

Post-2020 Framework: A Transformational approach

Avaaz's citizen action plan to build back better a strong and inclusive biodiversity framework

Listening document



About this document

This “listening document” shares the views from actors that are not following closely the CBD negotiations, in order to assist dialogue, within the CBD community, about the priorities and ambitions reflected in the Updated Zero Draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

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Avaaz and COICA (Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin) presenting the Amazon corridor plan at the UN Biodiversity CoP 14 in Egypt, December 2018.

Avaaz's response to the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Dear friends, colleagues, distinguished party delegates, members of the CBD Secretariat and the biodiversity policy community:

Recognizing the uttermost importance of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF/Framework henceforth), and in the wake of the health, social and economic emergency posed by Covid-19, Avaaz presents this listening document for right holders and stakeholders to have the opportunity to step back, reflect, imagine and refresh ideas and proposals needed for the change that is being so timidly prepared.

This listening document of the [updated Zero Draft](#) reflects perspectives and suggestions from citizens in line with science-backed proposals supported by [millions of Avaaz members](#) from all of the nations that are Parties to this convention. It also reflects the perspectives of 400 indigenous peoples, local communities (IPLCs), and grassroots organizations from 100 different countries and territories.

Avaaz is a people-powered movement with more than 66 million citizens from everywhere, campaigning on the most crucial issues of our time, including the protection of human rights and of the environment. In the last months, we campaigned for [universal and full access to the Covid-19 vaccine](#) and to [stop the last attempt from Donald Trump to block humanitarian assistance in Yemen](#). We also fundraised to fund rescue boats for migrants and refugees and to [provide resources for indigenous peoples in the Amazon](#) and [vulnerable groups around the world to protect themselves against Covid-19](#).

Since our founding, our members have been deeply involved in thousands of efforts to address the ecological crisis hand in hand with indigenous peoples, local communities, and grassroots organizations around the world. We're taking action to [save bees](#) from chemical harm, protect [keystone species and their habitats](#), [fighting plastic pollution](#) and advocating against [deep sea mining](#) in our oceans. We also campaign to stop unsustainable models, from [tackling food waste](#) to [chemical-dependent farming](#). And we [advocate to get our Planet powered by 100% clean energy to avoid climate disaster](#). In the last months, our members called on the EU to ban unsustainable products, and now they're pushing for new legislation that [holds global companies responsible for the human rights and environmental abuses occurring in their supply chains and allow victims to seek justice in European courts](#). We also campaigned [to push for environmental and human rights measures in the EU-Mercosur talks](#) and are [pushing back against oil projects in Africa](#). And we put pressure on [YouTube to stop climate misinformation](#).

Within the CBD, the proposal of [preserving 50% of the planet and managing sustainably the other half, with the support and leadership of indigenous peoples and local communities](#) has been pursued by our membership through financial donations, land protection, marches in the streets and calls to their legislators. And yet, we can and will do more.

Amidst a pandemic that has virtually affected everything we know about making things happen, today we face the responsibility to design the way to build back better: build back commitments, build back agreements, and build back joint efforts to implement the omni mentioned needed change.

You may think: we don't have much political support for the change we need. Let us think twice: in 2020, more people woke up to the need for fundamental change. Across the globe vast majorities indicated that they are looking for radically better policies. In many countries, including India, Mexico, China, as well as Brazil and South Africa, [support for a green economic recovery is at 80 percent or higher](#).

You have dedicated much of your lives to protecting our common home, and you may have waited for this moment where politicians may finally be able to listen. This is the time for a radical reform. Seize the moment, use your voice. People will listen and will support you. We count on you.

Let us thank you again, sincerely, for all the work you have done so far amidst enormous challenges.

In hope and determination,

The Avaaz community

A step back on 2020: our dialogues about the Zero Draft and the post-2020 GBF process amidst the global pandemic

This listening document of the [updated Zero Draft](#) is the result of active listening we've been conducting through several forms of dialogues with our members and our partners around the world during the last year, and it's the continuation of our evolving position on critical policy issues of the Framework.

A year ago (and one month before the world was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic) we presented [our submission on the Zero Draft](#), which outlined our vision for a resilient, healthy and just future for everyone. And last August, after a comprehensive round of consultations, [we presented a detailed response to the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 GBF](#). Our dialogues continued after the publication of the [updated Zero Draft](#) through a series of conversations with non-state actors, in particular right-holders of the Global South methodology can be found in the Annex of this paper. Additionally, we reviewed all the publicly available submissions from the parties of the CBD.

We also paid attention to several breakthrough papers on science policy that came out last year, especially those that add value to the GBF and guide science-based discussions, in particular:

1. [Set ambitious goals for biodiversity and sustainability](#). *Diaz et al, October 2020* urged negotiators to (a) consider multiple goals to address nature's different facets (genes, populations, species, deep evolutionary history, ecosystems, and their contributions to people) having markedly different geographic distributions and responses to human drivers; (b) see interlinkages among these facets so the goals are defined and developed holistically rather than in isolation, with potential to advance multiple goals simultaneously and minimize trade-offs between them; and (c) seek the highest level of ambition in setting each goal, and implementing all goals in an integrated manner, will give a realistic chance of stopping—and beginning to reverse—biodiversity loss by 2050.

2. [A "Global Safety Net" to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize Earth's climate](#) (*Dinerstein et al, September 2020*), is an integrated model using big data from Google Earth, identified 50% of the terrestrial realm that, if conserved, would reverse further biodiversity loss, prevent CO2 emissions from land use change, and enhance natural carbon removal. It also makes the case for new models where IPLCs play a central role in conservation and calls for the protection of their land rights.

“Our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty”

Albert Einstein

3. Several scientific papers outlined the relationship between the risks of pandemics and habitat loss, such as [the IPBES report "Escaping the 'Era of Pandemics'"](#). Also, a comprehensive analysis (Zoonotic host diversity increases in human-dominated ecosystems, Gibb et al, August 2020) [found that human destruction of natural ecosystems increases the likelihood of future pandemics like Covid-19](#).

We also reviewed reports on deforestation during 2020. Among them, a quantitative [analysis on deforestation published in Nature](#) shows that, under the current resource consumption rates and best estimate of technological growth, humanity could reach the point of 'no-return' within 20-40 years.

