Towards a Common Monitoring and Reporting Framework for Implementation During the post-2020 period of CBD

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**BACKGROUND**

Experiences and lessons learned during the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 indicate that Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity Diversity (CBD) must be able to more effectively implement, monitor and report on their national biodiversity strategies, targets, and actions. This information will assist Parties in evaluating the present and future status of nature in their countries, and in reporting on areas of significant biodiversity decline. Data from monitoring and reporting efforts is also essential to developing a better understanding the risks these declines pose for people and the planet and creating urgent and meaningful actions to halt or reverse it.

To fully achieve the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), Parties to the CBD will need to work together to create the enabling conditions necessary to develop and implement more regular and systematic national monitoring systems that effectively review progress to conserve nature at regular intervals. Support is also needed to develop more comprehensive national databases on nature, determine how to use spatial data to inform conservation decisions, monitor indicators over time, and integrate the perspective of indigenous and local communities (IPLCs), as well as women, into monitoring and reporting efforts. To do so, more effective data management systems will need to be developed for decision-making and reporting purposes, and baselines of biodiversity data will need to be established to help measure the impact of actions at the national and global level.

**CAPACITY NEEDS IDENTFIED DURING THE SIXTH NATIONAL REPORTING PERIOD**

Through the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) work to support Parties to meet their obligations to the CBD during the Sixth National Reporting (6NR) period, we have identified several capacity needs that must be addressed to fully realize this vision. The CBD’s post-2020 monitoring and evaluation framework and guidelines should address these needs:

* **Developing systematic, long-term national data management systems**: Accurate spatial and tabular data on biodiversity, climate, and development are needed to support the decision-making processes used to develop, implement, and monitor progress to achieve the post-2020 GBF. Yet most national reporting efforts still rely heavily on qualitative data, even though spatial data and other quantitative metrics to track indicators are available around the world at high resolutions and often provide a more accurate picture of biodiversity status and trends.
* **Creating spatially explicit baselines of biodiversity data:** A pervasive lack of baseline spatial data on biodiversity status in many countries must be addressed. Without easy access to this information, it will remain challenging for Parties to accurately and systematically design and track the measures they are taking to implement the CBD’s provisions, and their effectiveness in meeting CBD objectives.
* **Utilizing consistent units of measurement**: In many cases, the unit of progress being measured during national monitoring and reporting efforts is left open to interpretation. Parties may choose to report on the implementation and effectiveness of NBSAP strategies, high-level groupings of NBSAP actions, or a new level of reporting that encompasses themes such as forestry, marine, sustainable development. Without a common metric of evaluation, it is challenging to understand the impacts of implementation across the globe.
* **Improving the long-term use of biodiversity indicators:** Parties need significant support to operationalize the long-term monitoring of quantitative biodiversity indicators that are explicitly tied to global and national targets. At this time, monitoring and reporting on these indictors is likely an unobtainable goal for many GEF-eligible countries, as post-2010 NBSAPs do not commonly include measurable indicators, or include targets that are too ambitious, that are not tied to existing data, or that are too difficult to track.
* **Identifying nature-based solutions:** IUCN defines nature-based solutions as actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, and that simultaneously provide benefits for human well-being and biodiversity. Each national report includes monitoring data on biodiversity that can help Parties determine the best pathways to deliver nature-based solutions through protection, restoration, and management. If implemented, these actions can help Parties contribute to achievement of the CBD, as well as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). This information should be systematically tracked.
* **Mainstreaming results of monitoring and reporting efforts biodiversity:** Time and technical support are needed to update NBSAPs and other national policy mechanisms by incorporating the findings from national reports into these documents, especially as they relate to progress to implement measures to achieve the CBD’s post-2020 GBF, and efforts to improve the impact and effectiveness of related strategies and action to conserve biodiversity.
* **Developing stronger synergies among the Rio Conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals:** There is a pervasive lack of alignment among efforts to implement the three Rio Conventions, which often results in a lack of common priorities to achieve complementary goals. Support is needed to identify synergies in measures across these agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda.The access, sharing, and use of monitoring data can support national agencies to better identify and align synergistic actions to achieve shared commitments. National reporting obligations should also be streamlined across all of the biodiversity-related conventions.
* **Communicating the value of biodiversity:** National monitoring efforts yield critical information about rates of biodiversity loss around the globe, as well as biodiversity’s contributions to mankind’s wellbeing. Capacity must be built to communicate this information in a language that politicians, policymakers and the general public can understand, and that inspires people to take action.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEMS WHEN IMPLEMENTING THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

The monitoring and reporting system used to measure progress to implement the post-2020 GBF should be oriented around the following components:

1. Build national data management mechanisms and spatially explicit monitoring systems that allow Parties to systematize the collection, sharing, and analysis of spatial and tabular baseline data on biodiversity for national monitoring and reporting, and NBSAP development and implementation.
2. Incorporate tools that allow Parties to monitor and visualize ongoing progress to achieve national NBSAP actions, national targets, and indicators using standard formats, and to revise NBASPs accordingly.
3. Develop a common set of national biodiversity indicators that support parties to more consistently and accurately track measurable changes in the status of nature, and the impact of actions to protect it, the contributions of all stakeholders, including IPLCS and women.
4. Build baselines of spatial data on biodiversity and provide training on how to use this information to better design conservation measures, such as where to act to protect, restore, and management nature with limited resources.
5. Develop a common taxonomy of NBASP actions and indicators that can be measured using standard methods and commonly available datasets.
6. Strengthen capacity to design and implement monitoring systems across the multiple agencies responsible for implementation of NBSAPs in a way that supports investments in synergies in action across the CBD, UNFCCC, and 2030 Agenda.