

Together Towards a Global Deal

FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

Involving young people in setting
targets for biodiversity, ecosystems
and sustainable use



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TOOLKIT

Together Towards a Global Deal

FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

**Involving young people in setting
targets for biodiversity, ecosystems
and sustainable use**

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“With the new global deal on biodiversity, we have an opportunity for intergenerational equity. Let's start by coming together as one **powerful** voice.”

GUSTAF ZACHRISSON, TRAINEE,
SWEDISH SOCIETY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

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**Manual: for organizing youth consultations
Together towards a global deal for nature and people**
– click on this [link](#)



A new deal for nature and people

Toolkit introduction

This is an opportunity for you, your friends and your network to participate and contribute to the current global negotiations on biodiversity.

What is this?

Welcome to this toolkit for involving young people in setting new targets for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, thereby securing a new global deal for nature and people! This toolkit is made available to young people and those who want to engage young people in the development of a new global deal for nature and people. Anyone who wishes to arrange, facilitate and engage in youth consultations is invited to use the toolkit. The results can be communicated to decision-makers, the public and other relevant institutions and will be part of a bigger movement of youth around the world.

It is expected that a new deal for nature and people will be adopted by the end of 2020. For more information about the process and involvement of youth please see the following links.

For more information about the global process, please see <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020>

For more information about the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, please see <https://www.gybn.org/>

For further guidance on how to organize youth consultations, please see *Manual for organizing youth consultations – Together towards a global deal for nature and people*.

By reading this toolkit and answering the questions, and by organising and participating in youth consultations, you will have an opportunity to engage in the negotiations for a global deal for nature and people and let your voice be heard by governments and other decision-makers.

What is at stake?

Biodiversity, which encompasses ecosystems, species and genetic resources, is in decline across this planet from the high Arctic to the tropical forests, and from the coral reefs to the open oceans. Some people argue that the world is facing a sixth mass extinction of species comparable to the last mass extinction that took place c. 65 million years ago, in which the dinosaurs died out. Today we are experiencing a loss of wild species at a rate 100-1,000 times greater than that of a "natural" extinction. And this time, it is being caused by human beings.

We hope that you will participate and engage in this. It is needed – because it is also your future.

This is a global challenge of similar magnitude to that of climate change. If we lose species and ecosystems, they will never come back.

The countries that have signed the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are meeting in Kunming, China in October 2020 to agree on a new global deal for nature to reverse this decline of species and the destruction of habitats and ecosystems. The outcomes of the activities based on this toolkit will be directly used in this process.

The level of ambition for a new global deal for nature will influence the livelihoods of future generations and the conditions of nature. It is therefore crucial that young people have a say and provide their ideas and input for such a new deal, including the setting of new targets to protect biodiversity.

Why do we need global goals for biodiversity?

The CBD was established in 1992 with the aim of protecting biodiversity and conserving ecosystems. Despite efforts to protect and manage biodiversity sustainably, assessments show that the world is far from halting the loss of biodiversity and the destruction of ecosystems on planet Earth.

This was most recently documented by the UN platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, IPBES, in their Global Assessment Report from May 2019 (<https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services>).

In 2010, the 196 signatory states of the CBD adopted a sophisticated strategic framework and 20 biodiversity targets – the so-called Aichi Targets. The strategic plan is referred to as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–20.

However, the existing Aichi Targets will expire in 2020 and a New Deal for Nature and People with new targets will be adopted in 2020.

It is to help formulate this New Deal for Nature and People and set new targets that we need your say!

How should this toolkit be used?

You will be part of a comprehensive and participatory global process to formulate the new deal.

The toolkit will provide you with up-to-date information on biodiversity, on how the CBD works, and on how it is implemented. An overview is also included of key issues and dilemmas to be discussed in relation to setting new biodiversity targets.

Each "session" of the toolkit consists of background information, followed by a questionnaire. The questions relate to known priorities and problems, and you will receive guidance on these. All your answers may be further elaborated by answering the *WHY?* or *Elaborate questions*.

How do we submit our responses?

If you are from one of the Nordic countries (Greenland, Åland, Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Norway or Denmark), please submit your response to **youthinput@us.fo**



How will our input be used?

The Nordic Council (NC) and the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) are responsible for this toolkit, and they will collect and process the reports from the workshops that have taken place in the countries within the Nordic region.

A synthesis report with youth recommendations for a Global Deal for Nature and People will be developed on the basis of the outcome of youth consultations across the Nordic Region. The synthesis report will be used directly in the negotiations for a New Deal for Nature and Biodiversity by a Nordic youth delegation representing all the Nordic Countries.

The synthesis report will also be presented to the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Council.

The synthesis report will be made available online at www.norden.org.

For those living outside the Nordic countries who wishes to arrange, facilitate and engage in youth consultations is invited to use the toolkit. The results can be communicated to decision-makers, the public and other relevant institutions including the Convention on biological diversity and will be part of a bigger movement of youth around the world.

Who is behind this toolkit?

The Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers, in association with young people from the Nordic countries.



"Since 1900 and up till today, the cumulative extinction rate of **amphibians** has increased approximately tenfold by comparison with the rate from 1800 till 1900"

Session 1

The loss of biodiversity – What is at stake?

Session 1

The loss of biodiversity – What is at stake?

What is biodiversity?

Biological diversity, or biodiversity for short, is the web of life: the infrastructure that supports all life from genes and chromosomes to fungi, plants, animals and ecosystems on land, in freshwater and in the sea: All of it is interconnected and interdependent, in an inexhaustible web of

complex and diverse ecological interactions and relationships.

This web is in a state of constant change, evolving through time in a dynamic way, but maintaining at the same time the integrity of the system, which is responsible for providing all the essential services

BOX 1

Biodiversity-rich ecosystems on land and at sea

Natural forests cover nearly a third of the Earth's surface, and are host to much of the world's biodiversity on land.

- It is estimated that about half of the world's species are found in forested areas, particularly in species-rich tropical forests.
- There is a big difference between so-called primary forests, newly-logged, and secondary or planted forests.
- Forests are also one of the world's most important renewable natural resources for humans, supplying timber for fuel, building materials, paper and non-wood goods.
- Some 240 million people live in forested regions, and close to 1.6 billion people – more than 25% of the world's population – rely on forest resources for their livelihoods.

Coral reefs are the forests of the oceans in terms of rich biodiversity.

