IUCN's Position on support mechanisms
Convention on Biological Diversity
Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15)
Montreal, Canada, 7 – 19 December 2022

IUCN's Main Messages
Gender Plan of Action

✓ IUCN supports and encourages Parties to adopt the gender plan of action which reinforces and promotes the implementation of a gender-responsive post 2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF).

Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities

✓ IUCN highlights the importance of a new Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and its recognition as a crucial support mechanism for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

✓ IUCN recommends the consideration of a permanent, open-ended, and inclusive IPLCs body, which could play a strategic role and provide high-level advice on relevant issues through analysis, appropriate policy recommendations and options, in order support implementation of the Article 8(j) and related provisions.

Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism

✓ IUCN encourages Parties to adopt the resource mobilization strategy at COP15 and avoid delays in its implementation.

✓ IUCN welcomes proposed requests for improved financial reporting frameworks on biodiversity impacts of biodiversity-related expenditures of public and private financial institutions.

Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and communication

✓ IUCN invites Parties to consider ways to operationalize the long-term strategic framework such as by establishing milestones and targets to guide the capacity development efforts in relation to the post-2020 GBF.

✓ IUCN proposes that the specific reference to PANORAMA is maintained in the decision as a desirable example of an existing and successful initiative that will support implementation through knowledge generation, management and sharing.

Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

✓ IUCN recommends that the draft decision provides the details for operationalizing the responsibility and transparency mechanism of the post-2020 GBF.

✓ IUCN fully supports the establishment of a global biodiversity stocktake to assess progress in implementation and to enhance ambition and adjust execution as needed to achieve the targets and goals of the post-2020 GBF.

✓ IUCN emphasizes the importance of documenting contributions towards the GBF from non-State actors for consideration by Parties and inclusion into formal reporting processes.

Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors

✓ IUCN urges Parties to adopt, implement and promote the Long-Term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM) and the associated action plan and targets, but notes that the draft decision could benefit from identifying the specific 2030 targets to which the LTAM would be contributing to, in order to incentivize its implementation as a contribution to the GBF.

✓ In relation to mainstreaming guidance, tools, and good practice cases mentioned in the LTAM, IUCN brings to the attention of the Parties the methodology and knowledge products of the BIODEV2030 project.

Gender Plan of Action
(Agenda item 9 D)

IUCN welcomes the draft decision which acknowledges that a new gender plan of action is needed to support and promote the implementation of a gender-responsive post 2020 global biodiversity framework. The plan will also support a gender responsive approach to applying the implementation mechanisms associated with the framework. Further, **IUCN supports the adoption of the gender plan of action and encourages Parties to do so.**

IUCN has been contributing in the development of the GPA which is a key strategy document, that provides clear guidance on how to ensure the rights of women and girls, in their diversity of identities, are upheld in decision making and implementation of the GBF but also make visible the importance of identify and eliminate, prevent and respond, to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence in particular in relation to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders and park rangers as it has been shown in the IUCN publication Gender-based violence and environment linkages: the violence of inequality (iucn.org).

Enhancing integration with respect to provisions related to Article 8(j) and related provisions
(Agenda item 10)

The implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework must equally be carried out with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) including their free, prior, and informed consent, and with full recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, waters, territories and resources, as set out under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and with full respect for their diverse knowledge systems.

The framework should also provide a platform for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, consider their worldview, their harmonious relationship with nature, their perspective on sustainable development, and be culturally appropriate.

Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention

related to Indigenous peoples and local communities
(Agenda item 10A)

In line with the paragraphs above, **IUCN highlights the importance of a new programme of work on Article 8(j) and its recognition as a crucial support mechanism for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.**

Recognising the need to better provide advice regarding indigenous peoples' issues across the Convention, and the desire for a new institutional arrangement to facilitate knowledge exchange, **IUCN recommends the consideration of a permanent, open-ended, and inclusive IPLCs body, which could play a strategic role in promoting the traditional knowledge of IPLCs** and provide a learning platform. A new IPLCs institutional arrangement would provide high-level advice on relevant issues through analysis, appropriate policy recommendations and options, in order support implementation of the Article 8(j) and related provisions. Further, the new arrangement would ensure IPLCs full, equitable, effective, direct and meaningful participation in all activities and at all stages of implementation, providing recommendations, lessons learned, advice and information directly to the COP.

IUCN supports lifting the brackets on paragraph 9 of the draft decision.

Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism
(Agenda item 12)

IUCN supports the three components to resource mobilization as set out in Annex I of the draft decision: i) Reducing or redirecting resources causing harm to biodiversity; ii) Generating additional resources from all sources to achieve the three objectives of the Convention; and iii) Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use.

IUCN calls however for strengthened action in several areas. First, substantially increased investment and improved policy frameworks to incentivise private and public finance flows to improve the condition of natural assets, together with a framework that enables businesses, finance institutions and communities, including those of under-represented and marginalised constituencies, to benefit from training to build investments that generate nature as well as economic benefits.

Second, increased finance from countries whose consumption generates negative impacts on biodiversity in other countries to reflect their shared responsibility in managing such impacts. Bilateral aid to this end should in particular support transition of agriculture to net zero or positive impact on biodiversity.

