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# Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Position

Submitted to the CBD Secretariat, OEWG, & Focal Points

By members of the Masters in Conservation Leadership Alumni Network  
University of Cambridge

February 2020

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# Context



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# A Crisis in Leadership

**Unprecedented decline  
of biodiversity**

**+**

**Accelerating  
extinctions**

**=**

**Failure to achieve  
Aichi targets by 2020**

Calling for leadership through  
**Acknowledgment, Urgent Action & Accountability**

**Explicitly acknowledge**  
the emergency & the  
indirect drivers as root  
causes

**Urgently address**  
direct drivers & root  
causes

**Establish accountability  
mechanisms**  
for current & future targets

**Who is accountable?**



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# Our Call for Declaring an Emergency and Urgent Actions

There are over 1 million species threatened with extinction (IPBES, 2019). Our climate is changing. We only have between zero to 15 years left within our carbon budget to stay below 1.5°C under current conditions (Millar, R., and Friedlingstein, P. (2018), Rogelj, J., et al. (2018)).

To solve the leadership crisis, we call on Parties to the Convention for Biological Diversity to **lead change** by **declaring a National Ecological and Climate Emergency** that requires **urgent actions**:

**I. Acknowledge** all drivers to biodiversity loss.  
**Inspire action and empower stakeholders and champions**, recognising leadership as a crucial component of success.

**II. Act urgently.**  
**Restructure policy tools while leaving no one behind** e.g subsidies, taxes, incentives, and regulations.  
**Evolve from a GDP driven economy** to one that reflects human and planetary wellbeing.

**III. Establish accountability mechanisms** through transparency, better communication, and milestones for enhancing rapid, long-lasting progress, and impact.

**We all need to Act Now.**



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# About: Global Conservation Leaders Speak

The CBD Post-2020 framework will be implemented by, among others, successive generations of conservation leaders. To capture the full range of views and values, negotiations must be informed by a diverse range of voices from around the world ([Sandbrook et al. 2019](#)).

The alumni of the **Cambridge University Masters in Conservation Leadership** are uniquely positioned to further this important agenda. We are:

- mid-career professionals in increasingly senior leadership roles;
- experts from over 70 countries across the globe; and
- representative of diverse roles in environmental science, policy, practice, communication, and research.

**This is our agreed position based on our collective experience to secure a future in which biodiversity is valued, actively enhanced, and protected for current and future generations.**



*Conservation Leadership Alumni map.*

*Credit: Cambridge University Geography Department*



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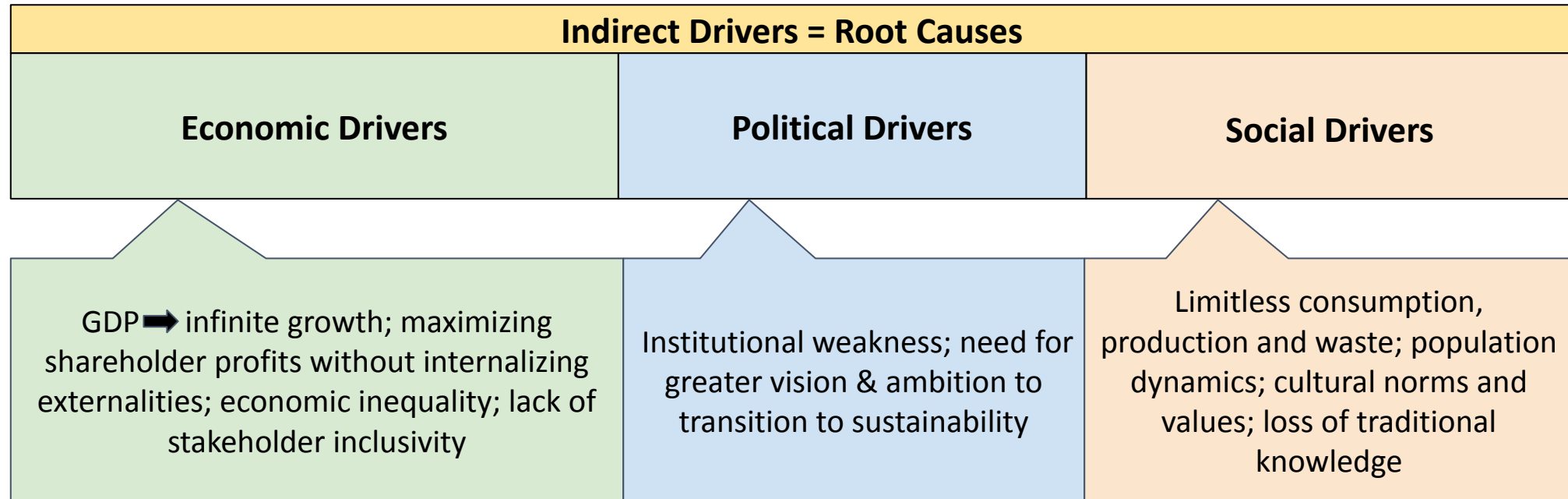
Part I:  
**Acknowledge**  
Indirect Drivers as  
**Root Causes** of  
Biodiversity Loss



