



# THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK CRITICAL INPUTS

Textual recommendations to Party delegates  
for the OEWG-4 meeting in Nairobi, 21-26 June 2022  
by World Federation for Animals & Born Free Foundation

## Supporting Organisations



MERCY FOR ANIMALS



# THE FRAMEWORK THE WORLD NEEDS

The purpose of this document is to guide and support CBD negotiators and stakeholders in the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. It provides concrete and evidence-based recommendations drawing on bracketed language compiled in the report of the Open-ended Working Group's third meeting (Part II) [CBD/WG2020/3/7](#). Our recommendations link to the following two outlined priorities and are further detailed in our previous Position Paper.

## An ambitious, effective & transformative GBF needs to:

### Shift the 'sustainable use' narrative, a cross-cutting concept in the GBF.

The term 'sustainable use' should only be applied to uses which meet strict criteria for managing and assessing biological and ecological sustainability, that allow species and the ecosystems of which they are a part to recover and thrive. For this, it is necessary to establish robust sustainability criteria that takes into account all uses and pressures on species (including legal and illegal wildlife trade) and incorporate the potential societal and economic risks for human and animal health and well-being.

With wildlife exploitation being the second most significant direct driver of biodiversity loss, a highly precautionary approach needs to be adopted.

Adhere to a One Health approach, integrating human, animal and environmental health and well-being, to substantially reduce zoonotic disease risk and tackle the biodiversity and climate crises. Implementing the GBF in line with the [One Health](#) approach would be consistent with the recently approved UNEA resolutions on the animal welfare–environment–sustainable development [nexus](#) and [biodiversity & health](#), and the CBD's draft Global Action Plan for Biodiversity and Health.

Incorporating a comprehensive One Health approach is key to ensuring an equitable, sustainable and humane future, as it removes siloes in policy interventions that reduce the risk and impact of future pandemics, accelerating climate change and biodiversity loss crises.



# LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

In the below pages, you will find our textual recommendations on the following elements of the draft Global Biodiversity Framework:

**GOAL A.** ECOSYSTEM, SPECIES & GENETIC DIVERSITY

**GOAL B.** HUMAN NEEDS ARE MET

**TARGET 4.** SPECIES CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

**TARGET 5.** HARVEST AND TRADE & USE

**TARGET 6.** INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

**TARGET 9** SPECIES' USE (HUNTING, FISHERIES ETC.)

**TARGET 10.** ECOSYSTEMS' USE (AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY ETC.)

**TARGET 11.** OTHER BIODIVERSITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEOPLE

**TARGET 12.** URBAN SPACES / HEALTH

**TARGET 17.** BIOTECHNOLOGY RISKS

**6TER PARA.** (HORIZONTAL B.BIS SECTION) ONE HEALTH

## CONTACT

Adeline Lerambert, International Policy Specialist, Born Free Foundation at [adeline@bornfree.org.uk](mailto:adeline@bornfree.org.uk)

Sabine Brels, Legal Advisor, World Federation for Animals at [sabine.brels@wfa.org](mailto:sabine.brels@wfa.org)

## **GOAL A. Ecosystem, Species and Genetic Diversity**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Biodiversity is conserved, maintaining and enhancing the connectivity and ecological integrity of all ecosystems and reducing the risk of ecosystem collapse, halting and preventing human-induced extinctions and eliminating extinction risk, supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species, and maintaining genetic diversity of species populations and their adaptive potential.

