

# Towards a new CBD Strategy 2021 - 2030 Results of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop

## Aim of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Montreal

On December 10th 2017, WWF hosted the first international workshop to discuss the **vision, mission and the five strategic goals** of the current Strategic Plan 2011-2020 in Montreal prior to SBSTTA-21. Inter alia, the following questions were addressed:

- **Should the vision, mission and strategic goals be maintained, adjusted, or amended?**
- **Do we need additional strategic goals until 2030 to better link to the SDGs?**

The agenda of the workshop is provided in Annex 1. Thirty-two participants from different stakeholder groups attended the workshop. A summary of the workshop discussions was presented to more than 50 participants at a SBSTTA-21 side event on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

## Background

In 2020, the 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD is expected to decide on a new CBD strategy for the next decade. In anticipation of this, WWF Germany is organizing three international workshops with experts from different stakeholder groups and disciplines to prepare a final paper with contributions to the deliberations of the new CBD strategy. In this discussion paper, WWF aims to provide concrete input to the ideas and proposals relevant for the positions of different actors, such as Parties to the CBD or various non-governmental organizations and stakeholders. Information on the project can be found here: <http://www.biodiv.de/en/projekte/aktuell/cbd-strategy.html>.

The project will run until the end of 2018 and intermediate results will be presented at side events of SBSTTA-21 in 2017, and SBSTTA-22 and SBI-2 in mid-2018. WWF anticipates presenting the final discussion paper at the 14th Conference of the Parties in Egypt at the end of 2018.

## Background information for the 1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop: submissions from Parties and stakeholders on the preparations for the post-2020 biodiversity framework

In June 2017, the CBD Secretariat asked for submissions from Parties, other governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities on the preparations for the post-2020 biodiversity framework in order to prepare for deliberations on the process. The respective submissions, as well as a note from the CBD Secretariat on the approaches for the preparation, a paper on scenarios for the 2050 vision, and an analysis on the relationship between biodiversity and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development were made available on the CBD website.

A background paper summarizing elements from the aforementioned submissions was circulated prior to the first workshop (see Annex 2).

## Modus operandi of the workshop

The report from the first international workshop clusters comments made by participants under the headlines of general strategic aspects and the relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2050 vision, 2020 mission, and Strategic Goals A - E of the CBD's current Strategic Plan 2011 - 2020. The workshop was explicitly NOT meant to reach consensus or negotiate any compromise positions, but to discuss, share, and catalogue views and opinions. Therefore, the comments may be contradictory in some aspects, e.g. the timeframe of a post-2020 biodiversity framework.

## Results

The following chapters summarize the discussion at the workshop and also include comments provided at the side event during SBSTTA-21 on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### 1. Strategic discussion on the alignment of a post 2020 CBD strategy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

Participants exchanged views on how the relationship of the future CBD strategy should be shaped with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>.

To identify in which direction the discussion should proceed, participants were asked to vote on three possible options:

- a) Draft a new strategic goal addressing this relationship,
- b) Take an integrative approach and include wording into the current 5 Strategic Goals to align both strategies,
- c) Use a different approach.

As picture 3 shows, the majority of the participants voted to integrate wording of the SDGs into CBD's existing strategic goals.



<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 (2015): *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E))

The results of the discussion, which also cover reflections on the new CBD strategy as such, and the comments received at the side event are summarized below:

#### **Aspects on alignment of SDGs and CBD's post 2020 strategy**

- i) Some biodiversity-related targets of the SDGs are also set until 2020. What mechanism is in place - or has to be established - to update these targets and would that be in line with the CBD post-2020 framework?
- ii) Is it an advantage if the SDGs and a post-2020 biodiversity framework end at the same time in 2030? Would it be better to decide on a different timeframe for the CBD strategy, e.g. until 2035, which a potential SDG follow-up strategy could build on?
- iii) Strong targets are needed to influence the next round of SDGs in 2030.
- iv) There are many linkages between Aichi targets and the SDGs and these linkages have been investigated; this evidence should be used accordingly.
- v) Biodiversity goals and SDGs can be aligned, because drivers for biodiversity loss and poverty are widely the same; overconsumption is a driver of poverty as well, hence a change in consumption patterns is needed.
- vi) SDG 8 (on economic growth) as it stands now is counterproductive to the efforts under the CBD.
- vii) Alignment with the SDGs is possible via targets and indicators, but implementation has to be emphasized; socio-economic [constraints] [blockages] (e.g. corruption) have to be mentioned and overcome.
- viii) In some parts, the language in the SDGs is stronger than in the current CBD Strategic Plan; hence, the language of the new strategy must be stronger.
- ix) Work load of reporting to all MEAs could be reduced by alignment of SDGs and CBD post-2020 framework.

#### **Views on the development of the post 2020 CBD strategy:**

- i) Is the current format of vision, mission, strategic goals, and targets the best format? It seems unclear what and whom the different levels want to reach.
- ii) A new strategic framework needs a holistic view, more transparency, better implementation and a compliance mechanism.
- iii) A link to development cooperation is missing in the current plan and needs to be included.
- iv) Biodiversity and health aspects should be in the new plan.
- v) The new plan should include a target on plastic marine debris.
- vi) Discussion should focus on means and ways for implementation rather than on negotiating a new conceptual framework.
- vii) Formulate targets in a way that reporting on implementation clearly links to targets (e.g. in the current plan efforts on protected areas are only reported under target 11, although they contribute also to other targets like target 12 on threatened species).
- viii) On target 11: It is not meant that each and every country has to protect 17% of its territory. Some countries can stay below that benchmark; others can exceed, depending on biodiversity hotspots, significant areas etc.; plan has to include or refer to indicators and implementation mechanisms (e.g. HOW do we reduce direct pressures?).
- ix) Would a follow-up strategy, which differs heavily from the current strategic plan, lead to the need to change NBSAPs significantly, even if they have been agreed on recently?
- x) Communicate that the post 2020 framework helps to implement nearly all SDGs, not only SDGs 14 and 15; e.g. SDG 12 is fully in line with the 2050 vision. The new plan should show that it is in line with what was already agreed under the SDGs.
- xi) CBD targets are much more detailed than the biodiversity parts of the SDGs and there is a need for a strong post 2020 framework of the CBD. Just merging into the SDGs is not enough.
- xii) Take the SDGs as a basis and 1) design a new biodiversity-centered version of each of them and align them with the Aichi targets, 2) examine if something is missing and formulate new targets if needed.

