
CITES COP14 SIDE EVENT - Monday, 19th of June 2019 at Palexpo, Geneva

**THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK -
WHAT'S IN IT FOR CITES?**

The event was organized by the “Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework. EU support” project funded by the European Union to facilitate the comprehensive and participatory process leading to the adoption of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that fosters commitment and implementation.

Key datas

- Attendance registered of a hundred participants
- Live-streaming by the Geneva Environment Network full video soon to be available on www.4post2020bd.net
- Social media follow-up with 55 tweets registered on Twitter, 435 video views on Facebook (21 “likes”, 2 “shares” and 3 “comments”)

Moderated by Mr Jorge Rodriguez Romero, Head of the EU Delegation at CITES COP14

Panelists

- Mr Basile Van Havre, Co-chair of the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework Open Ended Working Group, Convention on Biological Diversity (video)
- Mrs Diane Klaimi, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Support and Cooperation Law Division, UN Environment
- Mrs Sol Guerrero Ortiz, Coordinator of CITES scientific authority, CONABIO - Mexico
- Mrs Carolina Carceres, Director, International Biodiversity Policy, Wildlife Service - Canada
- Mr Vin Fleming, Head Global Programme & CITES Scientific Authority, Joint Nature Conservation Committee - United Kingdom
- Dr Susan Lieberman, Vice President, International Policy, WCS
- Mr Guido Broekhoven, Head of Policy, Research and Development, WWF International
- Mrs Anastasiya Timoshyna, Senior programme coordinator on sustainable trade, TRAFFIC

Summary of discussions

Introductory remarks

➤ **Jorge Rodriguez Romero**

The world is not on track towards achieving its Aichi Biodiversity Targets included in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The IPBES Global assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem services has hit the headlines across the world as it was an alarming signal that we have to take action to revert biodiversity decline. It stressed biodiversity's decline at an unprecedented rate with one million species at risk and threatened with extinction. CITES tries to combat unsustainable trade of endangered species. The side-event will explore how the post-2020 framework and its preparation can strengthen the work under CITES and thereby contribute to the wider biodiversity objectives.

➤ **Basile Van Havre**

Overview of how the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) works and why it intends to increase the coordination and cooperation among CITES and CBD, but also with all UN biodiversity related conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, etc.). The 3 objectives of the CBD framework (conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its component, the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources).

The 2050 Vision "Living in Harmony with Nature" has been set so we can develop targets for each decade, to adjust and discuss progress as we work towards achieving this vision. Several of those targets will be determined by the work engaged by other conventions such as CITES, UNFCCC, but the CBD biodiversity framework also sets objectives and implementation agreement that transform those actions into results. By finding synergies between those conventions and working together, we will ultimately maximize our chances to achieve the 2050 Vision.

A concrete example is how a requirement for increased collaboration across borders for wildlife management will also be useful to the UN CMS. A few weeks ago in Bern (Switzerland), the signatories of the Rio Conventions and several other agreements met for the first time to discuss joint work perspectives to reach common goals and have a global approach for the environment. It was an eye opener in terms of common benefits to support each other to meet a common objective, way beyond administrative measures but rather on how global priorities are set. UN Deputy Secretary General stated that each biodiversity related convention has a unique role and mandate but that collectively they can provide a global strategy to stop the loss of the biodiversity and is critical to reaching the SDGs.

The new biodiversity targets to run from 2020 to 2030 are being defined as part of the process developing the post-2020 framework, to be adopted by COP15 in Kunming, China, in October 2020 and to be endorsed by UNGA as a universal framework. Biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements are closely involved as the post-2020 framework is to be an encompassing framework that fosters implementation and commitment. In the 2010 to 2020 framework, the world's attention was focused on the CBD's first objective – conservation. Parties clearly stated that there is a need for improvement in relation to the two other ones, including the focus' of CITES sustainable use.

CITES has a dual objective, protecting species for unsustainable trade while enabling sustainable trade. The IPBES assessment identified unsustainable trade as a key threat to species. CITES stands at the intersection between trade, environment and development. In implementing its vision of an international

trade, CITES is dealing with a direct driver of biodiversity drivers loss. It has an improved track record in implementing effective decisions both domestically and internationally. It is a fine-tuned machine, largely due to its collaborative spirit. The efficiency and effectiveness of the CITES process still needs to be complemented by the design of a metric to demonstrate CITES' contribution to sustainable use and to conservation.

