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## **Pathways for transformative change in biodiversity politics: Examining the significance of the Global Biodiversity Framework's 'Considerations'**

**Keywords:** Convention on Biological Diversity, ecocentrism, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Rights of Nature, transformative implementation.

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### **Abstract**

This paper examines the 'Considerations' that are intended to underpin the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). With so little time to meet the 2030 mission of transforming conservation approaches and curbing biodiversity decline, we reflect on the opportunities the Considerations present for transformative governance in biodiversity conservation. We discuss how contrasting worldviews and foundations of knowledge shape the Considerations, and inform the Framework more broadly, and highlight where areas of ambiguity between anthropocentric and nature-centred approaches arise. We contend that if the global community is to meaningfully change the trajectory of species extinctions and biodiversity loss, transformative changes are needed in the values held and expressed towards nature in political, economic, and social spheres. We conclude by suggesting implementation tools and processes to help foster the meaningful integration of the more boundary-pushing Considerations in wider biodiversity governance and practice.

### **Introduction**

#### *Background and context*

Biodiversity is deteriorating at an unprecedented rate. It is well understood that species and ecosystems exist in a delicate balance, with losses producing rippling impacts towards species' population resilience, genetic diversity, and the wellbeing of living nature and humans alike. Humans are creating significant devastation to the natural world. Anthropogenic pressures on climate, terrestrial, freshwater, and marine systems are recognised to threaten approximately 42,000 species (IUCN, 2022). When extrapolating from this number of documented threatened species, it is estimated that around one million undescribed and uncatalogued species are also at risk of extinction (notably, a conservative estimate) (IPBES, 2019, Purvis, 2019). In this growing and uneasy context of biodiversity

decline, and the degradation of natural landscapes, it is increasingly recognised that more-of-the-same, business-as-usual policies, and growth-based economic systems are no longer tenable solutions for planetary crises (Contestabile, 2021; Friedman et al., 2022; Guterres, 2022; Shin et al., 2019; Turnhout et al., 2021); and transformative structural changes in technological, economic, and social realms are urgently called for (IPBES, 2019; Fougères et al., 2022).

#### *The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)*

Against this backdrop, and after a four-year negotiation period, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) in December 2022. The Framework is preceded by two CBD decadal plans: the [2002-2010 Strategic Plan](#), and the [2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#); both of which are largely understood to have failed in many aspects of their implementation (CBD, 2020). Scholars have suggested that a lack of political will and co-ordination, power asymmetries, indecisive agenda setting, and differing values and concepts surrounding nature and culture have come into conflict and stalled implementation progress (Smallwood et al., 2022; Morgera & Tsioumani, 2010). If this new Framework is to be effective, such tensions will need to be reduced.

The Framework is intended to mobilise and support the 196 Parties to the Convention (195 countries and the European Union) in their effort to establish more sustainable and harmonious relationships with nature and tackle the biodiversity-loss crisis collaboratively. To do so, it establishes four long-term Goals that describe outcomes to be achieved by 2050 and twenty-three Targets that describe actions to be implemented by 2030 (CBD, 2022). It also reasserts the CBD's 2050 Vision of 'living in harmony with nature' that was introduced in the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan. It has long been noted that achieving a holistic interpretation of living in harmony with nature will require transformational changes to the normative foundations in biodiversity governance ([CBD 14/9, Agenda item 17](#)). The Framework differs from previous Strategic Plans by introducing eighteen 'Considerations', offering the promise of meaningful transformations towards this vision of living in harmony with nature.

The KMGBF's Considerations include a recognition of diverse values and worldviews and encourage a greater recognition of holistic and ecocentric (nature-centred) perspectives for biodiversity governance and management. Notably, and amongst increasing legal recognition of the Rights of Nature (see: Kauffman et al., 2022), the Framework sets a precedent as the first international agreement to articulate the Rights of Mother Earth, with the Considerations also including a recognition that upholding the rights of nature and the rights of Mother Earth are integral to the Framework's success (the language here is nuanced and discussed below). Arguably, it is these

Considerations that have transformative potential, rather than those addressing more operational issues such as calling for alignment with existing agreements and access to sufficient funding.

