



Submission by the International Coalition of Fisheries Association (ICFA)

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WG2020 – Item 4 (Global Biodiversity Framework)

The International Coalition of Fisheries Association (ICFA) welcomes ongoing developments for the adoption of an effective and inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Further, the fisheries sector looks forward to supporting the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Parties in the implementation of the Post-2020 Targets. To this end, this submission aims to provide CBD Parties with fisheries inputs to enable the Post-2020 GBF to deliver on those Targets related to effective fisheries management and conservation.

KEY MESSAGES

- Fishers are concerned with the sustainability of marine biodiversity, as their livelihoods depend on it. For this reason, **ICFA looks forward to supporting the CBD objective of sustainable use** through its expertise and know-how in effective and sustainable fisheries management and operations.
- Indicators are a key enabler for the development of a robust Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Therefore, **ICFA encourages the adoption of indicators that are consistent with already-available information processes on marine and coastal biodiversity**, including those produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) such as the State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture, the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as well as indicators already adopted under Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMOs).
- ICFA would like to reiterate that involving the fisheries sector in the development and implementation of the Post-2020 GBF can be advantageous for both nature and people. For marine and coastal biodiversity especially, data collection remains a major challenge for effectively monitoring. On this regard, **the fishing industry can help in collecting important biodiversity data to track progress towards biodiversity objectives**.
- The fisheries sector can be part of the solution, if properly involved in the debate. **ICFA welcomes ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration between fisheries and biodiversity conservation**, including through the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue between Regional Seas Conventions and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. In this respect, ICFA recognizes the role of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) as an effective instrument of cross sectoral collaboration between fisheries and biodiversity conservation.



ICFA suggestions on the Post-2020 GBF

Goals and Targets as in the First Draft of the GBF	Comments
<p>Goal A. The integrity of all ecosystems is enhanced, with an increase of at least 15% in the area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems, supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species, the rate of extinctions has been reduced at least tenfold, and the risk of species extinctions across all taxonomic and functional groups, is halved, and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species is safeguarded, with at least 90% of genetic diversity within all species maintained.</p>	<p>How will “integrity” be measured accurately and consistently across systems is not yet clear. One of the indicators used for this goal is the IUCN Red List Index. For this, not only the listing, but also the de-listing of species can be used as an indicator for successful management practices.</p> <p>For example, the IUCN released its latest Red List of Threatened Species on Sept. 4, improving the status of the Pacific bluefin tuna and Atlantic bluefin tuna, which had been classified as endangered, to "Near Threatened" for the former and "Least Concern" for the latter.</p>
<p>Goal B. Nature’s contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>Sustainable use positively contributes to both the preservation of biodiversity and the wellbeing of people. Nature’s contributions to peoples should not only be calculated through environmental economic accounts of ecosystem services, but also in non-monetary terms, including their nutrition, food security and cultural benefits.</p>
<p>Goal C. The benefits from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably, with a substantial increase in both monetary and non-monetary benefits shared, including for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p>	
<p>Goal D. The gap between available financial and other means of implementation, and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed.</p>	
<p>Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas.</p>	<p>Maritime Spatial Planning remains a key tool to address all different uses and priorities for shared seascapes. Because of the crucial importance of international trade, there should be a global level-playing field in terms of environmental standards and enforcement among all the different uses of the ocean, also considering national circumstances.</p>
<p>Target 2. Ensure that at least 20% of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.</p>	<p>Sustainable and effective fisheries management can contribute to ecosystem restoration and stock rebuilding, if the right policies are in place, through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of regulated fisheries supported by science-based monitoring and scientific advice; • Reducing impacts on marine ecosystem components through inter alia: Gear selectivity and design, reductions of bycatch and discards, as well as abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded (ALDG) fishing gear; where possible and worthwhile, recognizing the area-based fisheries management measures that meet the OECM criteria. • Implementing constructive combinations of spatial, seasonal, input and output management measures;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring damaged marine habitats through protection and zoning; • Restoring and managing mangroves, seagrasses and reefs; • Creating artificial reefs and setting up restocking programs.¹
<p>Target 3. Ensure that at least 30% globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes</p>	<p>As the 2020 FAO SOFIA Report clearly shows, effective fisheries management remains the most effective conservation measure for the fisheries target biodiversity. For this reason, we support the idea that 100% of the ocean needs to be put under effective management for sustainable use.</p> <p>Fisheries management offer important opportunities for biodiversity conservation: measures such as fisheries closures, provided that they meet the CBD OECM criteria as outlined in CBD COP Decision 14/8, can contribute to the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. In this context, area-based management and conservation can be substantially enhanced through OECMs.</p>
<p>Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.</p>	<p>ICFA supports and has contributed significantly to efforts to rebuild depleted fish stocks in the minimum possible time allowed by their biology, minimizing the risks of conflicts and non-compliance</p>
<p>Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.</p>	<p>Sustainable fisheries can be tracked against progress made towards combating IUU fishing, extending areas under effective management, taking stock on the implementation and development of instruments aimed at enhancing the environmental performance of fisheries at national, regional (RFMOs) and international (FAO) level. International trade will be sustainable if stocks are maintained AND a level playing field is ensured through trade controls consistent with international law.</p>
<p>Target 6. Manage pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, preventing, or reducing their rate of introduction and establishment by at least 50%, and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, focusing on priority species and priority sites.</p>	
<p>Target 7. Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity, ecosystem functions or human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.</p>	<p>ICFA supports efforts to tackle plastic pollution that are consistent with and build on the actions already taken by the sector. ICFA members are collecting hundreds of tonnes from the bottom of the seas and recycling them in a clear example of circular economy.</p>