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# Acknowledge Indirect Drivers as Root Causes

Explicitly acknowledge *indirect drivers* (IPBES, 2019) as **root causes** (Diaz et al.2019) of biodiversity loss.



The Zero-Draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework focuses mainly on the direct drivers to biodiversity loss.

We suggest that the Global Biodiversity Framework **targets and indicators** will also:

1. Explicitly **identify and acknowledge root causes** of biodiversity loss; and
2. Systematically **implement and monitor solutions and obstacles** to overcome both root causes and direct drivers for biodiversity loss.





# Inspire Action with the Vision and Mission

There is a need to respond to the urgency of the global extinctions crisis with a new Vision and Mission **to inspire immediate action**, and remove 2050 as the end goal and focus on what must be achieved in the current decade to divert catastrophe. We suggest:

## Vision

Act effectively and in partnership to end the extinction crisis and restore biodiversity.

## Mission

Lead a just transition to protect and restore our biodiversity and ecosystems on land and in the sea using the best available scientific evidence and traditional knowledge. Work in collaboration across governments and sectors to identify, address, and overcome barriers to action, including root causes of biodiversity loss.

See Annex I and II for rationale and suggested components of biodiversity framework



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Part II:

**Implement  
&  
Act Urgently**



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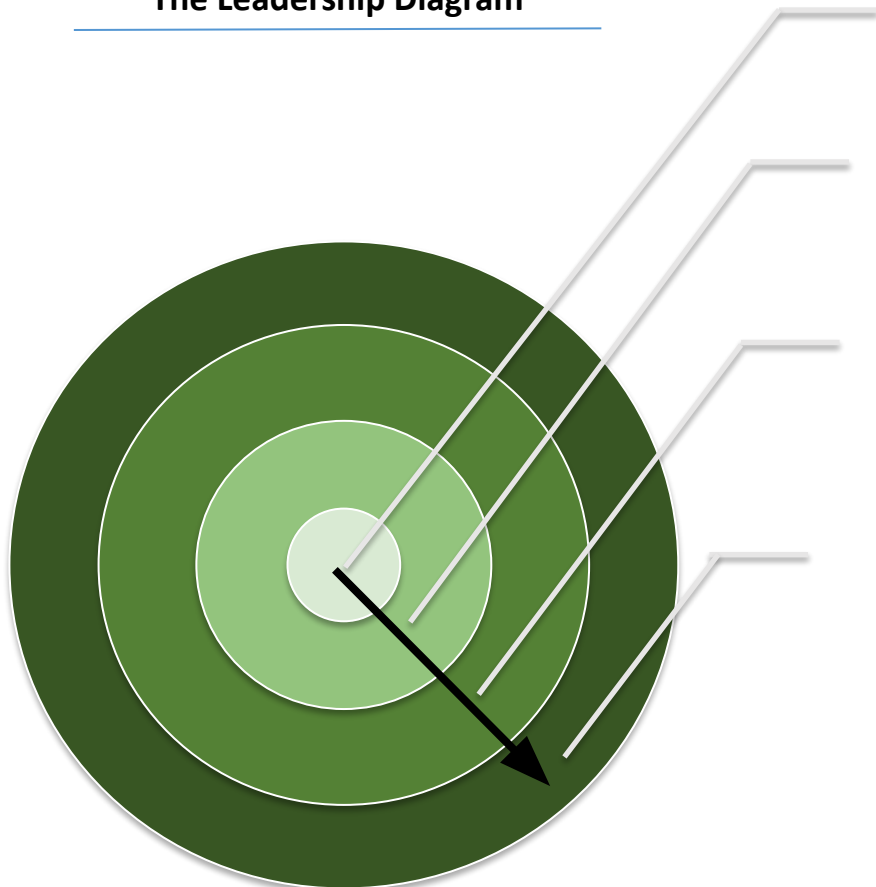
# Leadership, the Crucial Component

