

A New Vision for Biodiversity Conservation

IUCN's draft position on a new (post 2010) Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Introduction

In 2002, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Strategic Plan including, as its mission, the target of achieving by 2010 **a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth**. This target was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and incorporated into the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2006, the UN General Assembly declared the year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity and adopted a resolution that calls for a high level segment of the UNGA at its 65th session in 2010.

At its tenth meeting in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, the Conference of the Parties (COP) will review progress made towards the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target through its Strategic Plan and adopt a revised and updated Strategic Plan for the Convention, including new biodiversity targets for the post-2010 period.

This paper represents IUCN's *draft position* on the formulation (structure and possible elements) of a post 2010 biodiversity target framework within the context of a new Strategic Plan for the CBD.

IUCN urges recognition of 'biodiversity' as the variability within and between ecosystems, species and genes (Article 2 of the CBD) and notes that the benefits come from biodiversity as a whole, not just the ecosystem level. The Strategic Plan should include and embrace at all levels **all components of biodiversity: ecosystems, species and genes to the benefit of all life on Earth**. IUCN affirms the objectives of the CBD for conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits, and any reference in this position paper to biodiversity implicitly includes these objectives.

IUCN's consultation process for a new vision for biodiversity conservation

A preliminary consultation process was initiated in July 2009 on possible options for a post-2010 biodiversity target framework. These views were consolidated in the paper entitled *2010 is almost here – now what? Consultation: Options for a new vision for Biodiversity*. http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_2010_options_paper_draft.pdf. In December 2009 IUCN released a paper on its 'emerging position' http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_emerging_position_on_post_2010_target_framework_js_4_dec_09.pdf on the post 2010 Strategic Plan, comments on which have informed the development of this draft position statement. This will be finalised for submission to SBSTTA14 and the WGR13, and then amended for submission to CBD COP10. The current paper also responds to <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EM-StratPlan-01>

For information and consultation - comments on this draft position (22.01.10) should be sent by Mon 8 February 2010 to:

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The biodiversity conservation imperative

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (to which IUCN made a major contribution through *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*) concluded in 2005 that 60% of ecosystem services worldwide have become degraded, mostly in the past 50 years, primarily because of land- and ocean-use practices. We have seen the collapse of fisheries worldwide. At the species level, The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ tells us that threatened and at risk of extinction worldwide are 22% of the world's mammals; nearly one third of amphibians; one in eight birds; 27% of reef building corals; and 28% of conifers. Species extinction rates are up to 1000 times those in pre-human times and are increasing.

Although information is incomplete on global and local trends in biodiversity, and although we lack baselines and metrics for the assessment of biodiversity components, we know enough to know that biodiversity is in serious trouble and that we will miss the CBD's target of reducing the rate of loss by 2010. The world is also likely to miss the 2015 environmental targets within the UN Millennium Development Goals to improve health and livelihoods for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

IUCN believes that it is inconceivable to allow biodiversity loss to continue at present rates without undermining human development and survival.

Scope and elements of a new Strategic Plan for the CBD

IUCN believes that the CBD's post 2010 Strategic Plan should be short, focused and action-oriented. It should include a Vision (for 2050); a revised biodiversity target (Mission) for 2015/2020; short term targets (ambitious, realistic and measurable) with milestones for 2015; and indicators to measure progress against these targets.

The Strategic Plan should highlight the importance of biodiversity for poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and also address the drivers of biodiversity loss and integrate biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies. It should address the need for new and additional financial resources. It should clearly draw upon,

and be consistent with available scientific evidence including the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3). It should include a clear logic linking the vision, mission and targets, and comprise a more effective framework for national implementation including through national targets.

IUCN also believes that it is essential that the elements of the new Strategic Plan should link to the achievement of the Programmes of Work of the CBD (Annex I) and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including e.g. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; Programme of Work on Protected Areas. There is a need to ensure clear and consistent use of terminology.