Avaaz’s response to the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Furthermore, we have been following the trends within civil society and citizen engagement. The rise of people’s environmental activism in 2020 was largely benefited by a worldwide awakening — triggered by Covid-19— of the economic and ecological crises.

Global polls indicate widespread support for recoveries that prioritize climate change (65 percent), with majorities believing climate change is as serious as Covid-19 (71 percent) and indicating they would be put off voting for a party without serious climate policies (57 percent).

[Three in four people in 16 countries expect their government to prioritize environmental protection.](#) In several countries, including India, Mexico, and China, as well as Brazil and South Africa, [support for a green economic recovery is at 80 percent or higher.](#)

Meanwhile, two-thirds of Britons believe climate change is as serious a crisis as the coronavirus and a majority want climate to be prioritized in the economic recovery. From Malaysia to Turkey to Saudi Arabia, people want their government to provide aid only to businesses that have taken demonstrable measures to significantly reduce their carbon emissions and environmental impact.

This is a great opportunity to galvanize public support for an ambitious and bold GBF.



Avaaz, Greenpeace, Transport & Environment, WeMove and WWF activists in Brussels, moments before they delivered a petition to the EU Charles Michel , last July.

The case for a comprehensive revamping of the Zero Draft: Covid-19 has shown us the need to increase ambition

Since May of last year, we have asked our allies and partner organizations that have some basic knowledge of the GBF a series of questions (see below) about the Zero Draft, seeking to understand their level of trust, confidence and understanding of the process, as well to find new ideas, feedback and input during the preparations of the GBF.

As we expressed in our previous submissions, humanity is facing profound and unprecedented challenges and transformations, all of which are essentially global. The pandemic is calling us to rethink, reinterpret and realign our relationship with nature, so we have asked which elements of the Zero Draft would require new formulations to stay relevant.

We asked which aspects of the Zero Draft would require some changes (see below questions, see responses on the next page). We also asked about whether they're interested in participating meaningfully in the process, and what it would take to make that happen: five key elements appeared consistently throughout the dialogues, which are listed below.

TOP ASPIRATIONS FROM GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT THE GBF PROCESS

More participation	There's a desire for a more consistent engagement from Parties to create formal and structured forms of participation to discuss the GBF
More deliberation	There's a need for local and national spaces for deliberation, even if these spaces are online because of the Covid-19 related lockdown
More transparency	There's a desire for proactive transparency and national engagement from Parties delegates to inform about the countries positions
More inclusiveness	Basic services (proper digital infrastructure or even translations in documents or interpretations in meetings) gets in the way
More understanding	For several rights holders, there's a need for an onboarding space that would help them to understand the process for a proper engagement

QUESTIONS TO HELP DESIGN A PRE-PANDEMIC ZERO DRAFT INTO A WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE NEEDS OF TODAY'S WORLD

A	What should we double down on?	What measures (old or new) are essential to win in the new normal? What should we start to do, coming out of this crisis?
B	What needs a radical reform?	What strategic choices are still sound but need to be reformed or repointed in some way to serve our new reality?
C	What do we need to let go?	What strategies are no longer serving the global biodiversity framework?

THE 15 MOST MENTIONED POLICIES IN THE DIALOGUES AND WHAT NEEDS OVERHAUL, REFORM OR TO BE LET GO

We asked these questions —outlined in the previous page, separated in A, B and C— to all our allies and partners (more than 400 IPLCs, and grassroots and grasstops organizations from 100 different countries). The chosen top policies are in green under category A, the policies that need some reform are in yellow under category B and the policies that are no longer serving the GBF are in red under category C.

A	50% reduction of harmful subsidies by 2025 and a 100% elimination of harmful subsidies by 2030.
A	100% land tenure rights for IPLCs and traditional communities by 2030; and 50% of land recognition by 2025 as an intermediate target.
A	Building on the above: zero protected areas contested by IPLCs as green grabs/land grabs by 2025.
A	A higher protection target (above 50%) that fully embraces self-determined governance systems, customary laws and community protocols, and free, prior and informed consent.
A	Zero loss of natural habitats by 2025; halt global deforestation and zero extinction by 2030 (50% reduction of footprint of consumption and production).
A	Addressing consumption and production patterns and related trade (50% reduction of footprint of consumption and production).
A	100 percent of land and sea areas globally are under spatial planning by 2030, addressing land/sea use change, including key biodiversity areas.
A	Following on the above: 100 percent of all ecosystems are managed equitably and sustainably by 2030 as a result of that spatial planning.
A	A compliance and enforcement mechanism under the GBF (or within the CBD in which the GBF can rely on).
A	50 percent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems and connectivity are restored by 2030.
B	SDGs: overall, there's a need for a greater alignment and more consistency between some of the GBF targets with the Sustainable Development Goals.
B	National planning: overall, there's a need to reflect the GBF in relevant planning processes, including NBSAPs CBD, as well as NDCs (under the UNFCCC) and NAPs (under the UNCCD).
B	Multiple, interdependent and ambitious targets, based on science and research and with the proper social licences and with adequate free, prior and informed consent processes.
B	"Generating additional financial (...) resources from all sources, including from (...) private sectors": to be transformative, this can only be done with intersectoral transparency.
C	Favouring certain approaches and models of conservation ("protected areas"), will be insufficient to halt biodiversity loss, and address desertification or climate change.

The case for the full recognition of the role of IPLCs

Time for a 100% recognition of IPLCs rights to land by 2030



Maasai from Kirtalo village in Loliondo in Tanzania campaigned with Avaaz to stay on their ancestral land that the government had earmarked for a hunting concession.

In our previous submissions, Avaaz pointed out that a rights-based approach in tandem with a whole-of-government and society approach was necessary to make the changes needed over the next decade as a stepping stone towards the achievement of the 2050 Vision. After listening carefully to all actors (especially those who partially object or question the idea of bringing land recognition to the heart of GBF), we stand by our original position of calling for the full recognition of collective lands, waters and territories of life of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). The theory of change around which the Global Biodiversity Framework is built points forward to the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050, this being the “final destination” of all that is stated and has been stated since the Earth Summit in 1992 regarding biodiversity, climate change and desertification.

In its recent update of the Framework Zero Draft prepared by the Co-Chairs and the Executive Secretary, with the oversight of the Bureau, it is clearly stated that it aims towards a transformation in society’s relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled; that its purpose is to “galvanize urgent and transformative action by Governments and all of society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society, and businesses, to achieve the outcomes it sets out in its vision, mission, goals and targets, and thereby to contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments (para B2).

