



## Post-2020 Partnership Pavilion IUCN World Conservation Congress, Marseille, France

### Summary of Day 1 - Transformative Change Saturday September 4, 2021

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#### About Day 1

Day 1 explored whether or not the GBF draft is sufficiently ambitious to drive transformative change towards an equitable, nature-positive, carbon-neutral future for all. On this day there were two on-site sessions. Session 1 invited speakers to share their vision and their opinions on ambition gaps in the GBF, whilst Session 2 identified suggestions for concretely redressing these gaps, as well as framed high-level political messages to be transmitted to UNGA-76, CBD COP 15, and UNFCCC COP-26.

<b>Day 1 On-site Session 1</b> 14:00 to 15:15 CEST	<i>Transformative Change for an Equitable, Nature-Positive, Carbon Neutral Future for All</i>
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The moderator and speakers for this session included:

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson, The Global Environment Facility (Moderator) (onsite)
Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UNEP (pre recorded statement)
Jennifer Morris, CEO, The Nature Conservancy (onsite)
Jennifer Corpuz, Policy Lead, Nia Tero (onsite)
Bruno Oberle, Director General IUCN
Johan Rockström, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Action Research (virtual)
Andrea Morales, Wildlife Biologist, Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) (virtual)
Lucy Mulenkei, Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Indigenous Women Biodiversity Network (virtual)

### **Current status of nature loss crisis**

- We are facing a triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution.
  - These are caused by people and it is up to us to fix it.
  - Our only chance to deliver on the climate agenda is to deliver on nature and vice versa.
- 50% of global GDP is directly dependent on nature and ecosystem services.
- If we lose nature and ecosystem services, we cannot rebuild or replace it: this is about the existential survival of humanity.
- The IPCC-5 report has concluded that the planet is now at its lowest-ever lowest point of resilience. Nature provides that resilience but we are undermining nature.
- A new paradigm for sustainable development is needed: one that focuses on living within planetary boundaries; protecting our global commons and reconnecting our economy to nature.
- Without this we have no chance of leaving our planet in a state that is suitable for future generations.

- Addressing a challenge of this magnitude means appealing to the whole of society - not just the environmental sector. Action is needed at all scales from international to local, from government to private sector to civil society.

### **Indigenous rights**

- Indigenous peoples and local communities do the best job of protecting biodiversity, even outside protected areas. This has now been recognised in multiple international assessments and reports.
- However, Indigenous peoples and local communities are often criminalized, arrested, and evicted in the name of protected areas.
- The latest draft of the Post 2020 GBF includes increased attention to IPLC rights but this is still confined to certain targets and sections of the framework and needs to be mainstreamed across the framework.
- More specifically IPLC rights need to be central to the Post-2020 GBF 30x30 target.
- Indigenous and local peoples' rights and jurisdiction must be incorporated into all targets, not siloed in stand-alone targets and certainly integrated in other global policy processes such as the Paris Agreement.
- It is essential that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are guaranteed direct access to decision making and funding, capacity building and support: no more trickle-down support.
- It is essential that IPLCs are empowered with the capacity to understand the policy issues and to engage fully in decision making to ensure that their voices, perspectives and priorities are heard and fully integrated and to access funding without having to rely on assistance of external organisations.
- Digital Sequences Information needs to be addressed per indigenous community. Indigenous peoples need to have control over their own genetic information.
- Benefit sharing must expand beyond genetic resources to ecosystem services and biological resources in recognition of IPLC traditional knowledge.
- The GBF must also protect Indigenous Peoples' spiritual and cultural values of nature as well as ensure that the benefits of biodiversity conservation are shared fairly and equitably.

### **Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

- COVID is an important example of how "easy" it is to mobilise financial resources if the political will is there.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has greater impacts on marginalized communities and the Global South, revealing systemic inequities.
- COVID relief and recovery funding can also be used to invest in nature-based solutions that address the ultimate causes of wildlife disease transmission (i.e. wildlife trade). Our goal is to build our communities back better, greener, and more equitably. Unfortunately to date, there has been insufficient emphasis on green recovery.