## GOAL A. Ecosystem, Species and Genetic Diversity

LEGEND: **New language proposed** | **Important to keep** | **Deletions**

“The [~~socio~~-ecological [resilience]] integrity [,area] and connectivity of [all][both natural [and managed] terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine] ecosystems is [maintained or] enhanced [with no further loss of highly intact or threatened ecosystems], [preventing collapse of]] all ecosystems is maintained or enhanced, increasing[, ensuring] [increasing the area,] connectivity [and integrity of these ecosystems]] [and increasing] [by at least [5] per cent by 2030 [improve resilience in the most vulnerable ecosystems] and [15][20] per cent by 2050] ] [the area and[, **the ecological integrity**] of a full range of natural ecosystems] [the protection of threatened or restoration of depleted ecosystems.] The [human-induced] extinction of all [known threatened] species [is **prevented**], [minimised][halted] [[overall] extinction risk is reduced for at least 20% of threatened taxa by 2030] [having by 2030 halted or reversed the increase in the extinction rate]. The [average] abundance and distribution of depleted populations of [wild [and ~~domesticated~~][all]] [native] species is increased by at least 20 per cent by 2030 [maintained at or enhanced] to healthy and resilient levels] [, and their genetic diversity [and adaptive potential] is safeguarded[, to [maintain][ensure] their adaptive potential]] [with[.] [All genetically distinct populations and] [[[a] A]t least [90][95][X] per cent of] genetic diversity among and within [all] [known] [populations of] [**wild and domesticated**] species is [maintained][safeguarded, maintaining their adaptive potential].]

Alt 7. **Biodiversity is conserved, maintaining and enhancing** the [area,] connectivity [, restoration] and integrity of all [terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine] ecosystems [and reducing the risk of ecosystem collapse], **halting [and preventing]** [from now] [**human induced**] extinctions [and **reducing extinction risk** [[to zero by 2050]], supporting healthy and resilient populations of [~~native~~] **[all]** species, maintaining genetic diversity of populations and their adaptive potential [numerical values to be added].”

### Rationale

- **Delete 'socio' and include 'ecological integrity'**: Goal A should remain focussed on the conservation aspects of the GBF. It is about addressing all three levels of biodiversity from an ecological perspective, as opposed to ensuring biodiversity benefits to people. We therefore support inclusion of the critical concept of "ecological integrity" and oppose the confusing term "socio-ecological". There is no clear definition of "socio-ecological integrity", whereas a definition of "ecosystem integrity" is already included in the Glossary (see [CBD/WG2020/4/2](#)).
- **Add 'prevent' extinction**: While halting human-induced extinctions is paramount to avoid grave impacts on animals, ecosystems and people, as stated in the [2019 IPBES Global Assessment](#), Goal A needs to step up its ambition by preventing extinctions from happening in the first place.
- **We don't support including "domesticated species" in this provision** because increasing the abundance of farm animals would result in devastating impacts on biodiversity and climate change, as there is ample evidence demonstrating that animal agriculture is responsible for the destruction of natural habitats worldwide. The term "depleted populations" when referring to domesticated animals also raises a lot of questions. This proposed sentence therefore is too ambiguous. Reference to domesticated animals in the GBF should be made in the context of their exploitation and the associated impacts on wild species declines.

## **GOAL B. Human needs are met**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Nature's contributions to people are valued, enhanced and maintained through conservation, restoration and sustainable use supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of all forms of life on Earth.

## **Target 4. Species Conservation & Management**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Achieve the recovery and conservation of all species, in particular threatened species, through urgent management actions, to prevent human-induced extinctions and maintain the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, through in situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to enhance coexistence for the benefit of both humans and wildlife.



## GOAL B. Human needs are met

LEGEND: **New language proposed** | **Important to keep** | **Deletions**

Alt 1. Nature's contributions to people [including ecosystem services] are **valued**, enhanced and maintained through conservation, **restoration** and sustainable use supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of **all [forms of life on Earth]** [present and future generations] [and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment].

### Rationale

- **We recommend using the term 'all forms of life on Earth'**, in line with PP3 of the Kunming Declaration adopted at COP15-Part 1, for a "Shared Future for All Life on Earth".
- **Keep 'restoration'**: Ecosystem restoration offers the opportunity to effectively halt and reverse degradation, improve ecosystem services and recover biodiversity. It is estimated that 60 per cent of expected species extinctions could be avoided through the effective restoration of 15 per cent of converted lands. Furthermore, the protection of existing intact ecosystems and the restoration of degraded ecosystems has the potential to contribute to over one third of total climate change mitigation required by 2030. In addition, recovering wild animal populations to healthy viable numbers is key to ensuring the provision of ecosystem services, with a focus on achieving social and cultural integrity consistent with the ecological role of species.