Moreover, this updated draft clearly states that “the theory of change for the framework acknowledges the need for appropriate recognition (...) of the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of this framework” as that it “will be implemented taking a rights-based approach” (para B7).

This is a decade of restoration, not only for our lands, but for the people and planet.

Building on these concrete ideas, the Framework should reflect the strategic imperative role played by IPLCs on *in situ* protection, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity, which have real implications for our global food, health, and ecological security. It should be clear by now that any Post-2020 planning should go beyond business as usual, including addressing the role of the IPLCs as a mere paragraph at the very end of CBD COP decisions.

The strategic role of IPLCs has been addressed by many, including by the World Resource Institute (WRI) in a recent publication on landscape restoration, one of the building blocks in reducing threats to biodiversity considered in the draft Framework, and the central idea of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030¹, where indigenous peoples and local communities and their relationship with land and sea play a central role². WRI visibly points out that restoring degraded landscapes can bring water, food and income to local people while safeguarding the environment, but for pledges and projects to succeed, the rights of the people living on the land must not be ignored or violated, and that people — as in IPLCs — should be included in the planning from the very beginning³.

Examples of the negative effects of attempts to restore landscapes include campaigns that plant trees in the wrong places and large projects that violate the rights of the people living on the land or ignore gender and other social differences. Because landscape restoration is about more than planting trees, it is essential to recognize and integrate people's rights, needs, priorities and local expertise in all parts of the process (examples reported by WRI can be found in the Annex).

However, the strategic and active role of IPLCs in reducing threats to biodiversity is yet to be considered and reflected in the Framework draft and further work. Avaaz recommended an additional 2030-2050 goal for IPLCs as well as a comprehensive revision on the other goals and targets that will have direct or indirect implications over IPLCs⁴, in particular governance approaches that ensure inclusiveness and equity, equitable sharing of benefits, and all the basic rights-based approaches needed to go beyond simply/only mentioning the full and effective participation of IPLCs.

Let us not forget that, according to the most conservative studies, the territories of the world's 370 million indigenous peoples cover at the very least between 24% to 26.5% of land worldwide and contain 80% of the world's biodiversity^{5,6}. However, IPLCs representation at CBD meetings and preparations for the GBF never reached 8%. We need to correct that wrong. They can and should be considered as *agents* of environmental conservation.

Suggestion for new text, new target I under E. 2030 Action Targets (page 5)

Target 8. Appropriately and legally recognize and protect against external threats at least 50 percent of collective lands, waters and territories of life of indigenous peoples and local communities by 2025, and 100 percent by 2030, in accordance with their self-determined governance systems, customary laws and community protocols, and free, prior and informed consent.

¹ See: <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

² Six agricultural heritage sites demonstrate how we can manage ecosystems sustainably. <http://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/en/c/1370516/>

³ See: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/10/3-steps-for-land-restoration>

⁴ Avaaz 's Response to the Zero Draft of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The essential elements missing from the zero draft, page 4, 3rd sentence paragraph 1.

⁵ Sobrevila, 2008; IPS, 2017; Garnett et al. 2018

⁶ Dinerstein et al. (September, 2020). A 'Global Safety Net' to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize Earth's climate" <https://advances.sciencemaq.org/content/6/36/eabb2824>

The case for zero harmful and perverse incentives by 2030: Time to get the math right, so the equation is positive for all



Avaaz and 350, in Rio+20 talks in Brazil, demanding an end of fossil fuel subsidies, June 2012.

As stated before, and by so many different voices, there is no way around perverse subsidies and harmful incentives if they are merely mentioned and barely addressed by the Framework. The recognition of their negative and damaging impact to the environment, to natural resources, to biodiversity and to peoples' livelihoods needs to be reflected throughout the document and not only regarding implementation and mainstreaming.

Public, private, and social goals, commitments and investments in biodiversity protection, conservation, and restoration, both nationally and internationally, make little sense if they are outpaced by any investments that negatively impact biodiversity. We can't go on like this.

The Parties to the CBD, 194 signatories to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, had already agreed and pledged that subsidies and other incentives that are harmful to biodiversity would be eliminated, phased out or reformed by 2020 (Aichi Target 3). More than a decade has passed, the Aichi targets have been unmet, and harmful and perverse incentives continue to deplete biodiversity and our future.

A strong agenda of eliminating all harmful incentives and subsidies will accelerate the implementation of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and it will free substantial financial resources to be used to support the implementation of the post-2020 targets and the already agreed SDGs targets⁷.

⁷ In particular, SDG2, SDG8, SDG10, SDG12 and SDG13. SDG2: "End hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year"; SDG8: "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"; SDG10: "Reduce inequality within and among countries"; SDG12: "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"; and SDG13: "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts".



Richard Branson signs an Avaaz petition calling for the protection of the oceans and the end of fisheries subsidies, at the UN in New York, June 2017.

Furthermore, it will free or at least not counteract the pledge made by countries around the world to build back better from the Covid-19 pandemic by allocating funds to ease pressures on nature. The problem is not the money, but where the money is.

To truly build back better after 2020, we need to phase out or reform perverse subsidies and harmful incentives that promote unsustainable practices in all sectors, which completes CBD COP decisions and agenda on mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors⁸.

Calling not only for political leadership and resolve, but also for the full involvement and commitment of the private sector and civil society, we therefore insist on a specific target in the GBF aiming for a 100% redirection and phasing out of perverse incentives by 2030. This should also include sub-targets to identify all perverse incentives that have a direct or indirect negative impact on biodiversity protection, conservation, and sustainable use, and setting up a clear timeline with verifiable sub-targets to ensure implementation.

People want this. Across all polling research last year, it became clear that people do not want to restore the socioeconomic *status quo ante*: polls consistently show us around the globe that people are seeking policies aimed at systemic change, in particular those that address inequality and the environmental crisis. Some examples are polls referring to fishing subsidies that hurt nature should be gone now⁹, same with fossil fuel subsidies in Australia,¹⁰ Canada, UK and many other countries.

Suggestion edit for Target 17 I under E. 2030 Action Targets (page 6)

Target 17. By 2030, redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, including [100 percent X] reduction in the most harmful subsidies, ensuring that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.