#### **Reflections on general and cross-cutting issues**

- i) Aichi targets were much too broad and this is one reason why stock-taking is currently difficult. New targets must be much more focused on biodiversity

- issues and accompanied by indicators, which would allow progress to be measured more readily.
- ii) Concentrate on the core of the CBD instead of integrating all sorts of challenges into a new biodiversity framework.
  - iii) The broadness of CBD appears to be a curse, because nearly everything can be dealt with under the CBD. It would be wise to concentrate on the biodiversity needs and send a strong message on these needs to other bodies, like sectoral bodies. This has happened already e.g. with CBD's ecosystem approach taken up by FAO.
  - iv) As CBD has a leading role amongst MEAs, each CBD strategic plan has outreach into other conventions (e.g. CITES, Ramsar), which should be kept in mind while crafting the new strategy.
  - v) There is a need to link the drivers of biodiversity loss with issues policy makers are interested in to emphasize the consequences of biodiversity loss.
  - vi) Short term goals can trigger urgent action.
  - vii) Include associated knowledge systems.
  - viii) Changing text of goals does not change anything on the ground.
  - ix) Why not develop a protocol for sustainable use, including aspects of liability and redress (on which there is already a work programme). This process could be informed by an IPBES assessment on sustainable use, which should be compiled before 2030.
  - x) There could be a new protocol on ethics, animal rights, and legal status of ecosystems and human/wildlife relationship.

In the final round of comments, it was highlighted that the CBD needs to reflect the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems as one of the foundations of societies and economies as expressed in the figure below.

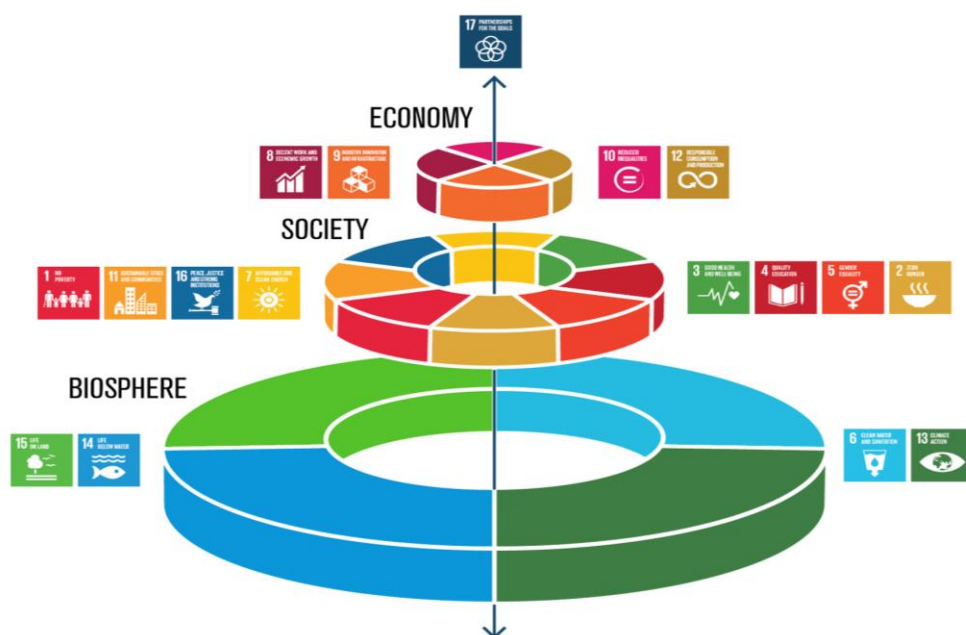


Figure 1. The biosphere underpins human society, and provides the basis on which to achieve all SDGs. Source: Rockström & Sukhdev (2016) and Folke et al. (2016)

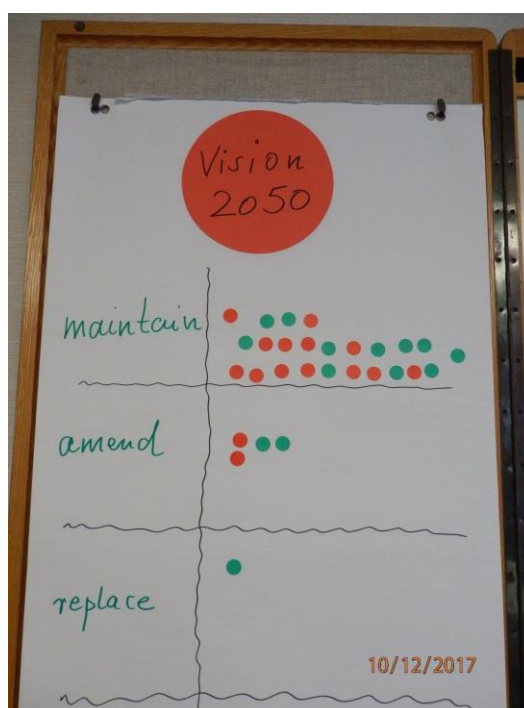
## 2. Discussion on the 2050 Vision

*“Living in harmony with nature” where by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.*

To stimulate the discussion on the 2050 Vision, participants voted to choose between:

- a) Maintaining the text of the vision as it is,
- b) Amending the text,
- c) Replacing it with new text.

Picture 1 shows that the majority of the participants favor maintaining the text of the vision as it stands.