Given the increasing magnitude of challenges facing life across more-than-human<sup>1</sup> realms a genuine engagement with, and systematic operationalisation of, the more transformative, diverse, and boundary-pushing elements present in the ‘Considerations’ provides the opportunity to bridge contrasting conceptual values and knowledge systems, and encourage greater equity in the participation, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Framework. It is important, therefore, that these Considerations are given every opportunity to influence and shape the implementation of the KMGBF, as stated in [Decision 15/4](#). To support this effort, we first describe the development of the Considerations, before drawing on relevant research literature to illustrate the opportunities and challenges they present for supporting transformative shifts in the operationalisation of the Framework. We then highlight an extensive and increasing body of research on the transformative potential of diverse worldviews and values that those involved in policy formulation and implementation, as well as academics and practitioners, can draw upon to implement and support holistic, progressive, and transformative approaches for biodiversity governance.

### **The Considerations underpinning the KMGBF**

#### *The development of the Considerations*

The KMGBF’s ‘Considerations’ were largely negotiated over a ten-month period before COP15. The need for a separate section that would become *Section C: Considerations* was first discussed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG) (see CBD 2022a). At that time, the heading of the proposed section was suggested as *Principles and Approaches [Guidance]* for the implementation of the framework, indicating the fundamental

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<sup>1</sup> The concept of ‘more-than-human’ focusses attention on the interconnected relationships between all beings and species (humans, nature, and the environment) that inhabit Earth (O’Gorman and Gaynor, 2020). This language is gradually being recognised in policy and governance; in 2021 the CBD shared actions for the protection of biodiversity that included ‘[Actions by Environmental Peacebuilders](#)’ and raised the importance of adopting a more-than-human approach to better protect biodiversity. Additionally, a key message from the 2022 IPBES Values Assessment (see [Chapter 2 – Conceptualizing the diverse values of nature and their contributions to people](#)) centred on the need to consider diverse values for nature. The assessment emphasised that attention toward, and prioritisation of, relational and intrinsic values that capture relationships with more-than-human species are needed in political decision making. The concept has also influenced the development of the first UK-based interspecies council, established by DEFRA Futures Policy Lab (UK) ‘[Water Post 2043 – Exploring divergent futures](#)’.

importance of the content of this section, as it should underpin how the Framework is operationalised. Once issues deemed by various Parties to be fundamental to the Framework were brought into a single section, focus on that section increased (see supplementary information) and an informal working group meeting between the 4th and 5th meetings of the OEWG produced draft text that identified 17 issues that were classified as cross-cutting issues, principles or underlining premises (CBD 2022b). The use of the word ‘principles’ was discussed during this meeting along with potential legal implications of its use. Also deliberated upon was the way that ‘common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR)’ was reflected in various multilateral agreements: CBDR is Principle 7 of the Rio Earth Declaration (UN 1993) and has underlying concepts of fairness and equity, stating that ‘States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem’. The supplementary information presents detail of the development of *Section C: Considerations*, the final adopted text, and the recommendations adopted by the Convention's two subsidiary bodies, in advance of COP16, with links to all relevant documents.






### *The Considerations in focus*







The Considerations reflect a repository for common concerns and principles that emerged during the Framework's drafting stages and provide a focal point on how the Framework is to be ‘understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated’ (CBD, 2022, Section C). Whilst numerous priorities are raised in the Considerations, they can be broadly categorised by five core themes:







1. Full and far-reaching participation and effort (Considerations A, C, E).
2. Recognition of diverse worldviews and knowledge systems (Considerations B, L, O, R).
3. Practicalities for sustainable economic development and capacity (Considerations D, F, K, P).
4. Acknowledgment of rights, empowerment, and justice (Considerations G, H, N).
5. Consistency with internal and external governance and approaches (Considerations I, J, M, Q).


