

BUSINESS VIEWS ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

POLICY STATEMENT

Key messages:

1. ICC stands ready to provide all support necessary to ensure a successful fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in Kunming, China in October 2020 at which 196 governments are expected to adopt a new post-2020 global framework for biodiversity (Post-2020 Framework).
2. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment report released in May 2019 provides the undisputable scientific and political need for developing the Post-2020 Framework.
3. ICC recognizes the urgency of addressing continuing global biodiversity loss and supports the CBD 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”.
4. ICC – on behalf of its 45 million members – calls on governments to ensure that the Post-2020 Framework is ambitious and based on the latest science.

The Post-2020 Framework should also seek to raise awareness on the interdependency of people and nature, foster broad multi-stakeholder participation, support the transformation of current economic and financial systems, be coherent with key UN conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals and promote strong commitments to its implementation

Implementation:

Leading up to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Kunming, China in October 2020

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In the 2018 Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, the 196 Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) committed to developing, through enhanced strategic collaboration and cooperation with non-State actors, an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Post-2020 Framework) that builds on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the 2010-2020 strategic plan and that is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Post-2020 Framework, which is expected to be adopted at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the CBD, in October 2020 in Kunming, China, is a unique opportunity for world leaders to address one of the defining global challenges of our time.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), as the voice of global business, recognizes the urgency of addressing continuing global biodiversity loss,¹ and supports the CBD 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”.² ICC further welcomes the proposed multi-stakeholder approach and stands ready to work with all stakeholders to support an ambitious Post-2020 Framework that is based on the latest science, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment report.³

Below are business views and recommendations to seize the 2020 opportunity to adopt an ambitious new deal for nature and people.

1. ICC calls on governments to ensure that the Post-2020 Framework is based on ambitious, measurable targets that reflect the latest science.

A stocktaking of the existing Aichi Targets reveals that most targets have not been sufficiently implemented and that, for several of them, there has been little progress. To ensure more effective implementation of the Post-2020 Framework, Parties should set specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) targets that are ambitious, limited in number, clearly communicable and allow for progress to be tracked, including through milestones.

For the Post-2020 Framework to be successful in achieving its goals, it is essential that the targets be underpinned by the latest science, reliable data and coherent policies that are effective and harmonized across all UN conventions, natural capital protocols and other conservation agreements. In particular, it will be necessary to update all SDG targets which are currently aligned with the Aichi Targets to reflect the revised ambition of the Post-2020 Framework.

The Post-2020 Framework should follow a holistic and integrated systems-based approach to achieving the aims of the CBD by fostering closer collaboration and information sharing between policy makers, scientists, economists and business. The trend towards open science and open data is beneficial for the exchange of information and collaborative approach which is necessary to achieve the objectives of the CBD and should be supported in the framework.

Such a holistic approach should also ensure that the CBD and its Protocols act as a coherent whole with mutually consistent targets toward the same overarching aims. Moreover, it would be

¹ See <https://iccwbo.org/content/uploads/sites/3/2019/05/icc-centenary-declaration.pdf>

² Under which “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

³ See <https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services>

beneficial for Parties to work towards increasing the knowledge base necessary to inform both policy development and implementation, public and private research and scientific collaborations that can lead to beneficial outcomes for biodiversity conservation and the SDGs.

2. ICC calls on governments to work with business to mainstream biodiversity

The business case for companies to consider biodiversity in their policies, strategies and operations has been clearly articulated and leading companies are already taking action to ensure that they sustainably use, protect and restore nature.

These actions are often incorporated into corporate strategies and reporting requirements and include: investment in conservation-related research, development and practical implementation, the creation and strengthening of sustainable supply chains, programmes which build capacity, transfer technology and enhance monitoring and reporting performance, as well as innovation based on research on biodiversity.⁴ Much work is also being done by non-governmental actors to create frameworks, tools and methodologies that help businesses to consider its environmental impact, including in relation to biodiversity.⁵

An important aim of the Post-2020 Framework should be to raise awareness across all segments of society, including business, of the urgency of halting biodiversity loss and encourage all stakeholders to do more to sustainably use, protect and restore nature. To engage business, it is also essential that the framework define an ambition and goals that are relevant to and resonate with business, and that it defines a coherent policy framework that supports and provides a level playing field and incentives for the scaling up of business efforts to use biodiversity – and the ecosystems on which biodiversity depends – in a sustainable way.

