



Implementing the new Global Biodiversity Framework

Making Target 3 work for People and Nature

Technical Workshop

15 May 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....3

PROGRAMME.....4

PANEL 1 – ENSURING ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS AND INTEGRITY IN 30 X 30 SITE DESIGNATION8

PANEL 2 – BENEFITS OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS UNDER 30 X 30 FOR PEOPLE10

PANEL 3 – IMPLEMENTING 30 X 30 IN THE MARINE AND INLAND WATER ENVIRONMENT14

PANEL 4 – SUPPORTING AND FINANCING GLOBAL 30 X 30 IMPLEMENTATION17

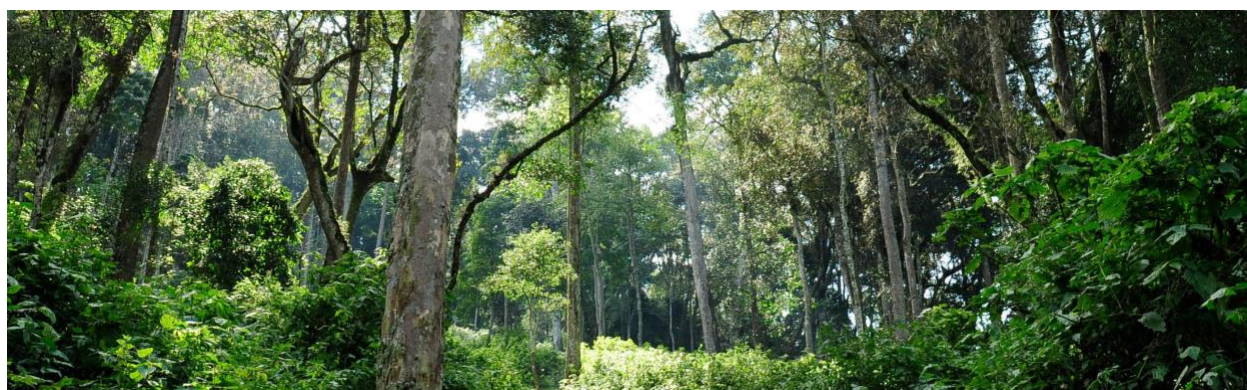
CLOSING REMARKS.....20

INTRODUCTION

In December 2022, governments adopted a new, ambitious **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This historic GBF has led the way to a new era of global cooperation on biodiversity conservation. To implement this framework, the European Union, and several other European donors agreed to double their financial commitments for biodiversity. The GBF framework outlines a number of targets to be achieved by 2030. Of these, Target 3 has attracted considerable attention as it aims to ensure that 30% of land, inland water and sea, particularly areas of importance for biodiversity, are effectively conserved and managed, through systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), that benefits people and nature.

Following the organisation of a successful joint event¹ in November 2022 on 'Building bridges between the UNFCCC COP27 and the CBD COP15', the **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**, **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**, and the **Belgian Biodiversity Platform** joined forces again, this time together with the **IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)**, to organise a follow-up event at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels on May 15th, 2023.

This technical workshop was divided into four main sessions, each of which focused on a critical aspect of the implementation of Target 3 under the GBF, including: ensuring ecological representativeness; ensuring benefits to people; marine and inland water conservation; and supporting and financing implementation. The event brought together European Member State experts, partner country representatives, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), civil society, academia, and other experts to raise awareness and discuss technical issues to ensure successful implementation of Target 3 in partner countries, that benefits people and nature.



¹ <https://brussels.wcs.org/Media/News/ID/18299/Reception-on-COP27-and-COP15>

PROGRAMME

Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Janice Weatherley-Singh**, Director, WCS EU Office
- **Dr. Michel Van Camp**, Director General, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
- **Mr. Hugo Schally**, Adviser for International Negotiations, DG ENV, European Commission
- **Mr. Caner Can**, Energy Counselor, Permanent Delegation of Türkiye to the EU
- **Mr. César Luena**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- **Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist**, Chair of SBI, Co-chair WPIEI Biodiversity and Senior Advisor, and **Ms. Mette Svejgaard**, Co-chair WPIEI Biodiversity and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise of Sweden

Panel 1 - Ensuring Ecological Representativeness and Integrity in 30 x 30 Site Designation

- **Mr. Andras Krolopp**, Senior Policy Adviser, TNC
- **Dr. Madhu Rao**, Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
- **Mr. Frank Vassen**, EU Birds and Habitats Directive Officer, DG ENV, European Commission
- **Dr. Andrew Plumpton**, Head of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Secretariat

Panel 2 - Benefits of protected and conserved areas under 30 x 30 for people

- **Dr. Madhu Rao**, Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
- **Ms. Chantal Marijnissen**, Head of Unit for Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, DG INTPA, European Commission
- **Dr. Dörte Segebart**, Advisor on Biodiversity-Environment-Oceans, GIZ