To develop how the Considerations presented in the Framework can support transformative changes in governance and practice, we first assess in detail the eighteen Considerations (grouped by the above core themes) in Table 1. Then, drawing on well-established debates and discussions in the critical social and political sciences, we discuss how research focussed on underlying values and knowledges provides opportunities to influence and shape implementation strategies. Finally, we suggest pathways that may inform and increase the likelihood that the more transformative and holistic elements introduced in the Considerations are maintained and strengthened as Parties develop, implement, report, and evaluate actions to achieve the 2030 and 2050 ambitions in the Framework.

**Table 1.** Overview of the KMGBF’s Considerations and their potential scope for influencing the interpretation and implementation of the Framework. Note: Considerations have been grouped by core theme (categories 1-5 in text above), icons correspond with those in Figure 1.

Theme	Considerations		Opportunities and challenges
Full and far- reaching participation and effort		<p>A. <i>Contribution and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities</i></p> <p>Respects the rights and knowledge of Indigenous People and local communities and encourages their full participation.</p>	<p>These three Considerations extend responsibility for action across the whole of government and society, emphasising that responsibility does not lie solely with individual Ministries or Departments, but across all of government, civil society, and business.</p> <p>By encouraging collective effort and participation, these Considerations emphasise the need to improve the ability of less powerful and powerless groups to participate in the Framework. This builds on a recognition that delegates from the Global South may be less able to participate in negotiations effectively (Smallwood et al. 2022).</p> <p>By acknowledging the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (and affirming an Indigenous right to life and well-being), these considerations additionally introduce an acknowledgement of non-market based and nature-centred concepts of well-being to the CBD table (Parks and Tsioumani, 2023).</p> <p>These Considerations make it clear the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities will be central to the Framework’s success. It is, therefore, important to ensure that this participation is equitable and conscious of power dynamics, so that engagement can move beyond participation to the meaningful influence and shaping of policy decisions (Parks &amp; Tsioumani, 2023).</p>
		<p>C. <i>Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach</i></p> <p>Encourages cooperation, participation, action, and implementation from all (government and society).</p>	
		<p>E. <i>Collective effort towards the targets</i></p> <p>Broad public support and collective effort is made at all levels.</p>	
Recognition of diverse worldviews and knowledge systems		<p>B. <i>Different value systems</i></p> <p>The diverse value systems for nature and natures contributions to people are recognised.</p>	<p>These four Considerations encourage the recognition of diverse values (human-centred, nature-centred) and contrasting approaches to knowledge (Western-scientific, traditional, Indigenous). This allows for the joint acknowledgement of natures’ goods and services and natures’ gifts.</p> <p>Scientific evidence and traditional knowledges are intended to be considered in tandem. This is innovative but may be challenging in practice where ways of working are ingrained and institutionalised.</p>
		<p>L. <i>Science and innovation</i></p> <p>Implementation is informed by scientific evidence, traditional knowledge, technology, and innovation.</p>	