1. What concrete elements can CITES bring to the post 2020 biodiversity framework?

➤ Carolina Caceres

CITES' act unsustainable use, support sustainable trade and ensure that unsustainable wildlife trade does not threaten species. One of the biggest value of CITES is that it is an action oriented convention, with concrete obligations and immediate actions. Implementing them brought a 45 years history of lessons to engage multilaterally, that can be brought to the post 2020 biodiversity framework. CITES' other asset is its comprehensiveness, capturing the complexity of the drivers of biodiversity of loss.

➤ Sol Guerrero Ortiz

Mexico believes that sustainable use and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable use and well-being: need to develop tools and strategies together to address those shared goals.

➤ Diane Klaimi

CITES is an efficient instrument and biodiversity has been highlighted globally and key importance of Rio Conventions and MEAs coordination. CITES was among the first convention to lay down its vision for the post 2020, through sustainable and legal international trade.

➤ Vincent Fleming

CBD has a very broad focus setting an agenda at global scale, and works on consensus while CITES is quite narrow and targeted focused with a regulatory regime. Still there is a lot in common between both conventions including sustainable use and some common agendas (wild meat, sustainable wildlife management, synthetic biology, synthetic DNA).

Achieving transformational change to bend the curve of biodiversity loss requires tackling the indirect drivers. CITES focuses on a direct one – overexploitation - but mainstreaming of biodiversity across all sectors of society is the main challenge to transform society.

➤ Susan Liebermann

The Post 2020 biodiversity framework will guide biodiversity activities and funding by donor agencies for the next decade and beyond. The Nagoya Protocol negotiations did not refer to synergies with CITES and the targets mentioned were not clear. There is a need to be bold and acknowledge that there is things to change.

The Bern meeting on the coordination of environment conventions was helpful. The issue of sustainable use and the illegal trade issues in the two annexes' species of CITES are keys. The illegal trade issues are reflected in the UNSDGs and see how elements of what we deal in CITES are reflected in them and could be integrated in the post 2020 framework. Target 15.7 of the SDGs only addresses terrestrial species, and neglects the marine ones.

Important to reflect the goal of CITES as a threat to sustainable development both terrestrially and marine. See the targets in terms of fisheries, sustainable use of the marine environment. Need to make

sure that there is no disconnect between the two conventions and that the targets and NBSAPs counts on CITES inputs as well.

➤ **Guido Broekhoven**

The interconnection between the climate crisis, the nature crisis and the implication for development and the SDGs have to be addressed through 4 key leverages:

- elevate the relevance of nature to the highest political level for integrated decision making,
- work towards a common set of goals and targets with 3 key global ones (zero habitat loss, 50% reduction of unsustainable consumption, zero species extinction) by 2030 as a stepping stone towards living in harmony with nature by 2050,
- Collaborate on issues that are interconnected, CITES is relevant for the consumption, etc.
- need to capitalize on the opportunities including the post 2020 framework, the climate change field and the NDCs with nature based solutions, the SDGs that relate to the biodiversity targets.

People and institutions bend together in time of crisis and collaboration needs to become the norm.

➤ **Anastasiya Timoshyna**

As part of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), brainstorm on targets on trade and use. How can global post 2020 biodiversity targets can address unsustainable wildlife trade and use and its benefits towards human well-being? How inclusive it is for all species including fauna (marine and terrestrial) and flora and beyond?

CITES can provide useful matrix for the targets on use and trade, and practical mechanisms like traceability, documents findings, down listing of species based on sustainable management within the CITES appendixes for progress. The post 2020 framework needs to have a target for wildlife trade and use and would elevate the ambitions.

2. How can the post-2020 biodiversity framework best reinforce the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 fostering synergies and increasing efficiency and effectiveness of its implementation?

➤ **Diane Klaimi**

Coordination mechanisms at the national level and working with the SDGs, targets 15 (illegal poaching) and 14 (illegal fishing managed by FAO) do not encompass the full scope of CITES. The 2030 vision that CITES lays out should be integrated in the Post 2020 framework.

To address those systemic issues, we need to integrate that illegal trade also has indirect drivers including illegal fishing and consumption. There is a need for comprehensiveness in the post 2020 biodiversity framework.

The linkage between Aichi targets 2 and 12 should be stronger in the post 2020 biodiversity framework. There is also a need for a single target addressing sustainable use and illegal trade.

➤ **Susan Liebermann**

Need for synergies and further engagement of governments' CBD National Focal Point with other political decision makers including Fisheries and Agriculture Ministries, management authorities, key stakeholders from scientific authorities. We want species to have a healthy role in their ecosystems.