⁸ CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/3 and CBD/COP/DEC/14/3

⁹ See <https://www.weforum.org/press/2020/01/overwhelming-public-support-for-ban-on-fishing-for-endangered-species-poll-finds/>

¹⁰ See https://www.acf.org.au/fossil_fuel_subsidies_poll_shows_support_for_7_7bn_to_be_redirected_to_health_and_renewable_energy

The case for accelerating peoples' conversation at the CBD: Time to get serious about “full and effective” participation



Avaaz and European civil society groups protesting outside of the EU Commission in Brussels, calling for an EU ban on bee-killing pesticides, 2010.

Avaaz's previous submission pointed out these rights and obligations are key to achieve all goals and targets included in the Framework Draft. Nevertheless, once again, the updated text constrains the importance of IPLCs and other vulnerable groups equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity, merely mentioning it only in the very last of the proposed targets¹¹, as well as limiting it to their contribution to *other* societal objectives, while adding that IPLCs and other vulnerable groups only have rights over their *relevant* resources.

Again, Avaaz points out that the participation of all relevant stakeholders, especially IPLCs as First Responders in the field, in the planning and implementation of the GBF is essential to achieve the desired change. And yet again, Avaaz points out that safeguarding and ensuring respect for human rights, including IPLCs rights, the right-based approach mentioned in the draft text, are achieved by extending their participation in designing, planning, negotiating, and agreeing on the GBF. Just as stated by target 16.7 of the 2030 Agenda, which addresses the need for responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making when calling for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development (see next page a participatory framework for the preparatory process).

Today, and again referring to the rights-based approach upon which the framework will be implemented, Avaaz respectfully reminds Parties that these rights include the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters, which are essential for sustainable development.

¹¹ Target 20: By 2030, ensure equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and ensure rights over relevant resources of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, and girls as well as youth, in accordance with national circumstances (Zero Draft, section E, page 6) <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3064/749a/0f65ac7f9def86707f4eaefa/post2020-prep-02-01-en.pdf>

WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT: SUGGESTED PARTICIPATORY MODEL

PARTICIPATORY FRAMEWORK	ONE-WAY COMMUNICATION	CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION			
	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
INTENTION					
OBJECTIVES	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the process with the problems, opportunities and solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis and alternatives that support the Parties in their decision-making process and in the drafting of the GBF goals and targets.	To work directly with all stakeholders, rights holders, vulnerable groups and the public throughout the GBF process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the process including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solutions for the GBF.	To make it possible to consult all stakeholders and rights holders, further aligning Party-led decision-making.
RESOURCES AND TOOLS	Online campaigns to widely disseminate: * Fact sheets (2 pages) * Update newsletters * Informational websites	* Public comment * Weekly surveys * Public virtual meetings * On-line polls	* National and subnational virtual workshops * Deliberative polling * On-line discussion forums	* Citizen advisory committee * Consensus-building * Participatory decision-making * On-line forms and discussion documents in electronic form	* Citizen feedback * Online ballots * Voting forums * On-line decision making support systems

(Adapted from IAP2 2007, Kingston 2002, Milovanovic, 2003)

In addition to this, Avaaz calls on Parties to agree, within the boundaries of the Convention, in a legal language to support, protect and recognise individuals and communities at the front line that seek to protect biodiversity. Especially those who are threatened by industrial expansion and unsustainable development models, reducing by 2030 the rate of criminalization of environmental defense work; and an increase of legal protection of environmental human rights defenders, with local and national policy measures and local legislation fully in place by 2050.

Suggestion edit for Target 13 I under E. 2030 Action Targets (page 6)

*Target 13. By 2030, integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated **into inclusive and participatory** assessments of environmental **and social** impacts.*

The case for transparency and accountability at the CBD: Time to bring compliance to the table, once and for all



An Avaaz activist delivered a local petition during a public hearing, calling for a referendum on new explorations in the Adriatic sea, Italy, 2015.

A lack of transparency and effective participation is equally as harmful and perverse as incentives, investments and subsidies and should be recognized as such in the GBF as a threat to biodiversity.

Accountability and compliance are missing from this draft. From our perspective, it is essential to have consequences when Parties don't fulfil their commitments. We appreciate that the additional mechanisms (to be worked out) might give answers to this, but the draft should address this more explicitly and sooner rather than later.

In addition, the possibility for civil society actors to participate in the reviewing will be crucial. The new draft should reflect that with more clarity.

For example, we need to ensure that transparent NBSAPs are built with participation of all sectors of the population and are regularly updated (ensuring integration of the GBF within 2 years), including roadmaps and milestones for implementation, addressing all the biodiversity protection requirements, providing strong support to community-led conservation initiatives, as well as ensuring that such plans involve all relevant ministries and guaranteeing they include at least a mainstreaming biodiversity agenda in their plans and projects.

We understand some of these elements might not be included in this draft, but we believe they are critical topics for discussion and resolution through specific negotiations with regards to the articulation and scope of the NBSAPs.

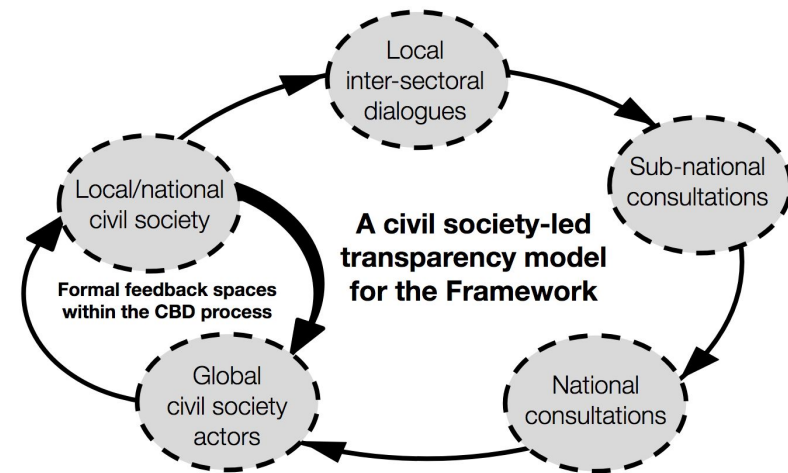
Avaaz's response to the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Time and time again, science is telling us that relying only on conventional forms of conservation will be insufficient to halt biodiversity loss. Effective conservation without people and without consultation processes will never be effective conservation. In other words: we can't do conservation without a conversation.