Workshop participants expressed the following arguments as to why the vision's text should be maintained:

- i) The vision is inclusive and was meant as a long-term vision; thus, it should not be changed after ten years.
- ii) Changing text would signify losing comparability and reopening wording for negotiations could weaken it.
- iii) While it might be best to maintain it, rationale or more detailed explanations might be useful.

Comments and arguments to review the vision's text were also put forward in the workshop discussion:

- i) The vision's text is formulated passively, not very clearly, complex, weak, unspecific, and in parts repetitive.
- ii) It does not express the urgency of action needed and appears too far away from people's reality.
- iii) If redrafted, the text should use more active formulations, including a clear target like the 1.5° temperature rise benchmark of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC.
- iv) The vision should refer to the three goals of the CBD, including an explanation on 'wisely used', and could use the term 'nature's contributions to people' instead of 'ecosystem services'.
- v) A reference to 'restoring nature' should be included, but it is uncertain how a reference level would be defined.
- vi) A vision could be 'have earth in a nature state'



Participants at the side event provided the following comments:

- i) The text of the vision is too passive and sounds as if we should just wait to see what happens
- ii) Amend '...essential for all people', so it reads '...essential for all life, including people'.
- iii) The vision's timeframe should only be 2040 to express urgency.
- iv) Align the vision with the SDG timeframe of 2030; develop new targets with the indicator community to ensure that progress can be measured.
- v) The vision's text should communicate better that biodiversity is underpinning nearly all SDGs; this could also be expressed in the mission.
- vi) If the three Rio Conventions would be bundled, a vision with a more integrated approach could be formulated.

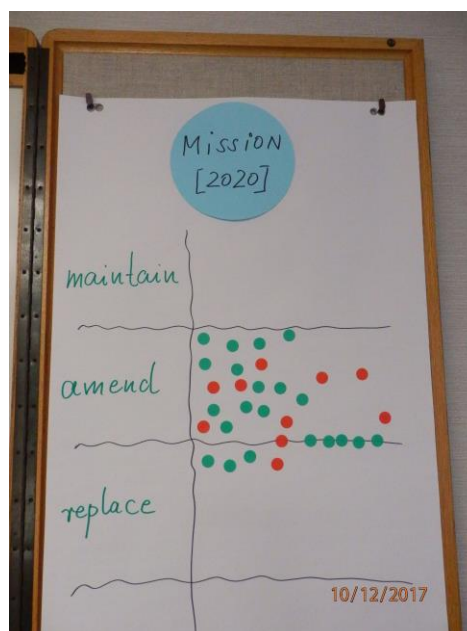
### 3. Discussion on the 2020 Mission

The mission of the Strategic Plan is to  
*take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach.*

Again, participants voted between:

- a) Maintaining the text of the mission as it is,
- b) Amending the text,
- c) Replacing it with new text.

The majority of the participants favor amending the text, while some are uncertain if amending or replacing is better (picture 2).



Workshop participants expressed the following arguments as to why the mission's text should be amended:

- i) The mission is too long and includes too many issues.
- ii) It does not express urgency and is imbalanced with the three CBD goals.
- iii) Core aspects of ecology and biodiversity should be central in the mission.
- iv) Some of the current formulations are weaker than in other MEAs.

- v) It is unclear who is addressed by the mission and who should take action.

If a new mission will be developed, the following should be considered:

- i) A new mission text should express urgency and be formulated in a way as to call on people to act.
- ii) It was emphasized that the CBD cannot have a single clear target like the 1.5° target of the UNFCCC; however, the mission should be easy to communicate, which is considered impossible with the current mission.
- iii) The main message should be to call on a transformational change.
- iv) A clear statement that biodiversity is the fundament of life on earth and that the SDGs and climate targets will not be reached without securing biodiversity is needed.
- v) More emphasis should be given to main drivers and pressures, such as land use change.
- vi) Respect for the needs of future generations should be included.
- vii) New phrasing could be along the lines of 'halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and to reverse the downward trend by 2040 through restoration' as a strategy to achieve the 2050 vision.
- viii) Milestones could be mentioned; however an implementation mechanism would also be needed and explained with a rationale.
- ix) If the mission would emphasize that 'diversity' also includes cultural and social diversity, the linkage to SDGs would be easier.
- x) Negotiating a new mission would be better than just trying to amend the current text.
- xi) It was questioned if a mission is needed at all or if it is just fashion to have a mission statement included as part of a strategy.

The mission was not discussed at the side event.

#### 4. The five Strategic Goals

The general view on the five strategic goals was that they provide an organizational structure that ensures the various targets are subsumed under the appropriate strategic goal. Targets should be sorted under those goals addressing strategic pathways and those that address the means of implementation. It was proposed that all strategic goals should be amended with qualifiers.

##### **Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and sectors**

The following points were covered in the workshop's discussion and at the side event:

- i) Retain the goal but make strong link to SDG by integrating particular wording.
- ii) The underlying causes of biodiversity loss need to be captured; hence, Goal A stays valid and most important.
- iii) Without deep reforms of public incentives and trade regulations, we won't be able to stop biodiversity loss.
- iv) Wording could be more ambitious; make the text more encouraging by referring also to solutions and not only to drivers.
- v) Target 4: 'safe ecological limits' needs a reference or base line.
- vi) Target 1 lacks means of implementation.
- vii) Targets with a link to SDG 4 (education), SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and SDG 16 (societies and justice) could be included or strengthened.

##### **Proposal for text amendments of Strategic Goal A:**

[Effectively and urgently] [combat] [tackle] [eliminate] [reduce] the underlying causes [and drivers, in particular consumption,] of biodiversity [and cultural diversity] loss by ~~mainstreaming~~ [integrating biodiversity into decision making] ~~biodiversity~~ across governments, sectors, [business], [communities and] [society as a whole].