**Leadership is one of the most crucial components for the effective implementation** of the biodiversity framework.

We believe it starts with **purpose and is nested, interacting at all levels with the surrounding enabling environment** (see diagram).

Implications for the global biodiversity framework are depicted next to the arrows below.

## The Leadership Diagram



### Purpose and passion:

- **Enhance internal motivation to tackle the biodiversity and climate emergency and inspire** others to protect and strengthen the world's biodiversity--the foundation for our lives and well being.

### Personal competence:

- **Continuous development of skills, capacity building for leadership**, and other related training, such as conflict resolution, multi-stakeholder participatory processes, and effective communication to drive necessary change.

### Organizational or institutional setting and processes:

- **Enhance CBD Focal Points' mandate and capacity to lead and coordinate** forums and platforms. Improve mechanisms to manage, facilitate, and resolve inter- and intra-governmental conflicts and competing environmental/societal targets, thus overcoming barriers and silos. **Integrate biodiversity considerations** across policies and legal frameworks.

### Geographical scale or other network themed setting:

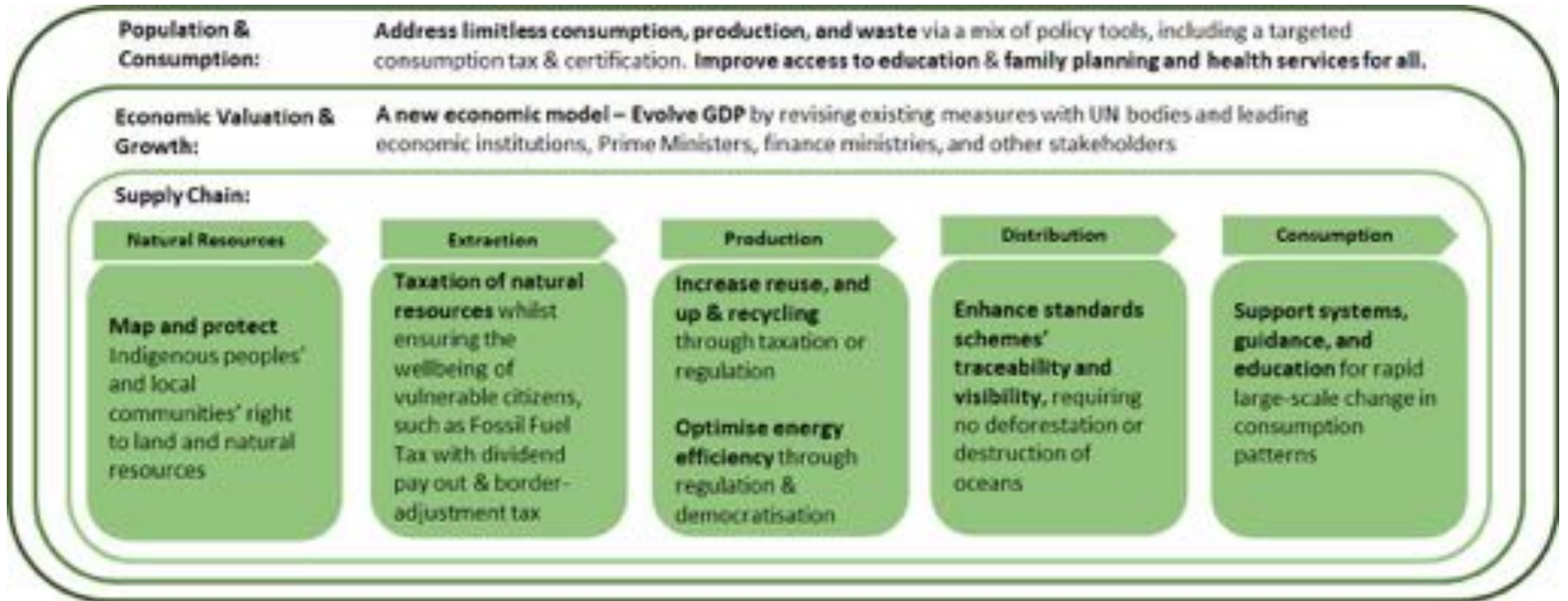
- **Make space and empower diverse stakeholders to lead and build partnerships** from international government collaboration to private sector to indigenous people and local communities. **Synergise and interlink with** other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals.