Panel 3 - Implementing 30 x 30 in the Marine and Inland Water Environment

- **Dr. Simon Cripps**, Executive Director of Marine Conservation, WCS
- **Ms. Sophie Trémolet**, Europe Freshwater Director, TNC
- **Ms. Sophie Mirgaux**, Special Envoy for the Ocean, Belgian Federal Public Service of Environment
- **Ms. Gizem Eras**, Counsellor and Head of Section for Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment, Canadian Mission to the EU

Panel 4 - Putting Theory into Practice: Supporting and Financing Global 30 x 30 Implementation

- **Ms. Salima Kempnaer**, Belgian Focal Point on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), and Focal point on Resource Mobilisation, Belgian Federal Public Service of Environment
- **Ms. Stefanie Lang**, Executive Director, Legacy Landscapes Fund
- **Ms. Juliane Muellner**, International Relations Officer, DG ENV, European Commission
- **Mr. Jason Dozier**, Policy Officer Multilateral Biodiversity Negotiations, HAC N&P Coordinator, French Ministry of Ecological Transition

Closing Remarks

- **Mr. Boris Erg**, Director, IUCN European Regional Office

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Janice Weatherley-Singh, Director, WCS EU Office, opened the technical workshop, welcomed the audience, and introduced the first speakers.

Dr. Michel Van Camp, Director General, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, said he was particularly happy to host this event at the prestigious Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS). Very much aligned with the 2050 Vision of the GBF, the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences aims "to bring nature into everyone's life". RBINS is a world-class research institute with more than 250 scientists and scientific collaborators covering a wide range of disciplines from biology to geology, oceanography to taxonomy and paleontology to ecology. In addition, the Institute is home to several key biodiversity national focal points including the IUCN, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the CBD and the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) for Belgium.

The Institute welcomes the GBF as an important step towards addressing the nature crisis after four long years of negotiations and fully acknowledges the hard work and dedication put forward by our colleagues at the CBD focal point and the CHM, working side by side with the other federal actors, colleagues in the regions and of course our decision makers. The fact that Belgium was awarded the Silver Award in the 'New National CHM Category' during the COP15 event in Montreal is emblematic of the strong positioning of our country in the implementation of the work of the Convention. The efforts of the Belgian delegation have also been recognized by His Majesty the King, who invited the Belgian team for an audience.

Going forward, the Institute is fully committed to helping reinforce the science basis of the GBF, as well as increasing awareness of the importance of biodiversity amongst the general public - especially through the museum. This meeting is a great opportunity to get acquainted with several critical aspects of Target 3 which should lead to bold conservation action on the ground.

Mr. Hugo Schally, Adviser for International Negotiations, DG Environment, European Commission, stated that the CBD COP15 in Montreal adopted the ambitious Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which is complemented by five important decisions on: Monitoring; Planning, Reporting and Review; Resource Mobilization; Sharing benefits from Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources; and Capacity Building to support the implementation.

The agreement reached on this historic and transformational package for biodiversity means that we now have - together with the Paris agreement on climate – a framework that paves the way towards a climate-neutral, nature-positive and resilient world by 2050. The swift, efficient and effective implementation of the framework is also crucial to keeping the 1.5°C goals alive. It contributes to achieve sustainable societies, by also promoting fairness, equity, inclusion and participation. The GBF maintains the 2050 Vision: living in harmony with nature from the Aichi Framework, while establishing an action oriented 2030 Mission aiming at halting and reversing biodiversity loss and putting nature on a path to recovery. The overall message is that biodiversity must be better off in 2030 compared to 2020.

The GBF contains 4 outcome-oriented Goals and 23 action oriented 2030 Targets, many of which are quantified and measurable. This means that the GBF covers the three objectives of the CBD, addressing not only the CBD, but all global governance entities, not focusing on just the 30% that we would like to conserve, protect or restore, but also covering the other 70% that is essential for a global balance. The focus must now be on implementation. For the EU, the basis will be the implementation of existing policies, legislation and initiatives. The EU is working to identify EU and Member State targets aligned with the GBF. In that context we are trying to identify opportunities and gaps to fully align EU targets with the GBF.

The EU will also carefully follow CBD follow-up processes concerning issues such as on the monitoring framework, access and benefit sharing (ABS) / digital sequence information (DSI), resource mobilisation, capacity building and also cover thematic work on specific topics such as synthetic biology, invasive alien species, biodiversity and health, biodiversity and climate change, etc.

We will only deliver, if there is a collective effort in the EU and at global level. The EU wants to lead by example, based on ambitious action under the Green Deal on the implementation of the framework, but also to work with international partners to kickstart the implementation. The EU will keep biodiversity and the implementation of the framework on top of the agenda in multilateral, regional and bilateral engagement with partner countries and throughout the UN system. The challenge will be to leave no one behind: The EU stands ready to support partner countries in implementing the agreement.