- They sustain fish, protect against natural hazards and regulate the climate. Up to half a billion people depend on coral reefs economically, for example in fishery and tourism.
- Nearly 200 million people rely on coral reefs for protection against storm surges and waves.
- By one estimate (2003), the total net benefit per year from the world's coral reefs is USD 29.8 billion.
- Tourism and recreation account for USD 9.6 billion of this amount, coastal protection USD 9.0 billion, fisheries USD 5.7 billion, and biodiversity USD 5.5 billion. These are the direct gains, but also the costs if similar services were to be established or replaced.



that are necessary for living organisms to thrive on this planet.

Biodiversity is life.

Science defines biodiversity at three levels:

1. Ecosystems (all types of wild nature, such as forests, deserts, coral reefs, etc.)
2. Species (a group of living organisms with similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding)
3. Genetic diversity (the variation in the genetic information among wild populations of species. This variation drives evolution and may be caused by mutation, environmental factors or competition between species.)

The more diverse and varied the organisms, the greater the biodiversity. Tropical areas are thus in general more biodiverse than Arctic areas – but all living organisms everywhere are adapted to the natural environment in which they live, and are

uniquely associated with each other after millions of years of evolution.

While biodiversity exists everywhere on Earth, it is not evenly distributed across the surface of the globe. Some areas hold extraordinarily high numbers of species, while others have groups of many species with very limited distribution, making them vulnerable to habitat destruction within their small areas. Conservation must prioritise such areas, which are called *biodiversity hotspots*.

As examples, scientists have identified 25 globally important biodiversity hotspots on land and at sea where exceptional concentrations of endemic species are undergoing exceptional loss of habitat.

Why does biodiversity matter?

If we didn't have insects and other pollinating animals to move pollen from one part of a flower to another, which is essential for the production of fruit and seeds, we would lose the majority

of fruits, vegetables and nuts. There would be no coffee in the mornings if insects and other pollinating animals disappeared!

Humans, like any other species on the planet, are part of this intricate web of life. We are connected to it and depend on the resilience of this life-supporting system for our survival – for the supply of raw materials, water, food, medicines and energy, the pollination of certain crops, the formation of soils and protection from floods, storms and erosion, but also for recreation, inspiration and religious purposes.

This interaction between living biodiversity and water, minerals and the climate provides a range of vital services that underpin production, trade, livelihoods and consumption in every country (see Box 1).

Biodiversity also has a value of its own. Almost every culture cherishes nature as part of its tradition, religion or spirituality. Many people feel a moral duty to pass on to their children the same natural world they have enjoyed, and believe that other species have a right to exist whether humans need them or not.

The value of biodiversity can therefore be hard to measure, and the use of such assessment is debated. What, for example, is the value of a certain beautiful species of butterfly, compared to a large tropical tree that can be used for timber? Moreover, the various uses and productions of nature's contributions to human quality of life do not always go hand in hand.

The production of, for example, food, animal feed, wood and bioenergy may well lead to the destruction of forests, coral reefs and other areas with rich biodiversity when done in an unsustainable way. In fact, our conversion and destruction of habitats is the main driver of the loss of biodiversity, and we are now seeing the effects.

Without the "human factor" – the intrinsic value of biodiversity

- As far as we know, Earth is the only place in the Universe that harbours life – i.e. biodiversity.
- Birds, plants, butterflies, frogs and trees are all unique and irreplaceable lifeforms with whom we share this planet, and they all have just as much right to be here as human beings. If they become extinct, they will never return in the same form.
- Areas of high biodiversity, i.e. with high genetic diversity, help to secure biodiversity itself in terms of ongoing and future evolutionary processes, making them more resilient.
- Ecosystems and species are interdependent both in stable systems and in unstable systems after natural catastrophes, etc..

With the "human factor" – biodiversity's value to people (Source: IPBES, 2019):

- More than 2 billion people rely on wood as fuel to meet their primary energy needs.
- Approx. 4 billion people rely primarily on natural medicines for their healthcare.
- 70% of the drugs used to treat cancer are natural products, or synthetic products inspired by nature.
- 75% of food crops rely on animal pollination.
- Ecosystems on land and at sea are sinks for carbon emissions. They sequester 5.6 gigatons of carbon per year, which is equivalent to 60% of all carbon emissions by humans.

What is the state of biodiversity, and what is at stake?

In May 2019, the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), often referred to as 'the IPCC for biodiversity', launched a Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – the most comprehensive report yet completed. Below are listed some of the alarming findings of this report:

- The current rate of extinction is likely to accelerate rapidly and wipe out up to a million of Earth's estimated eight million species, many within decades. The species that disappear will be lost forever.

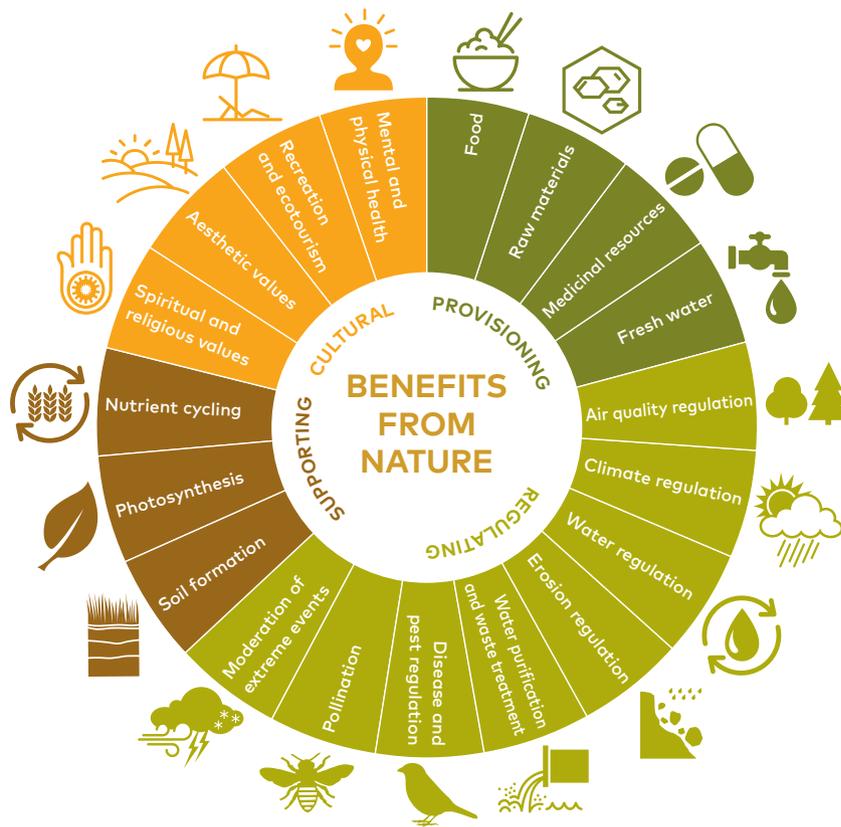


Figure 1. Benefits from nature
(Source: WWF Living Planet Report, 2018)