### **Accountability and implementation**

- Fulfilling GBF goals and targets not only requires political will, social mobilization, financial investment, but importantly, robust mechanisms of accountability to ensure that governments fulfill their political commitments.
- Governments must improve their approach to collective governance of the global commons. This means expanding the concept beyond traditional domains of outer space, oceans, ice sheets, but also the big ecosystems that govern the climate and biosphere (forests, wetlands, etc.).
- Will not make progress if large segments of society are left out of decision making, especially implementation and monitoring of the GBF.
- Governments should be held responsible for taking management actions and implementing the GBF within their jurisdictions.
- The wealthy countries who have caused most of the problems must transform the most rapidly and make the largest changes.

### **Engaging the key productive sectors**

- The GBF must deliver beyond biodiversity goals and targets and address the drivers of nature loss that stem from key productive sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure and transport.
- Reconnecting our economy to nature must involve internalizing all externalities.
- It is critical to more proactively engage industry, finance, agriculture and infrastructure sectors, all extractive industries. Reforming our food systems is essential to maintaining the functioning and resilience of ecosystems. In particular there is an urgent need to transition to regenerative agriculture - fund and incentivize large-scale transition. We need a moratorium on agricultural expansion into intact ecosystems.

- Meeting the 30x30 target has implications from business. We must recognize and define the most important areas for biodiversity, invest in those areas and reform the industries that have been exploiting them.

<b>Day 1 On-site Session 2</b> 15:45 to 16:45	<i>Solutions for redressing ambition gaps in the GBF in order to catalyse transformative change</i>
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The moderator and speakers for this session included:

Harvey Locke, Chair, WCPA Beyond Aichi Targets Task Force (Moderator) (onsite)
Diane Holdorf, Managing Director, WBCSD (onsite)
Abigail Kitma, IP Rights Focal Point, Tebtebba (onsite)
Marco Lambertini, Director General, WWF International (onsite)
H.E. Andrea Meza, Minister of Environment, Costa Rica (onsite)
David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur for Environment and Human rights (virtual)
Pooven Moodley, Executive Director, Natural Justice (virtual)

### **Accountability and implementation**

- The problem and the ultimate goals for biodiversity conservation are fully understood. What is still poorly understood is how to actually ensure that the goals and targets are fully implemented. It is critical that we learn from the Aichi failure.
- The GBF must have a clear implementation strategy, focused on the economics and other structural mechanisms.
- For the goals of the GBF to be successful there must be systematic change that is catalyzed by all sectors with a unified message.
- The GBF is only as good as what we do with it. There must be accountability to follow our words with actions.

### **Forging synergies between the GBF and other global processes**

- We need to integrate UNFCCC and CBD global processes. Increased synergies will heighten the chance of success in each field. The current lack of consistency between policy domains slows down progress.

### **Human rights-based approach**

- Human rights should be at the heart of all biodiversity efforts and at the front end of financing conservation.
- Access to justice is crucial for conservation of biodiversity and the access to justice does not currently exist.
- Indigenous rights and knowledge must be incorporated into and implemented in every conservation target.
  - Indigenous communities need more rights and protections.
  - Indigenous knowledge must be recognized in the enabling conditions for all targets.
  - Local communities must benefit financially from having the knowledge of how to conserve/manage the land.
- We need to re-emphasise intergenerational equity and make sure we leave the planet that is in a suitable state for future generations.
- Young people are clear that equity needs to be at the heart of all we do if we want to make progress against biodiversity loss and climate change. But it is not currently given sufficient attention.

### **The role of business**

- Business is now recognizing that like climate change, nature loss presents real, urgent business challenges. These include severe weather events, stakeholder challenges, all of which are having real financial impact.
- Yesterday was the first ever business summit at the WCC. We're starting to see real action being taken by businesses on the ground. They understand the urgency, and in many cases, the business response has been more proactive than that of governments.
- Financial reporting is absolutely essential and the Nature Disclosure Task Force is playing a critical role. We see that in many cases businesses have embraced their climate disclosure reporting responsibilities and are prepared to do so in the case of nature loss.
- Businesses need a clear goal for nature loss, along the lines of the Paris Agreement's 2 degree Celsius target that has been critical because it has created a measurable target against which business can align practices and report. Targets need to be embedded into policy and investor expectations and this means that every business, in all spheres and at all levels must take action. This in turn will catalyse more financial assessment of risks that previously had not been quantified.