

Bern II Co-Leads paper

Moving the synergies -agenda forward in the context of the negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

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Introduction

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework (hereafter “GBF”)¹ is currently being negotiated under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereafter “CBD”). It aims to galvanize urgent and transformative action by Governments and all of society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and businesses, to achieve the outcomes it sets out in its vision, mission, goals and targets, and thereby to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions, the hazardous chemicals and wastes conventions, relevant international organizations and their programmes, and other relevant processes.²

The objective of the second consultation workshop of the biodiversity-related conventions on the GBF (Bern II) is for Parties, Secretariats and other stakeholders to reflect on the best way to involve biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant MEAs in contributing to the development of the GBF and its effective implementation through coherent, coordinated, complementary and synergetic approaches, working as appropriate with international organizations and programmes. Inclusion of the contributions of all relevant MEAs in the body of the GBF will enhance a feeling of shared ownership. Beyond the GBF, cooperation with biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant MEAs should also be reflected in other relevant decisions of the CBD Conference of the Parties (hereafter “CBD COP15”), relating both to the substance and to the implementation, monitoring and review of the GBF.

Two representatives of Parties, Ms Somaly Chan from Cambodia and Ms Anne Teller from the European Union, have been invited to co-lead the Bern II workshop. The two Co-Leads have considered the purpose of the meeting and the relevant documentation and have developed a plan for optimising use of the opportunity. Accordingly, the purpose of this paper is to:

- *Prioritize* topics of key importance to advance discussions during the Bern II consultation workshop, by drawing on the UNEP-WCMC Background Document for Bern II developed in consultation with Secretariats;
- Provide concrete proposals for the consideration of participants at the Bern II consultation workshop, by *identifying elements* and *drafting text* that could be reflected in the GBF and other relevant CBD COP15 Decisions, to ensure an effective, coherent and synergistic implementation and operationalization of the GBF.

This paper has been developed by the Co-Leads in their personal capacity in order to facilitate discussions and was updated after the Bern II briefings. It will be finalised after the Bern II second MEA consultation workshop on post-2020 and submitted by the co-leads as an information document to SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3 to inform discussion on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and related issues along with the report of the workshop. All consultation documents and summaries of submissions will also be made directly available to the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

¹ [Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#), (January 2020) as amended by [Update of the Zero Draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (August 2020)

² CBD COP Decision [14/34](#) *Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*

Co-Leads' summary

Inclusive goals, targets and monitoring framework: When it comes to the draft GBF's goals, milestones, targets and monitoring framework, these need to be infused further with elements that clearly reflect different MEAs' mandates and expand upon synergies and cross-convention issues. The Co-Leads encourage the Open-ended Working Group (hereafter "OEWG") at its 3rd meeting to carefully consider such issues and to cover potential gaps in the next iteration of the GBF.

Encouraging cross-conventional coordination, cooperation and synergies: Furthermore, the Co-Leads propose the inclusion of wording in the GBF that makes clear the importance of cross-convention coordination and synergies in working towards the targets, enshrining co-ownership and co-responsibility in the targets themselves. It will also be important to reference synergies in thematic and cross-cutting CBD COP15 decisions, such as those agriculture, marine, mining, health and any other relevant issues. (*Section 1*).

Optimizing implementation and building capacity through synergies at the national level: It is essential for the national implementation of the GBF to harness synergies in an ambitious and innovative manner, ensuring that its targets are met by all Parties. To achieve this, the Co-Leads have included a range of options for Parties, predominantly revolving around biodiversity mainstreaming, resource mobilization and better coordination of all national level actors relevant to biodiversity governance. Among these, they urge Parties to establish national multi-sectoral steering committees to facilitate and coordinate implementation of the GBF and balance divergent national interests.

Elements for a coherent, synergistic and effective implementation and operationalization of the GBF: With respect to the system for planning, monitoring, reporting and review for the GBF, a move towards indicator-based monitoring, periodic reporting and reviews of progress is currently being discussed in the negotiation process. In order to be most useful, any reviews, such as potential global stocktakes conducted at regular intervals, will be most effective if they are informed by inputs from all biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant MEAs and relevant international organizations and programmes through a well-defined process with clear roles and responsibilities and agreed metrics. The Co-Leads, therefore, propose:

- a) Key elements of a mechanism in which monitoring, reporting and review by relevant MEAs can feed into any system for planning, monitoring, reporting and review agreed on for tracking progress in the implementation of the GBF.
- b) Elements for a framework by which relevant MEAs can work together to ensure that their efforts to contribute to the GBF's implementation, monitoring, reporting and review is comprehensive, coherent, synergistic and effective (formalisation of the Bern process mixing MEA Secretariats and Parties via a cross-convention working group).