		<p><i>O. Formal and informal education</i></p> <p>Transformative, innovative, transdisciplinary, and lifelong education is championed, recognising diverse worldviews and knowledge.</p>	<p>By extending the scope of values and worldviews underpinning the Framework (e.g. by introducing holistic concepts surrounding the Rights of Nature and Mother Earth and One Health approaches), these Considerations are connected to non-Western, Indigenous, and holistic perspectives that allow for concepts of nature and wildlife to expand beyond the economic and anthropocentric foundations more typical in international biodiversity governance and legal apparatus. This encourages nature-centred, socially, and ecologically just transformations in biodiversity governance (see: Cariño &amp; Ferrari, 2021; Hall, 2022; Parks &amp; Tsioumani, 2023).</p>
	<p><i>R. Biodiversity and health</i></p> <p>Implementation is guided by a One Health Approach and other holistic approaches, including equitable access and benefit sharing.</p>		
<p>Economic development and capacity practicalities</p>		<p><i>D. National circumstances, priorities and capabilities</i></p> <p>Contributions may be made according to national circumstances, priorities, and capabilities.</p>	<p>These four Considerations maintain an emphasis on development and provide allowances in accordance with national priorities. In doing so, they demonstrate an attentiveness to the differential power and wealth dynamics between Parties and support low- and middle-income countries to implement the Framework in accordance with national developmental priorities.</p> <p>By maintaining connections between developmental, economic, and business logics for conservation, these Considerations are connected to dominant Western and market-orientated conservation approaches where nature can be interpreted as a measure of the services and economies it can provide (see: Dancer, 2021). In practice, economic and development orientated logics have the potential to co-opt and prohibit progressive and transformative conservation approaches (Spash, 2020). For example, development initiatives (Considerations D, F, and K) may focus on short-term priorities and inadvertently encourage like-for-like compensation rather than the prevention of negative biodiversity impacts (Fajardo Del Castillo, 2021; Spash, 2015; Zu Ermgassen et al., 2022). Similarly, systems of financial aid (Consideration P) may not be fully locally informed, and thus lead</p>
		<p><i>F. Right to development</i></p> <p>Responsible sustainable socioeconomic development when contributing to conservation and sustainable use.</p>	
		<p><i>K. Principles of the Rio Declaration</i></p> <p>Implementation should be guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.</p>	
		<p><i>P. Access to financial resources</i></p> <p>Adequate, predictable, and easily accessible financial resources.</p>	

			to perverse outcomes (Duffy, 2010; Epstein, 2006; Garland, 2008).
Acknowledge rights, empowerment, and justice		<p><i>G. Human-rights based approach</i></p> <p>A human-rights based approach, acknowledging the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is championed.</p>	<p>These three Considerations strengthen the potential for socially just transformations in biodiversity governance by encouraging decision-making to engage with rights-based arguments that also span generational divides.</p> <p>The acknowledgement of human rights is a significant addition which builds on a statement from the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights in the run up to COP15 which acknowledged that promoting human rights may provide a ‘catalyst for the transformative change required for humanity to survive and thrive in harmony with nature’ (Türk, 2022).</p>
		<p><i>H. Gender</i></p> <p>Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is championed.</p>	<p>As Parties have agreed to implement the KMGBF with these concepts in mind, failing to prevent biodiversity loss can be interpreted as an infringement on human rights, especially if this infringes on human and intergenerational rights to a healthy environment and a standard of living adequate for health and well-being. Note, however, that the protection of the environment for the protection of human rights (rather than the protection of the environment for its own sake) may inadvertently impact human rights, especially those of future generations (for more on this discussion see: Padilla, 2023).</p>
		<p><i>N. Intergenerational equity</i></p> <p>Principles of intergenerational equity are mindful of the needs of future generations and encourage participation from younger generations.</p>	
Consistency with internal and external governance and practices		<p><i>I. Fulfilment of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and their balanced implementation</i></p> <p>Implementation aligns with the CBD objectives.</p>	<p>These four Considerations strengthen relations with CBD protocols, agreements, and norms and prioritise multilateral cohesion with other international biodiversity and climate management agreements (e.g., UNFCCC, CMS, UNCCD, CITES, CMS, BBNJ) and organisations (e.g., FAO, UNEP UNESCO, WHO).</p>
		<p><i>J. Consistency with international agreements or instruments</i></p> <p>Implementation is cohesive and consistent with international obligations and agreements.</p>	<p>By encouraging cooperation between biodiversity-related agreements and organisations at regional, national, and international levels, these Considerations emphasise the importance of coordinated strategies and mutually supportive decision-making. A streamlining of efforts may additionally support Parties with fewer resources, as timeframes, ambitions, and actions are aligned with a common set of goals.</p>
		<p><i>M. Ecosystem approach</i></p> <p>This approach, guided by a focus on entire ecosystems and biological communities, is endorsed by the CBD.</p>	<p>By encouraging a streamlining of resources, these Considerations may, however, inadvertently limit the Framework’s ability to instigate transformative changes. They may, for instance,</p>