Third, financial institutions should identify and disclose their impacts and dependencies on nature. Proposed regulatory frameworks such as the *Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosure* should be made a priority in order that financial flows are moved away from negative impacts on nature and towards positive impact. Measures of the change in these financial flows will be essential for the development of targets for the financial sector to deliver.

Fourth, to ensure that finance flows move to nature-positive impacts, substantially increased knowledge of the specific spatial impacts of pressures on biodiversity caused by commodity production, infrastructure development, unsustainable use and invasive species will be essential. This can be facilitated by the use of artificial intelligence, remotely-sensed data, and knowledge from local scientists, communities and Indigenous Peoples. In particular, increased knowledge of the geographical production of certain key agricultural products is necessary and should be driven by demand from financial institutions looking to make accurate assessments of financial risk.

Fifth, IUCN welcomes proposed requests for improved financial reporting frameworks on biodiversity impacts of biodiversity-related expenditures of public and private financial institutions. However, it is essential that such reporting frameworks consider and incorporate not only positive, but also potential negative impacts of both public and private sector financial flows on biodiversity, with the aim to increase positive impacts and eliminate negative impacts.

Finally, the resource mobilization strategy is a key support mechanism for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Therefore, **IUCN encourages Parties to adopt the resource mobilization strategy at COP15 and avoid delays in its implementation** (option A in paragraph 16 of the draft decision).

Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and communication
(Agenda item 13)

Capacity building

IUCN welcomes the efforts undertaken to consult broadly on the development of the Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity Development as a crucial element of the GBF that has resulted in a coherent and clear strategy.

IUCN supports the proposed establishment of an overall coordination mechanism that enables the collective involvement of committed organisations and partnerships, and ensures capacity-development efforts are accessed in an equitable and inclusive way, ensuring diverse representation. **IUCN invites Parties to consider ways to operationalize the long-term strategic framework such as by establishing milestones and targets to guide the capacity development efforts in relation to the post-2020 Framework.** It will also be important to coordinate capacity development across biodiversity-related conventions.

The long-term strategic framework envisages commitments by organisations and partnerships to fulfil its purpose. IUCN through its expert networks is well-placed to contribute towards the necessary partnerships. One such partnership involves IUCN with GIZ, UNDP, UNEP, Rare, GRID Arendal, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IFOAM - Organics International, the World Bank, OCTO and EcoHealth Alliance, i.e., **PANORAMA - Solutions for a Healthy Planet[1].**

The approach adopted by PANORAMA is fully consistent with the meaning and scope of capacity development set out in the Draft Long-term Strategic Framework, and it embraces all three levels of capacity development outlined in the Strategic Framework.

Furthermore, IUCN draws attention to the significant efforts being undertaken to develop regional information systems, knowledge management and capacity development, through the BEST (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in European Oversees Territories) and BIOPAMA (Biodiversity and Protected Area Management) programmes. These programmes facilitate regional cooperation, and support monitoring and evaluation functions.

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[1] A document highlighting ways in which the PANORAMA partnership could contribute to the Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity Development and the Knowledge Management Component of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity

Framework has been posted on the SBI-3 documents webpage, under the category "Other":
https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/737e/bf60/87c488a8b58aa32bdc8e8e0e/iucn-panorama-infdoc-sbi3-en.pdf

Regional observatories established under BIOPAMA will also support coordination and coherence of capacity building, communication and knowledge management at regional levels, as part of the governance and coordination mechanisms proposed in the draft decision, and IUCN suggests that the specific reference to them be maintained in the decision.

Knowledge management

IUCN supports the establishment of a global biodiversity knowledge network, based on existing organizations, initiatives and processes.

IUCN proposes that the specific reference to PANORAMA is maintained in the decision as a desirable example of such existing initiatives that will support implementation through knowledge generation, management and sharing.

The PANORAMA partners have committed to collaborating with the CBD secretariat in supporting Parties on the national implementation of the knowledge management component of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, through identification, collation and sharing of good practices and supporting communications around solutions to implement the GBF.

Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review
(Agenda item 14)

This decision should provide the details for operationalizing the responsibility and transparency mechanism of the post-2020 GBF. In that regard, the different components of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review need to mirror elements in section J of the post-2020 GBF.

Greater clarity is needed on the review section. While an analysis of collective ambition to identify gaps in ambition is welcome, as is a periodic stocktake of progress in implementation, ultimately their purpose should be to inform subsequent revision of NBSAPs / national targets and voluntary commitments by non-State actors, along the lines of the text proposed in paragraph 15 alt.

IUCN fully supports the establishment of a global biodiversity stocktake to assess progress in implementation and to enhance ambition and adjust implementation as needed to achieve the targets and goals of the post-2020 GBF. The global stocktake must be based primarily on national reports but should also consider a wider

source of inputs. On this point, IUCN invites Parties to consider including in other sources of information, other national reports and monitoring frameworks from multilateral environmental agreements, especially biodiversity-related conventions as relevant and appropriate.

Parties may also wish to merge paragraph 13 (j) and paragraph 19.

