

Health and Biodiversity in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Zakri Abdul Hamid Ambassador and Science Advisor to the Campaign for Nature



Health and Biodiversity

"The Covid-19 crisis represents the biggest science advice / science diplomacy challenge the world has faced together since the Second World War"

- Sir Peter Gluckman -

Former Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of New Zealand/President-elect, International Council for Science

Health and Biodiversity: Let Nature Helps Protect Us

- While saving human lives and re-booting the economy are two utmost priorities for governments to consider when developing their post-COVID-19 Stimulus Package, they must not forget Nature.
- After all, the root cause of those zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 is the destruction of wildlife habitats, a fact endorsed by most of the scientific community.

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: 2050 Vision

A world of living in harmony with nature where: "By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."



We have failed before!

- Despite the commitments made by governments in 2010 to take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity to ensure resilient ecosystems by 2020, target was largely not achieved and much remains to be done
- As the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 came to an end, an (ambitious) new global biodiversity framework is being developed/implemented
- The framework is essentially a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- The development and implementation of post-2020 framework is hoped to deliver the 2050 Vision for biodiversity, "*Living in harmony with nature*".

2030 Mission

To take urgent action across society to put biodiversity on a path to recovery for the benefit of planet and people

The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework The Zero Draft

INTRODUCTION

• A. Background B. The purpose C. Theory of change

THE FRAMEWORK

- A. 2050 Vision; B. 2030 and 2050 Goals; C. 2030 Mission; D. 2030 action targets (total 20)
 - Reducing threats to biodiversity (1-6)
 - Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing (7 - 11)
 - Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming (12 - 20)
 - Implementation support mechanisms
 - Enabling conditions
 - Responsibility and transparency
 - Outreach, awareness and uptake



Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

2030 and 2050 Goals

- No net loss by 2030 in the area and integrity of freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and increases of at least [20%] by 2050, ensuring ecosystem resilience;
- The percentage of species threatened with extinction is reduced by [X%] and the abundance
 of species has increased on average by [X%] by 2030 and by [X%] by 2050;
- Genetic diversity is maintained or enhanced on average by 2030, and for [90%] of species by 2050;
- Nature provides benefits to people contributing to:
- The benefits, shared fairly and equitably, from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge have increased by [X] by 2030 and reached [X] by 2050.

2030 Action Targets

Reducing threats to biodiversity

- Retain and restore freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, increasing by at least [50%] the land and sea area under comprehensive spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, achieving by 2030 a net increase in area, connectivity and integrity and retaining existing intact areas and wilderness.
- 2. Protect sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area- based conservation measures, by 2030 covering at least [60%] of such sites and at least [30%] of land and sea areas with at least [10%] under strict protection.

2030 Action Targets (cont.)

- Control all pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, achieving by 2030 a [50%] reduction in the rate of new introductions, and eradicate or control invasive alien 3. species to eliminate or reduce their impacts by 2030 in at least [50%] of priority sites. Reduce by 2030 pollution from excess nutrients, biocides, plastic waste and other sources
- 4. by at least [50%].
- Ensure by 2030 that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species, is legal and at 5. sustainable levels.
- Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction through nature-based solutions providing by 2030 [about 30%] [at least XXX MT CO2=] of the mitigation effort needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, complementing stringent emission reductions, and avoiding negative impacts on biodiversity and food 6. security.

Statement by IPBES-experts: Josef Settele, Sandra Díaz, Eduardo Brondizio and Peter Daszak

- Post COVID-19 stimulus measures "must save lives, protect livelihoods, and safeguard Nature to reduce the risk of future pandemics."
- "Rampant deforestation, uncontrolled expansion of agriculture, intensive farming, mining and infrastructure development, as well as the exploitation of wild species have created a 'perfect storm' for the spillover of diseases from wildlife to people."



Settele et al. statement: Three essential considerations for governments for COVID-19-related stimulus plans

- 1. Strengthen environmental regulations;
- Adopt a 'One Health' approach to decisionmaking that recognizes complex interconnections among the health of people, animals, plants, and our shared environment;
- **3. Prop up** healthcare systems in the most vulnerable countries where resources are strained and underfunded.



Recent statement by IPBES experts: Settele, Díaz, and Brondizio

- "This is not simple altruism," they argue, "it is vital investment in the interests of all to prevent future global outbreaks."
- The programmes required will cost tens of billions of dollars a year.
- "But if you get one pandemic, even just one a century, that costs trillions, so you still come out with an incredibly good return on investment."
- "Business as usual will not work. Business as usual right now for pandemics is waiting for them to emerge and hoping for a vaccine. That's not a good strategy. We need to deal with the underlying drivers."



"Campaign for Nature"

- That compelling narrative underlines the urgent necessity to support the *Campaign for Nature*, launched in 2018 by the Wyss Foundation and National Geographic Society to set aside 30% of the Earth surface as protected areas by 2030.
- Habitat loss is widely regarded as the world's top cause of species extinction.
- To save those species, their homes and those of other species on which they depend must be **protected**—and quickly.
- "We've got a really tight clock," says Brian O'Donnell, director of the *Campaign for Nature*, who advocates globally for more conservation areas. "Every year we wait, we put more species in peril."





The coronavirus pandemic provides **powerful proof that nature and people** are more **closely linked** than most of us realized. <u>When we protect</u> <u>nature, nature protects us.</u> It is for this reason that the proposal to protect at least **30 percent** of the planet is more important than ever. I hope that the **10 ASEAN countries** will embrace this **global target** and **invest** in **nature conservation** as a way to <u>better safeguard the health of</u> <u>our communities and our planet</u>.



Conclusion

- Political agenda and socio-economic development are very important, but we need to balance and re-orient them with environmental concerns and quality of life being at the centre of decision-making.
- The environment, ecology and quality of life must be prioritized in all government planning processes, policies, plans and laws, including implementation.