- The average abundance of native species in most major land-based habitats has fallen by at least 20%, mostly since 1900.
- More than 40% of amphibian species (frogs and toads), almost 33% of reef-forming corals and more than a third of all marine mammals are threatened. The picture is less clear for insect species, but the available evidence supports a tentative estimate of 10% under threat. At least 680 vertebrate species (animals with backbones) have been driven to extinction since the 16th century and more than 9% of all domesticated breeds of mammals used for food and agriculture had become extinct by 2016, with at least 1,000 more breeds still under threat. (See Figure 3).
- Over 90% of major marine fish stocks are in decline or overexploited.
- 85% of all wetland areas have been lost, i.e. swamps, lakes, streams, rivers, coastal lagoons, etc.
- From 2010-2015 more than 32 million hectares of wild tropical areas were lost.
- Humanity dumps up to 400 million tonnes of heavy metals, toxic sludge and other waste into the oceans and rivers each year.
- Three-quarters of the land-based environment and about 66% of the marine environment has been significantly altered by human actions. On average these trends have been less severe or avoided in areas held or managed by indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Agriculture and food consumption are especially destructive, accounting for a third of land use, 75% percent of freshwater use and a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions.

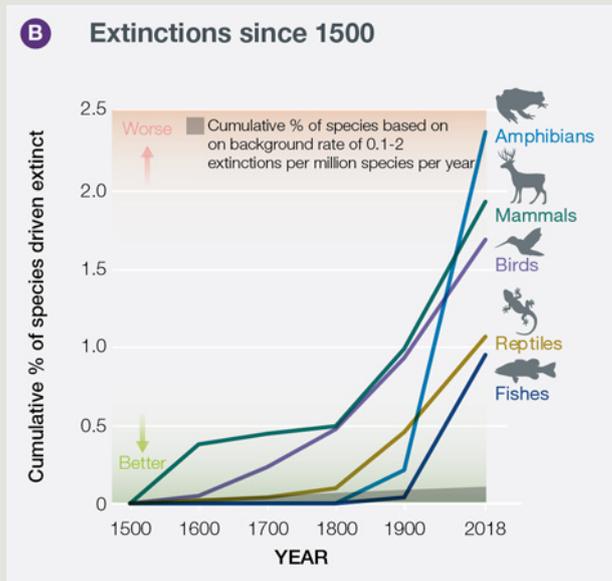


Figure 2. Extinction rates of selected species groups over the last 500 years (Source: IPBES, 2019)

- Soil degradation has been worsened by the increased use of fertilisers, which has risen fourfold in just 13 years in Asia and doubled worldwide since 1990.
- Fertilisers entering coastal ecosystems have produced more than 400 'dead zones'.
- Land degradation has reduced the productivity of 23% of the global land surface.
- Urban areas have more than doubled since 1992.
- Plastic pollution has increased tenfold since 1980.
- The negative trends in nature are likely to continue until 2050 and beyond, although with significant differences between regions.

Some people argue that the world is facing a sixth mass extinction of species, with loss of wild species

at a rate 100-1,000 times greater than that of a "natural" extinction.

Why is biodiversity disappearing?

The causes of the loss of biodiversity can broadly be divided into *direct* and *indirect* drivers:

Direct drivers (examples)

These are drivers or causes which directly bring about a loss of biodiversity and destroy ecosystems. They include:

- Human exploitation of land and water that destroys forests, coral reefs and other biodiversity-rich ecosystems for the benefit of agriculture, aquaculture and other types of production (Figure 3).
- Overexploitation of natural resources – especially fish stocks and wild forests.

- Pollution of ecosystems, for example with nutrients and plastic.
- Globalisation, which results in species being moved and introduced into ecosystems to which they do not belong and which they invade (invasive alien species).
- Climate change, which both affects biodiversity directly and exacerbates the other threats.

Indirect causes or drivers (examples)

All indirect drivers of biodiversity loss are the consequences of how humans live, both now and in the recent past, such as our extraction and production rates, driven by our ever-increasing patterns of consumption and trade:

- The global economy has grown nearly fourfold and global trade has grown tenfold, which in combination increases the demand for energy and materials.
- The 2019 IPBES Global Assessment shows that the biodiversity collapse is primarily due to changes in land use to meet our increased consumption of meat, for which purpose large natural areas have been converted and degraded.
- Population growth. The human population has doubled over the past fifty years.
- Economic incentives and legislation have favoured deterioration rather than conservation and restoration.

