

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

31 May 2021

This paper aims to outline OP2B's views on the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1).

OP2B members appreciate the opportunity to contribute comments on the updated zero draft and welcome the set of goals, targets, and actions outlined in the suggested framework. They specifically welcome with appreciation the inclusion of all stakeholders in the process, welcoming that the private sector is explicitly mentioned in G.(14)(b)¹. OP2B members acknowledge that the challenges facing biodiversity are complex. They are already involved in generating solutions, and engaging in ambitious pathways to accelerate change for the protection and restoration of biodiversity. Nature is a complex system comprised of both natural and managed ecosystems, both of which have to be taken into consideration. Thus, OP2B members warmly welcome and encourage the CBD to take into account the productive sector. In light of the possibility of negative spillover effects from managed to natural ecosystems it is important to include the productive sector. Negative spillover effects may deter the desired outcomes from conservation efforts, which underlines the necessity of the inclusive approach that the CBD is taking. Agricultural production has a very big impact on nature, and in this view, the sectors dependent on agriculture can make a significant contribution to preserving biodiversity, and can be a vehicle for a nature-positive recovery. Scaling up Regenerative Agriculture to protect soil health, developing product portfolios to boost cultivated biodiversity and increase the resilience of the food system as well as eliminating deforestation are three key actions that aim to nurture and restore biodiversity, which OP2B members are on the path towards today.

Following OP2B's February 2020 contribution to the zero-draft, OP2B members wish to highlight the following aspects of the updated zero draft in the creation of a post-2020 framework that will effectively protect and promote sustainable use of the world's biodiversity.

a) Mobilizing resources

OP2B members fully align with the CBD on the notion that action to protect biodiversity needs the right enabling conditions, which includes the adequate mobilization of resources. They welcome with appreciation the dedication of action target 17² to this notion. In the context of the CBD's proposals in action target 18³ and section F. (13)(a)(i)⁴ and (iii)⁵, OP2B members would encourage a

¹ G.(14)(b) "The participation of all relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, youth, civil society, local and subnational authorities, the private sector, academia and scientific institutions through a whole-of-society approach and through inclusive and representative multi-stakeholder and multisectoral platforms;"

² Target 17 "By 2030, redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, including [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."

³ Target 18 "By 2030, increase by [X%] financial resources from all international and domestic sources, through new, additional and effective financial resources commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework and implement the strategy for capacity-building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation to meet the needs for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework."

⁴ F.(13)(a)(i) "An enhanced financial mechanism that delivers resources for developing countries;"

⁵ F.(13)(a)(iii) "Generating additional financial and non-financial resources from all sources, including from international and domestic sources and the public and private sectors"

strengthening of action target 17, to completely eliminate all subsidies and incentives harmful to biodiversity, as defined by the OECD⁶, and envisage full redirection and repurposing of said resources. The global economy is currently not in a position to create new financial resources at scale, making it even more important that currently available resources are fully used to protect biodiversity and promote its sustainable use. OP2B members wish to strongly emphasize the concept of elimination and redirection. Redirecting subsidies harmful to biodiversity, as defined by the OECD, are an important avenue to increase the financial resources available for the goals of the GBF. Beyond that, eliminating harmful subsidies will decrease the amount of damage done to ecosystems, meaning that less resources will have to be spent on restoring them. This strategy can play a key role in speeding up the transition while keeping it accessible to all stakeholders.

b) Specifying the contributions made by the private sector

OP2B members welcome the direction and fully align with the CBD on the need to reduce the negative impacts on biodiversity by ensuring that production practices and supply chains are sustainable, as noted in action target 14⁷. In order for the economic sphere to be able to contribute to the transition, it is important that the framework be sensitive to the differences between different sectors and value chains, and give well-adapted guidance to the different stakeholders. In this view, action target 14 may be complemented by sub targets quoting the individual sectors and their proposed actions, in order for business to be able to engage in a monitored way. Accountability is a key motivator, and segregation along the value chains along with the resulting accountability will enable business to move forward. Regarding agriculture, OP2B supports the objective of reducing the negative impact by 50%.