To be effective in promoting the mainstreaming of biodiversity among business, ICC recommends that the Post-2020 Framework:

- provide for biodiversity and ecosystem policies and regulation that are based on scientific and economic principles and evidence;
- define specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time bound (SMART) targets that can help guide companies for implementing their own biodiversity plans and initiatives;
- encourage research and scientific collaborations, both public and private, that can lead to beneficial outcomes for biodiversity conservation which can help inform business decision-making;

⁴ Examples of pledges and individual and collaborative business initiatives can be obtained from the following sources: [Business4Nature](#); [Act4Nature](#); [Business and Biodiversity Pledge](#); [Japan Business Initiative for Biodiversity](#); [Joint Nature Conservation Committee Report No: 613](#); [How plant breeders protect and promote biodiversity \(European Seed Association\)](#); [www.ForwardFarming.com](#)

⁵ Examples include [Business4Nature](#); [Natural Capital Protocol](#); [Natural Capital Impact Group](#); [Kering Environmental Profit and Loss tool](#)

- support closer collaboration and information sharing between policy makers, business, economists and scientists to achieve a more holistic and integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including exchange of relevant data and practices, as well as information on indicators and methodologies between different stakeholders and disciplines;
- provide incentives and support for business by promoting the integration of biodiversity considerations in financial and risk assessment and measurement tools; and
- encourage an ‘action agenda’ that would seek to identify leaders from business and other non-State actor groups to help increase awareness of biodiversity issues and develop and share best practices.⁶

3. ICC calls on governments to foster broad participation in policy development and implementation

A Post-2020 Framework can only be successful through on-going dialogue and deep collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including business. Forward-looking businesses understand that global economic prosperity relies on a healthy natural world and many companies around the world are showing increasing engagement on biodiversity-related issues, as evidenced by a growing number of pledges and voluntary initiatives⁷ that are directly relevant to the objectives of the CBD, as well as to the SDGs more broadly. This engagement is likely to increase if the appropriate enabling policy framework and incentives are put into place to encourage business to take further action and support a transformation of current economic and financial systems.

Closer collaboration between policy makers and relevant stakeholders, including business, on the design and implementation of biodiversity and ecosystem related policy and regulations will help ensure that such policies and regulations take into account relevant technical and operational realities of business, and increase their chances of being effectively implemented in practice.

ICC encourages Parties to take full advantage of the depth and breadth of business engagement and experience with biodiversity-related issues to help inform the development of the Post-2020 Framework and related international and national policies and regulations. ICC stands ready to help support enhanced dialogue between business and government on expectation and ambition setting, on the type of framework conditions necessary for business to invest and innovate in harmony with nature, and on the assessment of the results of implementation.

4. ICC calls on governments to take a holistic approach to the CBD and its Protocols

The considerations set out above should apply equally to the CBD and its Protocols. A holistic approach to the CBD and its Protocols requires that these all share and work towards the same ultimate goals.

⁶ See current [CBD action agenda platform](#)

⁷ See footnote 2 above

New SMART targets should therefore be directly linked to the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol, and its ultimate aim to “contribut[e] to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components”.⁸ This will facilitate assessment of whether the current systems and mechanisms under the Nagoya Protocol are effective in achieving its goals, and are contributing towards the goals of the CBD.

The Post-2020 Framework should provide for the Nagoya Protocol to support the public and private research and development activities, information exchange, and scientific collaborations that are necessary to foster innovation that contributes to achieving the objectives of the CBD as well as the SDGs, in keeping with the trend towards open science and open data.⁹

As with other biodiversity policies and regulations, it is important to ensure closer collaboration between policy makers and relevant stakeholders, including business, on the design and implementation of access and benefit sharing related policy and regulations. Taking into account business and scientific expertise, experience and best practices will help ensure that policies and regulations take into account relevant information and practical realities, and will increase their chances of being effective in practice.

⁸ [Nagoya Protocol, Article 1: Objective](#)

⁹ However, see recent article where scientists have expressed concerns that the Nagoya Protocol’s enforcement in some instances might actually exclude developing countries and their scientists from international research and collaboration, negatively impacting the Protocol’s stated goals and the facilitation of “fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources” - <https://www.dsmz.de/home/details/entry/the-nagoya-protocol.html>

About The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the world's largest business organization representing more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries. ICC's core mission is to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere. Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, we promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. Our members include many of the world's leading companies, SMEs, business associations and local chambers of commerce.

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