

Latin American & Caribbean perspectives on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

A collaboration between ECLAC, IDDRI¹ and LAC think tanks

24-26 September, ECLAC, Santiago, Chile

Context

The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which will be hosted by China in October 2020, will be a significant milestone in the history of international biodiversity governance. It will see the adoption of a new global framework for biodiversity governance which should ideally facilitate the deep socioeconomic transformations that are necessary to slow down the global loss of biodiversity and strengthen its conservation and sustainable use.

In 2010, the 196 Parties to the CBD adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 during CBD COP 10 in Nagoya, capital of the Aichi Prefecture, Japan. This Strategic Plan, which was later adopted by the UN General Assembly as the reference for the whole UN system, notably contained twenty ambitious and comprehensive targets, known as “the Aichi Targets”, aimed at halting biodiversity loss. Unfortunately, the current state of biodiversity, as highlighted by the reports that IPBES published these last three years, implies that almost all of these targets will not be met, and by far for most of them. Although there are numerous laws, policies, programs and activities aimed at leading to a sustainable future, these efforts have not managed to overcome the strong drivers of biodiversity loss, especially the increase in agriculture-driven land use change and in the overexploitation of species.

A real race against the clock is starting right now, because there is less than two years until COP15, at which an agreement involving 196 parties will have to be found, with a rather high ambition: “*The post-2020 global biodiversity framework needs to be commensurate with the challenges of fostering the transformational change required to address biodiversity loss and achieve the 2050 Vision*”². There are many topics to address during negotiations to generate the new post-2020 framework, which include the design of the new global targets that will replace the Aichi Targets, the mechanisms that could be used to follow and encourage their implementation, the involvement of non-State actors to raise ambition and increase implementation and resource mobilization and capacity building. Biodiversity think tanks, and more generally knowledge and expertise institutions on biodiversity, have a very important role to play during this phase of discussions. There is indeed a need to share experiences, advances and challenges in biodiversity governance, on how national biodiversity policies have benefited (or not) from international frameworks, and thus reflect, from the point of view of implementation, on what would be needed for the post-2020 framework.

The Latin American and Caribbean region is extraordinarily privileged in terms of biodiversity, and LAC countries are among the most active and influential in international biodiversity negotiations. The region has seen many developments in biodiversity and environmental governance in the last decades and has

¹ Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales, Paris, France. www.iddri.org

² Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Discussion Paper. Note by the Executive Secretary: CBD/POST2020/PREP/1/1 25 January 2019

experienced successes but also witnessed how the institutional landscape for biodiversity can remain fragile. The region has therefore much to contribute to debates on post-2020 biodiversity governance.

Furthermore, the year 2020 has been called an “environmental super-year” because of a convergence of milestones: the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework biodiversity, the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate (and the submission of the next round of NDCs), and 2020 may also see the adoption of a treaty on the conservation of the high seas. It is thus also an opportunity to reinforce the synergies between action for climate and marine and terrestrial biodiversity. The organization of climate COP25 by Chile, and its pre-COP by Costa Rica, where these synergies will occupy a center stage, will also put the LAC region at the forefront of these debates.

Promoting reflection, the exchange of experiences and integrating regional visions is of paramount importance as a contribution to international discussions. Prior to COP21 on climate change, IDDRI and ECLAC collaborated to coordinate a network of LAC experts to produce a series of documents on related policies in the region, which contributed to reinforcing discussions in the region and between the region and the world³. We renew our collaboration during 2019-2020 to strengthen the international sustainable governance of biodiversity.

Objectives

- To lay the foundations of a network of experts from the LAC biodiversity knowledge community that will generate space for dialogue, analysis and monitoring biodiversity conservation and sustainable use measures, seeking to build a common language and a regional vision that enriches and strategically contributes to the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Identify lessons from positive experiences, as well as setbacks, to allow a better understanding of conditions that enable change in favor of biodiversity and propose ways to enhance the implementation of post-2020 biodiversity goals.
- Publish a collection of studies and videos in order to share these perspectives on the way to CBD COP15.

Steps to follow

1. ECLAC and IDDRI will organize a 3-day meeting in late September 2019 (24-26) of experts from Latin American biodiversity knowledge institutions or think tanks to reflect on and share experiences on the proposed topics (listed below) and organize the collective work.
2. ECLAC and IDDRI will coordinate the production of articles that will be published in the IDDRI collection in Northern hemisphere spring 2020. Ideally, a second author meeting will take place in March 2020.

³ See examples here; <https://www.iddri.org/en/publications-and-events/document-de-travail/engaging-productive-sector-climate-change-negotiations>; <https://www.iddri.org/en/publications-and-events/document-de-travail/agriculture-forestry-and-other-land-use-climate>

3. The papers should be advanced enough to be presented during Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)-24 in May 2020, during a dedicated side event.
4. An event to launch the articles during the third meeting of the post-2020 Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG3) which may take place in Colombia, in July 2020.
5. A side event during COP15 in October/November 2020.
6. Short videos will be made after meetings to summarize discussions and the studies and used for outreach on social networks of collaborating institutions.
7. The studies will be gathered in a synthetic document (booklet/report) to bring together the lessons learned and perspectives of Latin American countries on biodiversity.

Topics proposed to be treated

- **Experiences in addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss:** Examples of transformation in socioeconomic sectors, including public policies (for example, subsidies reform in agriculture, fisheries, offshore activities, etc.). Successes and limitations of mainstreaming biodiversity in economic sectors, and what are the future perspectives.
- **Successful experiences in biodiversity sustainable use in the LAC region:** Empowering of indigenous peoples and local communities and its positive consequences for biodiversity, payment for environmental services, management of wild species, etc. Productive diversifications, development of value chains that enable sustainable use of biodiversity.
- **Enabling conditions:** The institutional capacities of biodiversity management and information on biodiversity (emphasis on changes over time): what has driven progress and what has led to regressions, and how to go further. Education, its specific link with the promotion of human capital in biodiversity and environmental management. The LAC region, as a space that has experimented different movements of critical citizenship redefinition, has insights to bring.
- **Biodiversity's nexus:** The interactions between biodiversity and climate change, food systems, health and gender equality.

Where possible, all points will be treated with information on terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

Organization

First meeting of experts from Latin American biodiversity knowledge institutions: It is proposed to carry it out on September 24-26, at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. The first meeting aims to discuss the proposed topics and find common points of how to address them, build authors teams on the selected topics, agree on a calendar and work organization.

During the first meeting, experts will be interviewed to generate content for the videos directed to social networks.

The first LAC expert meeting should take place after the Trondheim conference (2-5 July 2019), and the first meeting of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 that will take place in late August in Nairobi

(Kenya, UN Environment headquarters). This will enable the workshop to be on the same page with the state of international conversations.

Writing: September 2019-May 2020

Full drafts should be finalized by May 2020, so that the studies can be presented during SBSTTA-24 in May 2020 and finalized for an official launch in July 2020 during OEW3 in Colombia.

Outreach and engagement: May-October 2020

- The first draft of some portions of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be made available in February 2020 during OEWG2, and further discussed during OEWG3. The studies will contribute to these discussions and provide arguments for different points.
- SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 will be held in May 2020 in Montreal and they will be important moments to start sharing insights from draft papers, during side-events and informal meetings.
- During the UNGA of September 2020, a “Nature Summit” of Heads of States may be held, which will be one more occasion to valorize this project.
- A side event will be organized during COP15 in October 2020.

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