# Actions to Address Root Causes of Direct Drivers

*“Action at the level of direct drivers of nature decline, although necessary, is not sufficient to prevent further deterioration of the fabric of life on Earth”  
(Díaz et al., 2019)*





# Synergise Biodiversity Across Multilateral Environmental Agreements & the Sustainable Development Goals



We recommend that the **CBD Secretariat**:

- Lead on **alignment** actions, such as convening the Chairs of Biodiversity related subsidiary advisory bodies and enhancing joint work programmes and a unified MEA/SDG events calendar.
- Create **recommendations for transboundary alignment** of nature protection legislation and other initiatives.
- **Develop a community** for knowledge-sharing on best practices for synergies and promote collaborations opportunities among MEA focal points for example via an joint biodiversity MEA website and newsletters.
- Launch a **joint biodiversity MEA and SDG reporting platform**, co-designed to support parties in tracking progress, with information contributions also from civil society, the private sector, and other local stakeholders.
- **Recognise and award synergy champions** on a national and international level in every CBD COP.



We recommend that **CBD Parties**:

- **Ensure coherence by enhancing national and international dialogues and mechanisms** aimed at managing tradeoffs and interlinkages across the Global Biodiversity Framework targets, other MEAs, SDGs, and at national and local levels, to achieve context-specific implementation of the new framework.
- **Internally align strategies, tools, and mechanisms that synergise** biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development goals, for example through strategic national environmental and social assessments.



# Resource Mobilization: Pioneer New Paths



We recommend that parties **restructure finance streams and explore new avenues of income generation** on a global and national level:



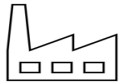
- **Divest and invest** across all systems to prioritise healthy biodiversity and climate.
- Enhance safeguards of financial institutions and **issue green bonds** that deliver biodiversity impacts in synergy with other MEAs and SDGs targets.
- **Implement a targeted consumption tax and tax natural resources instead of labor** with a dividend payout to lower socio-economic citizens, a border adjustment tax, or other measures to ensure a just and equitable transition.



Biodiversity,  
Ecosystem  
&  
Climate Action



such as,



- Apply the **internalization of externalities** as a financing source. For example, in the finance sector, introduction of more biodiversity criteria for green bonds, such as the Climate Bonds Initiative that are considering nature based solutions and biodiversity outcomes.
- **Adjust discount rate** to make investments in biodiversity and climate more favorable.



*Restoration*



*Wastewater  
treatment*



- Require that **part of the income from the access and benefit-sharing**, as directed under the Nagoya Protocol, is aimed at **protecting and strengthening the habitat** from which the genetic resources came.
- **Recognise in-kind contributions** as a resource, such as efforts dedicated by professionals from all fields and sectors.