Human rights have been in the environment and development agenda for almost 50 years now. From the 1972 Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, and the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, to the Escazú Agreement¹² or the Aarhus Convention¹³. Biodiversity policy without civic and social participation has failed in the past, let's not repeat that mistake. As stated by many, including Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice.

Avaaz is proposing a model of transparency and participation (see diagram) that can be implemented immediately if the Parties agree. Such a model would allow a bottom up process in which participation can be achieved at the local and national level, potentially enriching the global conversation of the GBF.

Avaaz is ready to engage with Parties that are interested in creating spaces of participation and is willing to facilitate dialogues with our members and our civil society allies and partners.



Avaaz is ready to engage with Parties that are interested in creating spaces of participation and is willing to facilitate dialogues

Suggestion edit for para 13 I under section F. Implementation support mechanisms, part b (iii) (page 7)

*(b) (iii) Building capacities at the individual, organizational and enabling environment levels to facilitate effective policy formulation, the mainstreaming of biodiversity into all sectors, implementation of the framework and the establishment of national systems and measures for transparency, **compliance** and reporting.*

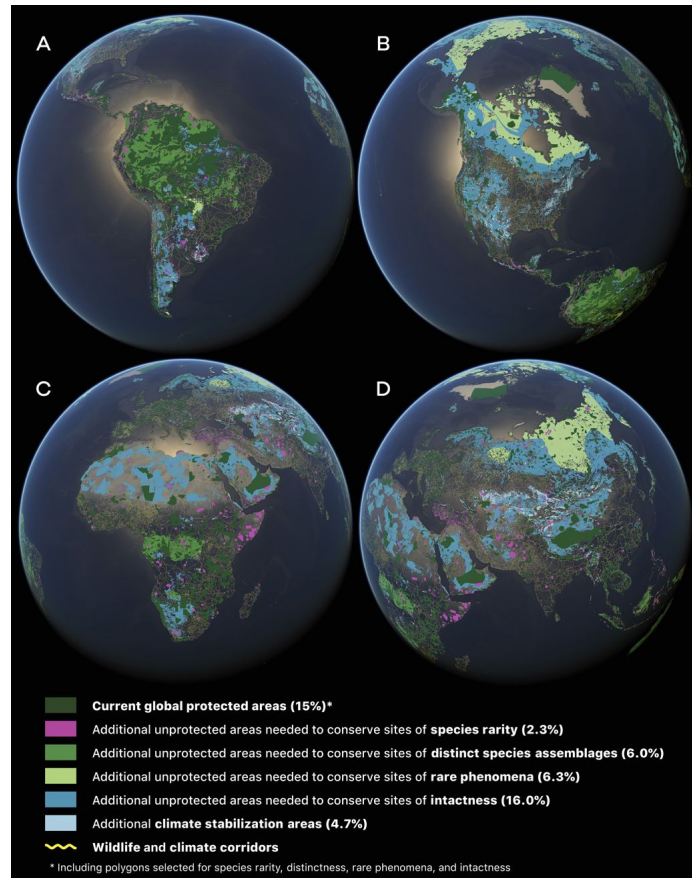
¹² Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean:

https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-18&chapter=27&clang=en

¹³ Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/public-participation/aarhus-convention/text>

The case for an ambitious and inclusive spatial planning: Time for science based targets for area based conservation



Recent evidence shows that more than one-quarter of the world's land is under indigenous management, harboring as much as 80% of the world's biodiversity (Garrett et al. 2018).

Today, more than ever, any approach regarding biodiversity conservation needs to be considered along sustainable use approaches; where people and biodiversity concur, where biodiversity continues to evolve in an inhabited planet, as land and sea are owned and/or used by all the peoples of the world. In particular, it should be understood in the context of the realities and the role of the IPLCs, whose customary land management practices have resulted in positive biodiversity outcomes. It is thus vitally important that the Framework goes beyond simply acknowledging the role of IPLCs in conserving biodiversity, but actually centers the provisioning of land tenure for these communities.

Area-based measures and strategies for biodiversity conservation should therefore include diverse schemes of conservation. This should include the recognition of IPLCs traditional lands, ecosystems under restoration and connectivity plans and projects, as well as natural protected areas in their different categories.

A breakthrough report published in *Science Advances* last September, entitled “A ‘Global Safety Net’ to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize Earth’s climate”¹⁴ concludes that 35.3% of land area in addition to 15.1% of land area currently protected is needed to conserve sites of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the preservation of carbon sinks vital for limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

The two-year research effort builds upon multiple global-scale data sets compiled into five main layers at a 1 km resolution: species rarity sites (2.3%), high biodiversity areas (6%), large mammal landscapes (6.3%), intact wilderness (16%), and additional climate stabilization areas (4.7%), totaling 50.4% of the Earth’s land area. Composite targets are presented by ecoregion and country for each layer based on the analysis of remaining natural habitats.

¹⁴ Dinerstein et al. (September, 2020). A ‘Global Safety Net’ to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize Earth’s climate” <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/36/eabb2824>

Notably, more than 35% of this total land area mentioned above is under indigenous management. Thus the statement presented in the zero draft and its update calling for the GBF to “*be implemented taking a rights-based approach*” (para B7), has a different meaning moving beyond unsustainable policies such as land grabs justified by national commitments on area-based targets.

Avaaz is convinced that a more ambitious area-based conservation target is possible. We also refer to a recent survey of over 335 conservation scientists from 81 countries done by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas' Beyond the Aichi Targets Task Force which reported “very strong support for large-scale percentage area conservation targets, in the order of 50 percent of the Earth.”¹⁵ And also to another review of the literature published by a group of IUCN experts, in which the call for 50% of the Earth is a midpoint of these values and is supported by a range of studies¹⁶.

And again, there's an important element in these pictures that transcend spatial scenarios and the compilation of big data: over a quarter of these lands are communally held by IPLCs, which demonstrates the importance of safeguarding territorial rights for these communities. As stated before, any spatial planning should always put the rights of IPLCs first and therefore the GBF can and should be crystal clear on this topic.