## **Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use**

The following points were covered in the workshop's discussion and at the side event:

- i) As the pressures continue, a strategic goal addressing direct pressures will still be needed in a new CBD strategic framework.
- ii) Capture the idea of land use change as a main driver for biodiversity loss in a strategic goal on pressures/drivers.
- iii) Targets under Goal B are very succinct and should be maintained.
- iv) Target 6 needs reference to habitat conservation and restoration (linked to target 10, but should also consider pollution and open water development/exploration activities).
- v) Keep the approach of Target 10 (coral reefs, climate) even though it was not achieved in 2015 as stated.
- vi) Insert quantitative figures, such as 'reduce by 25%'.
- vii) Split Goal B into two parts: Part 1: Decrease direct pressures on biodiversity by X amount by Y of time until they are eliminated. Part 2: Continual improvement and adoption of sustainable practices, so as to make sustainable use of biodiversity a reality.
- viii) Targets under Goal B have thematic linkages to SDGs 2 (food security), SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), 14 (oceans), 15 (terrestrial ecosystems).

### **Proposal for text amendments of Strategic Goal B:**

[Reduce] [eliminate] the direct pressures on biodiversity [by %] and [promote] [ensure] sustainable use [including] [especially] [customary sustainable use] [of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems].

## **Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity**

The following points were covered in the workshop's discussion and at the side event:

- i) More ambition should be expressed in the Targets, e.g. 'halt the loss and restore' or go for 'absolute halt' or 'halt the loss of nature by 2025 and restore the status of nature to that of 2000 by 2050'.
- ii) Should include genetic and cultural diversity.
- iii) Goal C is missing the concept of sustainable management of ALL species, not just the cultivated ones (Target 13) and the threatened ones (Target 12); needs a concept of preventing other species from becoming threatened.
- iv) Separate the numeric targets under Target 11 for protected areas and other effective conservation measures.
- v) Importance of biodiversity should be stressed more, not only improving the status; status improvement should be better measurable (indicators).
- vi) Language and ambition of Goal C is weaker than what is included in the SDGs.

### **Proposal for text amendments of Strategic Goal C:**

Improve the status of biodiversity [and prevent biodiversity from becoming threatened] by safeguarding [and sustainably managing] ecosystems, species and [their] genetic diversity.

## **Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services**

The following points were covered in the workshop's discussion and at the side event:

- i) Goal D is recognized to still be valuable.
- ii) Third CBD goal (ABS from genetic resources) should be separated from all other benefits and therefore a separate goal should be included.
- iii) How can it be ensured that benefits reach everyone?



- iv) Goal D has linkages to a lot of SDGs, such as SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 2 (food security), SDG 3 (health), SDG 5 (gender), SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 10 (inequality), SDG 12 (cities), SDG 13 (climate change), SDG 14 (oceans), SDG 15 (terrestrial ecosystems), and SDG 16 (societies and justice).
- v) Targets under Goal D should be better grouped, such as clusters on rights/equity/poverty/well-being and linked to health agenda.

**Proposal for text amendments of Strategic Goal D:**

Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.

**Proposal for an additional Strategic Goal on ABS**

**Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building**

The following points were covered in the workshop's discussion and at the side event:

- i) Short and succinct formulation of Goal E is valuable and details could be covered with targets.
- ii) Target on 'traditional knowledge' was discussed as being cross-cutting, not necessarily a means of implementation, more about the human rights aspect; it is also a necessary element of other goals and their achievement.
- iii) The issue of 'resources' is not included in Goal E and 'capacity building' not reflected in a target.
- iv) Link between 'financial resources' and 'capacity building' needs to be made.
- v) 'Knowledge management' was seen as a term stemming from corporations and should maybe be changed.
- vi) Participation is included in 'participatory planning', but participation in implementation is missing; stress importance of 'participation' rather than 'participatory x and y'.
- vii) Important to take into account the rights-based component into the list of 'participatory planning', 'knowledge management' and 'capacity building'. Option 1: insert 'rights-based' as a qualifier between 'through' and 'participatory' in the original text, but it might create additional issues/confusion as to the meaning of rights-based participation/knowledge management/capacity building. Option 2: insert 'respect for human rights' after 'through', with the disadvantage being too general.
- viii) A target on 'monitoring'/'evaluation' or a regular 'review' / 'assessment' should be added, in order to enhance implementation. (NBSAPS do this to some extent, but it is not stated anywhere as being important).
- ix) Target 17 should not only focus on NBSAPs, but also on Regional plans (RBSAPs) and Local plans (LBSAPs).
- x) Target 19: include technologies on conservation and restoration
- xi) Ensure 'implementation for impact' was suggested, as in the end, it is the impact that is important and needs to be achieved; the current text is limited, because it lists only a few ways used in implementation; relation to impact should be strengthened.

**Proposal for text amendments of Strategic Goal E:**

Enhance implementation [and impact] through [rights-based participation in planning] ~~participatory planning~~, [through] knowledge management [, monitoring, evaluation, and review], and [through] capacity building [and financial resources].

It was generally discussed that Goal E addresses 'means of implementation' (MoI) and thus, it was questioned if MoI should be included as a goal of the strategic plan. MoI are important and applicable to all the other goals as well. Therefore, targets related to MoI should be considered for inclusion under each goal like in the SDG framework. On the other hand, a separate strategic goal on MoI would retain visibility and weight, which

was seen to be important too. The same notion can be applied for all goals in view of SDG 17 (partnership).

Goal E was also seen as a cross-cutting goal to ensure an ‘enabling environment’. Therefore, important elements could be added, such as ‘strong institutions’, ‘monitoring/reporting mechanism’, ‘compliance’, ‘tackling skewed power structures’, ‘policy coherence’/mainstreaming’ (refer to Addis Ababa action agenda on financing sustainable development and the regular review process there).



Collecting comments and proposals on the strategic goals in World Cafe groups

## 5. Rethinking Biodiversity Governance

Christian Prip of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) presented the expert group’s work on biodiversity governance. The experts identified the main challenges facing the current international biodiversity regime and then mapped out a course for the future. A key objective for the network is to share knowledge, fill research gaps, and offer concrete solutions and policy recommendations for reforming today’s biodiversity framework. “It is time to take stock of the lessons learned and plan for global action for biodiversity beyond 2020 with an open mind for new approaches to biodiversity governance, policy and law making.” Specifically, the network will target the upcoming process of drafting a new post-2020 Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The presentation will be accessible on the project website.