Mr. Caner Can, Energy Counselor, Permanent Delegation of Türkiye to the EU, stated that climate change is a global problem that affects all countries, and no country is immune from its negative effects. The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released on 20th of March unequivocally underlines the urgency of the climate crisis. He reported that Türkiye is committed to contributing to global efforts on

addressing environmental challenges, especially climate change, loss of biodiversity, and waste management on the basis of sustainable development and a green transition. As a Party to the Paris Agreement, Türkiye announced its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) at COP27 in Egypt. They aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 41% by 2030 compared to the business-as-usual scenario and declared a net-zero emission target in 2053 and is preparing a "Climate Law" to combat climate change more efficiently. Türkiye is also updating the "Climate Change Action Plan, Long Term Strategy and Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan" within the context of net-zero targets and green transition.

Türkiye is located in three different climatic zones and biogeographical areas and enjoys an extraordinary ecosystem and habitat diversity. Türkiye has made new additions to its biodiversity inventory while the rest of the world is losing ground in its preservation attempts. In the last two decades, it has increased its forest areas from 20 million hectares to 23 million hectares by planting 5.2 billion saplings through the "Breath for the Future" campaign for a greener future launched in 2019. However, Türkiye is aware of the challenges posed by the loss of biodiversity as some one million species are at risk across the world. Therefore, protecting biodiversity is no longer a choice but a necessity.

Türkiye will host the 16th Conference of Parties of the CBD in 2024 and assume the Presidency for two years. The GBF, with its goals and milestones, will be an important instrument for the recovery of natural ecosystems achieving the Convention's vision of "living in harmony with nature". To conclude, he said that Türkiye attaches utmost importance to regional and international cooperation for efficient, environmentally-conscious, and sustainable use of biological resources.

Mr. César Luena, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, stated that the European Parliament is fully committed to the GBF implementation: from the EU Biodiversity Strategy to the Nature Restoration Law. At the COP15 in Montreal, the world made significant progress with important compromises, but the commitment and the work must be done on a daily basis. He thanked environmental NGOs for their implication and their capacity to involve the rest of society in an objective that is key for humanity: the preservation of the ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity.

Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), Co-chair of the Working Party on International Environment Issues (WPIEI) Biodiversity and Senior Advisor, and **Ms. Mette Svejgaard**, Co-chair WPIEI Biodiversity and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise of Sweden, highlighted that agreeing on the GBF with its vision, mission, goals and targets was truly a victory for biodiversity and for

multilateralism. Taken together with results on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) of this year, it seems clear that the obstacles lie not in the area of aspirations to combat biodiversity loss, but rather in implementing all the measures needed to fulfil the goals and targets.

The aim of the Swedish Presidency is a freer, greener and safer EU. Under the theme of “green transition”, the informal meeting of environmental ministers held discussions with business representatives on climate, biodiversity and circular economy. Ministers and corporate leaders shared a sense of urgency and stressed the importance of combating climate change in synergy with protection of biodiversity and other environmental and sustainability issues.

In the Council, the Swedish Presidency is pushing negotiations on an array of legislative environmental acts, including for a common position on the Nature Restoration Law in June. This is essential, not just for meeting the 30% objectives in Target 3, but also for succeeding on many other aspects of the GBF, while also addressing climate change. In the WPIEI, the Swedish Presidency coordinates to form the EU position on the first steps in the implementation of the GBF at the global level. Mainstreaming of biodiversity being one issue and the need for a robust monitoring regime another.

Making Target 3 work for people and nature will require broad engagement and collaboration. It requires the work that is now being done by EU Member States, the Commission, by civil society organisations, academia and business, and it requires more conversations focused on implementation, like the ones held during this workshop.

PANEL 1 – ENSURING ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS AND INTEGRITY IN 30 X 30 SITE DESIGNATION

Mr. Andras Krolopp, Senior Policy Adviser, The Nature Conservancy, introduced this panel and presented the speakers.

Dr. Madhu Rao, Chair of the IUCN WCPA, presented on the importance of ecological integrity for the GBF and especially within the context of making Target 3 work for people and for nature. Healthy and functioning ecosystems are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ecosystem integrity is well embedded in Goal A of the GBF. Managing for integrity will simultaneously manage for a whole suite of values and co-benefits such as carbon sequestration, watershed protection and human health.

Forest ecological integrity is a strong predictor of carbon stock. The Forest Landscape Integrity Index² (FLII) is the first fine-scale global metric of forest ecological integrity and it has several applications in setting policy targets, monitoring change and planning development. This will transform our ability to visualise, measure and manage forest quality. Integrity metrics have many different benefits such as indicators for the GBF and NDCs. Respecting, supporting and enforcing Indigenous Peoples territorial rights is the most important pathway to preventing the loss of forests with high ecological integrity.

Mr. Frank Vassen, EU Birds and Habitats Directive Officer, DG Environment, European Commission, outlined the ongoing EU-level processes for achieving 30% of protected area and 10% of strictly protected coverage at EU level, both on land and at sea, by 2030. This target covers both Natura 2000 sites designated on the basis of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, and nationally protected areas reported to the European Environment Agency (EEA).