Approach taken in this paper: In recognition of the respective mandates and independent governance structures of the different biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant MEAs, any effective synergistic system for planning, reporting and review of the GBF will require text included in the GBF and other CBD COP decision text, as well as in decisions of the governing bodies of the other agreements. Therefore the Co-Leads paper includes both key technical elements that need to be addressed to set up an effective synergistic system for planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the GBF (*Section 2*), and technical and political options to advance the synergies agenda in the context of the GBF, such as the establishment of a cross-convention working group mandated with the creation of a collaborative approach to operationalization of the GBF (*Section 3*).

1 Goals, Milestones, Action Targets and Indicators

1.1 MEA-specific Issues in the GBF

The Co-Leads recommend that MEA-specific issues are more clearly included in the GBF's goals, milestones, targets and the monitoring framework. This will ensure that the GBF is comprehensive and reflects synergies with a broad range of biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant MEAs, relevant international organizations and programmes to co-design and operationalize it.

The Co-Leads would like to bring to the attention of the OEWG that some issues and gaps have been identified in the past by the Secretariats of various MEAs (multiple sources included in Section A Thematic Issues of the Bern II Background Document, although there have also been more recent submissions). In this context the Co-Leads make the following proposal for addressing identified gaps.³

Description of the proposal: Co-Leads propose a recommendation to the OEWG at its 3rd meeting to take into account MEAs' individual inputs and recommend that co-chairs provide clear guidance to MEAs on how they can provide their input on GBF matters related to goals, milestones, targets and the Monitoring Framework.

Draft wording: Draft recommendation addressed to the OEWG and its co-chairs:

“The Co-Leads of the Bern II consultation workshop invite the Open-ended Working Group, at its 3rd meeting, to take into account potential gaps in the GBF that have been identified by the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements. The Open-ended Working Group is hereby asked to incorporate elements, which correspond to the specialized mandates of biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant MEAs, and relevant international organizations and programmes.

The Bern II Co-Leads would also like to encourage the Open-ended Working Group to provide clearer guidance to biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other relevant programmes on how they can contribute to the implementation, monitoring, reporting and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. By providing such guidance, implementation can be coordinated, ownership of targets and processes can be incentivized, and a comprehensive monitoring framework can be facilitated, allowing relevant bodies to make invaluable contributions to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

It is the belief of the Bern II Co-Leads that a collaborative preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will set the foundations for its synergistic implementation, monitoring reporting and review, and the accomplishment of its ambitious targets.”

³ Sources/background Information:

- [Report of the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-Related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#), Bern, 10-12 June 2019
- [Report of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on its Second Meeting](#), Rome, 24-29 February 2020
- UN ECOSOC – Statistic Division, [Submission of views on possible targets, indicators and baselines for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and peer review of a document on indicators](#)
- [1st](#) and [2nd](#) Syntheses of views of parties and observers on the content of the Global Biodiversity Framework
- Co-Leads Background Paper Section A

1.2 Encouraging Synergies in Addressing GBF Goals and Targets

The Co-Leads believe that there is benefit in making clear the importance of cross-convention coordination and synergies in delivering all of the goals and targets in the GBF, thereby enshrining co-ownership and co-responsibility in the targets themselves.

Description of the proposal: The Co-Leads suggest the inclusion of stronger wording in the GBF with respect to the role and importance of cooperation and synergies in order to:

- a) Highlight the importance of a strong International Environmental Governance Framework in the GBF itself.
- b) Have a clear commitment for shared ownership of the GBF with other conventions.
- c) Provide a hook in the GBF itself for any structured process on strengthening cooperation to continue after the adoption of the GBF, and not just in the complementary CBD decision text on cooperation (operationalization of the framework, see section 3 below).

The proposal, presented here for the consideration of the workshop participants, can be incorporated in a recommendation to the OEWG as has been suggested above.