## 6. Relevant SBSTTA-21 Recommendations

SBSTTA-21 adopted recommendations that are of importance or may become more important for the development of CBD’s post 2020 biodiversity framework, in particular:

[XXI/1. Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity](#): 8) *Requests the Executive Secretary, when preparing proposals for the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to make provisions for sound analytical work in order to ensure that this framework is based on the best available evidence, building on previous work and taking into account the conclusions contained in the annex to the present recommendation, work related to the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and relevant work under other multilateral environmental agreements and under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,...*

XXI/2. Sustainable wildlife management: this topic will be kept on the agenda and discussed further related to sustainable use of biodiversity.

XXI/3. Health and biodiversity: 1) .... recognizes the importance of ecosystem-based approaches for the delivery of multiple benefits to health and well-being...

XXI/4. Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health: 7 c) To prepare, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting, a proposal for a long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming with identification of key tasks and priorities,...

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**Further information:**

<http://www.biodiv.de/en/projekte/aktuell/cbd-strategy.html>

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## Annex 1: Workshop Programme

### Final Workshop Programme

#### Part 1: Sunday, 10.12.2017

09:00 Registration

09:30 Welcome and Introduction to the project and workshop  
Günter Mitlacher - WWF Germany and Dr. Axel Paulsch - ibn

#### Session 1 - The 2050 Vision and the 2020 Mission

09:45 Presentation and discussion on maintaining, adjusting, or replacing

**10:30 Coffee break**

#### Session 2 - The five strategic goals until 2030?

11:00 Presentation and discussion on maintaining, adjusting, or replacing  
Are the 5 strategic goals appropriate for the next decade 2021-2030?  
Do we need additional strategic goals until 2030 to make progress to achieve the 2050 vision?

11:15 **Link to other strategic approaches related to the CBD**

Initial discussion: Is any additional strategic goal necessary to explicitly link to other relevant global agendas, in particular the Agenda 2030 with the SDGs ?  
Conclusion and wrap-up of the session

**12:30 Lunch break**

**13.30 World Café with five breakout groups**

**Strategic Goal A:** Address **underlying causes** of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

**Strategic Goal B:** Reduce the **direct pressures** and **promote sustainable use**

**Strategic Goal C:** **Improve the status** of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, services and genetic diversity

**Strategic Goal D:** **Enhance the benefits to all** from biodiversity and ecosystem services

**Strategic Goal E:** **Enhance implementation** through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity

**15:30 Coffee break**

16:00 Presentation of results from breakout group

17:30 Conclusion and wrap-up of the session

#### Session 3 – Biodiversity Governance

18:00 Input on Rethinking Biodiversity Governance  
Christian Prip, Fridtjof Nansen Institute

18:20 Q&A

**18.30 Closure of the workshop**

## Part 2: Monday, 11.12.2017

### Side Event at SBSTTA-21 #2341

#### 18.15 Towards a new CBD Strategy 2011 - 2030 - first considerations and results of an international workshop

A first expert workshop was convened prior to SBSTTA-21 to discuss the vision, mission and five strategic goals of the current Strategic Plan 2011-2020. Results of the deliberations will be presented and participants of SBSTTA-21 are invited to contribute to the discussion on whether these elements should remain, be adjusted or replaced.

## Annex 2: Background information for workshop participants

### Background information and objective

The following background information aims to support an efficient discussion on the key question of the first workshop about a new CBD strategy 2021-2030:

#### **Should the wording of the 2050 vision, the 2020 mission and the five strategic goals be maintained, adjusted, or replaced?**

To answer this question appropriately, the following aspects must be kept in mind according to the timeframe until 2050:

- There is urgency to act, because biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation is still ongoing in an unprecedented way,
- The ambition must be high, significant, and punchy to achieve a systemic and transformational change in society and economy within the next thirty years,
- The appropriate suite of strategic goals until 2030 should be backed by sound science and other relevant evidence.

At the workshop a first round of deliberations on the wording of the vision, mission, and five strategic goals will be initiated. Therefore, the SUBMISSIONS FROM PARTIES, OTHER GOVERNMENTS, RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE POST-2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (<https://www.cbd.int/post2020/submissions.shtml>), the CBD Secretariat's Information Note, 15 June 2017: APPROACHES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, and CBD/SBSTTA/21/2: SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY incl. CBD/SBSTTA/21/2/ADD1: BIODIVERSITY AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT have been analysed. Relevant information and statements are briefly presented in the tables below.

The results of the discussion will be compiled in a report and provided to participants and other actors to follow-up on the ongoing deliberations.

### Background on Session 1 - The 2050 Vision

#### **Key questions:**

Does the vision still reflect the “target situation” for biodiversity and ecosystems we MUST achieve by 2050 in order to live “in harmony with nature”?

Are the strategic elements contained in the text still the important ones: valuing, conservation, restoration, wisely use?

Therefore, should the wording of the 2050 vision be maintained, adjusted, or replaced?

“Living in harmony with nature” where

**By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.**

Rationale of the 2050 vision as to decision X/2 of the STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2020

*Biological diversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being.*



CBD/SBSTTA/21/2:SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY, para 55 a)

*The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan remains relevant and should be considered in any follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The 2050 Vision contains elements that could be translated into a long-term goal for biodiversity and provide context for discussions on possible biodiversity targets for 2030 as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*

Note: such “elements” or “key terms” are ‘values’, ‘conservation’, ‘restoration’, wisely use/sustainable use’, ‘ecosystem services’, ‘healthy planet’, ‘benefit delivery’

View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions

IUCN: The current Vision is, in terms of content and scope, satisfactory. It is nevertheless phrased in passive and not active language. We feel that a long-term Vision for biodiversity conservation needs to be more specific, forward looking and enabling; more of a ‘call to action’.