The EU Biodiversity Strategy published in May 2020 provides a general overview of the targets. In addition, more specific guidance on how to interpret the targets is provided in a Commission Guidance document issued in January 2022, following extensive consultation with Member States and stakeholder representatives. The definition of strict protection was subject to intensive debates during these consultations, and the final version of the Guidance documents includes a broader definition of strict protection that also allows for including actively managed areas, such as species-rich grasslands that require mowing or grazing, provided there is no compromise with other conflicting objectives in the way these areas are managed.

A format for reporting protected area pledges was developed by the EEA. Member States were expected to report their pledges by the end of 2022, so that a review process of the pledges could take place in 2023. However, only few Member States have reported pledges so far (by May 2023) and the process is at present heavily delayed. Many Member States indicate however their intention to still submit their pledges in the coming months.

Biogeographical region-level seminars are currently prepared for the autumn of 2023. In these seminars, the pledges received so far would be presented and discussed, and feedback would be collected for a possible review of the pledges after the seminars. If the number of pledges would be insufficient by the time the seminars take place, the seminar focus will be on how to help Member States to prepare their pledges and ensure political endorsement.

Considering that the protected area targets are of a voluntary nature in the Strategy, the use of peer pressure amongst Member States and public scrutiny of the pledges appear

² www.forestintegrity.com

to be the most appropriate mechanisms to ensure progress and achieve an ambitious outcome in 2030.

Dr. Andrew Plumptre, Head of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Secretariat recalled that the recently negotiated GBF has 4 goals and 23 targets. Target 1 (spatial planning for biodiversity) and Target 3 (conservation of 30% of the planet by 2030) refer to conservation happening in '*areas of particular importance for biodiversity*', a phrase also used for Aichi Target 11 between 2010-2020. Analysis of trends in protection show that there was a decline in the biodiversity value of protected areas established between 2010-2020, despite use of this phrase in the target to expand to 17% protection of land and 10% of seas. If we do not expand protected and conserved areas to sites of importance for biodiversity then we will fail to halt extinction of species, part of goal A of the GBF.

KBAs³ are sites of significance for the global persistence of biodiversity. Identified using 11 criteria applied to species, ecosystems or sites of outstanding ecological integrity, they provide a consistent and transparent method for recognising sites of global importance for conservation. KBAs are used by governments to guide where expansion of protected and conserved areas happen under Target 3 and 30% by 2030, and ensure that areas of global biodiversity significance are conserved. The private sector also recognises KBAs as 'critical habitat', requiring interventions that will minimise negative impacts on biodiversity, and the need to ensure that the biodiversity elements that trigger KBA status are not impacted. KBA data are provided to companies through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool⁴ (IBAT), helping them assess their risk of exposure for biodiversity impacts. KBAs are also being used by donors to guide where they invest in conservation.

KBAs are identified nationally and ideally through KBA national coordination groups, coordinating a process to bring scientific experts together with conservation practitioners and government to identify, map, monitor and conserve KBAs.

PANEL 2 – BENEFITS OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS UNDER 30 X 30 FOR PEOPLE

Dr. Madhu Rao, Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), introduced this panel and presented the speakers. Target 3 of the GBF was primarily designed with a focus on the recovery of declining trends in nature.

³ www.keybiodiversityareas.org

⁴ www.ibat-alliance.org

The Dasgupta Review on the *The Economics of Biodiversity*⁵ stressed the centrality of nature, as humanity's most precious asset. Hence successful achievement of Target 3 should have positive benefits for people. Target 3 calls for strengthening the effectiveness of existing protected areas (PA) networks while recognizing other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) as an opportunity to expand protection to areas beyond formal protected area systems. Protected areas have a primary conservation intent, while OECMs should deliver effective and enduring in situ conservation of biodiversity regardless of intent. OECMs provide an opportunity to include diverse forms of *in situ* management and governance of biodiversity through engaging diverse stakeholders and rightsholders. There are four categories of benefits of Target 3 implementation for people:

1. Protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services has multiple benefits for human well-being – examples include pollination services for food security, regulation of air quality and climate.
2. Given that the climate and biodiversity crises are closely linked, actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems also help address climate mitigation and adaptation.
3. There is strong scientific evidence to suggest that land use change increases zoonotic disease outbreaks originating in wildlife. Halting degradation through protection and effective conservation can reduce spillover risk and perhaps prevent future pandemics.
4. There is much evidence also to suggest that protected areas – especially transboundary PAs can contribute to strengthened governance and cooperation ultimately contributing positively to human security.