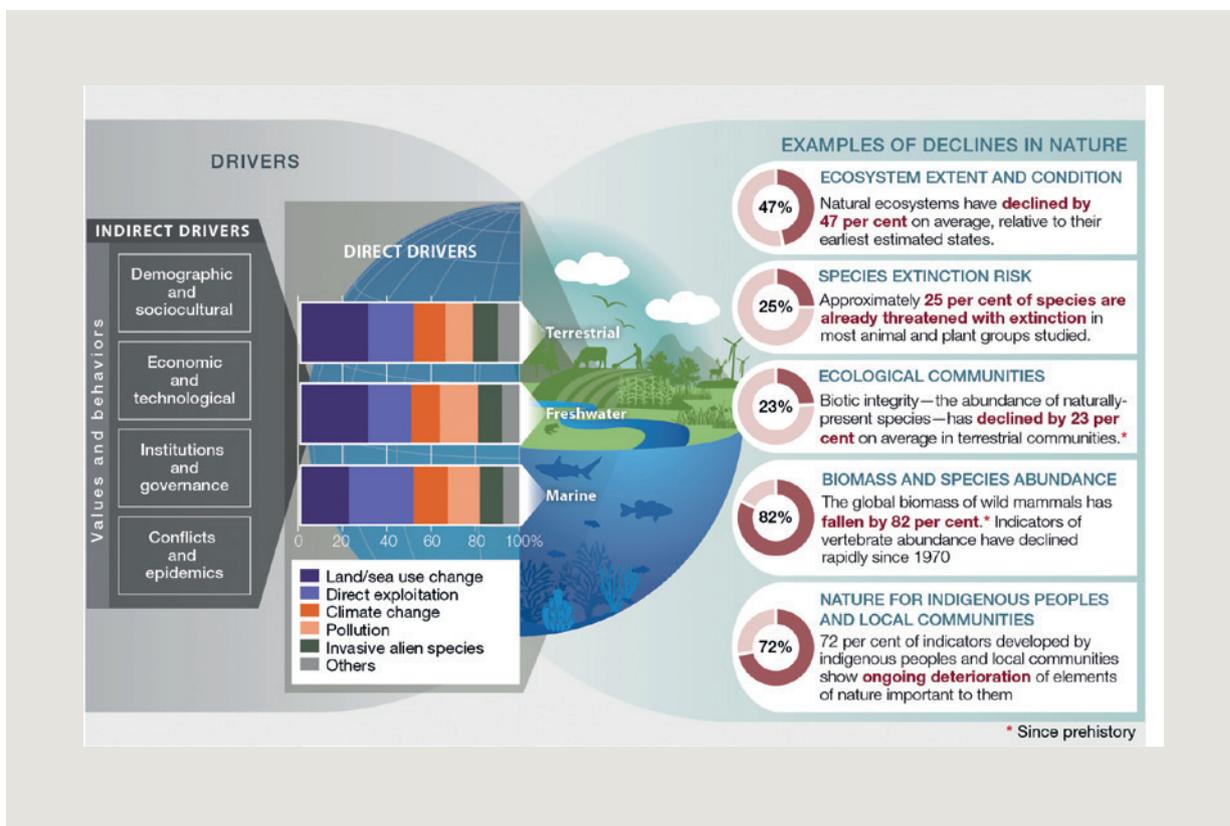


Figure 3. Examples of the global decline in nature, emphasising declines in biodiversity that have been and continue to be caused by direct and indirect drivers of change. The direct drivers (land/sea use change; direct exploitation of organisms; climate change; pollution and invasive alien species) arise from an array of underlying societal causes (Source: IPBES, 2019)

What can be done?

According to the IPBES Global Assessment Report, urgent action needs to be taken to build a global sustainable economy that steers away from the narrow focus on economic growth. As part of this fundamental shift, the report says we should:

- create positive incentives in agriculture, fisheries and other industries to reward biodiversity-friendly production;
- eliminate harmful incentives that reward “unfriendly” production;
- act with more caution to ensure that our ecosystems remain resilient in the face of the uncertainty and complexity caused by climate change and other threats such as invasive alien species;
- strengthen biodiversity legislation, policies and their implementation, and the rule of law in general.

Indirect solutions, according to the IPBES Global Assessment Report 2019

Although the services of nature are indispensable to society and are estimated to be worth around USD 125 trillion a year globally, they are mostly considered to be free of charge. This, the global IPBES assessments points out, is a harmful incentive causing the overexploitation of ecosystems.

Our economic systems, the report also says, have so far failed to reflect the high value of nature and biodiversity and the high cost of its deterioration. Protection of nature has been secondary to more short-sighted concerns such as increasing economic growth, creating jobs, enhancing the competitiveness of industry and keeping prices low.

Gradually, political and business leaders and the financial sector are beginning to question how global environmental trends will affect the economy of countries and sectors, and thereby also the financial markets.

Solutions	Possible pathways
Halt the loss of biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguard biodiversity - Greater protection of biodiversity through enlarged and more effective protected area systems, halting conversion of natural areas, large-scale restoration of degraded land, biodiversity offsetting where land transformation is unavoidable
New ways of living, including much reduced resources per citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low-consumption lifestyles - Lower per-capita consumption patterns, including adoption of less land-degrading diets, such as more vegetable-based diets, and low- and renewable-energy-based housing, transportation and industrial systems
Brake the rate of population growth on the planet to zero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global human population at near zero growth - Improving gender equality and moving towards improved access to education, voluntary family planning and social welfare
Significantly reduce the amount of waste, including plastics, and re-use resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Circular economy - Reduced food loss and waste, sustainable waste and sanitation management systems, reuse and recycling of materials
More efficient use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low-input production systems and resource management - More land-, energy-, water- and material-efficient and low-emission production systems for food, fibre, bioenergy, and other commodities
Move environmentally-friendly use of nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable land management

(Source: IPBES, 2019)

Session 1

Questions

The loss of biodiversity – What is at stake?

How concerned are you about the loss of biodiversity?

- Very concerned
- Moderately concerned
- Not concerned
- Don't know / Do not wish to answer

Highlight the statements that, in your opinion, are the most important reasons for stopping the decline in biodiversity

- I think biodiversity is beautiful
- I think biodiversity has a right to exist
- We need biodiversity for food
- I think biodiversity is important for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- We need biodiversity for economic growth
- All of the above

Why?

If a conflict arises between economic growth and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, which do you think should come first?

- Protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Balance between protection of biodiversity and ecosystems and economic growth
- Economic growth

Why?

How should the responsibility for conserving biodiversity be shared between biodiversity-rich countries and economically-rich countries?

- Rich countries should pay to conserve biodiversity in developing countries
- It is a global responsibility to conserve biodiversity in developing countries
- It is the relevant country's own responsibility to conserve its biodiversity
- Companies from rich countries that use/ consume products from areas with rich biodiversity must take responsibility
- Private sector

Why?

→ [Link to Session 1 digital questionnaire](#)

Discussion: How should we address the direct causes of biodiversity loss?

Continue yourself, where relevant:

- Secure more protected area by ...
- Protect endangered species by ...
- Support poorer countries by ...
- Integrate considerations of biodiversity into relevant sector policies and programmes
- Change the behaviour of those who are harming biodiversity
- Other:

Discussion: How should we address the indirect causes of biodiversity loss?

Continue yourself, where relevant:

- Secure a more sustainable economy by ...
- Change legislation and harmful incentives by ...
- Regulate the agricultural sector so that it is less harmful to biodiversity
- Other:



"Since 1900 and up till today, the cumulative extinction rate of **mammals** has doubled by comparison with the rate from 1800 till 1900"

Session 2

Global targets for biodiversity

Session 2

Global targets for biodiversity

About the Convention on Biological Diversity

The CBD was signed by the world's heads of state in 1992 at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, alongside the Convention on Climate Change and other significant documents in international environmental policy such as Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration, the Forest Declaration and a decision to develop a convention to combat desertification. The CBD has been signed by 195 states and the European Union. All parties except the USA have ratified the treaty.