➤ **Vincent Fleming**

Synergies between the conventions must happen in-countries, implementation is the instrumental stage. The post 2020 might not provide structured targets yet, but the targets it has to include in its

targets those really working for CITES. In the current Aichi target, there is only target 4 on sustainable consumption and production, target 6 on unsustainable use but for marine species only, and target 11 reducing extinction that eventually touch upon CITES' scope. But there is no neat slot where CITES really fits in and that is a barrier to national implementation. In NBSAPs which are in line with those targets, CITES falls through the gaps and is not implemented. A broader target addressing over-exploitation would enable CITES to have a clear position, better implement and monitor it.

➤ **Carolina Caceres**

At the Bern meeting, FAO mentioned that the structure of the post 2020 framework has to be an invitation to see yourself. If you create targets that are focused on issues like drivers, there is a natural fit where you can see what the action of CITES are trying to achieve within the context of trying to produce or eliminate that drivers. That would be a relevant approach to designing the post 2020 framework.

➤ **Sol Guerrero Ortiz**

Mainstreaming is not only within sectors but also across different stakeholders and society. Having some key people can help synergies between different sectors and actors - i.e. Hesiquio Benitez is head of scientific authority, IPBES focal point and negotiator for Mexico). IPBES played a key role in bringing the information to decision makers. Governance structure can stimulate further collaborations – i.e. environment, fisheries and agriculture ministries' discussions in Mexico. Inter-ministerial committee that analyse all CITES documents together help collaboration.

➤ **Guido Broekhoven**

People and institutions in the environment's sphere act as anywhere else. There is a double need for ownership - of the post 2020 biodiversity framework – and for accountability of the institutions for their contribution to the post 2020 biodiversity framework.

Questions and answers

1. How do we mainstream the dialogue between the countries that have biodiversity in tropical areas and the speakers in most dialogue who come from Europe or North America? How to develop a set of targets that are truly global and foster ownership around the world?

[Biodiversity China Conservation and Green Development Foundation]

➤ **Diane Klaimi**

The first Open Ended Working Group will discuss the first draft of the framework, we have to make sure that the local communities are introducing the key points to be considered by the end of the process.

➤ **Sol Guerrero Ortiz**

Although in CITES Mexico is part North America's group and that in CBD, it is part of the GRULAC group working closely with other Latin American countries. It is also part of the Like-minded Megadiverse countries that include countries in Asia and Africa, promoting South-South cooperation.

➤ **Susan Liebermann**

WCS works with 60 countries and does not represent North America. Indeed, the drivers of biodiversity loss especially for fisheries are also in the global North (footprint, consumption, purchasing of timber, etc.) and the burden is shared across the globe and not only owned by megadiverse countries. CBD has

to integrate in its framework that each country has to think about its global and not only national impact.

2. Why can't a strategy on synergies become more operational? [CITES Secretariat]

➤ **Diane Klaimi**

Synergies are only felt when working on the ground in a landscape bringing CMS, CBD, CITES together. From the number of resolutions adopted, there is still one pending. But unless there is a joint programme funded on this matter, it will not be implemented. The DART tool under development with the EU and Switzerland support should be available soon for countries to share their reporting data.

➤ **Carolina Caceres**

The most effective synergies are when we are focusing on a specific outcome and specie, looking at synergies between Ramsar, CBD and others for a given operative goal. The global strategy for synergies is a distinct process that is more about creating a framework out of different MEAs, demonstrating how to achieve conservation collectively.

➤ **Anastasiya Timoshyna**

Invisibility of wildlife trade and the use of wild species in the CBD narrative is striking and needs to be reconsidered with dedicated targets.

3. We always hear that CITES is focused on sustainable use and wildlife trade and that it is an instrument working well. Yet, there is a complete disconnect with IPBES global assessment conclusion stating that global goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and transformative change is needed to restore and protect nature. What are the transformative change to be achieved in CITES to reach that goal? [Foundation]

➤ **Vincent Fleming**

Not all wildlife trade is controlled by CITES and it never will be. We have to remember that CITES cannot do much and that most wildlife and its exploitation is managed at national level. The value of wildlife to people, not only in terms of consumptive use but also for its own sake, has to be acknowledged by the largest possible amount of people. It will increase opportunities to conserve and restore biodiversity. Our ambition for biodiversity also has to include species recovery with viable population providing their benefits to people.