Pro Natura: The overall mission of the strategic plan and the 3 goals of the CBD do not change, they cannot without challenging the CBD's very reason of being.

WWF: restore nature to more sustainable levels by 2050

WCMC: Development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should take account of the discussions at SBSTTA-21 and COP-14 on the 2050 vision and pathways for achieving it.

Women's caucus: remains very relevant after 2020; the realisation of such a vision where all people benefit requires a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that is well informed by views from women, including Indigenous women and grassroots women's groups.

MedPan: adding mentioning of 'protecting ecological functional units' in the Vision and 'strengthening resilience'

FPP: we agree that the 2050 Vision remains relevant and does not need to be revised or changed

UN Environment: We consider that the ‘entry points of actions’ identified in the Strategic Plan are still relevant, as is the Vision 2050 and Mission of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

EU: future targets, and where appropriate milestones, should help and strengthen the implementation in view of achieving the 2050 vision

## Background on Session 1 - The 2020 Mission

### Key questions:

Does the mission still contain the important messages and terminology describing the necessary building blocks of a strategic pathway to 2030?

Is the mission still valid in its broad sense?

Should the mission be more focused on priority actions across the next decade 2021-2030?

Therefore, should the wording of the Mission be maintained, adjusted, or replaced in view of the 2030 challenges to achieve the 2050 vision?

The mission of the Strategic Plan is to

**take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach.**

Rationale of the 2020 mission as to decision X/2 of the STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2020: .... <i>Unless urgent action is taken to reverse current trends, a wide range of services derived from ecosystems, underpinned by biodiversity, could rapidly be lost.... Scenario analysis reveals a wide range of options for addressing the crisis.... Achieving this positive outcome requires actions at multiple entry points, which are reflected in the goals of this Strategic Plan.</i>
CBD/SBSTTA/21/2 SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY, para 7 <i>A key purpose of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is to begin slowing the rate of biodiversity loss through a range of actions at the various levels reflected in the goals of the Strategic Plan. For this reason, actions to directly address the loss of biodiversity and the benefits it provides (Goals C and D of the Strategic Plan) are complemented by actions to address the drivers of loss (Goals A and B).</i>
View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions
IUCN: Mission needs to be amended. New mission should be time bound to 2030. Mission should constitute an overall science-based target for biodiversity that can be quantified and tracked through implementation. Clear target like 2 degree goal.
Pro Natura: Keep close to the former one.
WWF: The CBD needs to rally around a simple and clear scientific message comparable to the “2°C scenario”. Unite the world around a single clear, articulate and measurable overarching objective of halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.
WCMC: still relevant.
UN Environment: We consider that the ‘entry points of actions’ identified in the Strategic Plan are still relevant, as is the Vision 2050 and Mission of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
Egypt: need to address Peace, Conflicts, and Food Security in post 2020 Framework.

## Background on Session 2 - The five strategic goals until 2030

<b>On the Strategic Plan in general and the set of five Strategic Goals</b>
CBD/SBSTTA/21/2 SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY, para 7 <i>A key purpose of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is to begin slowing the rate of biodiversity loss through a range of actions at the various levels reflected in the goals of the Strategic Plan. For this reason, actions to directly address the loss of biodiversity and the benefits it provides (Goals C and D of the Strategic Plan) are complemented by actions to address the drivers of loss (Goals A and B).</i>
CBD Secretariat: APPROACHES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, Information Note, 15 June 2017, para 19: <i>A straight-forward updating would suggest a “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030” .....maintaining or adjusting the five goals.</i>
View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions
WCMC: Produce and communicate a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that has clear relevance and actions for all sectors of society. Framework and any goals/targets within it need to be easily understood in terms of desired outcomes. A clear conceptual framework demonstrating the relationship between any strategic goals and targets is important for subsequently creating NBSAPs with strategic goals and targets that are mutually supportive, and lead to linking silos of actions in Ministries, sectors etc.. Not making all of the targets equal, or at least having core targets around biodiversity conservation and secondary ones that are perhaps less fully defined. Any goals and targets developed need to be seen as a single integrated package.
Norway: The structure of the existing strategic plan is not necessarily the structure that is best suited to meet the needs of the parties post 2020. We find the 5 goals still to be highly relevant.
IUCN: The five Strategic Goals align well with the widely-used and intuitive DPSIR framework (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impacts, Responses), which we see as valuable in providing logical structure to the current Strategic Plan, and important to retain.

Egypt: need to address Peace, Conflicts, and Food Security in post 2020 Framework.
GFC: we recommend the establishment of a process to integrate community conservation approaches in each of the existing and future areas of work of the CBD, and all aspects of the post-2020 framework.
FPP: Strategic Plan should expand its focus from biodiversity to the relationship between biological and cultural diversity.
UN Environment: You might propose to Parties to agree on the principle that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should not, and in no part of it, fall below the ambition of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
GFC: The CBD, including the post-2020 framework, should be repositioned as the foundation for all sustainable development and wellbeing. This includes re-focusing the CBD on biodiversity for the sake of the entire planet, rather than an anthropocentric focus on “services” and economic / financial valuation of biodiversity and nature.

### Key questions:

Are the five strategic goals still the frame of relevant strategic pathways up to 2030 to make significant progress in the right direction achieving the 2050 vision?  
Therefore, should the five strategic goals be maintained, adjusted, or replaced?

