

ONE PLANET BUSINESS FOR BIODIVERSITY (OP2B) VIEWS ON THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ZERO DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

10 February 2020

This submission aims to outline OP2B's views on the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (document [CBD/WG2020/2/3](#)), ahead of its discussion during the second meeting of the open-ended working group in Rome, Italy in late February 2020.

OP2B members appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the zero draft and welcome with appreciation the set of goals, targets and actions outlined in the suggested post-2020 framework. They are strongly committed to developing and scaling up solutions to reduce their environmental impact and restore the world's natural resources and biodiversity, whilst improving farmers' incomes and livelihoods.

OP2B companies are supportive and ready to act in accordance with the principles of the targets and framework suggested in the zero draft. These will form the baseline for the ambitious, timebound science-based and measurable targets that the coalition will disclose during CBD COP15, in an effort to reduce its collective impact on biodiversity.

More specifically, OP2B members wish to highlight the following aspects of the zero draft as key enablers in the creation of a post-2020 framework that will effectively protect the world's biodiversity.

a) Reducing threats to biodiversity

OP2B members fully support all of CBD's suggested actions to reduce threats to biodiversity. In line with the objectives listed under this first section, the coalition pledged to take actions to eliminate deforestation, enhance the management, restoration and protection of high-value ecosystems, including grasslands, wetlands and forests.

Conforming to their commitment to promote the development of nature-based solutions, OP2B members fully support decreasing the reliance on synthetic input, in line with the objectives outlined in paragraph 12(a)(4), and the scientific effort needed to assess the impact of these substances on the environment and biodiversity in the medium term. In order to best measure progress on this goal, a standalone target on the reduction of pollution from nutrients and biocides should be created. The creation of a separate goal would also allow to better measure the progress made against the objectives set out in paragraphs 10(c) and 12(c)(16).

OP2B members would also support the creation of a separate objective focusing on the elimination of plastic waste by 2030, a key indicator to measure the progress of our members in the reduction of their impact on nature. Furthermore, OP2B members suggest the creation of a separate indicator which focuses on the removal of legacy plastic pollution already present in ecosystems through specific and measurable targets.

b) Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

OP2B members strongly believe that supporting a sustainable use of natural resources (wild and cultivated) is a key driver to protect biodiversity as a whole. In this context, OP2B members support the implementation of the Nagoya protocol, which should provide clear guidelines for the effective implementation of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of local genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

In addition, the role that small holders and farmers play in safeguarding and developing nature-based solutions and knowledge should be better recognised and valued. The introduction of the two paragraphs 10(e) and 12(b)(11) could be amended to make a first step toward the possibility for farmers to receive a fair share of the benefits gained from the preservation of nature and restoration of soil health unlocked through their practices on land. Alongside governments, the private sector has a pivotal role to play to facilitate farmers' access to such benefits. Finally, farmers are instrumental in protecting wild biodiversity on both a local and global scale, which should be highlighted in paragraph 12(c)(19).

Regarding the sustainable use of wild species, we suggest disaggregating 12(b)7 into two separate points, as the current wording potentially conflates two issues. More specifically, while human-wildlife conflict certainly results from the harvesting of wild species, it is also intrinsically linked to the expansion of agricultural land into previously 'wild' habitats. To facilitate the achievement of the goals outlined in this paragraph, two separate indicators should be created: one measuring the progress made in converting and protecting agricultural land to provide enhanced nutrition and livelihoods, and one measuring the reduction of human-wildlife conduct.

OP2B members believe that nature-based solutions, centred on soil health, should be encouraged under point b), as they align fully with the CBD's objectives outlined in this post-2020 framework.

