

Operationalizing the Action agenda for Nature and People – final draft

Workshop organized by PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, the Netherlands Ministries of Agriculture, Nature and Food & Infrastructure and Water with IDDRI, IUCN, IVM-VU and WCMC

11-12 April, Toussaint Huis, Toussaintkade 21-a, 2513 CJ The Hague, The Netherlands (<https://www.toussainthuis.nl>)

Introduction

At COP14 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), countries agreed to encourage state and non-state actors to develop biodiversity commitments that contribute to the achievement of CBD's objectives and the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework. Furthermore, the "Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People" was launched. Such an action agenda was of central importance on the way to the climate COP21, and the Paris Agreement would very likely not have been reached without the catalysis and channeling of energy that the climate action agenda enabled. The creation of such a momentum is currently a large challenge for biodiversity, and operationalizing an action agenda for biodiversity is one of the main challenges on the road to COP15. This importance has recently been recalled by Presidents Xi Jinping and Emmanuel Macron: in their joint declaration on 26 March 2019, their two countries commit to work together to promote the "Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda" and mobilize all stakeholders to build concrete proposals for biodiversity.

Indeed, the "Action Agenda for Nature and People" has the explicit aim to catalyse actions from all sectors and stakeholders in support of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use (<https://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-14/annoucement/nature-action-agenda-egypt-to-china-en.pdf>). This Action Agenda (CBD, 2018) has three objectives: (1) to raise public awareness about the urgent need to halt biodiversity loss and to restore biodiversity health; (2) to inspire and help implement nature-based solutions to meet key global challenges; and (3) to catalyse cooperative initiatives across sectors and stakeholders in support of the global biodiversity goals. An online platform has been set up to map current global efforts, in order to assess impact and gaps. The challenge is now to fill this space with numerous, ambitious and credible initiatives on biodiversity.

COP Decision 14/34 encourages indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, to consider developing, prior to COP15, biodiversity commitments that may contribute to an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to make such information available as a contribution to the Sharm El Sheikh to Beijing Action agenda. It also invites Parties and other Governments to consider, on a voluntary basis, developing biodiversity commitments that contribute to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, strengthen NBSAPs, facilitate the achievement of the

Aichi Targets and contribute to an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to share this information.

A distinction is thus made between biodiversity commitments of state and non-state actors, and further developments since COP14 have left opened several questions that require to be answered urgently. One general issue concerns the organization of the action agenda, its structure, and its leadership. A directly connected issue concerns the possibility of anchoring it into the post-2020 framework and linking it to the formal processes of the CBD. On substance, more clarity is needed on what such commitments could look like, and how state and non-state commitments could complement and reinforce each other.

In the info-doc on the submissions on the scope and content of the post-2020 framework provided by mid-December 201(CBD/POST2020/PREP/1/INF/1), views were summarised by the sCBD. Several submissions commented on the desirability of voluntary commitments. It was suggested that this could take the form of Parties, individually or in coalitions, being invited to identify national targets and concrete actions to achieve them and this should be followed by an evaluation of the planned cumulative actions. One benefit of this approach is that it would allow each Party to tailor action for their national circumstances and support the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility”. However, others felt that voluntary commitments, while providing useful impetus, may not directly lead the global community to scientifically-supported goals and outcomes. In addition to voluntary commitments from Parties, many submissions were in favour of encouraging commitments from stakeholders, such as the private sector and civil society, as invited in the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration.

So, while countries have supported biodiversity commitments by states and non-state actors, it has yet to become clear what an “Action Agenda for Nature and People”, prior to CoP-15 and as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, will actually look like and would entail in practice. And how non-state commitments would relate to (voluntary) biodiversity commitments of states. Accordingly, in the discussion paper on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Paper (CBD, 2019), the question is thus raised: *What form should voluntary commitments for biodiversity take and how should these relate to or be reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework?* There is, however, no specific question on the Action Agenda.

The aim of this expert workshop is to start exploring how the “Action Agenda for Nature and People” could actually be developed and implemented in the coming two years, and beyond. And how commitments of non-state actors would relate to biodiversity commitments of states, as well as to the implementation mechanisms of the convention (existing and possible new ones). The workshop will draw lessons from other processes (including the UNFCCC action agenda and the SDGs and the Oceans commitment process).

The first day of the workshop will explore what can/need to be achieved in the coming 2 years and after 2020, how the action agenda would relate to biodiversity commitments by countries and to other instruments of the convention (NBSAPs and NRs) and what needs to be done to make the Action Agenda an effective part of the post-2020 framework (registry, MRV, etc.).

The second day of the workshop will zoom in on the potential of the Action Agenda for area-based conservation. It will build on lessons from the first day and present an overview of ongoing efforts on OECMs and other international processes on area-based conservation and provide thoughts on what still can and need to happen between now and COP15 in 2020. And in the last session, zooming out again, it will explore challenges and opportunities as well as ways to support the further development and implementation of the Action Agenda. This could, for example, include tracking a range of commitments for both area-based and non-area based commitments.

Thursday April 11, 2019

09:00 Coffee

09:30 Start of meeting

Chair: Marcel Kok, PBL

- Welcome by Mr. Lejo van der Heiden, Management-team, Directorate Nature, Fisheries and Rural areas at the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food
- Introduction to objectives of the meeting
- Short round of introductions

10:00 Sharing perspectives on the Action Agenda

- View from the Secretariat, by Margaret Egbula, secretariat CBD
- Policy & stakeholder perspectives – participants are invited to share their views and current discussion within their constituency on the Action Agenda (short contributions).