¹ FAO, 2020. POSITION PAPER ON “ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION” OF PRODUCTION ECOSYSTEMS, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UN DECADE OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/nd651en/nd651en.pdf>



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<p>Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO₂e per year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.</p>	<p>Fisheries can contribute to adaptation and mitigation measures by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to provide low-carbon animal protein, thus contributing to climate-friendly dietary practices. • Making all possible efforts to reduce, through effective management, the fuel used to produce these proteins. • Marine biodiversity is moving due to changes in ocean temperatures; adaptive fisheries management offers an important opportunity to adapt food systems to changing climate-induced environmental conditions. • Innovative fuels and the development of low-carbon gears can help the fisheries sector be part of the solution to climate change while sustainable using marine biodiversity and feeding a rising global population.
<p>Target 9. Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.</p>	<p>Nutrition and food security are one of the greatest challenges, also constituting one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG2). Progress towards Target 9 can be tracked not only through the number of people using wild resources for food, but also the extent of wild areas being subject to sustainable management measures for food production.</p>
<p>Target 10. Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.</p>	<p>The FAO 2020 SOFIA Report can provide CBD Parties with a thorough understanding of the latest trends in sustainable fisheries and puts forward the best available information on how to strengthen effective management practices.</p>
<p>Target 11. Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people</p>	
<p>Target 12. Increase the area of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces, for human health and well-being in urban areas and other densely populated areas.</p>	
<p>Target 13. Implement measures at global level and in all countries to facilitate access to genetic resources and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and, as relevant, of associated traditional knowledge, including through mutually agreed terms and prior and informed consent.</p>	



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<p>Target 14. Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values.</p>	<p>Fisheries has a long-lasting history of mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries management and, in well managed areas, in responsible fishing practices, with a prospect to further advance progress on this direction with the direct engagement of FAO, see here for more details. The adoption of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in 2001 at FAO was a major step in the right direction even though more efforts are needed to implement it.</p>
<p>Target 15. All businesses (public and private, large, medium and small) assess and report on their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, from local to global, and progressively reduce negative impacts, by at least half and increase positive impacts, reducing biodiversity-related risks to businesses and moving towards the full sustainability of extraction and production practices, sourcing and supply chains, and use and disposal.</p>	<p>It is here important to recognize differences between sectors and how these directly or indirectly impact biodiversity. As for fisheries, the sector has a direct impact that, if properly managed, can ensure the sustainability of marine resources which is de facto sine qua non condition for fisheries viability</p> <p>The fisheries sector fully recognizes its dependence on nature and for this reason has been at the forefront of biodiversity and climate mitigation strategies along its operations. This can be observed through several initiatives taken at national level but also in the context of FAO and RFMOs, the most relevant of which is the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (and aquaculture).</p> <p>It is here important to be noted that while some fishing companies issues an annual sustainability report, fisheries collaborate significantly with, and rely on, national authorities for the assessment of their impacts and dependence on biodiversity. For this reason, the target should fully account for the peculiarity of the sector.</p> <p>Furthermore, voluntary certification schemes, such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), can be considered an additional instrument for the fisheries sector to reduce its negative impacts on biodiversity. The OECM category of area-based fisheries management measures can further assist in this respect.</p>
<p>Target 16. Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make responsible choices and have access to relevant information and alternatives, taking into account cultural preferences, to reduce by at least half the waste and, where relevant the overconsumption, of food and other materials.</p>	<p>Ecolabelling has an important role to play here, especially for fisheries products. However, it is important to stress that information alone is not sufficient, as awareness raising on sustainable choices is crucial for consumers to make responsible choices. In fisheries, this means educating consumers on the importance of consuming seafood 3-4 times per week; an element that is becoming even more relevant under changing climatic conditions.</p> <p>In addition, efforts are needed to allow ecolabelling of small scale fisheries which represent a large part of the food provision from the ocean.</p>