4. How can the various universities globally participate in this process? What is the role of academia in the process? [Uganda Delegate]

5. However the social and economic drivers are not discussed in the post 2020 biodiversity framework aims while they play a key role, is there any strategy to relate with social and economic organization to involve those drivers? Some drivers like habitat loss is not address by CITES, so what is the strategy to ensure that the species impacted by it are protected? Is there an operative exchange of information in that sense? [Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research]

➤ **Susan Liebermann**

CITES has never said that the only species that should be protected are those whose primary threat is overexploitation induced by international trade. Habitat loss and climate change are putting species at a far greater threat than international trade, which is indeed challenged because of those. The multiple threats to species must be seen in a more holistic manner for CITES and CBD. CITES is not just about preventing species from going extinct. There is a dedicated clause in CITES stating that species' trade is to be set at a level that is consistent with their role in their ecosystems, with a holistic vision. The post 2020 framework should not only talk about preventing species from going extinct but through sustainable use mechanisms ensuring that species don't qualify for the CITES annexes, or that species can be down-listed or delisted from it.

➤ **Guido Broekhoven**

The drivers are essential to resolving the nature crisis and most of them are outside the environment sphere. We need to make the nature-related conventions more powerful and we need to make the powerful processes more nature-related and nature-relevant, including the G7, trade processes, G20, etc., and not only the government process but all sectors ones. We need to make the joint approach towards all sectors in our narrative is also at a very practical level, we need to work with companies through nature-based initiative and science based targets.

➤ **Anastasiya Timoshyna**

Social science play a key role in resolving human-induced drivers, through behavioural change including of governments, private sector, consumers. The smaller drivers (unsustainable trade, overconsumption) can and should be addressed and social science has a lot to bring in that regard.

Closing remarks

➤ **Anastasiya Timoshyna**

One target on trade and use should be created in the post 2020 framework. It could be split it into a target addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss - illegal and unsustainable trade and use - and how it affects the benefits and human well-being, and a second target looking at benefits generated to conservation and well-being through sustainable legal trade.

➤ **Susan Liebermann**

If the post 2020 framework integrated a target that would state explicitly that governments and other stakeholders' commit to CITES effective implementation, then when implementing CITES they would be delivering on the CBD targets and NBSAPs would be implementing CITES. There is a need for an explicit statement in the CBD framework that some targets are delivered under the CITES implementation, and similarly topics on migratory species could be referred to as implemented by CMS. This would force synergies through government implementation.

➤ **Carolina Caceres**

The metrics used in CITES allowed to measure some progress towards objective and should be integrated in the post 2020 framework. We could either have one target with several metrics in it or a target with a metric each. This could help measuring progress towards global biodiversity progress.

➤ **Guido Broekhoven**

The level of ambition also relates to implementation. In terms of biophysical targets, we need to speak on what needs to be done rather than what can be done. We need to set them in terms of what can be done to save what we have, not the opposite. Zero loss of species by 2030 should be a target. Real challenges remain at the operational, implementation and mandate levels for better synergies.

➤ **Diane Klaimi**

The model of SDGs, which has a target addressing governance systems and policy coherence, should definitely be an inspiration, or even replicated to bring all biodiversity conventions together for a global biodiversity framework. There is a need to encourage coordination at the national level with SDGs implementation is necessary, including through a dedicated SDGs coordination mechanism integrating the biodiversity conventions and SDGs monitoring reviews. The SDGs coordination with the biodiversity conventions should come as a target and not as a chapeau to articulate collaboration and cooperation.

➤ **Vincent Fleming**

Aichi targets are perceived as designed by and for governments. But they should apply to all sectors of society. Communication and language matters in that respect. In the UK the business sector knew about the SDGs but not about biodiversity conventions or Aichi targets.

➤ **Sol Guerrero Ortiz**

NBSAPs are crucial to link CITES and CBD. Mexico found that CITES implementation is linked with the 6 axes of Mexico's NBSAPs axes and line of action, even if it is not mentioned explicitly in it. NBSAPs are useful tools moving forward with implementing CITES and developing synergies with the CBD.

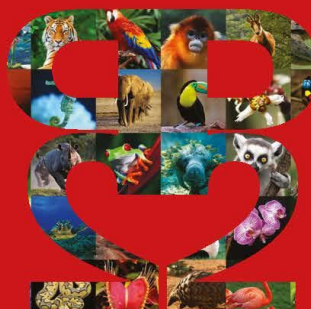
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COME TOGETHER TO ENHANCE SYNERGIES
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- WHAT'S IN IT FOR CITES?

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