

SÃO PAULO LETTER: BRAZILIAN OUTLOOK FOR THE POST-2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

In February 2020 during the event **BIO2020: Brazilian Outlook for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework**, subnational and local players gathered in the city of São Paulo - representatives from municipalities, states, metropolitan regions, biosphere reserves, the private sector and civil society - with the purpose of defining a pattern for the outlook by Brazilian players regarding key aspects for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

2020 is a decisive year for biodiversity in the world. The current 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the respective Aichi Targets are concluding their cycle. A new Global Biodiversity Framework will be adopted during the 15th Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD (COP15) in October in China. An ambitious agreement is expected, definitively uniting people and nature. It should be integrated with the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and all other multilateral agreements for the environment and sustainable development, starting to work together to face a number of the main global challenges and reinforce the **2050 Vision** related to the CBD: that “biodiversity should be valued, preserved and wisely restored until the year 2050, maintaining ecosystem services in favor of a healthy planet and providing its essential benefits to all the people”, ensuring the future of mankind as of now - a responsibility shared by everyone.

In 2006, when COP8 was chaired by Brazil, it hosted the first meeting of subnational and local authorities recognized by the CBD signatory governments. During the following year the Curitiba city government hosted the first official meeting on the Convention on Cities and Biodiversity, which established the Global Partnership of Subnational and Local Authorities for Biodiversity. On that same year, ICLEI in a partnership with IUCN, launched the *Local Action for Biodiversity* (LAB) program, highlighting the importance of local biodiversity actions.

During the CBD’s COP10, Decision X/22 was approved endorsing the Biodiversity Convention’s Action Plan, which encouraged and led to preparing action plans by subnational governments, municipalities and other local bodies, proposing integration of territorial actions in a manner more aligned with national strategies. This movement is seen in the preparation of Brazil’s Strategy and National Action Plan (EPANB), and is reflected in documents such as the Action Plans of the states of Goiás, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro and several Brazilian municipalities. The State of São Paulo was a pioneer in preparing its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, with a collegiate body created months after COP10 (the São Paulo Biodiversity Commission) was held.

The Brazilian government published its Biodiversity Action Plan in 2017, highlighting the contribution of a number of players in its preparation - including subnational,

regional and local entities, academia, civil society and business community - by means of the *Biodiversity Dialogues*, a process started even before the CBD's COP 10.

Nonetheless, these entities' full potential to disclose public policies and national actions has been underused. Integrating local and regional policies and incentive mechanisms for their adoption has the potential of accelerating and deepening Brazil's ability of complying with and furthering its biodiversity targets in the Post-2020 Framework.

While preparing for COP15, at least four occasions brought together Brazilian subnational and local players throughout 2019 to discuss and address these issues:

- The Nature of Cities Summit (TNOC), held in June in Paris, France, which produced the script ***“Living in Harmony with Nature - Strengthening the Moment for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework”***;
- In July 2019 in the Aburrá Valley in Medellin, Colombia, metropolitan area authorities, local and subnational governments from 12 countries and partners prepared the ***Metropolitan Area Statement on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework***;
- The 3rd Congress on Latin American and Caribbean Protected Areas (CAPLAC) held in October 2019 in Lima, Peru, gave rise to the ***Statement on the Role of Local Governments for the Preservation of Biodiversity***;
- In November the workshop ***Integrated Local Approaches to Governance of Ecosystem Restoration*** was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the purpose of demonstrating the contribution by local players, the private sector and non-state players in restoration actions in Brazil.

On all such occasions, the predominant theme calls for greater participation, recognition and encouragement of actions by subnational and local governments, as well as other players from the biodiversity agenda in partnership with the Parties. Brazil enjoys a significant leadership in its subnational and local governments in order to implement concrete strategies in this direction. It is essential therefore to invest in data and knowledge management and mobilizing resources, in addition to integration and training.

Hence, in view of a strong intention for action, we request considering the following aspects in the new Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework:

- Maintenance of references and guidelines for vertical integration with public biodiversity policies.
- Adoption of a new specific decision based on the Decision X/22 Action Plan legacy.
- Provision of additional guidelines for technical and financial support mechanisms and supplementary actions at a local and subnational scale.