Each Programme of Work should clearly state which targets it will contribute to in the Strategic Plan. To achieve such an alignment it is necessary for all Programmes of Work to include specific targets (if not already included). Newly adopted targets also need to be harmonized with the new Mission. The targets in the Strategic Plan should be developed to help facilitate this clear linkage.

A Vision for 2050

IUCN believes that the Vision should constitute a long term target for 2050. A suggested wording is:

Biodiversity is maintained and restored, to secure a healthy planet and to deliver essential benefits for sustainable development and the well being of all people and nature

Or, in a shorter version including a more communicable headline statement:

Living in harmony with nature – biodiversity is maintained and restored, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people

IUCN believes that a 2050 vision should aim not just to halt loss of biodiversity but also comprehensively restore the populations, habitats and ecological cycles that enable biodiversity goods and services to persist. A forty-year time horizon is appropriate for such an aim given that the restoration of forests, wetlands, coral reefs, and other habitats depend on species and processes that can have generational periods of as long as decades.

A Mission for 2020

The Mission (post-2010 target) should take account of biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being, recognising the linkages between them, in order to improve understanding of their interdependence.

The Mission should be formulated in terms of a level of change rather than a rate of change (e.g. maintain and restore levels rather than reduce the rate of loss). It also needs to respond to the critical need for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

To fulfil an ambitious Vision for 2050 it is necessary to, at the very least, aim at maintaining biodiversity and the health of ecosystems at current levels – in particular, by setting a Mission to prevent further species extinctions, loss of habitats and erosion of genetic diversity (e.g. of crop wild relatives) which are irreversible. The following Mission is suggested:

To have initiated by 2015 the necessary urgent and concerted actions to address the threats facing biodiversity, with a view to halting biodiversity loss by 2020, and starting to restore its integrity and variety, thus ensuring the continued provision of its goods and services, preventing irreversible environmental change, and avoiding any change that has dangerous consequences for humankind and /or other life on earth.

IUCN is aware that there are strong views regarding the deadline for the Mission. The above formulation sets up a logical sequence of actions: 2015 becomes the due date for having initiated the necessary actions to address the drivers, 2020 being the due date for achieving the Mission, and 2050 the due date for achieving the Vision. The actions to be Initiated /taken by 2015 are synchronous with the Millennium Development Goals. This date is also within the political cycles of currently elected politicians, which is essential to support them in successfully taking the necessary action to deliver the 2020 Mission to their constituencies.

To halt biodiversity loss by 2020 it will be necessary to initiate the urgent, concerted and effective actions by 2015. A deadline of 2020 without the intermediate step to be achieved by 2015 would not result in the action necessary to

halt biodiversity loss by 2020, nor would it reflect the urgency of the situation.

IUCN believes that it is necessary to conduct an in-depth review of progress in 2015, making use of knowledge gained from reporting against the MDGs. To ensure that the necessary actions have been initiated by 2015, it is essential that progress also be scrutinised in 2012, coinciding with the Rio + 20 milestone.

It would be desirable to have a short and snappy version of the Mission for communication purposes such as

Halt and reverse global biodiversity loss by 2020

It is important to note that sufficient scientific and practical expertise exists to conserve and manage existing biodiversity to maintain the supply of goods and services derived from it, although significant socio-economic and political barriers remain.

Strategic Goals and Targets for 2020 and milestones for 2015

If we are to avert the accelerating, catastrophic loss in the variety of life forms on earth the post-2010 targets must be ambitious. They should be truly “SMART” i.e. specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound, but also meaningful.

IUCN suggests that the targets are formulated according to a Pressure-State-Impact (Benefits) - Response framework. Where possible, targets mixing up elements of pressure, state and response, should be avoided in the interest of clarity.

The direct drivers (climate change, resource consumption, pollution - including acidification - marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitat fragmentation and destruction, unsustainable use of wild living resources, alien invasive species, emerging infectious diseases and bycatch) and indirect drivers (resource consumption, globalisation, trade, demographic drivers) need to be addressed specifically and explicitly through the targets. Targets for restoration, as well as ecological and biological connectivity should be included. Targets should address the need to ensure that the most important areas for biodiversity are effectively conserved. Targets need to embrace all biomes and all taxonomic groups.