The Objectives of the Convention

The comprehensiveness of the Convention is reflected in its three objectives:

1. Conservation of biodiversity
2. Sustainable use of biodiversity and its components
3. Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, and protection of the rights of indigenous people.

An important part of the biodiversity debate involves access to and sharing of the benefits arising out of the commercial and other utilisation of genetic material, such as in pharmaceutical products.

Most of the world's biodiversity is found in developing countries, who consider it a resource for fuelling their economic and social development. Historically, plant genetic resources were collected for commercial use outside their region of origin, or as inputs in plant breeding. Foreign companies have searched for natural substances to develop new commercial products, such as pharmaceuticals, and the resulting products have

often been sold and protected by patents or other intellectual property rights without fair benefit to the source countries. (Sustaining Life on Earth, SCBD, 2000)

Sharing the Benefits of Genetic Resources

The Convention recognizes that countries have sovereign rights over their genetic resources, and that these are subject to free, prior informed consent from the providing country and mutually agreed terms on the benefits to be provided in return for access and use. These benefits are intended to support the natural environment by applying the resources gained for conservation purposes.

To ensure a fair share of the benefits arising from genetic resources, the parties have agreed that all countries/companies extracting genetic resources from another country are obliged to share their benefits from these genetic resources. This agreement is referred to as the Nagoya protocol, and is an agreement under the CBD.

Despite these efforts, assessments show little positive impact on biodiversity, as described in the IPBES Global Assessment Report.

The 2010-2020 Global Biodiversity Targets

In 2010 the 196 signatory states of the CBD adopted a sophisticated strategic framework including 20 biodiversity targets (the so-called Aichi Targets). Box 5 provides an overview of the strategic plan.

Quick guides to the targets can be found here: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/targets/compilation-quick-guide-en.pdf>.

BOX 2

The Aichi Targets: vision, mission, strategic goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011 – 2020

VISION

Living in harmony with nature

By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

MISSION

Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner, adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary principle.

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.

Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Overview of Aichi Biodiversity Targets



Goal	Target	Target element (abbreviated)				
			Poor	Moderate	Good	
A. Address the underlying drivers	1	1.1 Awareness of biodiversity				
		1.2 Awareness of steps to conserve				
	2	2.1 Biodiversity integrated into planning				
		2.2 Biodiversity integrated into accounting				
		2.3 Biodiversity integrated into reporting				
	3	3.1 Harmful subsidies eliminated and reformed				
		3.2 Positive incentives developed and implemented				
	4	4.1 Sustainable production and consumption				
		4.2 Use within safe ecological limits				
	B. Reduce direct pressures	5	5.1 Habitat loss at least halved			
			5.2 Degradation and fragmentation reduced			
		6	6.1 Fish stocks harvested sustainably			
6.2 Recovery plans for depleted species				Unknown		
6.3 Fisheries have no adverse impact						
7		7.1 Agriculture is sustainable				
		7.2 Aquaculture is sustainable				
		7.3 Forestry is sustainable				
8		8.1 Pollution not detrimental				
		8.2 Excess nutrients not detrimental				
9		9.1 Invasive alien species prioritized				
		9.2 Invasive alien pathways prioritized		Unknown		
		9.3 Invasive species controlled or eradicated				
		9.4 Invasive introduction pathways managed				
	10	10.1 Pressures on coral reefs minimized				
		10.2 Pressures on vulnerable ecosystems minimized				
C. Improve biodiversity status	11	11.1 10 per cent of marine areas conserved				
		11.2 17 per cent of terrestrial areas conserved				
		11.3 Areas of importance conserved				
		11.4 Protected areas, ecologically representative				
		11.5 Protected areas, effectively and equitably managed				
		11.6 Protected areas, well-connected and integrated				
	12	12.1 Extinctions prevented				
		12.2 Conservation status of threatened species improved				
	13	13.1 Genetic diversity of cultivated plants maintained				
		13.2 Genetic diversity of farmed animals maintained				
		13.3 Genetic diversity of wild relatives maintained				
		13.4 Genetic diversity of valuable species maintained		Unknown		
		13.5 Genetic erosion minimized				
	D. Enhance benefits to all	14.1 Ecosystems providing services restored and safeguarded				
		14.2 Taking account of women, IPLCs, and other groups		Unknown		
15.1 Ecosystem resilience enhanced			Unknown			
15.2 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems restored			Unknown			
16	16.1 Nagoya Protocol in force					
	16.2 Nagoya Protocol operational					
E. Enhance implementation	17	17.1 NBSAPs developed and updated				
		17.2 NBSAPs adopted as policy instruments				
		17.3 NBSAPs implemented				
	18	18.1 ILK and customary use respected				
		18.2 ILK and customary use integrated		Unknown		
		18.3 IPLCs participate effectively		Unknown		
	19	19.1 Biodiversity science improved and shared				
		19.2 Biodiversity science applied		Unknown		
	20	20.1 Financial resources for Strategic Plan ^a increased				

Figure 4. IPBES rating of the Aichi Targets
(Source: IPBES, 2019)

The Status of Implementation of the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The strategic plan and its 20 biodiversity targets expire in 2020, and the Assessment Report shows that the targets are a long way from being reached. (Figure 4).

The targets towards which most progress has been made are those that clearly state measurable goals and ensure the accountability of countries. However, science has also shown that a single-figure target can be misleading:

The rating "GOOD" by IPBES as target 11.1 and 11.2 (see Figure 4) communicates only that on a global scale we are close to having designated 17% of the land surface and 10% of sea areas as protected areas. However, there is evidence that more than one-third of protected land areas have been degraded due to inadequate protection and management. The problems are often illegal logging of protected forests, illegal fishing in marine national parks, and agriculture inside national parks where domestic animals compete with wild grazers. Such unsustainable activities and use of natural resources inside protected areas can often be related to poverty, conflicts, weak government structures and corruption.

Conversely, broader, process-oriented and less tangible targets have achieved little or no progress. These include targets that address the underlying causes of biodiversity and are thereby directed at deeper societal factors such as consumption and production patterns and the removal of harmful subsidies – factors that the Global Assessment Report deems essential to act on.

A New Global Deal for Nature and People

What is the direction of the international negotiations at the moment?

1. There appears to be a broad understanding that the post-2020 framework should be designed and adopted as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>).