		Parties should use this framework when developing biodiversity strategies and action plans.	lead to the reproduction of concepts of natural capital and nature as a service provider (present in other international Conventions), which reinforce mainstream (non-transformative) economic and market driven conservation approaches and policies (Büscher & Fletcher, 2019; Dancer, 2021).
		<p>Q. <i>Cooperation and synergies</i></p> <p>Implementation is cohesive with CBD Protocols and other biodiversity related conventions and agreements (multi/inter/national, sub/regional, national).</p>	

### Untangling contrasting ideologies and approaches in the Considerations

#### *Recognising diverging concepts underpinning the Considerations*

The Considerations, and the Framework more broadly, are the result of negotiation and consensus building; consequently, we can see contrasting rationales and perspectives emerging throughout. For example, the vision of the Framework to live in harmony with nature can be interpreted in multiple ways. Whilst, on one hand concepts of harmony and wellbeing speak to indigenous ecocentric cosmologies that are attentive to the interrelations between all living beings and nature (see: Wu 2020), they may also be considered through a Western dichotomous lens connected to concepts of derived human benefits and development opportunities (see: Cariño & Ferrari, 2021; Hall, 2022; Harrop, 2011). Similarly, contrasting ecocentric and anthropocentric logics appear throughout the Framework. For example, the Framework refers to nature and biodiversity as ‘products’, ‘goods’ and, especially ‘services’ echoing a firm anthropocentric position. However, we also see concepts of Mother Earth introduced alongside ecocentric and ‘One Health’ approaches.

Whilst diverse ecocentric concepts are recognised in the Considerations section, they are done so in a non-prescriptive way that is open for interpretation. For example, the rights of nature and Mother Earth are introduced in Consideration B with the stipulation that such value systems may be considered ‘for those countries that recognize them’. Although Mother Earth centric approaches do appear throughout the wider framework (see Targets 16 and 19), they are less equally represented and developed in the Targets which often align more firmly with the above noted anthropocentric and market-orientated perspectives. There are no further mentions of One Health or holistic approaches beyond Consideration R. This divergence between concepts and approaches demonstrates the challenges of integrating ecocentric approaches into the wider operationalisation of the KMGBF.



To bring together these conceptual differences, a critical reflection and collaborative dialogue on the contrasting ideologies and approaches that have shaped the Framework are needed. We propose to begin this process by grouping each Consideration by two overarching and contrasting positions (presented in in Figure 1). Firstly, we suggest that existing values for nature are underpinned by either anthropocentrism (ideologies revolving around human interests) or ecocentrism (ideologies revolving around the interests of all living beings and nature). Secondly, we differentiate the Considerations by their underpinning foundations of knowledge; we have aligned these to either Western traditions (e.g., Western science, technology, and capitalist or market driven reasoning) or Indigenous/non-Western schools of thought (e.g., holistic, relational, and intergenerational approaches and worldviews).

Values	<b>Ecocentric (Nature-centred)</b>		
	<b>Anthropocentric (Human-centred)</b>		
		<b>Western: Eurocentric and technocratic</b>	<b>Non-Western: Indigenous and holistic</b>
		<b>Foundations of knowledge</b>	

**Figure 1. Illustration of the KMGBF’s Considerations showing the weighting of underpinning values and knowledge concepts.** Note: Whilst there are gradients and shades of grey between these values and knowledges, we attempt to categorise the Considerations by either human-centred (anthropocentric) or nature-centred (ecocentric) values and align them with specific knowledge-systems (Western or non-Western).