Suggestion edit for Target 1 | under E. 2030 Action Targets (page 5)

*Target 1. By 2030, [**100 percent 50%**] of land and sea areas globally are under **inclusive** spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, retaining most of the existing intact and wilderness areas, **including key biodiversity areas, connectivity zones and other sites of biodiversity importance**, and allow to restore [**50 percent X%**] of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems and connectivity among them.*

Suggestion edit for Target 2 | under E. 2030 Action Targets (page 5)

*Target 2. By 2030, protect and conserve through well connected and effective system of **equitably governed** protected areas, **including Indigenous and community conserved areas** and other effective area-based conservation measures at least **50 30** percent of the planet with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity, **while respecting self-determined governance systems, customary laws and community protocols, and free, prior and informed consent**.*

¹⁵ Woodley, S et al, Area-based conservation beyond 2020: A global survey of conservation scientists (Parks, Vol 25.2 November 2019) See: <https://naturebeyond2020.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Woodley-et-al-survey-PARKS-25.2-Proof-5.pdf>

¹⁶ Locke, H et al, A review of evidence for area-based conservation targets for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Parks, Vol 25.2 November 2019). See: <https://naturebeyond2020.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Woodley-et-al-Targets-PARKS-25.2-proof-3.pdf>

Recommendations

Avaaz strongly suggests reviewing the GBF draft under the light of these proposals, adjusting its scope considering what so many voices have already said, moving from talking to action with the guidance and transparency of strong, universal, interlinked and indivisible goals and targets, for this is imperative for a safe and secure future of prosperity, opportunity and human rights for all.

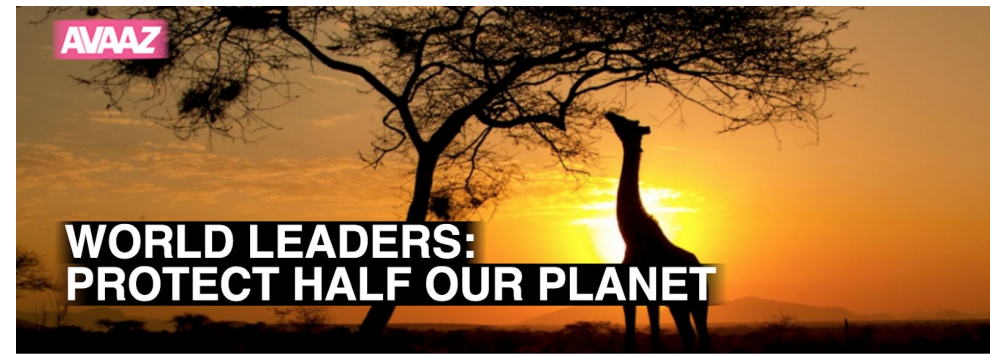
Agree on a science-based set of goals and targets: We can't compromise on science if we don't want to compromise the planet. A stronger set of targets to measure progress towards conservation, restoration and sustainable use of all biodiversity components is still needed. While a convention is a political compromise per se, we must avoid compromises that are not based on science.

IPLCs should be front and centre in the Framework: This is not only our moral duty but a strategic imperative for our global security. Assessing their role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use must go far beyond what has been done for many years in order to ensure their rights and participation, as well as to appreciate their often invisible contribution and track progress with more precision.

End harmful incentives that destroy biodiversity: We urgently need to make progress in the redirection and phasing out of harmful incentives and investments to biodiversity, learning from the failures of [Aichi Target 3](#), in particular.

Accelerate people's participation: Mainstreaming biodiversity necessarily includes public participation, transparency and -again- the full and effective participation of all sectors of the population, especially IPLCs, women and girls, youth and civil society.

Ensure accountability, compliance and transparency: From our perspective, it is essential to have consequences when parties don't fulfil their commitments and the draft should address this more explicitly, as tracking failure enriches amendments and replanning.



AVAAZ

WORLD LEADERS: PROTECT HALF OUR PLANET

To world leaders:

"We global citizens are deeply concerned by scientists warning that ecosystems critical to sustaining life on Earth could collapse in our lifetimes. We call on you to meet existing targets to protect biodiversity, forge a new agreement so that at least 50% of our lands and oceans are protected and restored, and ensure our planet is completely sustainably managed. This must take into consideration the needs of human development and have the active support of indigenous peoples. This long-term goal for nature can restore harmony with our home."

More information:
By 2020, two-thirds of wild animals will be gone. Life is being extinguished as fast as when the dinosaurs disappeared -- and it's happening because humanity is taking a chainsaw to the tree of life.

Enter your email address:

SIGN ▶

By continuing you agree to receive Avaaz emails. Our [Privacy Policy](#) will protect your data and explains how it can be used. You can unsubscribe at any time.

2,500,000
2,384,852

2,384,852 have signed. Let's get to 2,500,000

[2.3 million of Avaaz members](#) and [dozens of indigenous peoples and local communities](#) across the world are urging world leaders to protect and conserve at least half of the planet and sustainably run the other half by 2030, with the leadership and support of IPLCs. The GBF must play a key role in that path to recovery and people can certainly make a difference.

Your turn

About our listening document on the CBD process: A deliberative and safe space to discern next steps



Chief Raoni with the Avaaz advocacy team via Zoom, with the support of a local interpreter (Caiapo to Portuguese) discussing a wide range of issues, from land rights to Covid-19 to deforestation and national and international politics.

Originally, our listening process was meant to help internally at Avaaz to inform and evolve our position but we soon realized that the feedback given by our allies and partners could also be helpful to Parties and other relevant actors of the Convention, not only with regards to the Zero Draft but, more importantly, in the preparatory process ahead of Kunming.

While we're aware that this is a party-led process, we also remind Parties that [decision 14/34](#) (Annex) of the COP-14 in Sharm El-Sheik urging Parties, IPLCs, United Nations organizations and programmes, other multilateral environmental agreements, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, women's groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, citizens at large, and other stakeholders, "to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster strong ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation"¹⁷.

In that spirit, we have initiated since June a series of conversations with actors who, while relevant to the conversation about protecting biodiversity, aren't necessarily aware, familiar or interested in the convention. These inputs and feedback helped to consolidate our ideas, which we're presenting in this document. Now, we'd like to listen to delegates of the Parties about these ideas.

¹⁷ CBD/COP/DEC/14/34 [14/34. Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework] <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-34-en.pdf>

How to take part of the next phase of this listening paper

We would like to hear your inputs and feedback, too

Send us your first thoughts at biodiversity@avaaz.org or register here to participate in our conversations and surveys: <http://bit.ly/GBF-Avaaz-Listening>

On spatial planning

How effective do you consider natural protected areas schemes for ecosystems' conservation? Why?

