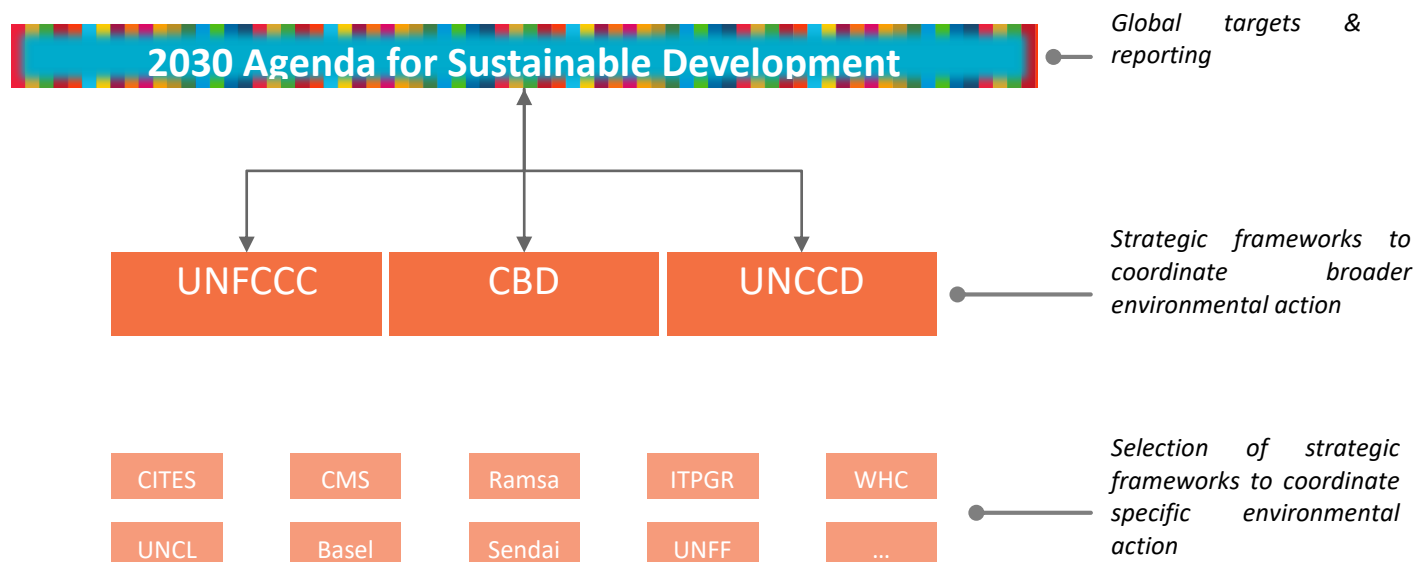


Figure 1: The link between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Rio Conventions, and a selection of other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments.

While WWF acknowledges that a significant amount of work has already been carried out to provide recommendations on increasing synergies across biodiversity-related agreements, processes or other instruments, it recognizes that much remains to be done to implement these recommendations. The development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework presents a good opportunity to put key recommendations in place.

This briefing therefore aims to outline how the post-2020 global biodiversity framework could best support synergies amongst biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments⁹ in the delivery of its goals and targets. In particular, WWF recommends that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

1. **Systematically cross-maps its goals and targets** with the goals and targets present in other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments (and their strategies, plans, objectives) and helps **ensure the consistent use of indicators** across the biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments; and
2. **Reinforces synergies in the implementation and enabling conditions** of biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments. For instance to ensure alignment between National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets to facilitate the delivery of GBF Mission.

It is important to note that these are two-way processes: other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments would need to do the same for these recommendations to become fully effective.

⁹ Including, for example: the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the International Plant Protection Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Whaling Commission, the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, a possible future international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, the UN Forum on Forest and other relevant international frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Cross-mapping of goals and targets and ensuring consistent use of indicators

Cross-mapping the post-2020 global biodiversity framework's goals and targets with other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments is perhaps the most important lever to increase synergies among these agreements, processes and other instruments. It will ensure that related actions are consistent and facilitate cooperation. More specifically, this exercise can help in the following ways, amongst others:

- It will increase understanding at the level of the various bodies of the CBD of how the implementation of the post-2020 framework is supported by other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments, and therefore where opportunities for collaboration are;
- At the national level, it can be used to promote and facilitate increased coherence in implementation of international commitments, including in resource mobilization;
- For other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments, it will help to identify where they have responsibilities for supporting the implementation of the post-2020 framework, and allows them to take this to their own advisory and governance bodies in order to strengthen cooperation.