Draft wording: The Bern II Co-Leads originally considered proposing the addition of a specific target reiterating the importance of synergistic implementation of all normative and political instruments. Placed under II. E. (c) of the updated zero draft⁴ this would have added the following:

“By 2030, ensure strengthened cooperation and enhanced synergies among relevant multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and programmes, thereby contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the biodiversity framework.”

However, recognising that there is unlikely to be appetite for a new target, the Co-Leads propose consideration of the following with respect to the updated zero draft:

- a) Adding further text within the section on “purpose” to the effect that:

“The framework provides a basis for strengthening cooperation and enhancing synergies among relevant multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and programmes, as they work together at all levels to support its implementation.”

- b) Adding a further sentence to paragraph 12 to the effect that:

“Wherever possible and appropriate, actions will address the goals and objectives of relevant multilateral environmental agreements in a coherent and integrated manner.”

- c) Adding wording to paragraph 13 to the effect that:

“Wherever possible and appropriate, implementation support mechanisms will be developed through integrated approaches that engage all relevant multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and programmes.”

In addition, the existing wording relating to cooperation and synergies in the sections on “enabling conditions” (paragraph 14e) and “responsibility and transparency” (paragraph 16) should be retained or strengthened.

⁴ [Update of the Zero Draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

1.3 Links to co-ordination, co-operation and synergies in thematic and cross-cutting decisions of the 15th CBD Conference of the Parties

Description of the Proposal: The need to incorporate relevant language on co-ordination, co-operation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant MEAs, relevant international organizations and programmes goes beyond governance body decisions on cooperation⁵ or additions in the body of the GBF. The Co-Leads consider that, to mainstream biodiversity across sectors,⁶ reference to synergies should be included in all relevant governance body decisions. The Co-Leads provide an example of draft wording, which can be adapted and incorporated into upcoming CBD COP decisions on both thematic and cross-cutting issues. While this is applied here to CBD COP decisions, the principle is relevant to all MEA governance processes.

Draft wording: Draft recommendation addressed to the upcoming sessions of the CBD subsidiary bodies and their chairs, and to CBD COP 15:

“The Conference of the Parties,

Emphasizes that all global/regional/national/subnational [e.g. agriculture] strategies should promote and harness co-ordination, co-operation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, and with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Invites Parties and other Governments to facilitate dialogue among agencies responsible for biodiversity (both national ministries and focal points to biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements) and those responsible for [e.g. agriculture].”⁷

⁵ Along the lines of CBD COP Decisions [XIII/24](#) (*Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations*) and [14/30](#) (*Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives*)

⁶ Especially those identified in the CBD Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming [Progress Report on mainstreaming](#), namely agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, tourism, energy, health, infrastructure, mining, manufacture and processing.

⁷ It is hereby noted that the [agriculture] sector is used only for illustrative purposes. The means of harnessing synergies vary among each thematic and cross-cutting issue. To that end, each CBD COP decision should seek to specify and elaborate these means appropriately.

2 Implementation

2.1 A synergistic review and reporting system for the GBF

Description of the proposal: The Co-Leads strongly recommend the development of a synergistic approach to monitoring, reporting and review for the GBF, independent of the specific form of the system emerging from the negotiations. In particular, the Co-Leads are convinced that all relevant global processes need to be mutually supportive, in a way that one convention can utilize information provided by the review and reporting mechanisms of others.

Building up on the in-depth and substantive research that has already led to the elaboration of options,⁸ the Co-Leads have identified focus areas through which a co-ordination, co-operation and synergistic approach to review and reporting of the GBF can be promoted. These are as follows:

- Assessment of the necessity to streamline indicators and terms, as appropriate
- Integrated reporting and interoperability of online reporting tools
- Adoption of a modular approach to reporting
- Alignment of different reporting cycles, to ensure that the reports are completed in time for any relevant GBF review
- Coordination of any potential biodiversity global stocktake with the UNFCCC stocktake
- Establishment of a biodiversity stocktake on a target-by-target basis (similar to the review mechanism of the SDGs)

The Co-Leads, therefore, propose draft recommendations, addressed to the CBD Parties and relevant CBD processes and bodies leading up to the 15th Conference of the Parties,⁹ inviting them to take into account the identified synergistic options in the adoption of their respective recommendations and decisions. The wording provided in the first group below should be included in a recommendation to both the SBI and the OEWG, as set out below. The text on indicators is also relevant to the work of SBSTTA.