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 The action agenda towards, and as part of, the post-2020 framework

Chair: Astrid Hilgers, Ministry of LNV

- Structuring the action agenda for biodiversity and linking it with post-2020 negotiations and implementation, by Aleksandar Rankovic and Matthieu Wemaere, IDDRI
- The action agenda as part of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, by Marcel Kok, PBL
- *Discussion* of Action Agenda framework, its political importance and functions towards 2020 and beyond, the link to national biodiversity commitments, the connections to the post-2020 framework (NBSAPs, NR, accountability, ratcheting mechanism), potential to link to other action agenda's (in for example Oceans, Climate, SDGs).

12:45 Lunch

13:45 Mapping the emerging international non-state action landscape

Chair: Naomi Kingston, WCMC

- Towards a Global Biodiversity Action Agenda: Mapping biodiversity-related governance initiatives by Philipp Pattberg, IVM/VU
- Leveraging coalitions to achieve global biodiversity goals, by Florence Curet, IUCN-International
- *Discussion* of lessons that can be drawn from the mapping from the international non-state action landscape, the thematic and geographical distribution of current initiatives, possible gaps and opportunities this provides for the Action Agenda. ,

15:15 Tea break

15:45 Making the action agenda reality

Chair: Aleksandar Rankovic

- View from the World Economic Forum, Akanksha Khatri, World economic Forum (by Skype)

- A business for nature coalition, Martin Lok, Natural Capital Coalition
- The Dutch Delta-plan for nature (as an example of non-state action in NL), Koos Biesmeijer – tbc
- A cities and regional perspective on the Action Agenda, Alice Reil, ICLEI (by skype)
- Joining forces: the View from the European Commission, Karin Zaunberger, European Commission
- WWF views on the action agenda, Maelle Pelisson, WWF-UK

- *Discussion* on what from a stakeholder perspective is needed to make (area-based and non-area-based) commitments as contributions to the action agenda (as organizations, as non-state actor groups / coalitions), what are the expectations regarding the action agenda, under what conditions would commitments be made?

17:30 Close of the day

18:30 Joint dinner, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food at Restaurant In Stock, Buitenhof 36, The Hague
[\(https://www.instock.nl/en/restaurant/the-hague/\)](https://www.instock.nl/en/restaurant/the-hague/)

Friday, April 12 2019

09:00 Coffee

09:30 Tracking commitments for the Action Agenda – lessons learned from Area-based conservation

Chair: Aleksandar Rankovic

- Area-based conservation measures - state of knowledge & tracking global commitments, Naomi Kingston, WCMC
- Lessons from the Verified Conservation Area approach-initiative, Frank Vorhies (VCA/Earthmind)

- *Discussion*

11:00 Coffee

11:30 Building an online Platform to deliver on AA

Chair: Philipp Pattberg

- The Action Agenda online portal – Beta version, by Margaret Egbula, secretariat CBD
- Lessons from the climate action agenda and link to Monitoring, Reporting and Verification, Oscar Widerberg, IVM-VU
- Presentation on examples and lessons from existing online platforms, Naomi Kingston, WCMC
- *Discussion* on setting the narrative in order to engage users, scope, aims and objectives of the online platform, potential users both for adding information and using the information, identification on what are the quick wins (e.g area-based commitments)

12:45 Lunch

13:45 Discussion on the way forward towards COP-15 and beyond

Chair: Astrid Hilgers en Marcel kok

- How to mobilize and galvanize efforts to show a groundswell of action?
- How to mobilize non-state actors to provide data to the online platform ?
- How to track progress and turning commitments into reality – look at other examples?
- How to link to other Action Agenda's
- Timeframe and milestones for the AA to COP15
- Is there a pilot on the plane? (Egypt? China? SCBD? Who else to do the job?)
- Communications and fundraising

15:45 Wrap up and next steps

16:00 Close of the meeting

Participant-list

1. Karin Zaunberger
 2. Hugo Rivera-Mendoza
 3. Marina Weissenberg
 4. *Germany*
 5. *France*
 6. Alice Reil
 7. Aleksandar Rankovic
 8. Matthieu Wemaere
 9. Tirza Molegraaf
 10. Florence Curet
 11. Philippe Puydarrieux
 12. Henk Simons
 13. Coenraad Krijger
 14. Alberto Arroyo
 15. Philipp Pattberg
 16. Oscar Widerberg
 17. Kate Negacz
 18. Cebuan Bliss
 19. Astrid Hilgers
 20. Rob Hendriks
 21. Hayo Haanstra
 22. Arthur Eijs
 23. Erik Verhallen
 24. Martin Lok
 25. *Koos Biesmeijer*
 26. Marcel Kok
 27. Mark van Oorschot
 28. Mark Roelfsema
 29. Machteld Schoonenberg
 30. Margaret Egbula
 31. Frank Vorhies
 32. Naomi Kingston
 33. Evgeny Dmitriev
 34. Akanksha Khatri
 35. Maelle Pelisson
- European Commission
Expertise France
Finland
invited, to be confirmed
invited, to be confirmed
ICLEI (by skype)
IDDRI, Paris
IDDRI, Paris
IPO (representing provinces in NL)
IUCN, Gland
IUCN, Gland
IUCN NL
IUCN NL
IUCN Europe
IVM/VU, Amsterdam
IVM/VU, Amsterdam
IVM/VU, Amsterdam
IVM/VU, Amsterdam (rapporteur)
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food, NL
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food, NL
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food, NL
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water, NL
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water, NL
Natural Capital Coalition
Naturalis/Deltaplan Nature – to be confirmed
PBL, The Hague
PBL, The Hague
PBL, The Hague
PBL, The Hague
sCBD
VCA/Earthmind
WCMC
WCMC
World Economic Forum (by Skype)
WWF UK