The objective of implementing regeneration should be added wherever possible, such as in action target 14 and action target 9⁸. As written, the ambition of the targets is to maintain sustainability. OP2B members would appreciate an increased ambition, promoting regenerative practices and the use of the power of nature to restore what has been damaged. In order for OP2B member companies to take action, specific interest should be paid not only to natural biodiversity, but also to cultivated biodiversity.

OP2B members further emphasize the need to attract attention to the loss of genetic biodiversity, and the need to protect it. In this view, they would like to introduce the word “diversity” into the language of action target 9. The members call on the CBD secretariat to introduce this notion into the targets.

OP2B members would also support a clarification of action target 6⁹, a key indicator for the members to measure their progress in reducing their impact on nature. They suggest for action target 6 to also recognize the importance of heritage plastic already present in ecosystems. Adding this additional indicator would help accelerate nature recovery, as some technologies for recovering certain types of heritage plastic pollution are already in existence and ready to be deployed.

⁶ OECD (2003), *Environmentally Harmful Subsidies: Policy Issues and Challenges*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264104495-en>.

⁷ Target 14 “By 2030, achieve reduction of at least [50%] in negative impacts on biodiversity by ensuring production practices and supply chains are sustainable.”

⁸ Target 9 “By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%].”

⁹ Target 6 “By 2030, reduce pollution from all sources, including reducing excess nutrients [by x%], biocides [by x%], plastic waste [by x%] to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health.”

c) Increasing the availability of knowledge while progressing in the transition

OP2B members acknowledge the scale of the transition that is awaited from society, and acknowledge the critical importance of traditional knowledge and technology transfers as enablers, as the CBD has put forward in action target 19¹⁰ and implementing conditions F.(d)¹¹. When considering regenerative agriculture, the context of the recent pandemic as well as the challenges present in the current food system needs to be acknowledged. Within the past 50 years, the global agriculture and food system has brought an abundance of affordable consumption products to large swathes of the population, while considerably improving food security for the most vulnerable ones. But this success has come at a considerable cost: the agriculture sector already accounts for 80% of deforestation, 70% of global fresh-water use, and a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. The food system alone is responsible for around 60% of global biodiversity loss, fueled by an increasingly specialized agricultural system, loss of both wild and cultivated biodiversity due to land use change, monoculture and intensive farming practices. With these circumstances in mind, OP2B members acknowledge that a lot innovation from practitioners on the field is needed, and underline the need to elevate this resource. Additionally to the critical importance of traditional knowledge, they stress the importance of practitioner knowledge. There is a need for innovation on nature based solutions, which will derive from local practitioner knowledge. In this view, OP2B members would welcome an added section F. (d) (iii), on developing practitioner knowledge to make it actionable and fit for the future.

As stated in action target 19, there is a need to ensure quality information, and OP2B members stress the need to progress on the baseline of knowledge that is available today. They welcome all efforts aimed at improving the data available on the status of the planet. Additionally to the critical importance of traditional knowledge, OP2B members suggest to place a focus on tools such as spatial planning and the cataloguing of species in order to enhance the base of knowledge available to decision makers.

d) Emphasizing the need for action based targets

OP2B members welcome with appreciation the action targets that the CBD has put forward. They urge for the development of an ambitious framework matching the gravity of the challenge that needs to be overcome. In the context of the urgency with which action to protect biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use is needed, OP2B members urge the CBD to encourage immediate action from stakeholders. Increased emphasis might be placed on wording to ensure implementation of intermediate action based targets, complementary to long term result based targets. In spite of the aforementioned lack of a baseline of knowledge, it is important to now encourage actions that yield immediate outcomes, although focus on results-based targets will remain important in the future. OP2B members wish to stress that resource mobilization should include this consideration, and that

¹⁰ Target 19 "By 2030, ensure that quality information, including traditional knowledge, is available to decision makers and public for the effective management of biodiversity through promoting awareness, education and research."