Below is an indicative example of the mapping exercise to be conducted once goals and targets have been defined for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It cross-maps the post-2020 global biodiversity framework's possible target areas with a selection of the goals, objectives and targets of other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments¹⁰.

¹⁰ This indicative exercise has not been conducted for indicators. However, mapping exercises of biodiversity indicators across intergovernmental processes have been conducted in the past - see the example developed by the UNEP-WCMC [here](#).

Goals and target areas for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework WWF's proposition ¹		CBD	UNFCCC	UNCCD	2030 Agenda for Sust. Dev.	CITES	CMS	Ramsar	ITPGRFA	WHC	UNCLOS	Basel	Sendai	UNFF
Goal n°1: Zero natural habitat loss and zero human induced extinctions of species	Protection and conservation of land, inland waters, coastal and marine areas													
	Land and waters traditionally governed and conserved by IPLCs ²													
	Ecosystems restoration													
	Protection of species, halting of over-exploitation													
Goal n°2: Halve the footprint of production and consumption	Forestry													
	Oceans													
	Fisheries													
	Food systems (incl. sustainable diets)													
	Infrastructure													
	Material (extractives and mining sector)													
	Waste (incl. plastics)													
	Marine pollution													
Goal n°3: Fair access to and equitable sharing of the benefits from the utilization of biodiversity	Genetic resources access and benefits sharing													
	Food for all people													
	Stable climate													
	Diversity of life													
	Healthy life													

Figure 2: Indicative example of the cross-mapping exercise to be conducted once goals and targets have been defined for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Other examples of the potential for the cross-mapping of goals and targets are developed in the annex. These are selected examples; synergies with other agreements (e.g. UNCCD, future BBNJ) are also highly relevant.

Furthermore, ensuring that indicators are used consistently across biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments will have multiple benefits including cost effectiveness, consistency of messaging and building a shared understanding of biodiversity values in the context of multiple agendas.

A common framework for action also provides a common framework for accountability and reporting, which will widely facilitate reporting for parties and other stakeholders (e.g. companies) as well as the global biodiversity stocktake process, that is proposed in the context of the post-2020 framework.

Synergies with the SDGs.

The potential synergies between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the SDGs deserves special attention: WWF recommends that the **targets agreed in the post-2020 framework continue to underpin related targets laid out in the SDGs¹¹**. The post-2020 framework should be the foundation to inform recommendations to the UNGA by parties of the CBD for the updating of the biodiversity-related SDG targets with an end date of 2020. WWF also urges parties of the CBD and other governments to translate the commitment outlined in paragraph 4 of

¹¹ Of particular focus are SDG 14 and 15. However, there are also strong linkages with elements of SDG 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17.

the “*Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly*”¹² into action and to commit to continued reporting on progress. In this paragraph, Heads of State committed to ‘*maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda, including by ensuring ambitious and continuous action on the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals with a 2020 timeline.*’

Current coordination mechanisms to achieve related targets under the SDGs should be aligned with mechanisms to achieve those undertaken in the post-2020 framework, once that has been adopted.

Promoting synergies in implementation

A number of opportunities to improve synergies in implementation exist at both the global and national levels. Some of these opportunities can be implemented with relatively little effort.

- *Strengthening global level collaboration and alignment*

Building on the cross-mapping exercise suggested above, the post-2020 framework should, together with other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments, identify areas for (stronger) programmatic collaboration and alignment. To that effect, the post-2020 framework should include, as a separate COP decision, a *roadmap for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-relevant conventions at the international level* akin to the roadmap for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-relevant conventions at the international level 2017 - 2020 (adopted at COP13)¹³. Several elements of the roadmap 2017-2020 are still relevant and should be carried forward into the new roadmap, which should certainly include the following priority actions:

- **To develop or strengthen and implement joint programmes and actions** with other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments;
- **To develop better funding synergies:** the post-2020 framework should seek synergies with resource mobilization strategies from the other Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments to secure and better use the limited funding - mainly from the GEF and the Green Climate Fund;
- **To include agenda items at CBD COPs**, which give other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments the opportunity to share information on their ongoing contributions to the achievement of certain post-2020 framework targets;
- **To strengthen other implementation support mechanisms**, e.g. cooperating in planning and delivering capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, in communications and outreach and in knowledge management;
- **To strengthen and consider combining the Joint Liaison Group (JLG)** of the three Rio conventions and **the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)**;
- **To strengthen the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG).**

See the box below for specific proposals to strengthen the EMG and BLG.

