



ITEM 4. POST-2020 GBF (CONTACT GROUP 2: TARGET 3)

Key Messages

WWF supports the inclusion of a '30x30' target in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), subject to the following conditions being met:

1. The target adequately addresses **inclusivity** and aims for **equitable governance and social equity**.
2. The target applies a **rights-based approach** including securing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to their land, freshwater, and seas.
3. The target emphasizes the quality of **conservation outcomes** by ensuring ecological representativeness, connectivity, effective management and equitable governance.
4. The target accommodates a **diversity of effective management and equitable governance approaches**, including the recognition of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures.
5. The target commits to the adoption, respect, and full implementation of an **environmental and social safeguards framework** to enhance the social well-being of affected communities and other key stakeholders.
6. That the 30x30 target is only one part of the broader GBF and will only be achieved by **addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation** including in the remaining 70% of the planet.

Background

As Parties negotiate the post-2020 GBF, there is strong global support for effectively conserving at least 30% of the Earth's land, freshwater, and seas by 2030 ('30x30'). This paper summarizes WWF's position on 30x30 and addresses some pressing questions around this target.

1. WWF's position on 30x30 in the post-2020 GBF

WWF conditionally supports the inclusion of a target in the post-2020 GBF to conserve at least 30% of the world's land, freshwater, and seas by 2030 that, alongside other targets and the sustainable management of the remaining 70%, will help to achieve a nature positive planet. ***The current first draft***

of the post-2020 GBF includes a target on 30x30 (Target 3). WWF proposes the following amended language for this target:

*Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land, **inland waters, marine and coastal areas** ~~and of sea areas~~, especially **areas** those of particular importance for biodiversity, **ecosystem functions** and **natures' its** contributions to people, **such as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)**, are conserved through effectively and equitably governed and managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes, **as well as ensure that the areas traditionally and collectively governed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities are appropriately recognized and secured and their right to Free Prior and Informed Consent is respected.***

WWF supports a 30x30 target if the following points can be secured:

- First, the prominence of the 30% figure in the discussions about this target overshadows equally important qualitative elements of Protected and Conserved Areas (PCAs), including ecologically representativeness, connectivity, **effective management and equitable governance**. WWF believes that equal emphasis should be placed in the target on delivering enduring conservation and sustainable livelihood outcomes and on the amount of area designated.
- Second, that areas traditionally and collectively governed are given **proper recognition** for conservation efforts and accounted for by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), even if they are not state-declared protected areas.
- Third, the pursuit of 30x30 must embrace **a diversity of management and governance approaches**, and not be restricted to protected areas established by governments. Of particular importance in the proposed target is the reference to Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) which, like protected areas, may be governed and managed by non-state actors, including individuals, private entities, non-government organizations, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It is essential that the reference to OECMs is maintained in the target. WWF also recognizes that the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) has proposed that conservation efforts by Indigenous Peoples and local communities are included as a third category, separate from and complementary to protected areas and OECMs.
- Third, achieving 30x30 requires a rights-based approach through **the voluntary participation of all relevant stakeholders and rights holders**, especially Indigenous Peoples and local communities - including women and youth - who sustain, conserve, and restore the land, freshwater, and seas on which they live and depend. This requires that the rights and governance arrangements of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are secured, receive full recognition, and that they are given appropriate opportunities to equitably and effectively participate in local, national, and global conservation efforts and decision-making. Much of this can be achieved through the adoption, respect, and full implementation of an **environmental**

and social safeguards framework to enhance the social well-being of affected communities and other key stakeholders.

- Fourth, 30x30 can only achieve its potential contribution to a nature positive world as **part of a broader set of interconnected policy measures**. It cannot be achieved without:
 1. A comprehensive approach to area-based conservation that includes sustainable management and restoration in wider land, freshwater, and seascapes that make up the remaining 70% of the planet, and
 2. Addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. [Science is clear](#): a 30x30 target can only be fully effective in contributing to reversing the decline of nature if at the same time, and with the same levels of urgency and ambition, we act on the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss.

This means that any target in the post-2020 GBF to expand PCAs will need to be complemented by other targets that aim for a comprehensive and ambitious approach to area based conservation, aiming to sustainably manage the other 70%, and to reducing the footprint of production and consumption as well as addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss.

2. Critical questions to achieve 30x30

This section briefly reflects on some questions to address the qualitative elements that comprise the 30x30 target.

- How can we make sure that 30% is **in the right places**?

The draft target in the GBF indicates that it should be “*in areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions for people*” and “*ecologically representative*”. Biodiversity is not equally distributed across the planet. 30x30 will have a far greater contribution to bend the curve of biodiversity loss if PCAs, including OECMs, are located in those places that are globally most relevant for biodiversity and ecosystem services. These include [Key Biodiversity Areas](#) along with other important designations for particular biomes, such as Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas in a marine context. This would avoid previous pitfalls which saw expansion of protected areas between 2010 and 2017 biased toward locations that were remote and less suitable for agriculture, rather than areas of importance for species and natural ecosystems and their services.

Many areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are found in Indigenous Peoples and local communities’ territories, many of which are not formally recognized by governments and thus not counted in national or global statistics, despite the fact that they are under increasing pressure whilst often performing better than other sites. This recognition will be fundamental for Indigenous Peoples and local communities that are delivering conservation outcomes in their territories.