## TARGET 4. Species conservation & management

"[Ensure active][**Undertake urgent**] [and sustainable] **management actions** [on a scale sufficient] [to] [enable] **achieve** the **recovery and conservation** of **[all] [threatened]** species[, and the population abundance of native species and maintain the genetic diversity of all species][**in particular threatened species**], and the genetic diversity of [[native] wild and domesticated] [cultivated] [all] [native] [and domesticated] species [populations], [to maintain their adaptive potential] including through **in situ [conservation,** supported by] [and] ex situ conservation [and restoration of genetically depleted populations] [[reducing] **preventing**] [the risk of] **human induced extinctions** of known threatened species by X percent][reducing human induced species extinctions risk][, **and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions** [to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict][, by preventing activities that damage ecosystems and habitats and ensuring the customary rights of, and access and use by, indigenous peoples and local communities]. **[to enhance human wildlife coexistence.] [to the benefit of both humans and wildlife]** [minimising harm to native wildlife from human-wildlife interactions]

### Rationale

- **Aiming to "achieve" the recovery and conservation of species through "urgent management actions"** better reflects the ambition needed for Target 4, designed to attain Goal A.
- **The focus should be on restoring populations to healthy viable numbers**, achieving social and cultural integrity consistent with their ecological role. Draft 1.0 does not mention rewilding or recovery. Target 4 should refer to actions aimed at recovering and, where appropriate, reintroducing species, consistent with established international guidelines and protocols.
- See rationale on preventing species extinctions in our rationale for Goal A above.

## **Target 5. Harvest, Trade & Use**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Eliminate all exploitation, trade and use of wild terrestrial freshwater and marine species that is illegal, unsustainable or poses any risk to the health of humans, wildlife, or other animals, particularly from pathogen spillover, while safeguarding the customary sustainable use by IPLCs.



## TARGET 5. Harvest and Trade & Use

LEGEND: **New language proposed** | **Important to keep** | **Deletions**

“[Prevent overexploitation by ensuring]/[Ensure] that [any]/[the] **[Eliminate all] [direct]** [harvesting]/**[exploitation]**, ~~[[captive] breeding]/[farming]~~, **trade and use of** terrestrial, [and aquatic]/[[freshwater]/[inland water] and marine and coastal], wild [animal and plant] species[, including eggs, fries, parts and derivatives], is sustainable [and legal] [and safe for target and non-target species] **[effectively regulated] [and traceable]**, **[minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems] [without adverse effects on the populations of species]**, [and safe for [[human], [animal and plant]] health]/**[and poses no risks of pathogen spillover to humans, wildlife or other animals] [and for all living beings on mother Earth]]**, [and prevent and eliminate biopiracy and other forms of illegal access to and transfer of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge], while [respecting]/[protecting] customary [rights and] sustainable use [of IPLCs] [and preventing pathogen spillover], [applies [ecosystem-based approaches]/[the ecosystem approach] to management] [and creating the conditions for the use and provision of benefits for IPLCs] [and **take urgent action to address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products**].