*Precision and regenerative  
agriculture*



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Part III:

# Establish Accountability Mechanisms



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# Laws: Craft & Enforce Comprehensive Legal Frameworks for Nature

Conduct immediate, comprehensive assessments at the global and national levels of legal opportunities and obstacles for achieving biodiversity goals. Craft legal frameworks and enforcement methods to:

## GLOBAL

- \* Recognise **nature's right to exist** & adopt **Ecocide** as an international crime.
- \* Regulate the private & finance sectors to internalize externalities.
- \* Develop an environmentally friendly trade regime within WTO.
- \* Ensure **accountability & disclosure** of finance related to biodiversity.

## TRANSNATIONAL

- \* Strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement to **enhance multinational partnerships** to protect migratory species, wildlife trade, and biosecurity.
- \* Adopt a transnational **regulatory approach to systems change** for resource efficiency, consumption, production, development, infrastructure, and other transnational impact issues.

## NATIONAL

- \* **Integrate** the new biodiversity framework and biodiversity into core legal frameworks such as constitutions.
- \* Secure **effective enforcement** of existing laws intended to protect biodiversity.
- \* Assess and **eliminate legal barriers** nationally and subnationally to addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss.





# Communicate: Invest in Sophisticated, Long-Lived Campaigns



We recommend that the **CBD Secretariat:**

- **Engage Parties and Observers in ongoing Strategy Sessions** to design culturally and socially attuned, coordinated global communications plans to accompany implementation of the Post-2020 Framework. Include follow up and support to each session/workshop, e.g via mentorships and surveys.
- Include long-term **monitoring and evaluation** in communication strategies and budgets to document the change that communication drives through an array of tools (e.g social marketing).
- **Inspire!** Enhance innovation in harnessing all stakeholders for example in systematic themed hackathons as well as international collaboration on joint communication for specific targets.



We recommend that **CBD Parties:**

- **Enhance ongoing Strategy Implementation Series to integrate CBD post-2020 and NBSAP biodiversity goals** within and across every department or ministry, and in alignment with the SDGs and MEAs. Include follow up to each session.
- **Partner with local leaders in civil society, communities, and business** to develop biodiversity goal outreach strategies tailored for relevant target audiences and the wider public.
- **Link biodiversity goals with human health, prosperity, and wellbeing** in campaigns.



# Transparency, Accountability, and Visibility



We recommend that the **CBD secretariat**:

- Standardise methods for easy **regular updates** and **benchmarking on parties' achievements**, intended to spark **'a race to the top'** aligned to MEA and SDG implementation & updates.
- Create an **enforcement mechanism** to safeguard **standards** and **thresholds** agreed within the new global biodiversity framework.
- Provide a **private avenue for whistleblowing, reprisals or crimes against nature** to be communicated by citizens and ministries to the international community, and put in place measures and mechanisms for investigation and enforcement.



We recommend that **CBD Parties**:

- **Showcase and give full transparency to each party's achievements** as well as improvement activities by also acknowledging what didn't work and how they are fixing it.
- Develop methods for an independent **third-party verification** system of reporting.
- Increase accountability and support to one another through a **peer-to-peer review** and **twinning or mentoring system** to create positive external support, adaptive learning processes, and capacity building activities.



# Increase and Empower Stakeholder Leadership

We recommend that **CBD Parties enable leadership among stakeholders** to support implementation and accountability mechanisms of the biodiversity framework:

- **Increase recognition** that stakeholders are essential for co-producing viable solutions, implementing biodiversity goals and thus there is a need to enhance mechanisms for stakeholder engagement in, contributions to, and review of implementation.
- Target funding to **increase the capacity** of governments and stakeholders -- civil society, youth, indigenous peoples, women, and businesses -- to partner with each other to implement the biodiversity goals.
- **Enhance inclusivity** for a Sustainable Development Goals complementary plan to ensure socio-economic issues, including poverty, just transition, and human rights are part of the Action Agenda.
- **Increase protection for**, and recognise rights of, environmental activists and earth defenders.