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<p>Target 17. Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement measures in all countries to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health, reducing the risk of these impacts.</p>	
<p>Target 18. Redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, in a just and equitable way, reducing them by at least 500 billion per year, including all of the most harmful subsidies, and ensure that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity</p>	<p>The WTO negotiations on harmful fisheries subsidies have been advancing discussions in recent years. In this regard, it is important to consider the peculiarities of fishing operations and involve the sector since the very beginning of the process. It is also important to realize that some positive subsidies may accelerate the processes of adaptation (to new requirements, to climate change)</p>
<p>Target 19. Increase financial resources from all sources to at least 200 billion per year, including new, additional and effective financial resources, increasing by at least 10 billion per year international financial flows to developing countries, leveraging private finance, and increasing domestic resource mobilization, taking into account national biodiversity finance planning, and strengthen capacity building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation, to meet the needs for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework implementation, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.</p>	
<p>Target 20. Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.</p>	
<p>Target 21. Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.</p>	<p>While the CBD has a long and successful history of involving non-Party stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, the effective engagement and participation of coastal communities can be further strengthened. With the aim to develop Post-2020 Targets that are inclusive, realistic and achievable, coastal communities need to be further consulted as their specific knowledge and expertise can support the development and implementation of a robust and effective Post-2020 GBF.</p>



ANNEX I

Documents considered:

1. [PROPOSED HEADLINE INDICATORS OF THE MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK](#) (CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1)
2. [FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK](#) (CBD/WG2020/3/3)
3. [EXPERT INPUT TO THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS ON ALL DRIVERS OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE GLOBAL GOALS BY 2050](#) (CBD/WG2020/3/INF/11 CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/31)
4. [MARINE INPUT TO HEADLINE INDICATORS OF THE DRAFT POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK](#) (CBD/WG2020/3/INF/4)
5. [ASSESSING PROGRESS TOWARDS AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET 6 ON SUSTAINABLE MARINE FISHERIES](#) (CBD Technical Series No. 87)
6. [REPORT OF THE THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK](#) (CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2)
7. [FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: SUBMISSION BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS](#) (CBD/WG2020/3/INF/12 CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/32)
8. [REPORT ON REGIONAL SEAS BIODIVERSITY UNDER THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK](#) (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/24)
9. [AVAILABLE MONITORING FRAMEWORKS AND INFORMATION TO SUPPORT MONITORING OF PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS AND TARGETS OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK WITH RESPECT TO MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY](#) (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/23)
10. [DETAILED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED GOALS AND TARGETS IN THE UPDATED ZERO DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK](#) (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/21)
11. [INDICATORS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK](#) (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16)
12. [PROGRESS ON MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS AGRICULTURAL SECTORS: REPORT BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS](#) (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/14 CBD/SBI/3/INF/6)



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13. [LINKAGES BETWEEN THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT](#) (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/12)
14. [ANNOTATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONCEPTS USED IN THE LANGUAGE OF INTERIM UPDATED POST-2020 GOALS AND TARGETS](#) (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/11)
15. [REPORT OF THE EXPERT MEETING ON OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES IN THE MARINE CAPTURE FISHERY SECTOR](#) (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/10)