Furthermore, expansion to 30% requires people and there is evidence to suggest that significant increases are necessary in PA personnel as well as PA rangers – creating new employment opportunities and helping address SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth. It is crucial to view Target 3 in perspective: 30% - covers areas important for biodiversity, where conservation is a priority, sustainable use is appropriate only when it is fully consistent with conservation outcomes. The remaining 70% with commercial extractive use, needs to be sustainably managed, through subsidies, incentives, standards, certification. Efforts are currently underway to recognize nature positive trade for sustainable development There is a recent publication on nature positive trade for sustainable development, which outlines opportunities to promote synergies between the GBF and the work on sustainable trade at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Ms. Chantal Marijnissen, Head of Unit for Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, DG International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission, emphasised DG INTPA's commitment to placing people at the centre of their work on biodiversity, climate change,

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review

and other sectors. Her unit has developed comprehensive guidance documents known as the 'Larger than' series: 'Larger than Elephants' for Africa, 'Larger than Tigers' for Asia, and 'Larger than Jaguars' for Latin America, which guide their actions on biodiversity and people. DG INTPA takes a landscape approach, considering not only protected areas rich in biodiversity but also the surroundings, working closely with local authorities, government agencies, and communities to address governance, security, and socio-economic development. Focusing on sectors like agriculture and energy, with an emphasis on green economy and supporting local value chains, enables the development of the socio-economic environment that benefits both people and nature. In particular, NaturAfrica⁶, a flagship EU initiative with a budget of approximately 1.5 billion EUR, will primarily focus on supporting landscapes that are crucial for conservation and human development in Africa. DG INTPA will also support the restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity through initiatives like the 'Great Green Wall'.

The European Commission's collaboration with EU Member States through the 'Team Europe approach' facilitates a strategic and coordinated approach to EU development cooperation and external action planning. This collaboration leverages diverse strengths to amplify impact and address a wide range of issues. Through effective alignment and coordination, they can expand their reach and work more efficiently, using the various instruments available within the collaboration.

To enhance understanding of the different management systems for areas of high biodiversity, DG INTPA plans to conduct a comprehensive study of various approaches worldwide, including public-private partnerships, joint management, conservancies, ranches, and Indigenous Peoples and community management. The aim is to bridge knowledge gaps, exchange information across continents, identify effective models, and ultimately ensure the inclusion and ownership of local communities in biodiversity conservation.

The importance of further addressing human rights was acknowledged, along with the need to continue expanding efforts in this area. It is also critical to strengthen networks and collaborations among agencies, ministerial departments, NGOs, and Indigenous Peoples and local community networks. Through the sharing of experiences and collaborative efforts, these networks can effectively address similar challenges and achieve significant results in different regions.

Dr. Dörte Segebart, Advisor on Biodiversity-Environment-Oceans, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), spoke on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany and highlighted that the

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/intpa/items/746820/en>

nature loss poses a high risk to our global economy and society. Protected and conserved areas play a crucial role in tackling global crises: climate change, decline of state of biodiversity and ecosystem services – impacting on local livelihoods globally, our food security, economy as well as on global health. The focus of BMZ is the implementation of Target 3 with quality and equity, and strengthening the strong role for rights and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

There is a critical need to close the funding gap for biodiversity. Out of recognition of this, over the past two decades, Germany has increased its biodiversity funding continuously. In 2021, BMZ reached 780 million EUR for bilateral cooperation in 133 countries and 190 million EUR to multilateral organisations. In 2022, Chancellor Scholz announced that from 2025 onwards, Germany will make 1.5 billion EUR per year available for international biodiversity conservation.

BMZ supports over 831 protected and conserved areas in 65 partner countries (2021) via bilateral or regional projects implemented by KfW and GIZ. Areas of support include capacity development; sustainable financing; strong support on livelihoods, income-generation, sustainable use for Indigenous Peoples and local communities; support of connectivity with a landscape approach, regional spatial planning; nature-based solutions; strengthening quality: IUCN Green List, governance assessments; and infrastructure for protected area management.

BMZ also supports marine conservation activities to protect the oceans and use them sustainably, via bilateral or regional projects (KfW and GIZ): ocean and coastal governance; sustainable fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, sustainable use, alternative income generation; as well as ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions.

Flagship initiatives by BMZ supporting Target 3 via funds are the Blue Action Fund, supporting NGO-led marine and coastal governance, especially strengthening locally managed marine areas (LMMA) established by BMZ and KfW in 2016, and the Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF), an international programme that combines funding from public and private donors to provide financing to protected areas with a long-term, flexible programme approach.

In summary, Germany is aiming for strong implementation mechanisms, enhanced synergies between biodiversity and climate actions, increased mobilisation of resources from all sources, strengthened rights-based approaches, rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, effective grievance mechanisms, and effective financing for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

PANEL 3 – IMPLEMENTING 30 X 30 IN THE MARINE AND INLAND WATER ENVIRONMENT

Dr. Simon Cripps, Executive Director, WCS Global Marine Programme, introduced this panel and presented the speakers. He then discussed six core design principles for implementing 30x30 in the marine environment, Target 3 of the GBF represents unprecedented political will by the nearly 200 states that agreed to take action to protect and restore biodiversity on land and at sea. It also represents a once in a generation opportunity to establish protection in the form of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and OECMs in at least 30% of the oceans. In order to achieve the purpose of the GBF, not just the numerical goal of Target 3 there will need to be both a quality and a quantity element to delivery. WCS is focusing primarily on the quality element by focusing on coastal seas where the majority of marine biodiversity is and where communities that are dependent on those resources are located.