**Transparency + Accountability + Visibility + Inclusivity = Justice & Equity & Impacts**



# Suggested Milestones for an Ambitious 2020-2030 Global Biodiversity Action Plan

We recommend that progress towards each milestone will be updated, reviewed, and outcomes publicly announced by January 31 annually.<sup>1</sup>

- ✓ Declare a National Ecological & Climate Change Emergency & Recognise Nature's Right to Exist - **By 2021**
- ✓ MEA & SDG Focal Points Have the Resources & Support to Lead Biodiversity Goals Implementation in Concert
- ✓ Redirecting of Finance Streams, Government Budget Allocations, Subsidy & Tax Structure Reforms: e.g Fossil Fuel Tax, Plastic Tax, and Complementary Actions to Achieve a Just Transition
- ✓ Integration of Biodiversity Goals Across Government Departments, Ministries, and Subnational Authorities
- ✓ Inclusive "Just Transition" Teams are Functioning with the Goal of Ensuring Human Rights & Poverty Reduction are Also at the Center of an Urgent Transition for People & Nature
- ✓ Multilateral Environmental Agreement Integration is synergetic and coherent in Goals, Milestones & Reporting
- ✓ Externalities, Telecoupling, & Trans-Border Issues and cooperation included in national Goals & Reporting
- ✓ National Legal Reforms Are Completed to Enable Transition
- ✓ Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery, & Mining Sustainable Transition Plans are in place and acted upon
- ✓ Sustainable Production & Consumption plans and reforms are in place and acted upon
- ✓ National Urgent Biodiversity Restoration Plans are Submitted Publicly

<sup>1</sup> Milestones are facilitated by national implementation committees that will also review and address barriers to implementation for each milestone. These are designed to be implemented in concert and their completion announced in tandem. Each nation should set the order in which it intends to complete the milestones. Milestones should be completed, and the measures taken to complete them -- SIGNIFIERS and ACTIONS (see Annex IV) -- publicly announced by January 31, annually (if a milestone has previously been met in full or in part, Parties should issue an update on implementation).







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# Annexes



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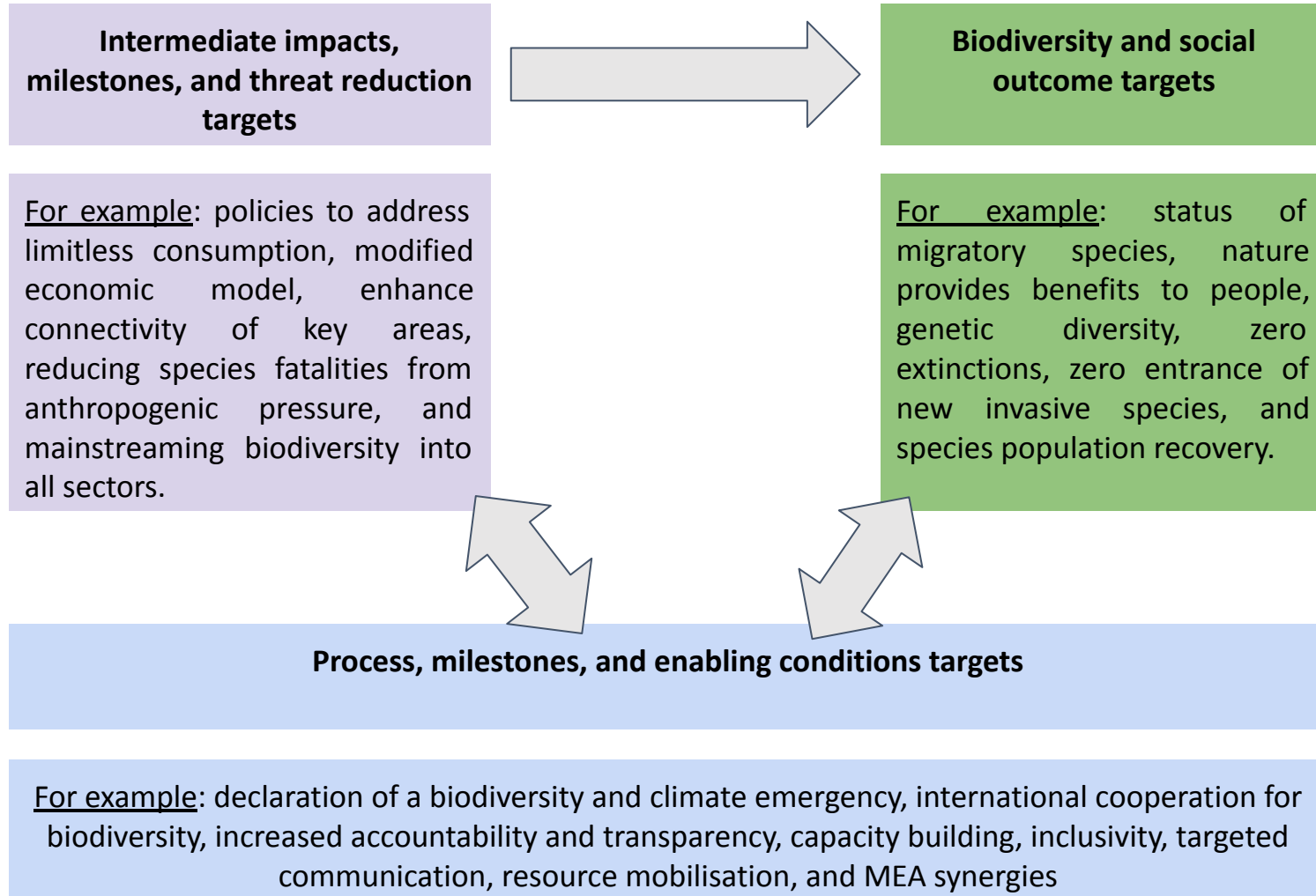