More specifically, OP2B members believe the inclusion of the following key enablers would strengthen the post-2020 framework:

- Regenerative agriculture should be encouraged and promoted. Centred on preserving soil health, regenerative agriculture aims to leverage the power of plants to keep carbon in the soil (carbon sequestration), increase the capacity of soils to hold water, enhance the resilience of crops, support the livelihoods of farmers, and regain the nutrient density of food while also decreasing reliance on synthetic inputs. In line with the objectives of paragraph 12(b)(8), we strongly believe that regenerative agriculture provides a variety of nature-based solutions that would help achieve the goals outlined in the zero draft;
- All stakeholders in the supply chains should be encouraged to allow for more genetic variety and diversity in ingredients and local species, seeds, and animal breeds to be cultivated, traded, and used in foods and associated products, in line with the objectives of paragraph 10(c), 12(b)(7), 12(b)(8).
- Finally, OP2B companies are committed to achieving the objective outlined in 12(c)(17) by playing their part in encouraging consumers and citizens to adopt planetary diets¹ that are more respectful of the world's biodiversity.

c) Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

OP2B members fully support the will to reform financial incentives and eliminate subsidies that are “most harmful to biodiversity” to transition toward a new, more sustainable, socially inclusive and biodiversity-friendly economy that places soil regeneration at its core, while producing enough supply to meet current and future demand from a growing global population. This model implies a systemic approach and important shifts throughout the value chain.

Therefore, paragraph 12(c)(12) should also reflect the need for existing subsidies to be redirected to reach the most impactful players in the value chains, from farmers to local authorities, and consumers, in order to incentivise carbon-positive investments that will deliver value on the long-term, such as local capacity-building and training, carbon sequestration activities, or support the development of innovative financial levers for biodiversity, such as output-based financing mechanisms or blended finance to mobilise private investment and engage the banking and insurance systems. In fact, carbon sequestration, has been widely acknowledged as a nature-based solution to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and will play a decisive role in achieving the goals set out in paragraphs 10(d)(iv) and 12(a)(6).

A multi-stakeholder approach to biodiversity preservation at the local level is also an instrumental solution in the implementation of CBD’s post-2020 framework. In line with paragraphs 14(a) and 14(b), OP2B members wish to stress the importance of integrated livelihoods management in protecting biodiversity while guaranteeing the income of local small holders and farmers, respecting the rights of local and indigenous people, encouraging biodiversity-positive private and public investments, supporting local and subnational authorities in landscape planning and supporting citizens and consumers to adopt a planetary diet. This approach also applies to the targets outlined in paragraphs 12(c)(13) and 12(c)(20), which are fully supported by OP2B members.

d) Implementation support mechanisms and enabling conditions

Though much of the implementation and monitoring will occur at national levels, in order to facilitate the widespread uptake of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its chances of success, OP2B members urge the adoption of a commonly agreed methodology and monitoring framework. As for the Paris Agreement, a science-based approach should be followed when defining targets and objectives. In addition, identifying existing knowledge gaps on the state of ecosystems or wildlife populations, to be filled wherever needed, will ensure the targets adopted are transparent and can be efficiently monitored by and compared between stakeholders from both the public and private sector, from multinational companies to SMEs, at local, national and international levels.

When knowledge exists, the targets put forward in the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will serve as a baseline for OP2B’s upcoming best practices compendium and targets. For instance, for objectives outlined in paragraphs 10(d)(i), 10(d)(ii), and 12(b)(9), most OP2B members have already adopted targets, which will be reflected in the coalition’s framework of solutions to be published in June 2020. However, for objectives related to climate change mitigation, wild species, emission reduction or productivity gap, the coalition highlights the need for further knowledge-sharing in order to align on methodologies and metrics. OP2B members are willing to contribute any data they have that could prove helpful in this respect.

Finally, OP2B companies support the need of transparency as underlined in paragraph 16 and have committed to report on their progress annually.

OP2B members wish to give their support to the contributions submitted by the coalitions *Business for Nature* and *ICC*, which outline positions are complementary to the propositions formulated in this document.

OP2B companies welcomed the opportunity to provide input into the design of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and remain committed to use this framework as a guide in their objective to drive transformational systemic change and restore cultivated and natural biodiversity within value chains.

About One Planet Business for Biodiversity (OP2B)

One Planet Business for Biodiversity (OP2B) is a unique international cross-sectorial, action-oriented business coalition on biodiversity with a specific focus on agriculture. The coalition is determined to drive transformational systemic change and catalyse action to protect and restore cultivated and natural biodiversity within the value chains, engage institutional and financial decision-makers, and develop and promote policy recommendations in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 15 framework to be held in 2020. Hosted by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the coalition currently consists of twenty-one companies.