¹² See: [A/RES/74/4 - E - A/RES/74/4](#)

¹³ See: [CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24](#)

For these proposals to be effective, the other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments would need to take similar messages. They would all need to ensure, if necessary through increased resource allocation, that they have a designated officer, with adequate time and resources, to invest significantly in coordination and collaboration between them and with their respective liaison groups.

Additional suggestions to enhance synergies have been provided by the informal advisory group on synergies.¹⁴

Suggested actions to strengthen the EMG and BLG

Strengthening the EMG

Given the central role of biodiversity and nature in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the urgent need for concerted and urgent action across all sectors, WWF recommends that the EMG be given a substantially stronger mandate to facilitate cooperation between relevant UN agencies and biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments in addition to focusing on UN agencies' own operations. Our specific suggestions include that the EMG should¹⁵:

- Be chaired by the UN Secretary General, with the Assistant Secretary General & UNEP Executive Director as deputy chair;
- Meet at least once a year at the level of Heads of Agencies (in addition to regular senior officials meetings).

Furthermore, the EMG should be mandated by the Senior Officials Meeting:

- To provide guidance to UN Resident Coordinators about how to prioritise and mainstream biodiversity in plans and programmes with the UNCT (United Nations Country Team) plans and UN Development Assistance Frameworks;
- To facilitate and promote the UN's role in the implementation of the post-2020 framework, including by:
 - Prioritising biodiversity by different UN agencies with the aim of formulating a UN wide biodiversity strategy for the next decade;
 - Ensuring a coordinated and fit for purpose response to the biodiversity crisis including through technical assistance and capacity building for national governments, ensuring integration between climate, SDGs and nature;
- To establish a Strategic Implementation Coordination Group, which brings together the Secretariats of the Rio Conventions (potentially through the Joint Liaison Group) with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development (UNDESA/DSD) to ensure closer coordination of implementation for sustainable development. A longer term objective of the group could be to identify synergies, commonalities and gaps in the planning, implementation and reporting frameworks of the Rio Conventions and the SDGs, in order to develop a "meta planning and reporting framework" under the SDGs that unites all planning and reporting.

Adequate resources would need to be made available for the EMG to fulfill these roles.

Strengthening the BLG

WWF's specific suggestions include:

- For the BLG to take on a wider role and stronger mandate beyond addressing administrative and institutional issues of shared concern, by examining opportunities for mutual cooperation, for example to promote joint verification and reporting, with a view to taking these issues back to the decision-making

¹⁴ The informal advisory group on synergies has provided advice during the intersessional period leading up to the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In its report ([CBD/SBI/2/INF/14](#)), the group responded primarily to [decision XIII/24](#).

¹⁵ Some of these suggestions may require a modification of the [Terms of Reference](#) of the EMG, that may need to be endorsed by a UNGA resolution. This could possibly be addressed through the annual UNGA resolution on biodiversity.

bodies of the respective biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments as appropriate;

- For the BLG to actively support, through e.g. recommendations and guidance, the use of the post-2020 framework as a mechanism that helps countries to align (internally) their implementation, monitoring and reporting efforts on biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments;
- To consider combining the BLG and JLG, so that creating synergies and collaboration between biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments can be more effectively supported.

It is important to note that while on some issues, synergies can be created through better collaboration between a group of conventions (e.g the Rio Conventions or the biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments collaborating in the BLG), other issues can better be addressed through a tailored, 'bilateral' approach.

- *Strengthen national level collaboration and alignment*

The post-2020 framework should include provisions to support the implementation of *options for enhancing synergies of the biodiversity-relevant conventions at the national level*, listed in annex I, section B, of CBD COP decision XIII/24¹⁶. In particular, the post-2020 framework should include provisions:

- **To strengthen the alignment of NBSAPs with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other instruments**, including the Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments (see the box in the Appendix for examples, such as promoting the use of nature-based solutions). This should be part of the process to amend and strengthen NBSAPs that will be required after the adoption of the post-2020 framework;
- **To strengthen in-country coordination and synergies** in the implementation of all biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes, other instruments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by **establishing or strengthening national modalities for coordination**. Options could include:
 - **Aligning national-level targets** and deliverables across all biodiversity-relevant action plans, with enhanced accountability, for example through inclusion in NBSAPs of actions to improve coordination;
 - **Ensuring consistent use of indicators** across biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - **Simplifying and aligning national reporting mechanisms** for the different processes, leveraging existing tools such as DART or InforMEA¹⁷;
 - **The creation or strengthening of National Liaison Groups** of biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments, comprising representatives of the various bodies - including enforcement authorities - charged with implementing the various biodiversity-related multilateral agreements,

¹⁶ See: [CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24](#)

¹⁷ See: <https://dart.informea.org/> and [presentation of DART](#).

processes and other instruments and incorporating, as far as possible, civil society representation¹⁸.

¹⁸ As also suggested by the Informal Advisory Group on synergies in 2018 ([CBD/SBI/2/INF/14](#)).

Appendix. Further examples of the potential for cross-mapping of goals and target

The box below presents several examples of the potential for cross-mapping of goals and targets between the post-2020 framework and other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments. These are selected examples; synergies with other processes and other instruments (e.g. UNCCD, future BBNJ) are also critical and highly relevant.

Synergies with the UNFCCC:

Strong synergies exist between the objectives of the CBD and UNFCCC. In order to limit global warming, alongside the needed transformations in the global energy, urban, industrial and land use systems, strong actions are needed to protect and enhance carbon sinks on land and in the oceans through ecosystem-based approaches, which will also contribute to the anticipated post-2020 framework goals, aimed to address biodiversity loss. Authoritative research¹⁹ indicates that nature-based solutions can provide around 30% of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed between now and 2030 to keep warming below 2 °C. In addition, using ecosystems and freshwater conservation and management can be the cheapest and more sustainable way to reduce people's vulnerability to climate change impacts. There is opportunity for joint elements in both NBSAPs and NDCs, including through scaling up the use of nature-based solutions.

Synergies with CITES:

The bulk of CITES-listed species are listed on Appendix II of the Convention. A *non-detriment finding* or NDF (i.e. a determination of sustainability) is required for species on Appendix II that are to be traded internationally or taken from international waters. Guidance, both general and taxon-specific, on the making of NDFs is widely available. Such guidance can also assist in achieving better management of living resources at the national level, even when the species in question are only intended for local consumption.

Other opportunities for synergies include the following:

- CITES has ongoing work on sustainable livelihoods and IPLC participation which is relevant to the wider family of biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and other instruments;
- CITES also has adopted cross-cutting resolutions on such matters as corruption and legislation which have application beyond the convention;
- The material prepared for the CITES biennial reports, on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to implement the convention, is relevant to reporting obligations under other conventions.

Finally, the CITES Strategic Vision 2020-2030, which was adopted at CoP18 in 2019, includes provisions for amendment and adjustment in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Synergies with the Ramsar Convention:

Whilst specific to wetlands, there are strong synergies between all elements of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024²⁰ and those anticipated for the post-2020 framework. Clear cross mapping between the post-2020 framework and Ramsar can ensure the delivery of key framework targets. For

¹⁹ See: <https://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645>.

²⁰ The Fourth Ramsar Strategic plan lays out a new vision under the Convention mission, four overall goals and 19 specific targets.

example, the 1st strategic goal of the Ramsar Strategic Plan addresses the drivers of loss of wetlands (i.e. drivers of land/freshwater use change). This connects well with the proposed post-2020 framework topic of protection and conservation of land, freshwater and oceans, especially with regards to freshwater. The first strategic goal of the Ramsar Convention also targets invasive alien species, calling for them to be identified, priorities, controlled and/or eradicated. This is directly relevant to an anticipated target on invasive species of the post-2020 framework.

Synergies with the UN Forum on Forests and the Bonn Challenge:

The 6 global goals, 23 associated targets, and indicators of the UNFF's Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) build on and are aligned with the SDGs, especially SDG 15. A *global core set of forest indicators* is under final development. Most of the UNSPF goals and targets have a 2030 deadline. The Aichi Targets were adopted before the UNSPF and the global forest goals, meaning that current NBSAPs do not reflect these.

Other relevant forest targets include the restoration targets under the Bonn Challenge.²¹ (To bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.) These and other existing and internationally agreed forest targets with a 2030 deadline could be cross mapped in the post-2020 framework.

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²¹ <https://www.bonnchallenge.org/content/challenge>.