Draft wording: Draft recommendation addressed to the upcoming meetings of the CBD subsidiary bodies and their chairs, and the OEWG and its Co-Chairs:

“The Co-Leads of the Bern II consultation workshop recall that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its 3rd meeting will “provide elements to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular with regard to means to support and review implementation, including implementation support mechanisms, enabling conditions, responsibility and transparency”.¹⁰ Given the Body’s critical role in the process, the Co-Leads of the Bern II consultation workshop invite the CBD Subsidiary Bodies and the Open-ended Working Group to consider and support the following when providing advice on the development of the system for planning, reporting and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

Streamlined indicators: An effective implementation mechanism depends on a robust set of indicators. The CBD Subsidiary Bodies and the Open-ended Working Group are urged to assess the need to streamline relevant indicators and terms used in the monitoring frameworks of

⁸ Sources/Background Information:

- CBD COP [Decision 14/27](#) *Process for aligning national reporting, assessment and review* (paragraph 4e)
- [Report](#) of the CBD Informal Advisory Group on Synergies to the 14th Conference of the Parties
- [Report of the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-Related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#), 1st Bern Consultation Workshop (CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2)
- [Report on the thematic consultation on transparent implementation, monitoring, reporting and review for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (CBD/POST2020/WS/2020/1/3)
- CBD COP [Decision XIII/24](#) *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations*, (esp. Annexes)
- Relevant working documents and information documents for CBD SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3

⁹ The 3rd meeting of the CBD SBI as well as the 3rd meeting of the OEWG.

¹⁰ As requested by the OEWG pursuant to paragraph 18 of decision [14/34](#) (*Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*)

biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant programmes (e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals), as well as the need to identify potential global “headline” indicators. Any proposals made by the Open-ended Working Group should build on the extensive relevant work due to be undertaken by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its 24th meeting, which already draws on inputs from UNEP-WCMC and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership which indicates how indicators are used across different conventions and processes (including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).

Integrated reporting and interoperability of online reporting tools: The Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Open-ended Working Group are urged to encourage the establishment of an integrated reporting system with the objective to enable the joint use of information required by different reports, in an effort to minimize reporting workloads for Parties implementing different biodiversity-related conventions and other initiatives. To facilitate this process, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Open-ended Working Group are urged to develop options that enable interoperability among the different online reporting tools and knowledge platforms (including the CBD online reporting tool, the Online Reporting System - ORS, Data Reporting Tool - DaRT, UNEP’s World Environment Situation Room and the upcoming online Target Tracker). The contribution of InforMEA to the seamless achievement of the integration is identified as crucial and should be promoted accordingly.

Alignment of reporting cycles: In order to ensure that reports of biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements are timely and complementary, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Open-ended Working Group are urged to consider encouraging cooperation for the coordination of relevant reporting cycles of biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, to ensure that reports inform one another.

Modular approach to reporting: To avoid multiple reporting on common issues by Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Open Ended Working Group are urged to encourage a modular approach to reporting, for example through formalization of a number of periodic, thematic reports within major reporting cycles, on cross-cutting and cross-convention issues.

Establishment of a biodiversity stocktake on a target-by-target basis: Any system for planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be developed in a way that is compatible with a biodiversity global stocktake (potentially accompanied by a Gap Report), and/or a target-by-target review. This would facilitate the provisioning of recommendations for ratcheting up implementation measures where needed. In this context, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Open-ended Working Group are urged to consider encouraging synchronization of meetings, reviews and stocktakes of different biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements.”

Draft recommendation addressed to the Open-ended Working Group and its co-chairs:

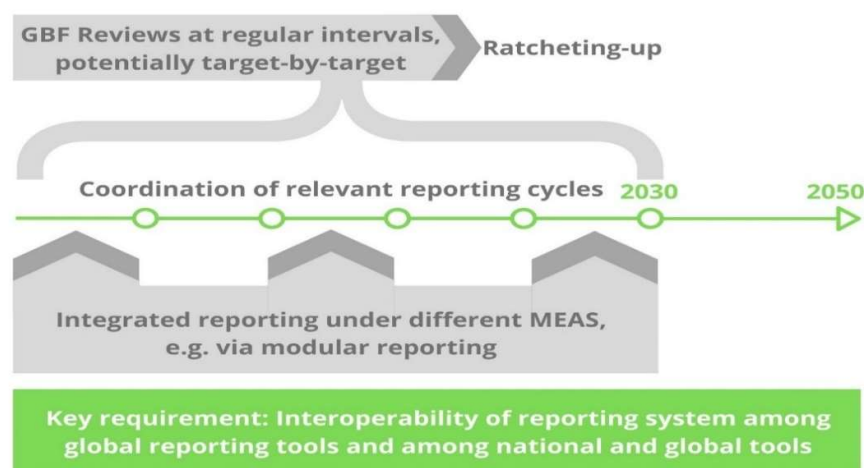
“The Co-Leads of the Bern II consultation workshop strongly recommend the Open-ended Working Group at its 3rd meeting to:

- 1. Recognize the role of biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other relevant programmes in the implementation, monitoring, reporting and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and associated decisions of the Conference of the Parties;*
- 2. Prioritize the inclusion of co-ordination, co-operation and synergies throughout the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, highlighting the coordinated and collaborative action as a major component of the post-2020 biodiversity agenda;*

3. *Ensure that the recommendations provided by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice are duly considered in a coherent and mutually supportive way, with the objective to imbue the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with numerous opportunities for co-ordination, co-operation and synergistic action among biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other relevant programmes.”*

Text on specific issues from the section above, edited as appropriate, will be added to the recommendation to the OEWG and its Co-Chairs, but is not repeated here, for brevity.

Graphic: In an effort to illustrate the main components of a synergistic system for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, the Co-Leads have developed a graphic representation of the presented elements.



2.2 Implementing synergies at the national level

2.2.1 Importance of synergistic approaches at the national level¹¹

Description of the proposal: The Co-Leads recommend the inclusion of specific CBD COP decision text to foster synergistic approaches for the implementation of the GBF at the national level. Building on Annex 1 to CBD COP decision [XIII/24](#) (“Options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level”) the Co-Leads propose clear guidance on minimum common obligations as part of the implementation of the GBF. Any proposal directly addressing Parties needs to enable flexibility in the modalities of its adoption, thus respecting the vast diversity of national circumstances, needs and priorities.

Draft wording:

“The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Urges Parties to coordinate the work of national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, those responsible for coordinating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and associated reporting and other national authorities in a holistic way, liaising as appropriate*

¹¹ Sources/Background Information:

- Decision [XIII/24](#) *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations*
- UNEP, [Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels](#), Chapters 2, 5 and 6, May 2015
- UNEP-WCMC, Bern II Background Document, Section B, Question 2.d., May 2020
- UNEP-WCMC, [Improving collaboration in the implementation of global biodiversity conventions](#)

with the country offices of international organizations, in order to build common understanding on national implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, strategic plans and other initiatives (such as the Sustainable Development Goals).

- 2. Encourages Parties to align their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the goals, milestones and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Revised NBSAPs should include explicit reference to biodiversity-related conventions and their strategic plans. This cross-referencing should promote joint implementation of actions to meet the post-2020 global biodiversity framework targets, other biodiversity-related conventions and the targets of the SDGs.*
- 3. Invites Parties to mobilize resources in ways which leverage enhanced co-ordination, co-operation and synergies when implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other biodiversity-related conventions.*
- 4. Calls upon Parties to mainstream the goals, milestones and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework into the different sectors of their national governance. Parties are invited to integrate conservation programmes and the principle of sustainability into national development plans, as well as strategies and legislation of multiple sectors (in particular agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, tourism, energy, health, infrastructure, mining, manufacture and processing). The adoption of NBSAPs as policy instruments is strongly recommended as a way to mainstream the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and make biodiversity a “whole-of-government” priority.*
- 5. Invites Parties, to establish multi-sectoral steering committees, mandated with streamlining national biodiversity governance and coordinating the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Beyond national authorities, country offices’ representatives, national focal points and national coordination mechanisms of international actors, the multi-sectoral steering committees should include members of civil society, including NGOs, representatives of indigenous and local communities, as well as the private sector.*
- 6. Invites the governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other relevant programmes to contribute to the enhancement of synergies at the national level by providing necessary guidance to their national representatives.*
- 7. Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to identify and/or develop necessary guidance for Parties to facilitate enhanced co-operation, co-ordination and synergies at the national level, as appropriate.”*