- Adoption of permanent multilevel and multilateral platforms to report actions by subnational governments and cities, strengthening concurrence and disclosure of actions through *Cities with Nature* and *Regions with Nature*.
- Inclusion of subnational and local contributions to new national strategies, action plans and reports to be produced based on the new global framework.
- Highlighting the essential role of protected areas and OMECs (Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures) in implementing the CBD's support tripod - conservation, sustainable use and biodiversity benefit sharing.
- Assurance of the means for promoting sustainable development as one of the central strategies for implementing the CBD.
- Encouraging further integration among global environmental and development agendas.

In addition to strengthening multilevel integration in the Post-2020 Framework, we strongly recommend that Convention member countries should review the Action Plan Adopted by Decision X/22 and improve the document, again offering a specific mechanism for a commitment by subnational and local governments. We are willing to adopt ambitious goals.

In order to make the discussion tangible for Brazilian circumstances, we have worked on five specific topics for the preservation of biodiversity, encouraging participation by a variety of voices from the most diverse sectors of activity, of which a summary appears below. Brazilian states represented by the entities in attendance are willing to cooperate with other countries, creating cooperation in the design of similar integrating processes.

1 - Restoring Ecosystems and Recovering Native Vegetation

Restoring ecosystems and recovering vegetation should be encouraged in line with strategies - planned or to be considered in environmental legislation - in order to make agricultural production, territorial development and biodiversity compatible with income generation in the territories. Participation by different levels of government, private enterprise, academia and civil society organizations should be encouraged.

Feasibility mechanisms: promoting learning, training and qualification by the technical staff; developing public incentive policies; encouraging inclusion of family farmers and traditional communities; encouraging sustainable use of biodiversity; encouraging actions in areas that create landscape connectivity; implementing and managing quantitative and qualitative monitorable data systems; developing actions with a view to expanding technologies and scientific research aimed at restoration; defining specific technical and financial support facilities for state and municipal governments, which include inducing market changes; cooperating with productive sectors; integrated governance of subnational and local players and producing regular reports based on shared information.

2 - Protected Areas, Land Use and Connectivity

Conservation Units (CUs) and other effective area-based conservation mechanisms (OMECS) are strategic for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services. Connectivity among them by means of different measures/typologies such as APPs and Legal Reserves, restoration, private areas, traditional peoples' and communities' territories, urban and linear parks, squares, afforestation and green infrastructure in general are essential in ensuring a gene flow and ecosystem balance, as well as ecosystem services for present and future generations.

Feasibility mechanisms: strengthening the creation, management and effectiveness of CUs and OMECS, including those by private enterprise; strengthening instruments for territorial planning, stressing integration between different government levels, including with regard to territorial planning; improving financial and clearing instruments and payments for environmental services; creating opportunities for income generation; creating mechanisms and opportunities that ensure effective participation by traditional peoples and other social groups.

3 - Sustainable Production and Use

Valuating sustainable productive chains and encouraging information systems that integrate data generated by different territories are desirable ambitions for performance by subnational and local entities. In addition to considering favorable or minimally neutral criteria in terms of impacts to biodiversity in licensing processes.

Feasibility mechanisms: creating lists of affected species; creating data on agricultural, extractive, mineral and industrial productive chain and certifications; demonstrating opportunities and potential gains from sustainable production; creating simplified certification processes; creating open databases for the disclosure of information and social control; providing social and economic incentives and credit lines to encourage the transition from conventional productive chains to sustainable production; fostering commitments by companies and persons by means of government incentives to optimize production and use patterns, consumer awareness and encourage reverse logistics.

4 - The Circular Economy and Nature-Based Solutions

Fostering a circular economy appreciates local and traditional knowledge, encourages social inclusion and creates opportunities. A broad disclosure and adoption of Nature-based Solution (NbS) measures are strategies that counter different challenges, such as food and water security, climate emergency and disaster risk reduction.

Feasibility mechanisms: encouraging tax incentive and multisectoral cooperation policies for the circular economy; giving rise to a dialogue among the various sectors; reviewing

regulations and other normative instruments; fostering the bioeconomy by creating demands, organizing cooperatives, developing products and value chains and analyzing regional and commercial specifics; creating research and development incentive facilities.

5 - Environmental Education and Awareness

It is necessary to foster society's reconnection with biodiversity. Plural and transversal environmental education should be a structuring tool to find solutions for the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Encouraging education of citizens that impact on public policies. Ensuring equity and a leading role by communities with the appreciation of traditional knowledge. Expanding knowledge on the relation between use and effects on biodiversity.

Feasibility mechanisms: encouraging leadership training; fostering social participation and citizenship science; developing diversified and integrated monitoring models for different sectors, including formal education; democratizing innovative technologies and enhancing interactive areas.

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