WCS has devised a set of six implementation principles so that protection is equitable, valuable and for the long term.

1. Benefits. For 30x30 to be successfully achieved, useful and sustained, there must be tangible benefits for nature, people and climate. 30x30 is about hearts and minds, not just numbers.
2. Location. Scientific studies by WCS and others have shown that coastal zones contain the most important biodiversity under threat and are closer to communities that can benefit from and adopt conservation measures.
3. Community rights and human rights are paramount. Not only is it highly beneficial to engage stakeholders from the beginning of a process, but the human rights of communities are enshrined in international and national law so there is a legal requirement to do so.
4. Enabling pathways. In addition to just designation and management, supportive underlying elements are needed for the success of 30x30, e.g. sustainable finance, nutritional benefits and monitoring & evaluation.
5. Longevity is key. Don't lose touch with the original aims of 30x30 with an over-focus on the numbers. 2030 is just the start, not the end-point, of the initiative.
6. Reality. Paper parks need to be avoided as they undermine the concept of conservation management and miss the opportunity that 30x30 affords. OECMs need to have genuine biodiversity benefits.

Ms. Sophie Trémolet, Europe Freshwater Director, TNC, noted that freshwater biodiversity has fallen by 83% since the early 1970s, far more than for any other biome. The decline in

freshwater wildlife is caused by human development and augmented by climate change: globally 4 in 10 watersheds are degraded and only 37% of rivers remain free-flowing. Yet, inland waters have historically been neglected in previous negotiations related to CBD. In Montreal last year, we reached an historical agreement to restore and protect 30 percent of all biomes by 2030, with specific mention of inland waters.

Putting this into practice will require further work undertaken collectively to define indicators for inland waters protection and defining an accurate baseline. TNC, jointly with other parties, had initiated this work in the run-up to the COP late last year and intends to build on a report⁷ going forward to propose actionable and measurable indicators. TNC had documented existing cases of freshwater protection, which can include wild or scenic rivers that are to be kept free-flowing or conventional protected areas with explicit freshwater objectives and management plans designed to achieve those objectives. Developing effective approaches to inland waters protection will also call for the development and application of prioritisation tools (to enable governments and civil society which inland waters need to be protected), working at basin-scale (across national borders) and in a holistic manner through the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) process (i.e. jointly with land and marine protection).

Freshwater ecosystem integrity is vital for both climate mitigation and adaptation. The GBF offers a key opportunity to protect and restore inland waters in a targeted and coordinated manner. If we fail to bend the curve on freshwater biodiversity loss in this decade, we will fail to bend the curve for biodiversity.

Ms. Sophie Mirgaux, Special Envoy for the Ocean – Belgium, DG Environment – Federal Public Service for Health, Department of Marine Environment, stressed that the GBF adopted a target to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030. Considering that more than half of the ocean is outside national jurisdiction, the international community will need to adopt protective measures on the high seas and the seabed in addition to national protected areas. Until now, there was no procedure to adopt globally effective, holistic MPAs outside national jurisdiction. Organisations that took protective measures are either regional (and have hence limited membership) or sectoral (and are hence only able to act regarding a specific activity).

However, the recently negotiated BBNJ-treaty will be a game-changer. This Treaty contains, among others, a procedure for the adoption of Area-Based Management Tools, including MPAs on the High Seas and the seabed, with a focus on inclusive coordination and cooperation with existing international organisations. This treaty will be the way forward to reach the 30%. The text of the Treaty has been finalised, legally scrubbed and

⁷ <https://tnc.app.box.com/s/bw3h5oyckh988gw2ivazn56wf4h7wx88>

translated into the 6 UN languages. It will, before the end of June, be adopted as the formal outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference that negotiated it and opened for signature, in principle, on September 20th, during the opening of the UN General Assembly. After signature, States willing to become parties will need to ratify the Treaty, which requires a procedure, usually, through national parliament(s). 120 days after the 60th ratification, the Treaty will enter into force and a first Conference of the Parties can be organised. The ratification is a key political priority for Belgium, including, because the need to make progress on the GBF target 3 (30x30) is urgent and also because Belgium is a candidate to host the Secretariat of the BBNJ Treaty.

Ms. Gizem Eras, Counsellor and Head of Section for Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment, Canadian Mission to the EU, stressed that Canada welcomes the GBF, an ambitious global plan for nature. The world must now turn its focus to implementation, on which Canada is committed to working with all partners and leading by example. Domestically, Canada was already committed to halting and reversing nature loss by 2030 and achieving a full recovery for nature by 2050. Canada is now updating its NBSAP, to be ready by COP16 in 2024, and encourages all Parties to work towards this timeline.