IUCN also notes the importance for the global biodiversity stocktake to take into account the latest and best available science, for which scientific assessments considered cannot be exclusively reviewed by intergovernmental bodies, we therefore suggest deleting the text in brackets in paragraph 13(h):

> (h) Relevant [intergovernmentally reviewed,] scientific assessments and reports, [considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice] including by those by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the Local Biodiversity Outlooks as well as the knowledge of indigenous people and local communities;

Finally, if Parties decide to instruct the SBI to develop the procedures of the stocktake, IUCN offers that paragraphs 17 and 18 would fall under such instruction.

On the engagement and contributions of non-State actors, **IUCN emphasizes the importance of documenting contributions towards the GBF from non-State actors for consideration by Parties and inclusion into formal reporting processes.** In this light, IUCN was given a mandate by its Membership – comprised of Governments, NGOs and IPOs – to develop a Contributions for Nature Platform to allow all IUCN constituencies to document their potential contributions to global goals for nature. IUCN stands ready to facilitate sharing of this information as appropriate under the formal reporting processes under discussion.

Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors
(Agenda item 16)

IUCN welcomes the efforts undertaken to develop the Long-Term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM) as an important support mechanism for the implementation of the GBF and **urges Parties to adopt, implement and promote the LTAM and the associated action plan and targets**.

IUCN notes that while the draft decision recognizes that mainstreaming of biodiversity is a fundamental part of sustainable development and critical to achieve the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature, **the text could benefit from identifying the specific 2030 targets to which the LTAM would be contributing to, in order to incentivize its implementation as a contribution to the GBF.** Further, in order to avoid duplication in reporting, the targets and indicators used to measure progress on LTAM should as much as possible build on the arrangements in place for reporting, monitoring and review of targets 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 of the post-2020 GBF.

IUCN highlights the importance of breaking down silos between stakeholders and fostering collaboration for systemic change as demonstrated by [BIODEV2030](#), a joint project by IUCN, WWF and Expertise France to operationalize biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors in 16 developing countries. Therefore, IUCN:

- ✓ recommends involving representatives of the business sector in the mainstreaming discussions;
- ✓ encourages Governments at all levels, businesses, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant stakeholders to engage in the activities set out in the action plan.
- ✓ encourages greater outreach and engagement with stakeholders through multi-stakeholder platforms, to facilitate dialogue and collaboration to solve biodiversity problems in a systemic way, for a successful mainstreaming approach. Such multi-stakeholder platforms should be fit-for-purpose, inclusive and based on a robust stakeholder mapping. They must engage representatives of governments at all levels, the private sector, civil society organisations and indigenous peoples and local communities into regular discussions informed by scientific data and evidence-based studies to support decision-making.

In light of the above, IUCN suggest the following amendments to the draft decision, for consideration of Parties:

- ✓ *2. [Adopts][Takes note of][Welcomes]* the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity contained in the annex to the present decision as an important contribution to the development **and implementation** of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework **and in particular targets 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 related to mainstreaming but also targets**

5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 which depend on sustainably-led economic activities ;

- ✓ 4. *[Welcomes] [Takes note of] [Takes note with appreciation of]* the voluntary action plan for the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, and encourages Parties and other Governments, at all levels, […] in order to support the global biodiversity framework and its implementation,...

Finally, in relation to mainstreaming guidance, tools, and good practice cases mentioned in the LTAM, **IUCN brings to the attention of the Parties the methodology and knowledge products of the [BIODEV2030](#) project**, that can be shared by the 16 Parties involved in the project.

Based on 3 key steps: i) a national biodiversity threat assessment; ii) a deep sectoral analysis (context analysis, stakeholders mapping, existing practices analysis); and iii) a multi-stakeholder dialogue, to foster private sector commitments, and integrate them into national strategies and action plans (including NBSAPs), the BIODEV2030 methodology highlights the importance of collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders as a crucial step for buy-in and ownership, something that is currently lacking from the proposed strategy and action areas for transformative systemic change.

IUCN invites Parties to consider adding an additional Headline Action 6 under Strategy Area III: Mainstreaming biodiversity across society in the Annex of the draft decision as follows:

- ✓ **Headline Action 6: Governments at all levels, businesses, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant stakeholders across society are engaged or represented in national multi-sectoral platforms that creates an interface between scientific experts and all stakeholders to inform decisions and progresses, follows the implementation of the Action Plan and its contribution to the NBSAPs, creates accountability mechanisms between the different stakeholders and creates joint ownership of the transformation process.**

   Rationale: A multi-stakeholder platform creates an interface between scientific experts and non-experts, policy, and economic decision-makers, which is essential for understanding the issues at stake, the cost of inaction and identifying priorities in a concerted manner, while

ensuring coherence between the national strategy for sustainable development and the development strategies centred on the sectors. Such a multi-stakeholder platform would promote cross-sectoral cooperation, which is necessary at national level but also where several sectors operate in a given territory and cause cumulative pressures. Such a platform offers a space for periodic and transparent monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan by the different actors, in order to ensure accountability of all for their contributions. It also helps actors and stakeholders to take ownership of the issues, take part in the debates and be made accountable for the actions and impacts.