Alt.1 **[Eliminate all ~~harvesting~~ [exploitation], trade and use of wild terrestrial freshwater and marine species that is illegal, unsustainable or unsafe [poses any risk to the health of humans, wildlife, or other animals, particularly from pathogen spillover; and ensure that any remaining exploitation, trade and use of wild species is effectively regulated and enforced], while safeguarding the customary sustainable use by IPLCs.]”**

### Rationale

- **We support Target 5 overall structure** emphasising the need to eliminate all illegal, unsustainable and unsafe trade, to apply a highly precautionary approach and to reflect the level of ambition required.
- **Reference to pathogen spillover:** The target needs to better clarify the health risk that we are seeking to avoid, in light of ongoing UN initiatives including on a proposed Pandemics Treaty and the One Health approach. “Unsafe” is unclear. We propose replacing it with “or poses any risk of pathogen spillover to humans, wildlife, or other animals”.
- **Safety from an animal health and welfare perspective should be considered**, using the One Health framework. The welfare of individual wild animals must be taken into consideration as part of the effort to sustainably conserve entire species, recognising the intimate relationship between animal welfare, human well-being, and the broader health of the environment. Consideration of wild animal welfare is important on ethical grounds because of the suffering inflicted on wild animals. It has also considerable implications on sustainable development.
- While it is important to safeguard customary sustainable use by IPLCs, we should avoid assuming that subsistence, traditional or customary uses should automatically be considered ‘sustainable’, but instead look to develop clear measures of biological sustainability and seek to help cultural and social ‘norms’ adapt according to biological sustainability criteria.
- **We don’t support ‘harvesting’**- we suggest replacing the term “harvest” with “exploitation, since the target was developed in response to the IPBES report that recognised one of the 5 key drivers of biodiversity loss as “over-exploitation”.

## **Target 6. Invasive Alien Species**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Eliminate or reduce the impacts caused by invasive alien species on native biodiversity, by managing pathways for the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of all priority invasive species, reducing the rate of introduction of other known or potential invasive species by at least 50 per cent, and effectively manage invasive alien species, supporting innovation and the use of new tools to enhance efficiency of management measures and avoid the suffering of animals.

## **Target 9. Species' use**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Ensure all management and uses of wild species are ecologically sustainable, thereby providing social and environmental benefits for all people, especially those most reliant on biodiversity for food and economic security, while safeguarding customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

## TARGET 6. Invasive Alien Species

LEGEND: **New language proposed** | **Important to keep** | **Deletions**

“[[Ensure that the]/[Identify[, prioritise] and manage]/[Address the drivers and, where possible, manage all] [the] pathways for the introduction of [invasive] alien species [are identified and managed], **preventing**, [or]/[and] [significantly] reducing their [the [[rate of] [introduction [by at least 50 per cent] and] establishment [by at least 50 per cent], and [detect and] [eradicate]/[effectively manage] or control [priority] invasive alien species to eliminate[, minimise] or [reduce]/[mitigate] their [coverage and] impacts[, **supporting innovation and the use of new tools**] **[to enhance efficiency of management measures and avoid the suffering of animals]** [by at least by 75 per cent], [focusing on [those that pose significant risk for threatened species or ecosystem services]/[nationally identified priority [invasive] alien species[, in particular those with a higher invasive potential,] and priority [sites[, such as islands] [for biodiversity]]/[ecosystems]]].

Alt.1. [Eliminate or reduce the impacts caused by invasive alien species on native biodiversity, by managing pathways for the introduction of alien species, **preventing** the introduction and establishment of all priority invasive species, reducing the rate of introduction of other known or potential invasive species by at least 50 per cent and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species], **[supporting innovation and the use of new tools] [to enhance efficiency of management measures and avoid the suffering of animals]**.

### Rationale

- **The target needs to focus on prevention** as a more cost-effective approach attempting to eradicate alien species once they become established. The current text does not include any reference to the humane management of invasive species. Dubois et al. set out seven principles for ethical wildlife control, the application and implementation of which should be considered as an indicator for this target.

## TARGET 9. Species' use

“[[**Ensure all management and uses**] ~~Significantly increase the contribution of sustainable bioeconomy~~ including through the use] of wild [terrestrial, freshwater and marine] species **are [ecologically] sustainable**, [Ensure benefits such as food security, water, livelihoods, for those most dependent on biodiversity through sustainable management and use of wider landscapes and seascapes], thereby providing social, **economic** and environmental benefits for all people, especially those in vulnerable situations, while safeguarding customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.]”