The CBD has proposed a framework of 20 targets for 2020. In the list of 25 targets below those not in italics are targets proposed by the CBD; those in italics are revised by IUCN. Where there is no number the target represents a new target suggested by IUCN. They are arranged under four Strategic Goals which are modified from those proposed by the CBD.

IUCN believes that interim milestones will need to be developed for 2015 to monitor progress on implementation.

The relationship between global and regional /national targets needs further consideration. The targets should be scalable at a variety of geographic levels to allow Parties to incorporate them into National Strategies and Biodiversity Action Plans. Critically, they also need to be established to facilitate the involvement of the economic sector – as well as link to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Mechanisms for addressing the indirect drivers should be proposed. The issue of compliance also needs to be addressed. Targets also need to apply the precautionary principle.

It will also be important to make links between these targets and targets developed for the Programmes of Work, e.g. the GSPC; POWPA (See Annex I).

**Strategic Goal 1a: Pressure (Drivers).
Address the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss**

- 1. Public and private educational curricula and communication programmes include the value of biodiversity, how to conserve it and the need to do so for human well-being;*
- 2. The value of biodiversity, and the opportunities derived from its conservation and sustainable use, are recognized and reflected in all private and public investment decisions, supported by effective economic incentives;*
- 3. Subsidies with significant harmful effects on biodiversity are reduced and ultimately eliminated;*
- 4. Incentives to encourage efficiency in production are used to reduce the use of resources and waste, to within ecological limits; by enabling and promoting technology transfer and cooperation;*

**Strategic Goal 1b: Pressure (Threats).
Address the direct drivers of biodiversity loss**

5. The net loss and degradation of habitats is halted

6. Pressure on marine and freshwater ecosystems through overfishing is halted, destructive fishing practices are eliminated and overharvest of terrestrial species is stopped;

7. All areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed according to sustainability criteria; including through the development and adoption of certification schemes

8. Pollution from excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) has been brought below critical ecosystem loads;

9. New introductions of invasive alien species are prevented and currently established alien invasive species are identified, prioritised and correspondingly controlled or eradicated;

10. The impacts of climate change and of ocean acidification on ecosystems have been reduced, and mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change that support and conserve biodiversity have been agreed and implemented;

Strategic Goal 2: State. Improve the state of biodiversity, first by preventing further loss

12. The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented, including by effectively protecting in situ all such threatened species in at least one site;

No wild species threatened by international trade

13. Genetic diversity of wild and domesticated crop relatives and livestock are effectively conserved in situ and ex situ;

Information on the status and trends of the world's threatened ecosystems underpins conservation planning at regional and national levels;

**Strategic Goal 3: Impact (Benefits).
Safeguard and restore biodiversity and the goods and services derived from it, contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources**

14. The contribution of biodiversity to sequestering and retaining greenhouse gases

has been fully recognized and enhanced and the role of biodiversity in conferring resilience to ecosystems and their carbon stocks have been accounted for in climate change mitigation plans;

15. Terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems that provide critical services, especially for the poor and vulnerable, that build ecological resilience or that contribute to local livelihoods and climate change adaptation have been safeguarded or restored;

Networks of effectively managed Protected Area systems embedded in wider land and seascapes are optimally connected and configured to increase resilience and facilitate climate change mitigation and adaptation;

16a. Traditional knowledge, and related innovations and practices, and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities over these are protected;

16b. Adequate and equitable access to essential ecosystem services through active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, especially the poor and vulnerable, is strengthened;

18. Access to genetic resources is effectively regulated through the International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), and substantial benefits are equitably shared;

Strategic Goal 4: Response. Promoting direct action and enhancing implementation through planning, knowledge management and capacity development

11. At least 50% of land and sea areas, including all terrestrial, freshwater and marine key biodiversity areas, have been protected through networks of effectively managed protected area systems and/or other means, and integrated into the wider land- and seascape;