Does your country have a formal/official system of natural protected areas? Why?

Do you think area-based conservation approaches should more clearly mention/include other land governance schemes?

On IPLCs rights

Do you consider IPLCs territories/traditional lands as a viable element for spatial planning? for ecosystem conservation? Why?

Do you consider IPLCs' traditional protection, conservation and/or use of ecosystems and natural resources a valuable approach to be considered in goals and targets aimed at protecting and conserving biodiversity from now on? Why?

On harmful incentives

Why can an incentive be harmful?

Do you know which are the main harmful incentives affecting biodiversity in your country/region/community?

Should social/cultural aspects be considered in defining incentives as being harmful to the environment?

On participation

What do you understand about the term "full and effective participation"?

What considerations would be needed for participation to be full and effective? Could you mention at least three?

On transparency

What environmental information should be transparent?

Should environmental information be linked to social/cultural information linked to IPLCs?

What considerations should the informant take into account to make information transparent?

Where do you agree?

We know it's necessary, but is it possible for Parties to commit to the following?:

(a) Spatial target: By 2030, 100% of land and sea areas globally are under spatial planning [*by addressing land/sea use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas, including key biodiversity areas, connectivity zones and other sites of biodiversity importance, and restoring 50% of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems and connectivity among them*]? Why?

(b) Subsidies/Incentives: By 2030, 50% reduction of harmful subsidies by 2025 and a 100% elimination of harmful subsidies by 2030? Why?

(c) The IPLCs role: Should the role of IPLCs be explicitly mentioned and considered throughout the GBF text, targets and goals? Why?

(d) Regarding full and effective participation of vulnerable groups, which scheme would be the ideal one to achieve it? Should Parties' delegations include their representatives during CBD meetings and not only in the national preparatory processes? Should IPLCs and other vulnerable groups have a say only on their *relevant* resources [as the draft text reads]? Why?

Or disagree?

Which aspects of this listening paper do you disagree with on principle?

Which aspects of this listening paper do you think are not possible?

What we missed?

Mention the three main topics or proposals that we missed.

What's next?

Do you think the draft text should be reconsidered, rewritten or reviewed under these proposals?

Do you think GBF negotiations should be carried out online?

Do you think the CBD Secretariat should make an official statement regarding online participation and/or negotiations?

What's needed?

What are the elements that this process needs the most?

How can we get there?

How to take part of the next phase of this listening paper

Join this conversation, let's stay in touch

We would like to hear from you and get your feedback. For now, we're having a "free flow" conversation.

Sign-up in this form

Stay in touch and let us know the best way you'd like to stay connected and participate in this informal forum to improve the Zero Draft of the GBF:

<http://bit.ly/GBF-Avaaz-Listening>

In the next few months we'll carry out surveys and informal consultations in several secure formats and platforms.

Send us an e-mail

This email is checked only by our senior advocacy team and email conversations are kept strictly confidential. Send us an email with the subject line "Listening document 2021" to:

biodiversity@avaaz.org

We're opening an encrypted email system for those who want extra security in their correspondence:

avaaz.biodiversity@protonmail.com

WhatsApp chats

We're opening the "Avaaz forum" as a space to exchange views and relevant information about the state of the talks of the global biodiversity Framework. Join the group if you want to participate:

<http://bit.ly/CBD-Process-Avaaz-Forum>

We're opening another group ("Avaaz news" for those who are just interested in receiving news or updates on the CBD:

<http://bit.ly/CBD-Process-Avaaz-News>

Telegram or Signal chats

For those who prefer alternative channels to WhatsApp, we opened two different groups in Telegram and Signal in order to broaden participation while taking additional security measures

<http://bit.ly/CBD-Process-Avaaz-Telegram>

Participants of this Signal group will be able to interact with Avaaz staff and other members. You can also sign up via QR

<http://bit.ly/CBD-Process-Avaaz-Signal>



Annex

(1) Avaaz biodiversity policy documents issued in 2020

Zero Draft - comments submission

* Post-2020 Framework: A Transformational Approach - Avaaz's response to the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ([click here](#))

SBSTTA24 - submissions

* Avaaz's response to the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ([click here](#))

* Linkages between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and 2030 agenda for sustainable development ([click here](#))

* Input to the Information Document on Indicators for the post-2020 GBF, prepared for SBSTTA24 by UNEP-WCMC with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership ([click here](#))

* Avaaz review on SBSTTA24: Updated plan of action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity ([click here](#))

(2) On the nature of our dialogues for this Listening Document

This Listening Document is based on individual interviews or group conversations with around 400 IPLCs and grassroots partner organizations from 100 different countries and territories, from June to December 2020. Avaaz conducted these dialogues via Signal, Telegram, WhatsApp, and Zoom in most of the interactions; HF radio or satellite phones were used in certain cases. In situations where Spanish, Portuguese, English, French, or Russian were not shared languages, we relied on local interpreters. Conversations were unstructured, around 30 to 45 minutes, where people were asked the following questions:

- (a) Do you know about the CBD?
- (b) What do you know about the CBD?
- (c) What do you know about the current preparations to discuss new goals for this decade?
- (d) Are you familiar with the negotiating draft that is under discussion?

Those who showed a certain level of knowledge were asked these questions:

- (a) What we should double down on? What measures (old or new) are essential to win in the new normal? What should we start to do, coming out of this crisis?
- (b) What needs radical reform? What strategic choices are still sound but need to be reformed or repointed in some way to serve our new reality?
- (c) What do we need to let go? What strategies are no longer serving the global biodiversity framework?
- (d) We also asked about their level of interest, confidence and trust in the process. And which new elements are needed for more participation.