<b>Strategic Goal A: Address underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</b>
Rationale as to decision X/2 of the STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2020, para 10 a: <i>Initiating action to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including production and consumption patterns, by ensuring that biodiversity concerns are mainstreamed throughout government and society, through communication, education and awareness, appropriate incentive measures, and institutional change.</i>
CBD/SBSTTA/21/2 SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY No explicit statement available
View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions
IUCN: Keep Goal A.
Pro Natura: Keep Goal A. The fact that the Strategic Plan's goals and targets have not been achieved should not be a reason to change them. Their achievement is necessary and indispensable to preserve the life on this planet, we must not change the strategy simply because we have done too little to implement it.
BirdLife: include separate targets for business
FPP: Address the underlying causes of loss of biological [and cultural diversity] by mainstreaming biological [and cultural diversity [or them] ] across government and society.
B&L evolution: integrate biodiversity into companies, which have an important role as for sustainable production and consumption, and a strong capacity to mobilize their stakeholders.
EU: plan should address the main drivers of the biodiversity loss

<b>Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures and promote sustainable use</b> <b>Conclusion and wrap-up of the session</b>
Rationale as to decision X/2 of the STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2020, para 10 b: <i>Taking action now to decrease the direct pressures on biodiversity. Engagement of the agricultural, forest, fisheries, tourism, energy and other sectors will be essential to success. Where trade-offs between biodiversity protection and other social objectives exist, they can often be minimized by using approaches such as spatial planning and efficiency measures. Where multiple pressures are threatening vital ecosystems and their services, urgent action is needed to decrease those pressures most amenable to short-term relief, such as over-exploitation or pollution, so as to prevent more intractable pressures, in particular climate change, from pushing the system “over the edge” to a degraded state.</i>

CBD/SBSTTA/21/2 SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY
No explicit statement available
View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions
IUCN: Keep Goal B.
Pro Natura: Keep Goal B.
FPP: Reduce the direct pressures on biological and cultural diversity and promote sustainable use.
B&L evolution: goal in which companies are the most mobilized (certification), but still not enough

<b>Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, services and genetic diversity</b>
Rationale as to decision X/2 of the STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2020, para 10 c: <i>Continuing direct action to safeguard and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and ecosystem services. While longer-term actions to reduce the underlying causes of biodiversity are taking effect, immediate action can help conserve biodiversity, including in critical ecosystems, by means of protected areas, habitat restoration, species-recovery programmes and other targeted conservation interventions;</i>
CBD/SBSTTA/21/2 SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY
No explicit statement available
View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions
IUCN: Keep Goal C.
Pro Natura: Keep Goal C.
WWF: include guidance on how to manage landscapes and seascapes. Halt the trend of biodiversity loss by 2030.
MedPan: specific amendments to target 11
FPP: Improve the status of biological and cultural diversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species, genetic diversity and associated cultural and knowledge systems.
B&L evolution: think about the entire supply chain and to reinforce the polluter-pay principle, with the idea that the companies which removes must give back or restore the impacted ecosystems.

<b>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</b>
Rationale as to decision x/2 of the STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2020, para 10 d: <i>Efforts to ensure the continued provision of ecosystem services and to ensure access to these services, especially for the poor who most directly depend on them. Maintenance and restoration of ecosystems generally provide cost-effective ways to address climate change. Therefore, although climate change is an additional major threat to biodiversity, addressing this threat opens up a number of opportunities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.</i>
CBD/SBSTTA/21/2 SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY
No explicit statement available
View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions
IUCN: Keep Goal D.
Pro Natura: Keep Goal D.
FPP: Enhance the benefits to all from the reciprocal contributions or relationship between people and nature.
B&L evolution: plans for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources are not yet very widespread, and we should reflect on a similar device for all the lines of business.

<b>Strategic Goal E:</b> Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity
Rationale as to decision x/2 of the STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2020, para 10 e: <i>Enhanced support mechanisms for: capacity-building; the generation, use and sharing of knowledge; and access to the necessary financial and other resources. National planning processes need to become more effective in mainstreaming biodiversity and in highlighting its relevance for social and economic agendas. Convention bodies need to become more effective in reviewing implementation and providing support and guidance to Parties.</i>
CBD/SBSTTA/21/2 SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY No explicit statement available
View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions
IUCN: Keep Goal E.
Pro Natura: Keep Goal E.
Conservation International: Affirm existing commitments to financing biodiversity; Integrate guidance on resource mobilization (including approaches to increasing finance both internationally and domestically, also e.g. guidance on integrating biodiversity into international development finance, into climate change finance and/or guidance on the removal of perverse incentives).
Women's caucus: Commit funds and budgeting for gender activities.
MedPan: establishing innovative sustainable financing mechanisms.
FFP: Enhance and mainstream implementation through integrated participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.
B&L evolution: Companies can participate in the application of action plans for biodiversity and have the capacity to participate in research on biodiversity and to spread scientific knowledge to their stakeholders.
Norway: The post 2020 system must integrate a stronger focus on implementation.
EU: strengthen implementation in view of achieving the 2050 vision

## Background on Session 2 - Link to other strategic approaches related to CBD

<b>Link to the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs</b>
CBD Secretariat: APPROACHES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, Information Note, 15 June 2017 (para 19): <i>Enhancing the links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals</i>
CBD/SBSTTA/21/2/Add1 BIODIVERSITY AND THE 2030-AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT <i>COP recognized the strong interdependence between the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Aichi Biodiversity Targets are more specific to biodiversity and include more detailed elements than the corresponding targets under the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda should be considered in any follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.</i>
View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions
EU: The follow-up to the strategic plan could be fully coherent with, build on and add value to the related SDGs; The follow-up to the Strategic plan will need to be taken into account when implementing the biodiversity-related SDGs, notably current elements with a horizon of 2020. Should encourage enhanced use of existing tools and mechanisms across biodiversity related conventions, including systems for reporting, indicators and information sharing, and improve those tools where necessary.... Such tools should be aligned with other international processes including SDG indicators and IPBES.