Areas beyond national jurisdiction are governed and managed to maintain and enhance biodiversity

17. Each Party has an effective and operational national biodiversity strategy, incorporating targets from this Strategic Plan for implementation by government ministries and appropriate national and sub-national institutions;

19. Current scientific information on biodiversity, its value and functioning, its status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved and continuously widely shared with decision makers;

20. Each Party contributes 0.2% Of GDP to national biodiversity conservation measures in addition to 0.7% for development assistance;

Indicators to measure progress against targets

Since 2002, enormous progress has been made on developing biodiversity indicators. Many of these indicators require further development, and most need more data to be collected. There are some serious gaps to be filled, for example on biodiversity goods and services, and Access and Benefit Sharing. There was a serious time lag between the adoption of the 2010 biodiversity target and the agreement on, and development of, indicators to measure whether or not it had been achieved. In addition, the parallel development of the CBD targets and goals led to a disconnect with the current biodiversity indicators, which was not intended.

The choice of indicators will depend, to some extent, on the choice of targets. Indicators of the post 2010 targets should draw as much as possible on existing indicator work, and research to fill the gaps in the suite of indicators needs to be prioritised.

The selection of targets and development of indicators to some extent needs to be done in parallel as it is necessary to have the appropriate data available to determine progress towards the achievement of targets (and associated Programmes of Work). In this way the indicators could (in fact must) fall within a cohesive hierarchy of targets and objectives. In addition to being measurable, they also need to be simple, relevant and understandable as it is necessary to be able to communicate the indicator set through clear, policy relevant messages. They should also be supported by effective incentives and adequate finance, and take into consideration the costs of monitoring and reporting (trying to monitor a long list of parameters potentially takes capacity away from conservation action itself).

Indicators for the post 2010 period also need to be scalable at local, national and global levels; be adaptable for use by other sectors, e.g. business; and make use of both scientific information and traditional knowledge. As with

the targets the current framework should be simplified into four focal areas: Pressure (indirect and direct drivers) – State - Impact (Benefits – biodiversity goods and services and human wellbeing, Access and Benefit sharing) - Response (policy and on the ground, including scientific and traditional knowledge).

It will also be important to incorporate robust and clear indicators to measure the objectives of the CBD concerned with sustainable use and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). An indicator to demonstrate and measure the strong links between cultural and biological diversity is essential.

Efficiencies of scale should be encouraged by promoting collaboration between those developing indicators and monitoring programmes. Harmonisation of the many disparate biodiversity data collection systems should be encouraged.

Implementation and review of the new Strategic Plan

Achieving the vision, mission and targets of the new Strategic Plan will require substantial improvements in the functioning of the Convention.

IUCN believes that there needs to be a substantial increase in cooperation between the CBD and other global and regional conventions and programmes, and that relevant elements of the Strategic Plan should be incorporated into other multilateral environmental instruments:

- The new Strategic Plan should contribute to the achievement of the 2015 targets of the MDGs
- Synergy in the implementation of the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD should be promoted. The three conventions were born from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and preparations for the 2012 “Rio+20” Conference provide an appropriate opportunity to pursue this.
- There is a need for the other biodiversity related conventions (CITES, UNESCO WHC, Ramsar, CMS) to adopt relevant CBD targets
- More cohesion between all UN conventions and organisations (e.g. UNDP; WTO; WHO; UNEP Regional Seas Programme) through the UN Environmental Management Group (EMG) is necessary

- In the next decades more cohesive and stronger links should be built between the CBD and the IUCN family of Commissions, Members and Secretariat

Support Mechanisms: Most action is carried out at the national or sub-national level. It is therefore important to be able to translate the elements of the Strategic Plan into national level biodiversity targets. For instance, the Satoyama Initiative, led by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan recognises the potential of socio-ecological production systems for optimizing biodiversity goods and services and human well-being in a sustainable manner while also ensuring its conservation.

Additional support should be provided to developing countries for revising NBSAPs to include the integration of biodiversity targets into sectoral planning and policies. It will be important to ensure that the implementation of the International Regime on ABS (due to be adopted at COP10) takes into account capacity building at national and regional levels.