# Annex I: Essential Components of the Global Biodiversity Framework

<b>Vision</b>	<b>Act effectively and in partnership to end the extinction crisis and restore nature</b>			
<b>Mission</b>	<b>Restoring biodiversity while urgently addressing root causes and direct drivers of biodiversity loss</b>			
<b>Enabling Conditions</b>	<b>Inclusivity and diversity – youth, gender, indigenous peoples, business, investors, and local communities</b>			
	<b>Resource mobilisation - domestic and international</b> e.g taxes, subsidies, other financial incentives, policies as well as in-kind contributions			
	<b>Ensure equity and justice through accountability, responsibility, and transparency</b>			
	<b>Communication, SDGs and MEA synergies, mainstreaming, and capacity building</b>			
<b>Leadership - the underlying enabling condition</b>	<b>Leading change by individuals, organisations, and parties</b> for improved governance, local, regional, and international cooperation			
<b>Direct Drivers</b>	<b>Habitat Destruction &amp; Degradation</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>Pollution</b>	<b>Species Exploitation</b>
<b>Indirect Drivers and Root Causes</b>	<b>Indirect causes = root causes: economic, political, and social</b> For example: Production and consumption patterns and practices, population dynamics, GDP as a measure of success			
<b>Evidence Base</b>	<b>Producing knowledge and facilitating adaptive management practices and evidence, including traditional knowledge on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>status</b> of species and ecosystems;</li> <li>- <b>drivers and pressures</b> and impact on biodiversity by direct and indirect drivers;</li> <li>- <b>solutions, tools,</b> interventions, and best practices, including effectiveness of solutions &amp; removal of barriers for implementation.</li> </ul>			



# Annex II : Categorising Targets and Indicators for the Global Biodiversity Framework



# Annex III - Supporting CBD National Focal Points as Leaders

- **Updating the definition of the CBD National Focal Point (NFP) role:**

the role of the CBD NFP exists in a training module that has not been updated since 2009 (CBD COP 8) (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/a2-train-role-nfp-v2-2009-02-en.pdf>). An updated description of CBD FP role could better emphasise the importance of leadership of the focal point. For example reiterating CBD FP role in collaboration with other MEA focal points and also by building on lessons learned from the NBSAP forum that could better support the CBD FP in leading the implementation of the new Global Biodiversity Framework. The CBD Secretariat and parties can also take inspiration from the [CMS Manual for the national focal Points](#). The importance of the focal point role should be further emphasised and celebrated as communicators (both to ministers and local stakeholders etc.), as agents that drive change, and supporting tools could be developed.