2. There appears to be support for maintaining the current 2050 Vision, Living in Harmony with Nature.
3. There is broad agreement that new targets should **not** be less ambitious than the current ones. Various suggestions are being discussed:
 - a. Since the great majority of the Aichi Targets have not been met (Figure 4), this speaks in favour of continuing with the Aichi Targets for the next decade.
 - b. However, the need expressed by many for 'transformative change' – a term that has already become a buzz word in the process – calls for thinking in a more outside-the-box manner. In addition, many of the Aichi Targets are process-oriented with few quantifiable outputs and outcomes.
 - c. There is also an argument for moving towards targets that are more SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-bound).

Below are some selected themes that may be up for discussion in the process towards a new framework:

Protected Areas on Land and at Sea

Among the few Aichi Targets for 2020 on which progress has been made is Target 11 on extending protected area coverage on land and at sea by 17 and 10 percent, respectively. However, this target is widely felt to be insufficiently ambitious, considering the overall picture of what will be needed to halt biodiversity loss.

The recent scientific paper "A Global Deal For Nature: Guiding principles, milestones, and targets" (<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/5/4/eaaw2869/tab-pdf>) suggests setting aside up to 50% of the Earth's land areas as protected in order to meet the Paris Agreement target, and at the same time reduce species extinction rates. These areas would include habitats such as mangroves, tundra, peatlands, ancient grasslands, and boreal and tropical rainforests that store vast reserves of greenhouse gases while also containing rich biodiversity.

However, the protected areas only cover a limited number of important sites for biodiversity and are often not effectively managed (see above). National parks located near beautiful landscapes and waterfalls are often not where the most endangered or sensitive biodiversity is located.

There are thus good reasons for setting new ambitious targets for protected areas after 2030 – including for the benefits that protected areas can provide for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The main challenge in setting more areas aside for protection is the ever-increasing demand for productive land and sea use to feed a growing global population.

The ecological footprint

Biodiversity-rich countries are often developing countries with high poverty and high population growth resulting in pressure on natural resources and biodiversity. However, people from the rich countries also leave ecological footprints harmful to biodiversity in the developing countries through our consumption demands for food, clothes, electronics, etc.

Engaging business in the cause of biodiversity

The responsibility of businesses and the private sector in protecting biodiversity is multifaceted. Businesses are producers of, providers of and investors in useful environmental technology, but also often cause harm to biodiversity through their industrial activities and business decisions.

Moreover, businesses are both affected by and rely upon ecosystem services and their underlying biodiversity. Examples of industries that depend directly on the health of ecosystems are forestry, fishing, agriculture and ecotourism.

The business sector is a key factor in the development of a greener economy, and is thereby part of the solution for creating market-based instruments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Important questions that have already been identified by countries and other stakeholders in the progress towards a New Global Deal for Nature and People

- How and to what extent should new targets relate to the Aichi Targets?
- Acknowledging that the Aichi Targets include many of the right elements, including for new targets, should they be re-organised through a pyramid approach with layers of targets, actions and enabling conditions in support of an overall 2030 mission? (Figure 5)
- How should new targets leave room for specifically adapted national and regional targets?
- How should new targets deal with the cost of meeting the targets, and who should pay – including differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries?
- What should be the mechanism for monitoring the implementation of targets?
- Should the post-2020 framework include a Paris Agreement-like system with regular nationally determined contributions that gradually become more ambitious and are regularly evaluated (a “ratchet-up mechanism”)?
- How should new targets align with other global targets, including under the Paris Agreement and the SDGs?

The SDGs and New Biodiversity Targets

A new global deal for nature is not only a matter of the CBD.

Elements of a Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework



Figure 5. Elements of a Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. (Source: Discussion paper 'Key Elements and Innovations for the CBD's Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework: A Collaborative Discussion Piece' 2019. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/Post2020/postsbi/birdlife2.pdf>)

The importance and role of biodiversity and ecosystems are reflected broadly across the UN SDGs and their targets, both directly and indirectly. The role of biodiversity and ecosystems is most directly reflected in SDG 14 (life below water), and SDG 15 (life on land).

Since biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are of such importance to sustainable development, the IPBES Global Assessment Report predicts that the current negative trends for nature will undermine progress towards 80% (35 out of 44) of the assessed targets of the SDGs relating to poverty, hunger, health, water, cities, climate, oceans and land.

Session 2

Questions

Global goals for biodiversity

How ambitious should a New Deal for Nature and People be?

- Less ambitious than the existing strategic plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- The same level of ambition as today
- A lot more ambitious

Why?

What kind of targets should a New Global Deal have?

Choose the options you consider most important

- They should be more or less the same as the existing Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- They should be much more concrete and measurable
- They should be regionalised regarding biodiversity
- They should be time bound
- They should be legally binding
- Other suggestions?

What should the global target be for protected areas on land?

- Keep the status quo (17% of all land and freshwater areas)
- Protected areas should be doubled by 2030

- 50% of all land should be protected by 2030
- The targets should reflect the status of biodiversity at a regional level
- Other suggestions?

Should there be a target for developed countries (and follow-up national targets) to reduce their ecological footprints in developing countries?

- Yes
- No

What kind of target – if any - should be set to address sustainable consumption and production?

Choose the answers you consider most important

- Keeping the existing Aichi Biodiversity Targets (develop plans for sustainable production and consumption)
- Formulate specific, measurable and realistic targets
- The target, whether qualitative or quantitative, should be nation-specific
- Other suggestions?

→ [Link to Session 2 digital questionnaire](#)

How do we ensure that business delivers for nature?

Choose the answers you consider most important

- Businesses should always be part of the solution
- There should be a global target which ensures that business delivers for nature
- Business plans and strategies should include protection of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Through legislation that regulates business to protect biodiversity and ecosystems
- Other suggestions?

Should there be a tax on products that are harmful to biodiversity and the ecosystem?

- Yes
- No

If you could choose, what would be your priorities for global targets on biodiversity and everything it entails?

-
-

Why?



“Since 1800 the cumulative extinction rate of **birds** has tripled”

Session 3

Youth participation and responsibility

Session 3

Youth participation and responsibility

Participation and youth engagement

A distinctive feature of the Convention on Biological Diversity is its openness to allowing participation by non-governmental organisations, including youth groups, indigenous people and NGOs. This participation ensures a high degree of transparency and is a recognition of the fact that implementation cannot be achieved by governments alone, but requires buy-ins and partnerships with the organisations of civil society and businesses.

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is an international network of youth organisations and individuals who are also engaging themselves in the work. GYBN has around 300 member

organisations, representing a total of around 600,000 members from 140 countries worldwide. GYBN is the major group representing young people in the negotiations under the Convention, and is bringing the opinions and positions of young people into the political process and empowering young people to take action.