The GBF includes ambitious marine commitments. For Canada, marine, freshwater and coastal biodiversity are part of our national identity, culture, health, and wellbeing. It has special significance with Canada's Indigenous Peoples and coastal communities. Marine ecosystems are a critical facet of Canada's existing National Biodiversity Strategy. Taking a whole-of-society approach, Canada has already protected and conserved more than 14% of its marine and coastal areas. These actions will support efforts to meet Canada's commitment to Target 3 to conserve 30% of marine and coastal areas globally by 2030.

Canada is also actively engaged in international collaboration to meet the global marine conservation target. This includes, for example, the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and the Global Ocean Alliance, and hosting the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress. Canada also welcomes the successful conclusion of the historic treaty to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

Finally, with regards to the GBF implementation and the importance of international partnerships, Canada is committed to the global target 19 on resource mobilisation. Canada has recently committed 569 million Canadian dollars (approximately 389 million EUR) in support of nature and biodiversity in developing countries.

PANEL 4 – SUPPORTING AND FINANCING GLOBAL 30 X 30 IMPLEMENTATION

Ms. Salima Kempenaer, Belgian Focal Point on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), and Focal point on Resource Mobilization, Belgian Federal Public Service of Environment, introduced this panel and presented the speakers.

At COP15, the international community agreed on a resource mobilisation package that is meant to be commensurate to the ambition of the GBF. There are 3 key pathways underlying all elements of this package: a successful resource mobilisation should: Reduce and eliminate the amount of funding causing harm to biodiversity; Increase the amount of funding available; and Use all resources more efficiently.

One other key principle is that resource mobilisation should stem from all sources: domestic, international, private and public. The 30 billion dollars of international finance flows, including ODA, that are to be delivered annually by 2030 to developing countries should in this sense be seen as a lever to attain the 200 billion dollars per year all countries have committed to dedicate to biodiversity, by stimulating domestic and innovative financing instruments and measures.

Importantly, the resource mobilisation package is meant to support the priorities identified by each country and described in their national biodiversity strategy and plans. All support is hence demand driven. This requires that, by COP16, each country aligns its NBSAP to the GBF, including by developing national targets. It is also important to remember that the resource mobilisation package is for the implementation of all targets.

The challenge is therefore to secure enough resources to attain the 30% by 30%, whilst allowing enough resources for the sustainable use of the remaining 70% of the planet. Here again, it will be essential for the international support used for target 3 to unlock domestic and innovative financing measures for protected areas.

Ms. Stefanie Lang, Executive Director, Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF), highlighted that area-based conservation needs time, flexible and reliable funding and clear impact monitoring. A lot of bilateral project-based funding is not fulfilling those requirements. LLF is an independent foundation with financial contributions mainly from Germany, but also from France and Norway in combination with private philanthropic donors, corporate donors and private donations.

LLF provides 1 million USD annually for about 15 years or for about 30 years+ in a programme approach to ensure that recurring and operational costs of protected areas and their surrounding key zones are managed well and with a positive impact on biodiversity, climate resilience and local livelihoods.

LLF tries to align selection as much as possible to existing accepted quality criteria for protected areas, such as KBAs, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites, Ramsar Sites, among others. In impact monitoring, we use the IUCN green-list clusters of monitoring and looks inter alia at good governance and management, trends in key species, trends in threat reduction, trends in human-wildlife interaction, social and livelihood benefits, sustainable funding and financing.

At the same time, LLF uses stringent social and human rights assessments and implementation guidelines following the United Nations guiding principles and the World Bank standards.

Ms. Juliane Muellner, International Relations Officer, DG Environment, European Commission, underlined the EU's commitment to the implementation of the GBF and its 30 x30 target, but also underlined the necessity to implement not only certain targets, but the GBF in its entirety. Explaining international efforts by the EU and its Member States, she noted that the EU, together with its Member States are the biggest donors of international biodiversity finance and that the Commission has already announced a doubling of its international biodiversity financing ahead of COP15, and it will step up efforts to invest 7 billion EUR over the period 2021-2027. The "doubling" is translated into concrete programmes, which offer many opportunities to contribute to the implementation of the 30x30 target. The support to partner countries in these programmes follows as much as possible "landscape approaches", such as the "NaturAfrica" initiative, which supports biodiversity conservation in Africa through an innovative, people-centred approach. It identifies key landscapes for conservation and development where the EU focuses its support to create jobs, improve security and sustainable livelihoods, while preserving the ecosystems and wildlife that are vital to all.

Regarding international spending, it was underlined that it is essential for donors to prioritise biodiversity, but that it is also important for partner countries to prioritise biodiversity in national development strategies. For achieving the effective and full implementation of the GBF and its 30x30 target, stepping up the mobilisation of domestic resources is key as domestic resources will have to deliver on the "lion's share" of the financial targets of the GBF. It was positively highlighted that the GBF addresses increasing financing from all sources, acknowledging that all actors, be it governments, the private

sector, NGOs, multilateral development banks and philanthropy have a role to play in the mobilisation of resources for the implementation of the GBF. A final aspect, which was highlighted, is the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in different sectors, which also requires adequate financial resources. Ensuring that investments in different sectors are nature-positive can make a significant contribution to reversing biodiversity loss.