- **Addressing the CBD Focal Point mandate gap:**

a mandate gap (Staibano and Wallenstein, 2004) could surge when the role of a CBD NFP doesn't match the internal departmental mandate during coordination, budget allocation priorities or national target implementation. For example on removing harmful subsidies, or mainstreaming activities which often relate to a different ministries' responsibilities, there is a big mandate gap. One way is enhancing NFP skills of facilitation and conflict management within their mandate. Additional actions to resolve the gap in the new Framework could be adding National Focal Points on specific topics, for example nominating an additional national CBD focal point for '**enhancing national implementation**' from a parties' finance ministry or from the Prime Ministers' office that has the mandate, and the overarching and will also be leading to enhance the GBF implementation outcomes.



# Annex IV: Milestones Implementation

## We recommend the following steps to enable implementing Milestone goals:

- \* By 2022, announce **5 FLAG PROJECTS** within each nation to signify tailored success and the completion of which will coincide with the 2030 Milestone completion, as part of the government strategic biodiversity plan.
- \* The office of the President or Prime Minister takes the lead in setting up a budget, working group, and workplan with the joint leadership of the MEA Focal Points. The lead office continues to ensure linkages between issues and shared responsibilities.
- \* Setting up a national Implementation Committee for the new framework which must be inclusive of stakeholders including community and indigenous leaders.
- \* Include the participation of Citizen Assemblies.
- \* Ensure Indirect Drivers Task Teams are continuously informing all discussions on meeting Milestone Goals.
- \* In order to address transborder issues, exported impacts, and telecoupling, level up international cooperation to meet Milestone goals.
- \* Goals must be accompanied by Global Biodiversity Framework public awareness campaigns globally and within each nation and announcements of achievements must be made public at a national scale, annually.
- \* Each goal must be accompanied by a Signifier and Actions (see next Annex slide).





# Annex IV: Milestones Implementation

To successfully implement the Milestones, a key SIGNIFIER of successful implementation and a set of ACTIONS should be defined for each Milestone Goal. These are example Signifiers and Actions:

## **Declare National Biodiversity & Climate Change Emergency**

Date: December 31, 2020

**Signifier:** Each nation issues an emergency statement acknowledging that the climate change and biodiversity loss issues have reached crisis levels.

**Actions:** Begin national discussions to declare an emergency prior to COP 15. After COP 15, immediately make the declaration.

## **MEA Focal Points and SDG National Coordinators Have the Resources & Support to Lead Biodiversity Goals Implementation in Concert**

Date: December 31, 2021

**Signifier:** A public announcement is released introducing the MEA Focal Points and SDG National Coordinators to the nation and stating the role and goals of each Focal Point.

**Actions:** Provide the budget, staff, and cross-government support for the Focal Points to take the lead on ensuring implementation of the national biodiversity goals. The Focal Points will set and publicise the agenda for how biodiversity will be prioritised in each government department.

## **Integration of Biodiversity Goals Across Government Departments & Ministries**

Date: December 31, 2022

**Signifier:** The head of each ministry or department releases an outline of how they have integrated all biodiversity goals into their work plan with the intended result of transitioning their activities and goals to conform to the CBD goals. Furthermore, their reports show how they will collaborate across ministries and departments to meet the CBD goals.

**Actions:** Hold cross-ministry and cross-departmental meetings (environment, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, labor, housing, health, etc.).



# Thank you!



*This position builds on CL alumni experience, input, and their review of the Global Biodiversity Framework Zero-Draft.*

*We have great hope that the new Global Biodiversity Framework will lead us on an ambitious path for a true transformational change, and to substantially improve the state of global biodiversity as quickly as possible.*



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