Achieving this global target will be a collective, global effort for which governments, working with other stakeholders locally, will be responsible to deliver. Individual country-level efforts should strive to achieve the maximum area under effective management and equitable governance, incorporating restoration and sustainable management alongside conservation where relevant and, when capacity allows, support conservation efforts in other countries. Higher income countries may also focus more

heavily on addressing footprint targets for production and consumption to ensure a globally significant contribution.

- How can the 30% be **effectively managed and equitably governed?**

To ensure long-term conservation and effective management it is necessary to ensure sufficient resources, tools, and clear management objectives. Equitable governance refers to a functional, representative, inclusive, participatory, gender sensitive process of decision-making together with institutions that guarantee overall good governance. Unfortunately, many existing PCAs exist on paper, but little more, and are not well managed or governed. Moreover, PCAs sometimes go through a legal process that makes them weaker (downgrading), smaller (downsizing), or eliminates them completely (degazettement), collectively known as PADD. Fostering equitable governance contexts that include participatory decision-making processes, contextually congruent rights to resource use, accountable and transparent enforcement regimes, and clear conflict resolution mechanisms are likely to foster enduring PCAs that provide both ecological and social benefits.

WWF encourages the universal use of tools that support effective PCA management and governance including the [Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool \(METT\)](#), designed to gather information on whether PCAs are managed effectively. [IUCN's Green List Standard](#) is another tool focused on assessing good governance, design and planning, and effective management.

To support efforts to advance effective management and equitable governance, WWF calls for the adoption, respect, and full implementation of social and environmental safeguards to deliver conservation efforts and enhance the social and economic well-being of local communities.

- How can we achieve ecological **connectivity between PCAs?**

Ecological connectivity is the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth. Science overwhelmingly shows that interconnected PCAs are much more effective than disconnected areas in human-dominated systems, especially in the face of climate change. Loss of land, freshwater and seascape connectivity (fragmentation of natural habitats) is occurring at a rapid rate, threatening biodiversity, ecosystem service provision, and limiting the ability of species and ecological processes to adapt to climate change. Whilst Aichi target 11 included text specifying that protected areas should be 'well-connected', this aspect was much less effectively implemented than other aspects of the target. For example, in the terrestrial realm, whilst the 17% coverage target was almost achieved, only [7.84% is protected AND well-connected](#).

To achieve effective connectivity between PCAs, ecological corridors should also be identified, designated and managed. Corridors might require land, freshwater and seascape restoration interventions. The adoption of a [headline indicator on connectivity](#) will ensure that this aspect of the target is not overlooked.

- How do we ensure the 30% is **integrated into wider land, freshwater, and seascapes (i.e. the other 70%)?**

Restoration is fundamental in some PCAs to ensure ecological integrity, and can improve the suitability of biodiversity and ecosystem services under conservation. Conservation and restoration (whether

within or beyond the boundaries of PCAs) should be addressed jointly, especially when there is the need to recover ecological functionality, rewild land and seascapes as well as river basins, re-establish connectivity, or where areas with mining, forestry or industrial agriculture and fishing leases are unsustainably managed and therefore undermine habitats. Halting habitat loss and degradation while providing solutions to growing consumption requires innovative solutions to conserve better, restore efficiently, and promote sustainable production. Alongside the 30x30 target, WWF calls for the post-2020 GBF to include a target for 100% of ecosystems to be sustainably and effectively managed and equitably governed, as well as restoring 50% of degraded ecosystems.

- How do we secure **sustainable finance** for the establishment and effective management of the 30%?

New and innovative financing will be needed from both the public and private sectors to meet the target. The largest resource mobilization effort for PCAs has been through the implementation of Projects Finance for Permanence (PFP), an innovative and proven approach that fully funds conservation projects to ensure long-lasting and scalable impact. A major challenge however is that establishing new PCAs can also incur additional costs and trade-offs for people transitioning to new activities. In this context, WWF calls for all activities and public and private financial flows to be aligned with biodiversity values. Resource mobilization needs to be addressed not only from a land, freshwater, or seascape perspective, but also in terms of national and regional economies that internalize the values of nature's services to people, and the rights of people to those services, always aiming to address economic imbalances.

- How do we ensure the areas traditionally and collectively governed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities are **appropriately recognized and their right to Free Prior and Informed Consent is upheld**?

Some stakeholders object to 30x30 for fear that, in order to meet the target, new PCAs might be gazetted in the current territories and areas claimed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities without their consent. Such an approach could result in displacement of Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities from their land, freshwater, and seas.

These concerns stem from past failures to recognize the rights of these communities, particularly the right of Indigenous Peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and a possible interpretation that the 30% is to be achieved through government gazetted PCAs. Thus, it is crucial to highlight that the 30% is NOT about government PCAs only, rather the 30x30 target includes areas governed by others such as privately governed and community governed conserved areas, where rights holders maintain control of their areas.

This target is also about designing an integrated approach for nature and people in which ecosystem services are recognized as vital for sustainable development to ensure people's collective rights to basic services, including water and food security, beyond the boundaries of PCAs. The 30x30 target is a huge opportunity for the global conservation movement to move towards, not away from, an equitable governance approach in support of sustainable development.

WWF is keen to support the development of national plans to effectively implement 30x30 as part of a broader and ambitious strategy towards rights-based conservation and sustainable management, and to support the development of guidance at various scales on identifying, recognising, supporting, and reporting OECMs beyond conventional protected areas.

For more information

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