Mr. Jason Dozier, Policy Officer Multilateral Biodiversity Negotiations, High Ambition Coalition for Nature & People (HAC for N&P) Coordinator, French Ministry of Ecological Transition, presented the HAC for N&P, which is an inter-regional group of 117 member countries established to adopt an ambitious deal at the CBD COP15 including a global target of conserving and effectively managing at least 30% of the land and 30% of ocean globally by 2030. Following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal GBF, the HAC for N&P is now focusing on the implementation phase to support members in implementing and reaching the 30x30 target.

During the first International Steering Committee meeting in September 2022, members of the HAC for N&P identified four key areas of activity to ensure a successful and efficient implementation of the 30x30 target:

1. Strengthening political mobilisation: keeping the 30x30 target and its implementation at the top of the international agenda, including through high level events and Ministerial engagement;
2. Providing support for capacity-building: gathering information, including good practice, tools and methodologies and making this publicly available through a knowledge platform;
3. Matchmaking technical assistance: connecting members with the required technical experts (*Technical Assistance Explorer*); and
4. Financial matchmaking: identifying available 30x30 funding in order to connect finance with 30x30 projects (*30x30 Funds Explorer*).

Two distinct tools will be available on the HAC N&P digital platform: one online database to identify opportunities for financial resource mobilisation and one digital interface to connect beneficiary members with required technical assistance. Members of the HAC for N&P will be able to benefit from the aforementioned areas of support, subject to availability of resources.

In order to ensure the implementation of 30x30, the HAC is forming a Secretariat based in the Global Environment Facility's offices in Washington DC co-hosted by the World Resources Institute. The Secretariat will respond directly to, and will receive its political and technical strategy from, the International Steering Committee, composed of 14

members including 2 co-chairs (Costa Rica, France, UK, Chile, Colombia, Gabon, Maldives, Seychelles, Nigeria, US, Japan, Norway, United Arab Emirates, Australia), who will orient the strategy for this new phase of the HAC N&P.

HAC for N&P will continue its strong partnership with the Global Ocean Alliance on ocean 30x30 and collaboration with the NBSAP Partnership Accelerator. A range of additional partners has already confirmed their interest in collaborating, such as: IUCN, IUCN WCPA, TNC, Campaign for Nature, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), the French Development Agency, the French Biodiversity Agency, Expertise France, and others.

The implementation phase of the HAC for N&P aims to be operational in 2023. The next International Steering Committee meeting will be held in Dubai in the margins of UNFCCC COP28.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Boris Erg, Director, IUCN European Regional Office, provided final remarks and concluded that implementing the GBF requires immediate action. The GBF emphasises the need for integrated planning and action to address both land and sea, and that the remaining 70%, which is not included under 30x30, is equally significant. Successful implementation of the GBF necessitates a comprehensive approach involving all sectors of society and the economy. Each of the four GBF targets is crucial, and Target 3 cannot be achieved in isolation. Rather than viewing 2030 as an endpoint, it should be seen as a pivotal milestone on a long-term trajectory. Achieving these targets necessitates the inclusion of communities and Indigenous Peoples in discussion and decision-making processes, who front and centre in the GBF roll-out. Improved coordination will be essential, including incorporating biodiversity discussions into the Climate COPs. Various groups, such as the HAC for N&P, Global Oceans Alliance, NBSAP Accelerator, Leaders Pledge for Nature, and Blue Leaders 30x30, are working towards stronger political commitment, improved planning, resource mobilisation, and implementation. Abundant data and scientific knowledge exist, along with tools and standards like KBAs, IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (GLPCA), and Restoration Barometer. The key challenge lies in translating this wealth of information into effective policies and actions.



Thank you to the **Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences**⁸ and to the **Bezos Earth Fund**⁹ for their support in the organisation of this event.

Photo Credit: front page: ©Emily Darling/WCS; page 3: ©Julie Larsen Maher/WCS; last page: ©Scott Ramsay.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect those of the organisers.

This report was prepared by Arnaud Goessens, Associate Director, EU Policy, WCS EU Office.

⁸ www.naturalsciences.be

⁹ www.bezosearthfund.org

CONTACTS

Wildlife Conservation Society EU office

Email: wceurope@wcs.org

Website: brussels.wcs.org

Twitter: [@WCSBrussels](https://twitter.com/WCSBrussels)

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

Email: wcpa.iucn@gmail.com

Website: www.iucn.org

Twitter: [@IUCN_WCPA](https://twitter.com/IUCN_WCPA)

The Nature Conservancy Europe

Email: tnc-europe@tnc.org

Website: nature.org

Twitter: [@nature_org](https://twitter.com/@nature_org)

Belgian Biodiversity Platform

Email: contact@biodiversity.be

Website: biodiversity.be

Twitter: [@Biodiversity_be](https://twitter.com/@Biodiversity_be)