2.2.2 Highlighting the important role of co-operation, co-ordination and synergies as a way to reinforce capacity, e.g. in terms of resources¹²

Description of the proposal: Cross-conventional synergistic action has numerous benefits in the context of capacity-building and resource mobilisation at the individual (stakeholder), institutional (administrative) and systemic levels. Reinforcing capacity can take on various forms, such as development assistance, knowledge sharing and funding from donors, multilateral financial mechanisms, as well as the private sector. These can optimally be achieved through the joint or coordinated national implementation of biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant MEAs, relevant international organizations and programmes. The Co-Leads propose CBD COP decision language to ensure that reinforcing capacity of Parties and mobilising resources to implement the GBF can be achieved by leveraging enhanced co-operation, co-ordination and synergies.

Draft wording:

“The Conference of the Parties

1. *Urges Parties to enhance – in the context of the work of National Focal Points to biodiversity related conventions and on the basis of the long-term strategic framework on capacity-building – cross-conventional synergistic action at the national level focusing on both short-term and long-term activities, including but not limited to:*
 - (i) *Unlocking funds for joint implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and multi-year strategies,*
 - (ii) *Optimizing the sustainability and cost-effectiveness of financial flows devoted to capacity-building, and*
 - (iii) *Reinforcing technical and scientific capacity of ministries, national focal points and national environmental agencies by formalizing knowledge-sharing and consultative processes among them.*
2. *Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure that during the implementation of the long-term strategic framework on capacity-building, it will:*
 - (i) *Provide a solid knowledge base for parties and concerned stakeholders concerning the different options for synergistic capacity-building activities that can be undertaken at national level,*
 - (ii) *Assist access to Global Environment Facility and relevant development banks financial flows for countries jointly implementing biodiversity-related conventions and multi-year actions plans, and*
 - (iii) *Facilitate and promote existing cross-convention and regional capacity-building initiatives and improve their efficiency and effectiveness.”*

¹² Sources/Background Information:

- Paragraph 28 of Annex I of CBD COP Decision [XIII/24](#) (*Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations*)
- Bern II Background Document – Section B Questions
- Annex 3. On “Opportunities for accessing GEF Funds for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions” (with respect to GEF-6) of the [UNEP Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels](#)
- Aggregated survey results in Study On Key Capacity-Building And Awareness-Raising Needs Regarding Cooperation Among MEAs At The National Level - [UNEP/CBD/BRC/WS/1/INF/1](#)
- Relevant working documents and information documents for CBD SBI-3

3 Operationalization of the GBF by other conventions and processes

3.1 CBD COP invitation for joint implementation of the GBF¹³

Description of the proposal: On the operationalization of the GBF by biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant MEAs, relevant international organizations and programmes, the Co-Leads would like to propose an approach, which builds on that taken for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In that case, relevant decision text during the adoption of the Strategic Plan¹⁴ led to its subsequent recognition and/or endorsement by other conventions and processes.¹⁵ Governing bodies of other conventions have already shown their strong commitment with respect to the GBF, by adopting decision text clearly expressing their will to participate in its implementation.¹⁶

The Co-Leads' propose draft CBD COP decision language that includes a commitment by CBD Parties to work together with other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant MEAs, and relevant international organizations and programmes. It also invites biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant MEAs, and relevant international organizations and programmes to endorse the GBF, align where necessary their strategic planning documents with it, and to contribute to its joint implementation, monitoring, reporting and review including an invitation to join the process of establishing a cross-convention working group (see further 3.2 below). Due to the legal autonomy and independence in decision-making of each of those actors, the operationalization of the GBF by other conventions and processes will necessarily happen at their discretion.

Draft wording:

“The Conference of the Parties,

- 1. Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to identify, develop and provide any necessary guidance and technical support that will help encourage and facilitate other biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations, and other relevant programmes to assist them in the operationalization of the 2020 global biodiversity framework.*
- 2. Encourages Parties to work together with other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements to which they are party, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to promote the effective operationalisation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*

¹³ Sources/Background Information:

- UNEP, [Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels](#), Chapter 6, May 2015
- UNEP-WCMC, [Promoting synergies between the cluster of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements](#), Chapters 3, 5, 8, 9, April 2012
- UNEP, [Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions](#), Chapter 7, March 2016
- Bern II Background Document, Section C and Annex 2, May 2020

¹⁴ CBD COP Decision [X/2](#) *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* (adoption), but also CBD COP Decision [XI/6](#) *Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations, and initiatives* (focusing on the importance of cooperation and synergistic actions in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and mentioning decisions and initiatives by other biodiversity-related conventions and processes operationalizing it).