¹¹ F.(d) "Technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation is crucial for the implementation of the framework including:

- (i) Support mechanisms for technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation on mutually agreed terms;
- (ii) Support for cooperation amongst developing countries and with developed countries"



financial resources should be used to promote immediate actions, in order to ensure that no time is lost in combatting the biodiversity crisis and transition into a nature positive economy.

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 2021. Hosted by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the coalition currently consists of twenty-seven companies.

Annex – Proposed Language Amendments

In addition to the reasoning put forward above, OP2B members wish to put forward the following language amendments to the updated zero-draft.

Current Text	Suggested Amendment
<p>E. 2030 Action Targets Target 6</p> <p>By 2030, reduce pollution from all sources, including reducing excess nutrients (by X%), biocides (by X%), plastic waste (by X%) to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health</p>	<p>E. 2030 Action Targets Target 6</p> <p>By 2030, reduce pollution from all sources, including reducing excess nutrients (by X%), biocides (by X%), plastic waste (by X%) establishing goals to address heritage plastic to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health</p>
<p><i>Justification. In order to accelerate nature recovery, and as the technologies for recovery of heritage plastic already exist, an additional indicator on recovery of leaked plastic in the environment may be added.</i></p>	

Current Text	Suggested Amendment
<p>E. 2030 Action Targets Target 9</p> <p>By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation, and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least (50%).</p>	<p>Target 9</p> <p>By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through diversity conservation, regeneration, and sustainable use of such ecosystems. reducing productivity gaps by at least (50%).</p>
<p><i>Justification: Regenerative agricultural practices can significantly contribute to the sustainability and resilience of biodiversity, which is why the notion might be added to the target. As emphasized by FAO, soil as an ecosystem is essential for biodiversity goals, which is why soil health may be included in the table of ecosystems in the sub-targets. Increased emphasis should be placed on the need to halt the loss of genetic diversity, which is why OP2B proposes to add the notion of diversity here.</i></p>	

Current Text	Suggested Amendment
<p>E. 2030 Action Targets Target 14</p> <p>By 2030, achieve reduction of at least [50%] in negative impacts on biodiversity by ensuring production practices and supply chains are sustainable.</p>	<p>E. 2030 Action Targets Target 14</p> <p>By 2030, achieve reduction of at least [50%] in negative impacts on biodiversity, by ensuring regenerative and sustainable production practices and supply chains, are sustainable.</p>

Justification: Regenerative practices in particular should be encouraged as a tool to promote the power of nature in restoring itself.

Current Text	Suggested Amendment
<p>E. 2030 Action Targets Target 15</p> <p>By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity and thus make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions.</p>	<p>E. 2030 Action Targets Target 15</p> <p>By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, and thus make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions, including by adopting policies and measures to incentivize the demand for more sustainable products and services and stimulate the large-scale adoption of a circular economy.</p>
<p><i>Justification: By designing appropriate incentives, the public sector can create a level playing field and thus make the needed transformation affordable and accessible for all stakeholders. The incentives could be used to support SMEs, smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities etc., and to create an enabling environment for consumers. One stakeholder group alone cannot achieve the transformation at scale, which is why finance should take on an active role in contributing to the enabling environment. In this view, we refer to the ongoing work on resource mobilization with the expert panel and Business for Nature.</i></p>	

Current Text	Suggested Amendment
<p>E. 2030 Action Targets Target 17</p> <p>By 2030, redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, including (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</p>	<p>E. 2030 Action Targets Target 17</p> <p>By 2030, redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, including (full) reduction in the most harmful direct and indirect subsidies and tax policies, ensuring that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives are either positive or neutral for biodiversity. By 2030, implement repurposed incentives geared towards regenerative practices or circular economy.</p>
<p><i>Justification: The ambition has to include the elimination of all subsidies harmful to biodiversity as defined by the OECD, as in the face of continued biodiversity degradation this practice is not at all feasible. It is critical that incentives are appropriately redirected and repurposed towards actions that regenerate nature and increase biodiversity resilience.</i></p>	