IUCN: The post-2020 global framework for the conservation of nature must ... not only be fully aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development but also tracked systematically to demonstrate its contributions towards achievement of the SDGs. IUCN believes that once a new post-2020 biodiversity target framework is agreed those (SDG) Goals and targets concerned should not only be updated but also be strengthened and meaningfully taken up in the SDG process. IUCN believes that it is essential to build synergies in both implementation and reporting. Following agreement of the new biodiversity framework (at CBD COP15 in 2020) a mechanism should be agreed that allows simultaneous reporting towards the SDG Goals and targets.
BirdLife: It will also be important to recognize and explicitly build in the linkages between the new strategic plan for biodiversity and other biodiversity-related conventions and processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The post-2020 biodiversity targets must be aligned with and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which highlight the importance of tackling drivers of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation across sectors.
WCMC: At first sight some of the Aichi targets have been superseded by targets under the SDGs, so particular consideration may need to be given to reorienting or reframing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with respect to issues such as national accounting, subsidies, incentives, and sustainable consumption and production.
Norway: Coordination and alignment with the SDGs and SDG process is necessary. The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is important due to the direct link between Aichi targets and some SDG subtargets. We encourage coordination and alignment with the SDGs and SDG process. Some key words are communication & public awareness and indicators & reporting. This will make the reporting process more effective as parties are already familiar with these indicators, in addition the use of indicators from the SDGs might assist the implementation of the broader 2030 agenda. Having the post 2020 strategy span from 2020-2030 would nicely align the CBD process with the possible renegotiation of the SDGs. However, we believe consideration also must be given to when updated biodiversity frameworks would have the highest input to potential new global processes following the SDGs (post 2030).
Conservation International: Given the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically the SDGs, in driving development action and funding, targets should be formulated to ensure the protection and sustainable management of nature, which is essential for achieving the SDGs. Ensuring complementarity between the new CBD strategic plan and the SDGs is therefore critical for efficient implementation of both. Effective alignment with the SDGs can help prevent isolation of biodiversity and ecosystem services from the social and economic goals that they underpin and allow biodiversity values to be mainstreamed into other sectors.
FPP: one way to build better synergies with SDGs is to include an emphasis on local biological and cultural plans and how they would enhance local sustainable development plans under the 2030 sustainable development agenda.
GPPC: we strongly agree that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals provide both an important enabling framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and for the follow-up to the Plan.
Women's caucus: It is important that the post-2020 strategic plan and Targets are streamlined with SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, as the current Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets reflect almost no gender considerations. The new framework should follow that of the SDGs, in which environment, social and economic concerns are fully integrated, and in which gender equality is both a standalone goal and a key cross-cutting theme.
GFC: Harmonisation between the CBD and SDGs is very important and welcome. Integration of biodiversity into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be a one-way street; biodiversity policy makers should also make a much greater effort to effectively integrate the different SDGs into biodiversity policies and actions. The post-2020 framework forms a unique opportunity to embrace a more human rights-based, transformative and socially just approach to biodiversity conservation that is in line with the thrust of Agenda 2030.

<b>Link to other biodiversity-related conventions and their strategies?</b>
CBD Secretariat: APPROACHES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, Information Note, 15 June 2017, para 19: <i>Enhancing the relevance of the Plan to the other biodiversity-related conventions</i>
<b>Link to other relevant major global agendas</b>
CBD Secretariat: APPROACHES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, Information Note, 15 June 2017, para 19: <i>Enhancing the links with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Degradation Neutrality Goals on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, etc.</i>
<b>View of Parties and Stakeholders according to submissions</b>
EU: biodiversity should be on the agendas of relevant high-level events, or biodiversity meetings should be held in the margins of high-level events. The organisation of a Biodiversity summit in the margins of the UNGA should be explored. Particularly important is close cooperation with the other Rio Conventions, the biodiversity related MEAs, IPBES, UNEP, UNDP, GEF and FAO, among others.
IUCN: There is a need to substantially enhance coherence and cooperation between the CBD (and its Protocols), the other two Rio Conventions, and the other biodiversity-related conventions.
WWF: The process for the development of the new biodiversity framework should also ensure coordination and alignment with other key international processes and conventions, and in particular the other “Rio Conventions” (UNFCCC, UNCCD) as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The new CBD Strategic Plan must also be aligned with related processes and receive input from these, for example the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, the UN Environment Assembly, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. This would ensure coherence, multiply synergies and interconnections, as well as promote coordinated and effective implementation of all these frameworks for a significantly improved impact on biodiversity, human well-being, climate change and sustainable development at all levels.
WCMC: Other MEAs have welcomed and responded to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the targets have had a potentially significant impact on increasing coherence in implementation of MEAs because of this increase in appreciation of the relationships. This has also led to increased opportunity for collaboration at the national level. Liaison with other conventions/processes in developing the post-2020 agenda is therefore important for building on this. the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should clearly set out how it will underpin delivery of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</li> <li>- Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC</li> <li>- Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction</li> </ul>
Norway: In our view UNEP, FAO and UNDP should be invited as main international partners for the process of developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The secretariat should further explore options to engage with the other Rio-conventions (UNFCCC and UNCCD) in order to achieve increased attention to biodiversity and how improved management of biodiversity would contribute to goals under the respective processes, and also issues of joint interest having the SDGs in mind.
UN Environment: The post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should be useful for other strategic and action plans developed by biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. It should allow them, if they decide to do so, to update their strategies in the light of it and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Background on Session 3 – Biodiversity Governance

### **Input on Rethinking Biodiversity Governance**

#### **Christian Prip, FNI Norway**

Christian Prip chaired a first meeting of experts, held at FNI headquarters at Polhøgda on 14 and 15 September 2017. The inaugural session was attended by prominent researchers, policy advisors and negotiators, as well as representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, all working on various aspects of biodiversity governance.

The top item on the agenda was to identify the main challenges facing the current international biodiversity regime, and then try to map out a course for the future. A key objective for the network, which was initiated by programme leader Marcel Kok at the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) together with FNI, is to share knowledge, fill research gaps, and offer concrete solutions and policy recommendations for reforming today's biodiversity framework. Specifically, the network will target the upcoming process of drafting a new post-2020 Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).