### Rationale

- **Target 9 should focus on reducing non-essential uses and achieving ecological sustainability** as a prerequisite for the provision of benefits and ecosystem services to people. Encouraging the continued use of diminishing resources is bound to have further damaging impacts on people and their livelihoods, particularly the most reliant on biodiversity for food and economic security. This target is particularly relevant for achieving SDG 1 and its associated indicators, as efforts to bring people out of poverty can help reduce reliance on the exploitation of wildlife by people who are most dependent on biodiversity for food and economic security.

## **Target 10. Ecosystems' use**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Ensure that all areas under agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, and other productive uses are managed sustainably through the ecological sustainable use of biodiversity; conserving and restoring biodiversity and contributing to the long-term resilience of these systems.

## **Target 11. Other biodiversity contributions to people**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Restore, maintain, and enhance ecosystem functions and services -such as regulation of air, water, soil health, pollination, climate, as well as protection from natural hazards, through rights-based approaches for the benefit of all peoples, animals and nature.

## TARGET 10. Ecosystems' use

LEGEND: **New language proposed** | **Important to keep** | **Deletions**

“**[Ensure that [all] areas under agriculture, aquaculture, [fisheries], forestry [and other productive uses] are managed sustainably, in particular** through the **[ecological]** sustainable use of biodiversity; contributing to **[the long term]** [efficiency, **productivity**] and **resilience of these systems, conserving and restoring biodiversity** and maintaining [its ecosystem services] [nature's contribution to people, including ecosystem services]].”

### Rationale

- **Clear reference to ecological sustainability:** Ecological sustainability allows for maintenance and recovery of natural processes, and safeguards against loss of ecosystem integrity. It is a precondition to achieving the social and economic aspects of sustainability, and therefore key to our long-term ability to provide equitable benefits.
- **Target 10 should in particular recognise the importance of channelling investment towards improving food systems' efficiency** through reducing reliance on animal agriculture (and particularly industrial systems), while also ensuring that agricultural production methods and investments encourage biodiversity through agroecology schemes etc.
- **We don't support using the term 'productivity'.** It leaves room for an increase in perverse incentives for industrialising, whereas this target should achieve just the opposite.

## TARGET 11. Other biodiversity contributions to people

“[Restore, maintain and enhance ecosystem functions and services [nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services,] such as regulation of air and water, soil health, [pollination], [climate], as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters through [nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches ], [rights-based approaches and mother earth centred actions] [through payment for environmental services] for the benefit of all peoples **[animals]** and nature.] “

### Rationale

- **Ecosystem functions and services benefit animals too.** Adopting an ecocentric approach adequately considering the health and wellbeing of all living organisms is essential to ensure biodiversity contributions that benefit all forms of life on Earth. The benefits provided by biodiversity should not be considered as solely serving peoples' interests. This restrictive approach ignores the biological interconnection of all living organisms between themselves and within the wider environment. In this context, we should recognise wild animals and biodiversity's intrinsic value and right to exist and be preserved, independently from their contributions to people. In the current context where short term economic gains are privileged over long-term considerations, such a shift of perception and approach is the only way to meaningfully reshape policies and adopt a more effective and transformative approach to conservation. In addition, the Framework needs to recognise that wild animals that are part of healthy and functional ecosystems already 'pay their way' through the ecosystem services provided to people.

## **Target 12. Urban spaces & health**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Significantly increase the quality of, access to, and benefits from, green and blue spaces and infrastructure in urban and densely populated areas, ensuring biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, increasing native biodiversity, enhancing ecological integrity and connectivity, and improving human and animal health and well being.

## **Target 17. Biotechnology risks**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement science-based measures in all countries, based on the precautionary approach, to prevent, manage, or control adverse impacts of biotechnology, including synthetic biology and other new genetic techniques, taking also into account the risks to human and animal health and wellbeing, while recognising the potential benefits of biotechnology towards achieving biodiversity health and animal welfare, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Convention's objectives.