¹⁵ CMS Resolution [10.18](#), [11.10](#); CITES Resolution [16.4](#); Ramsar Convention Resolution [XI.6](#); ITPGRFA Resolution [8/2011](#); WHC Decision: [37 COM 5A](#) (from UNEP Sourcebook)

¹⁶ cf. Annex II of Bern II Background Document, providing an overview of decisions, resolutions and declarations on alignment of the strategic planning documents of other biodiversity-related conventions than CBD with the post-2020 Global biodiversity framework

3. *Invites the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to formally endorse the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through their own governance processes, and to support its operationalisation, aligning where possible and appropriate their own multi-year strategies with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*
4. *Invites other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to contribute to the transparency and monitoring of global progress in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This could be achieved by mapping all contributions to meeting the goals, milestones and targets, and by making this information available and compatible with the monitoring framework established by the Convention on Biological Diversity for planning, reporting and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*
5. *Encourages all key stakeholders to work together to jointly implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support. Efforts to achieve joint implementation need to occur at all appropriate levels (sub-national, national, regional and global), and both multilaterally (through existing and new mechanisms) and bilaterally (through joint work programmes, Memoranda of Cooperation/Understanding etc)."*

3.2 Launch of a cross-convention working group to develop a common framework to operationalize the GBF system for planning, reporting and review

Description of proposal: The efforts to enhance co-ordination, co-operation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions have been numerous, with the substantive contributions of the Informal Advisory Group (IAG) on synergies,¹⁷ the work of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the valuable experience generated at the 1st Bern consultation workshop,¹⁸ among them. Building upon these, the Co-Leads suggest draft CBD COP decision text to launch a cross-convention working group to develop a framework for the collaborative operationalization of the GBF.

Draft wording:

"The Conference of the Parties,

Requests the Executive Secretary, working in consultation with the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, and the Joint Liaison Group, to explore options for establishing a cross-convention working group to help support implementation, monitoring, reporting and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in a collaborative manner.

Invites other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to actively support the CBD Executive Secretariat in the process of developing and establishing such a cross-convention working group.

Proposes that the following characteristics be considered for such a working group:

- a) *Permanent cross-convention working group, with representatives of all participating entities, holding regular meetings and thematic consultations. Participation is likely to*

¹⁷ Established by CBD COP decision [XII/6](#) (*Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives*) and mandated by the Executive Secretary via decision [XIII/24](#) (*Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations*) to submit its [Report](#) to the 14th Conference of the Parties

¹⁸ [Report of the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-Related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#), Bern, 10-12 June 2019

include both secretariats and representatives of parties, as well as representatives of appropriate international organizations and programmes.

- b) *Primary focus on developing and maintaining a mutually supportive approach to meeting the goals, milestones and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including addressing collaboration on monitoring, review and reporting, and on opportunities for coordinated support for implementation at the national level.*
- c) *Encourages the identification of ways in which the different biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements contribute to the achievement of specific goals, milestones, targets and indicators in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*
- d) *Supports implementation of the system for planning, monitoring, reporting and review developed for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by further considering how review and reporting under different MEAs and processes can most effectively contribute to review of progress made towards the attainment of the goals and targets.*
- e) *Identification of opportunities and experience sharing among the biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other relevant programmes, with regard to how they can adopt the framework under their own institutional and procedural structures.*

Also requests the Executive Secretariat to consider how such collaboration can be most effectively communicated to promote the agreed framework in high-level political fora, such as the United Nations General Assembly¹⁹ and the United Nations Environment Assembly, with the objective to progressively engage them in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in a proactive and consistent manner. This would build on the efforts already under way within the UN Environment Management Group and in response to decisions of the UN Executive Committee and the UN Chief Executives Board.”

¹⁹ Recalling the provision of such political support for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011- contained in United Nations' General Assembly [Resolution 65/161](#) of 11 March 2011