See also the GYBN website:

<https://www.gybn.org/about-gybn>

Session 3

Questions

Youth participation and responsibility

Would you be willing to consume in a more sustainable manner (for example by eating less meat, buying fewer clothes, checking the origin of the products you buy and choosing fairer and sustainable options)?

- Yes
- No

Would you be willing to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by reducing your air travel?

- Yes
- No

Would you be willing to pay extra for air travel, if the extra money is used to compensate for the CO2 emissions of your journey?

- Yes
- No

Do you consider that young people are playing an important role in the implementation of a New Deal for Nature and People?

- Yes
- No

Why?

Should governments decide on a mechanism that ensures that young people can contribute to the implementation of a New Deal for Nature and People?

- Yes
- No

Why?

What could the following sectors do to help you to consume in a fairer and more sustainable way?

- Governments:
- Business:
- NGOs:
- Researchers:
- Media:

→ **[Link to Session 3 digital questionnaire](#)**

"Since 1800 the cumulative extinction rate of **reptiles** has gone from almost zero to 1 in every 100 species"



Session 4

The connectivity of biodiversity and climate change

Session 4

The connectivity of biodiversity and climate change

Climate change has attracted far more attention than the loss of biodiversity. It is sometimes claimed that consideration of biodiversity is a 'luxury' and must give way to combating climate change. However, the destruction of nature is as great a threat to humanity as climate change. Halting biodiversity loss and combating climate change are both key components of sustainable development, and are thereby both of crucial importance for achieving the SDGs.

Moreover, the two topics are closely linked in various ways:

1. Climate change is one of the main threats to biodiversity and adds to the other five main threats (destruction of wild habitats on land and at sea, overexploitation of species and ecosystems, pollution, and invasive alien species). The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that a 2°C warmer world would be very critical to a large number of species – and much more critical than a temperature rise of 'only' 1.5°C. As an example, the IPCC assesses that with a 1.5°C temperature increase more than 70% of all coral reef will disappear, while with a 2°C increase it will be more than 99%!
2. Actions to conserve biodiversity may help to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.
 - a. Reducing the loss and degradation of wild tropical forests is an obvious win-win solution. Wild, native forests are the ecosystems that hold the richest biodiversity on land, while at the same time they absorb and store a large amount of carbon. Furthermore, forests play a locally important role in regional and local

water cycles, and have a cooling effect on the local climate by securing humidity, evaporation, precipitation and shade.

- b. In terms of adaptation, intact forests provide shelter to humans from storms, flooding and other extreme weather events compounded by a changing climate. Designating protected areas of wild forest could thus serve a triple purpose of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3. Actions with quick gains for climate change mitigation and adaptation could easily be carried out at the expense of biodiversity. In order to limit the rise in temperature to 1.5 or 2 degrees, CO₂ needs to be taken out of the atmosphere at an increasing rate. One of the most advanced ways to do so is to plant energy crops for **bio-energy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS)**. This could potentially help reduce the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere, but would also require a lot of land to be planted which would have a very low level of biodiversity. Planting monoculture plantations to absorb CO₂ is another similar example.

It is important to note that plantations or disturbed forests can never sustain biodiversity to the same degree as wild, native and old forests and woodlands. Untouched old-growth forests exhibit a number of important properties that younger, disturbed forests may not. An old-growth forest holds more tree species of different ages, and contains more fallen and decaying trees, as well as trees with more established root structures and a taller average height.



All of these factors help to shape the local environment, providing a greater variety of habitats, greater access to some important nutrients, greater soil drainage and aeration, and other benefits. These can, in turn, promote the survival of a wider range of organisms in the area (<https://online.unity.edu/benefits-protecting-old-growth-forests-sustainability-studies/>).

The interlinkages between the Climate Change Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The close interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity make it a clear advantage to address the two issues in a collaborate and mutually supportive way.

Many would consider such collaboration benefits to be obvious, but the two Conventions have a history of silo mentalities. The increasing political attention to biodiversity due to the Global Assessment Report and its strong emphasis on the interlinkages, as well as the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C (https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf) could clear the way for closer working relations between the two.

Strong and clearly measurable targets in the new deal for nature and people could take into consideration collaboration between the two conventions and the climate agenda. This is even more the case if such targets are accompanied by

a mechanism to monitor the progress of countries towards meeting the targets.

Regarding the monitoring of progress, there are lessons to be learned from the Paris Agreement. The key elements in the Paris Agreement are the overarching objective that the average global temperature rise must be well below 2°C and, if possible, 1.5°C, combined with an obligation on all countries to decide on, submit and implement national measures. These measures must be continually strengthened, and the countries must regularly report on their progress.

Every five years, a collective, global status assessment of the efforts must be undertaken, and on that basis it will be decided what the next steps must be. In particular, the requirement for ongoing, stronger actions and global mechanisms to evaluate national actions are lacking under the Biodiversity Convention. So far, many countries have been reluctant to have their national biodiversity performance overseen by a global mechanism.

At national level, the climate change legislation with legally binding targets introduced in some countries could provide inspiration for similar biodiversity legislation.

Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals. NDCs

embody the efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2 – https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf) requires all parties to prepare, communicate and maintain successive, nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that they intend to achieve.

NDCs are voluntary national plans that were drawn up on the basis of a request made under the UNFCCC decisions at COP19 in Warsaw, two years ahead of the Paris COP in 2015. They represent strong political instruments because they send signals to other countries and to ministers, mayors and business leaders that the transition to a zero-carbon and resilient economy is underway.

However, there was no request or instruction from the UNFCCC for NDCs to include biodiversity, nature or linkages to the Aichi Targets or the SDGs in their content.

Despite this, many countries have demonstrated their understanding of the interrelationship between these issues and have, to a lesser or greater degree, incorporated actions that address climate change as well as biodiversity or the protection of nature in their adaptation measures and mitigation targets, or in the consideration of their main sources of emissions or the extent to which their ecosystems are vulnerable to climate change.

Session 4

Questions

The connectivity of biodiversity and climate change

What do you think is the most serious challenge to human well-being in our future?

- Biodiversity loss
- Climate change
- They are equally serious
- They are incomparable topics
- Direct or indirect drivers that cause biodiversity loss and climate change
- Other challenges?

What actions need to be taken to achieve progress in combating climate change and protecting biodiversity?