## TARGET 12. Urban spaces & health

LEGEND: **New language proposed** | **Important to keep** | **Deletions**

“[Significantly increase the area and quality of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces [and infrastructure] in urban and densely populated areas [and **ensure connectivity** by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity][and ensure **biodiversity inclusive urban planning**], enhancing native biodiversity, **ecological connectivity [and integrity]**, **[connection to nature] and improving human [and animal] health and wellbeing** [while safeguarding livelihoods of rural communities] and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and the provision of ecosystem functions and services.] ”

### Rationale

- **Incorporate animal health and wellbeing** into this target, in line with [Resolution 74/224](#) which “recognizes that protecting and conserving ecosystems and avoiding harmful practices against animals, plants, microorganisms and non-living environments contributes to the coexistence of humankind in harmony with nature”. There is also a sound evidence base establishing a close link between mental health and exposure to nature, which should be considered in the development of associated indicators for this target.

## TARGET 17. Biotechnology risks

“Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement **[science-based]** [environmental risk assessment] measures in all countries [based on the **precautionary approach**] to **[prevent,]** manage [or control] potential [adverse] impacts of [living modified organisms [resulting from]] **[biotechnology] [including synthetic biology and other new genetic techniques] on biodiversity [and] ,[taking also into account the risks to]** human **[and animal] health [and wellbeing]** [following risk assessment procedures], [taking also into account socio economic considerations] [reducing] [avoiding or minimising] [the risk of these impacts] [through implementing of horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment, ensuring liability and redress from damage], [while recognizing [and encouraging] the potential benefits of [the application of modern] biotechnology towards achieving the objectives of the Convention **[biodiversity health and animal welfare]** [and for meeting the food, health and other needs of the growing world population]].”

### Rationale

- **Accounting for the risks to animal health and wellbeing as biotechnology**, and in particular genetic modification techniques, can have detrimental effects on animal welfare. We acknowledge the potential of such technology, for instance as opportunities to rewild depleted populations or in the development of fertility control methods for the management of wild animals. However, the text must clearly highlight the risks that the development and use of such technologies pose on wild and domestic animals' health and on their wellbeing.

## **6ter para (horizontal B.bis section) One Health**

### **PREFERRED FORMULATION:**

The framework is to be implemented in line with the One Health approach which aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health and wellbeing of people, animals and ecosystems.

## 6ter para (horizontal B.bis section) One Health

LEGEND: **New language proposed** | **Important to keep** | **Deletions**

“6 ter. The framework is to be implemented in line with the **One Health approach** which aims to sustainably balance and optimize the **health [and wellbeing]** of people, **animals** and ecosystems.”

### Rationale

- **We support the incorporation of a One Health approach that fully integrates human, animal and environmental health and well-being.** One Health allows for the integration of prevention of sanitary and zoonotic risk into biodiversity policy. Animal health and welfare must feature as key elements of biodiversity policy. The definition of One Health published by the One Health High Level Expert Panel and welcomed by the Quadripartite (FAO, OIE, WHO and UNEP) in a statement on 1 December 2021 references ‘wellbeing’. Just as human and animal health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist, protecting and improving animal welfare is essential for human and environmental wellbeing.
- **Applying the One Health approach would facilitate a holistic approach to both halting biodiversity loss and mitigating human health risks from human-wildlife interactions.** Therefore, it should particularly be applied with a view to effectively achieve *inter alia* Goal A, Goal B, target 4, target 5 and target 12.
- **The draft Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health currently being developed under SBSTTA recognises the importance of ecosystems for human health and animal welfare,** and includes a strategic operational objective aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity alongside human wellbeing and animal welfare, through the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health linkages (see document CBD/SBSTTA/24/9).
- **Finally, our recommendations echo the recently approved 2022 UNEA resolution,** which acknowledges the role of animal welfare in promoting One Health, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development.