(3) On the obligations from the States on respecting IPLCs rights

As biodiversity regeneration has survived better in areas where indigenous and local communities live than in areas where others live, states can fulfill their CBD obligations on in-situ conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity only so far as they respect rights recognised for these communities regarding their life and their local biodiversity regeneration adapted ways of knowing, using and treating plants, animals etc., which sustained biodiversity regeneration and fulfills human rights so that:

01. Each state shall ensure it will, under its laws, “respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application” with such communities’ approval and involvement (CBD article 8(j)).
02. To duly respect and maintain such knowledge and practices of these communities, states must respect these communities rights in regards to their local biodiversity regeneration adapted ways of knowing, using and treating plants, animals and other life, their rights in respect to “indigenous and community conserved areas and territories, community-based management, customary sustainable use and community governance of biodiversity [...] taking into account international instruments and law related to human rights”, like CBD states’ Parties have already committed to do. (UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XII/5, Biodiversity for poverty eradication and sustainable development, paragraph 11).
03. Each state shall “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements” - as indicated by their traditional occupations and their customary land use and tenure - and “support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced”. (CBD articles 10 c-d).
04. “Recognizing the close and traditional dependence of many indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles on biological resources” (preamble) insofar as these are “lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use”, states have to “respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices” of such communities (8 j) and “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements” (CBD article 10 c).
05. Also ecosystem approach requires in “management of land, water and living resources”, that “rights (...) should be recognized” for “communities living on the land” compliant to how “the closer management is to the ecosystem, the greater the responsibility, ownership, accountability, participation, and use of local knowledge”. (CBD Ecosystem Principles 1-2) And sustainable use needs “promoting alternative non-consumptive uses of these resources” in terms of “non-monetary values”. (CBD Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable use of Biodiversity, principle 12 & operational guidelines).
06. As such, communities thus “depend directly on biodiversity and its customary sustainable use and management for their livelihoods, resilience and cultures and are therefore well placed [...] to efficiently and economically manage ecosystems”. States are obliged to respect and protect such cultures of economy by which communities can “efficiently and economically manage ecosystems”. (CBD Customary Sustainable Use Plan of Action UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XII/12, B, Annex, paragraph 6 b).
07. States are obliged to “adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use” (CBD article 11) and to learn thus from the abilities to “efficiently and economically manage ecosystems” from those biodiversity-dependent communities and to “promote their wider application” with such

communities' approval and involvement (CBD article 8(j)) on how such economical use and treatment of ecosystems needs to be managed building international "cooperation for the development and use of (...) indigenous and traditional technologies". (article 18.4)

08. States have to retain their "sovereign right" (CBD article 3) to use and access their natural wealth, prioritising their obligations under the UN Charter based international law "based on the principle of the sovereign equality" of states whose common legal sovereign status and action are further "based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples" (UN Charter articles 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 55-56 and 103) under which "all peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources" with permanent sovereignty over them and so that "in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence" (article 1.2 of the main UN human rights treaties, ICCPR and ICESCR).

09. As peoples' right to live self-determined life in terms of their development and subsistence and to use for these the natural wealth by the regeneration of which they live, requires that the diversity of such natural wealth by which they live has to be sustained, this basis of international law requires biodiversity to be saved also as basis of the realisation of our inalienable human rights. Thus rights to activities which destroy the world's biodiversity cannot comply with the totality of international law: All rights and obligations have to be respected by CBD implementation as it "shall not affect the rights and obligations (...) deriving from any existing international agreement, except where the exercise of those rights and obligations would cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity". (CBD article 22).

10. As the CBD has to respect the totality of rights recognised under international law, it cannot respect rights which would violate the totality of rights by allowing rights to activities which "would cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity" (CBD article 22). As accelerating global biodiversity loss is in many ways driven or boosted by certain commercial types of rights over the use of biodiverse lands, forests and waters, such commercial rights in many ways "cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity" and the states parties of the CBD are thus under article 22 of the Convention -and articles 3,4, 8 (c) & (l) and 18.4- obliged to correct those rights or their implementation in ways which prevent such damage and threat.

(4) On IPBES findings on IPLCs role in biodiversity

The 2019 IPBES assessment cited evidence that much of the world's terrestrial wild and domesticated biodiversity (70%) lies in areas traditionally managed, owned, used or occupied by IPLCs and that despite pressures, IPLCs have often managed their landscapes and seascapes in ways that remain compatible with, or actively support, biodiversity conservation. The IPBES assessment includes approximately 35% of the area that is formally protected and approximately 35% of all remaining terrestrial areas with very low human intervention.

Furthermore, the 2019 IPBES assessment is clear that "goals for conserving and sustainably using nature cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors" and it identifies leverage points for that transformation, including the adherence to human rights in conservation decisions, addressing inequalities, ensuring inclusive decision-making and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

The report cannot be more clear: “Recognizing the knowledge, innovations, practices, institutions and values of indigenous peoples and local communities, and ensuring their inclusion and participation in environmental governance, often enhances their quality of life and the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of nature, which is relevant to broader society.”

The text should put in place effective mechanisms to ensure full participation of IPLCs in all decision-making processes regarding biodiversity, or any projects related to its conservation and restoration. And it should place special emphasis on participation by those affected by its loss, such as family farmers, small scale fishers, women, and youth, at all levels, local, national and international. Here it is important to address power imbalances in participatory processes and guarantee full access to information for rights-holders regarding all projects that could possibly damage biodiversity as well as guaranteeing Free Prior and Informed Consent and the right to oppose projects on principle.

The 2019 IPBES assessment cited evidence that much of the world's terrestrial wild and domesticated biodiversity (70%) lies in areas traditionally managed, owned, used or occupied by IPLCs and that despite pressures, IPLCs have often managed their landscapes and seascapes in ways that remain compatible with, or actively support, biodiversity conservation. The IPBES assessment includes approximately 35% of the area that is formally protected and approximately 35% of all remaining terrestrial areas with very low human intervention.

Examples reported by WRI in the publication *The Road to Restoration: 3 Steps for Transforming Landscapes*:

Kenya's national government worked with partners, like WRI, to collect key data on the physical state of the land, as well as how different interest groups — from government officials to communities — interacted with and shared information. With this, they could [map potential](#), showing the total area that could benefit from restoration, paired with quantified economic, social and environmental benefits. Armed with strong biophysical data and a keen understanding of their social landscape, the Government of Kenya made a scientifically informed [commitment](#) to revitalize 5.1 million hectares (12.1 million acres) of land with the potential of storing more carbon than two years of its total emissions. Similar analysis showed that nearly half of India's territory, over [140 million hectares](#) (346 million acres), could benefit from protecting forests and restoring landscapes, mostly from restoring patches of land across farms and pasture worked by smallholders — not just planting millions of trees to create a forest. With the right restoration interventions, India could sequester an extra 3 to 4.5 gigatons of above-ground carbon by 2040 (around twice India's annual emissions), a significant portion of India's nationally determined contribution (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement on climate change.

— ENDS - February 8, 2021 —