Choose 3 options that you consider most important

- Climate considerations should be integrated into relevant policies (agriculture, transport, energy, etc.) and national biodiversity plans and policies
- Biodiversity considerations should be integrated into national climate plans and policies
- National, legally binding frameworks for both climate and biodiversity

- Civil society and young people need to become more knowledgeable of the issues and of their own role
- Economic policies should take account of both the climate and biodiversity
- There should be international instruments that ensure a strong linkage between climate and biodiversity
- International funds in support of biodiversity and climate projects
- Other suggestions?

Should the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions work together to better address the interlinkages?

- Yes
- No

→ [Link to Session 4 digital questionnaire](#)



"Since 1900 the cumulative extinction rate of **fish** has gone from almost zero to 1 in every 100 species"

Session 5

Instruments for the imple- mentation of a New Deal for Nature

Session 5

Instruments for the implementation of a New Deal for Nature

National implementation of the CBD and its biodiversity targets

If we now turn to the CBD and the monitoring of its biodiversity targets, the instruments are rather different to those under the Paris agreement. There are no sanctions for non-compliance with the CBD and its targets, which also means that national implementation of the biodiversity targets occurs via non-binding National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), while assessments of fulfilment take the form of self-assessments (national reports).

Reporting exercise

The CBD requires countries to report on the national state of biodiversity. Each country is supposed to submit a 'national report' every four years: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>

The parties have developed guidelines on how to undertake the reporting, but these guidelines are voluntary, for which reason the national reports often take various forms. This makes it rather difficult to monitor the exact degree of a country's contribution to the implementation of targets.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

All countries are required to develop plans for how to protect biodiversity through NBSAPs and make them publicly available. Countries are required to compile such NBSAPs and to describe how they will integrate ('mainstream') conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and policies.

Assessments of NBSAPs confirm that countries have not moved far on mainstreaming. One positive trend is that more and more countries are

enacting specific biodiversity legislation to secure legally binding provisions on action for biodiversity and hold governments accountable at the highest level for protecting biodiversity. All of the NBSAPs can be downloaded from this website: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/default.shtml>

Pledges

Unlike the Paris Agreement, the CBD has no mechanism like the Nationally Determined Contributions, but operates with voluntary pledges. These pledges can take many shapes and forms, and there is no formalised structure for making pledges or following up on them.

Financial obligations

In a non-binding clause, the CBD states that developing countries are entitled to receive new and additional financial resources from the developed countries in order to meet their obligations under the Convention. This support has not been forthcoming, according to the developing countries. The provision of sufficient resources to meet new targets and build capacity in developing countries therefore continues to be a hot topic in the CBD.

Compliance mechanism

The CBD does not have a compliance mechanism, unlike many other environmental treaties with more concrete requirements. There are no sanctions for non-compliance with the CBD and its decisions. This makes it a challenge to monitor the exact degree of compliance with the Convention and its targets. The national conservation of nature and the provision of support to developing countries therefore relies to a large degree on the political will of governments and national parliaments.

Session 5

Questions

Instruments for the implementation of a New Deal for Nature

How should funding be secured to protect biodiversity in developing countries?

- The developing countries should be mainly responsible for securing the necessary funding
- The developed countries should be mainly responsible for securing the necessary funding
- The developing and developed countries should share the costs
- Private businesses that utilise biodiversity and genetic resources should be the main contributors, e.g. through a biodiversity fund
- Other suggestions?

Should your government make a commitment to stopping the decline of biodiversity in your country through a Biodiversity Act with legally binding targets? (like the climate change legislation that exists in some countries)

- Yes
- No

Why?

Should countries attending COP15 in China agree on a system of nationally determined contributions to protect biodiversity, stepped up every five years? (as is the case with climate change under the Paris Agreement)

- Yes
- No

Should there be a global mechanism for monitoring progress on meeting targets in each country?

- Yes
- No

Do you think that NBSAPs that are legally binding and include a mechanism to increase ambitions over time (like the Paris Agreement) would lead to better implementation of biodiversity targets?

- Yes
- No

Why?

→ [Link to Session 5 digital questionnaire](#)

Recommendation session

What is your most important recommendation to policymakers?

- Write a recommendation in your own words

→ [Link to Recommendation session digital questionnaire](#)

Annex question

Evaluation session

Were the briefing materials balanced and informative?

- Yes, very much so
- Yes
- No
- Not at all
- Comments?

Were different and opposing views presented and discussed at your table?

- Yes, very much so
- Yes
- No
- Not at all
- Comments?

Are you generally satisfied with the organisation of the biodiversity workshop?

- Yes, very much
- Yes
- No
- Not at all
- Suggestions?

Do you believe that the workshop results will be used in a meaningful way in political decision-making on the issue of biodiversity?

- Yes, I have strong confidence in this
- Yes
- No
- Not at all
- Recommendations?

Would you like to be involved in processes like this one again in the future?

- Not at all, it's a waste of time
- Maybe
- Absolutely!
- Suggestions?

→ [Link to Annex question digital questionnaire](#)



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Together Towards a Global Deal for Nature and People - Involving young people in setting targets for biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable use

All over the world, young people are demanding action to protect our planet. In 2020 a new global deal for nature and people will be adopted, setting targets for the protection and conservation of the planet's biodiversity and ecosystems. It is of crucial importance that the voices of young people are heard when these new targets are set, as this will affect not only the present generation, but also future generations and their livelihoods.

In the Nordic Region we want to make sure that the voices of the young people will be heard and therefore we have developed this toolkit for involving young people in setting new targets for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, thereby securing a new global deal for nature and people! The toolkit is made available to young people and those who want to engage young people in the development of a new global deal for nature and people. Anyone who wishes to arrange, facilitate and engage in youth consultations is invited to use the toolkit. The results can be communicated to decision-makers, the public and other relevant institutions and will be part of a bigger movement of youth around the world.

The aim is to support young people, youth organisations and other interested groups in their facilitation of discussions on key issues relating to a new deal for nature and people, and to ensure the credibility of the results from the youth workshop.

The Toolkit has been developed in close corporation with the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers, in close corporation with young people from the Nordic countries.

Besides the Toolkit a Manual is made available for those who needs support in organizing workshops and consultations. The Manual is intended to provide information to organisers of youth workshops and participation, and to guide them in their preparation of the workshops. It is a flexible and voluntary manual which can be used in accordance with context-specific considerations.

Manual: for organizing youth consultations

Together towards a global deal for nature and people

– click on this [link](#)