Compliance: Compliance mechanisms for CBD targets need to be developed and applied in national and sub national legislation, policy and planning instruments.

Financial Resources: Most Parties identify a lack of financial, human and technical resources as limiting the implementation of the Convention. This is a constraint which must be urgently overcome if the Strategic Plan is to be fully implemented. IUCN urges that explicit mandates to existing funding bodies such as the GEF in support of the CBD Strategic Plan and biodiversity target framework should be clarified and confirmed. In addition, Parties should implement new financial and incentives mechanisms that mobilize private investment in biodiversity conservation.

Research, monitoring and assessment: In addition to the development of indicators, regular assessments of the status of biodiversity and its goods and services would benefit implementation of the CBD. This could be provided through an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the formation of which IUCN supports. This will be established in 2010 and needs to urgently strengthen the science - policy interface through monitoring of the status of biodiversity and the identification of emerging issues to effectively address biodiversity

conservation and human wellbeing. IPBES needs to support policy implementation through the dissemination of scientific knowledge and information in an appropriate and timely manner.

Engagement with the economic sector: the Strategic Plan should be established to help facilitate its implementation by economic sector stakeholders, such as agriculture and industry. For instance the concept of Net Positive Impact on biodiversity and ecosystems provides both a powerful aspiration and a practical framework for assessing efforts to implement the CBD.

Particularly relevant are the findings of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study (TEEB), a global study on the economics of biodiversity loss which draws together knowledge and expertise from all regions in the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions in response to the growing evidence on the impact of the loss of biodiversity. For instance, nearly a sixth of the world's population depends on protected areas for a significant percentage of their livelihoods. TEEB concludes that investing \$45 billion in protected areas management could secure vital nature-based services worth some \$5 trillion a year, including the sequestration of carbon, the protection and enhancement of water resources and protection against flooding.

Engagement with the public sector: the Strategic Plan should be established to help facilitate its implementation by planning, management and development authorities, especially those with jurisdiction over growing urban centres and other municipal areas, and large infrastructure projects. Strong links to civil society should be made to enhance implementation.

Communications: The world at large does not, in general, understand the role of biodiversity in relation to the survival of humankind. There is an urgent need to get this across to the wider public through various activities taking place in the International Year of Biodiversity. In particular there is a need to enlist the commitment of both urban and rural citizens, to contribute to conservation and achievement of the objectives of the CBD. In particular, communications to better align the objectives of the CBD with biodiversity considerations in other sectors is critical - supported by packages in multiple languages and use of current communication tools such as the internet and visual media.

Annex I – Current CBD Programmes of Work

The CBD has established seven thematic programmes of work (listed below) for some of the major biomes on the planet.

Thematic Programmes

[\(http://www.cbd.int/programmes/\)](http://www.cbd.int/programmes/)

1. Agricultural Biodiversity
2. Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity
3. Forest Biodiversity
4. Inland Waters Biodiversity
5. Island Biodiversity
6. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
7. Mountain Biodiversity

Cross-cutting Issues:

The CBD has also initiated work on key matters of relevance to all thematic areas. These cross-cutting issues provide bridges and links between the thematic programmes.

1. 2010 Biodiversity Target
2. Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing (Bonn Guidelines)
3. Biodiversity for Development Initiative (2006)
4. Climate Change and Biodiversity
5. Communication, Education and Public Awareness (Programme of Work on)
6. Economics, Trade and Incentive Measures (Proposals)
7. Ecosystem Approach
8. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
9. Global Taxonomy Initiative
10. Impact Assessment (Guidelines including the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines)
11. Identification, Monitoring, Indicators and Assessments
12. Invasive Alien Species (Guiding Principles)
13. Liability and Redress - Art. 14(2)
14. Protected Areas (Programme of Work on)
15. Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines)
16. Tourism and Biodiversity (Guidelines)
17. Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Art. 8(j) (Programme of Work)
18. Technology Transfer and Cooperation (Programme of Work on)