### *Pathways and opportunities for transformative change*

The Considerations demonstrate substantial progress in the recognition of diverse worldviews and values. Particularly prominent, is the introduction of ecocentric (nature-centred) and holistic perspectives (Figure 1, right-hand side) which provide a counterpoint to dominant Western perspectives that conventionally articulate anthropocentric and hierarchical values toward nature. Ecocentric perspectives bring a recognition that humans are interrelated with, not separate from, nature and reflect schools of Indigenous thought and Global South stewardship which remain considerably under-represented in mainstream knowledge production (Ocampo-Ariza et al., 2023). Broadly speaking, ecocentrism draws from Indigenous cosmologies and can be connected to the Quechuan principle of Sumak Kawsay and concepts of Buen Vivir (living well and in harmony with nature) (Erazo Acosta, 2022). Eco-centric perspectives are further reflected in diverse value systems around the world; for example, the Bantu philosophy of Ubuntu found in many African countries, the Japanese principle of Satoyama, and Maori concepts of Kaitiakitanga (McAllister et al., 2023; Pascual et al., 2023). Whilst this ecocentric philosophy may not have explicitly filtered through the rest of the Framework, it may have, at some point, influenced the development of the Framework's, and indeed the CBD's, Vision. The renewed emphasis given to these nature-centred perspectives in the Considerations is indicative of the potential for more socially and ecologically-just transformations in biodiversity governance that could support genuine progress towards this harmonious vision.

The recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and diverse knowledge, worldviews, and values (Considerations A, B, L, and O) demonstrates progress in addressing tensions in the CBD, specifically relating to diverging worldviews and imbalances in influence and participation (see Hall, 2022; Morgera & Tsioumani, 2010; Parks and Tsioumani, 2023; Reimerson, 2013; Zinngrebe, 2023). By promoting diverse approaches, these nature-centred and holistic Considerations pave the way for an expansion of knowledge and value systems and may offer opportunities to rebalance the prevalence of Western science and epistemologies in the CBD policy landscape (Held, 2023; Domínguez & Luoma, 2020). For example, by promoting diverse approaches, the nature-centred perspectives introduce concepts of non-commodification and non-market-based approaches to the CBD. Furthermore, recognising Indigenous Peoples' rights can prompt an expansion of mainstream concepts of wellbeing. Many indigenous cosmologies (particularly Buen Vivir) view well-being in a community sense and recognise the interconnected relationships and cultures<sup>2</sup> between humans and other species,

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<sup>2</sup> The importance of conserving animal culture and social knowledge is increasingly recognised as a means to improve conservation outcomes and make global biodiversity conservation more effective (Brakes et al., 2021;

communities, ecosystems and the natural world. In this way, an Indigenous right for well-being extends, by its definition, a focus to the natural world. This expanded and holistic concept of wellbeing, protected through Indigenous rights, introduces the potential for socially and ecologically just transitions in the way biodiversity governance is structured and performed.

*Recognising areas of ambiguity in the Considerations and how these may influence implementation*

The duality of approaches represented in Figure 1 illustrate a diversity of values and knowledges in the Framework that may lead to tensions in implementation. The overall balance of perspectives (judged by number of Considerations) appears weighted towards anthropocentric values and Western knowledge (Figure 1, lower left-hand grid). These approaches reproduce economic and market driven conservation logics, and revolve around science, technocracy, and innovation to solve current and future conservation challenges. Such concepts, for the most part, are largely incompatible with Indigenous, holistic, and ecocentric perspectives (Kopina et al. 2024; Piccolo et al. 2022). For example, concepts of sustainable development and use (Considerations F and K, Sections D and K, Goal B, Targets 9-13) will differ vastly depending on whether conceptual standpoints are informed by anthropocentric or ecocentric values. An anthropocentric understanding of 'sustainability' promotes concepts of natural capital and ties business orientated and economic logics to nature conservation (Fajardo Del Castillo, 2021; Spash, 2015; Zu Ermgassen et al., 2022); such framings are not necessarily sustainable or equitable for *all* (humans and nature) and fall short of broader ecocentric and holistic perspectives (Blaustein et al., 2020; Heydon, 2019; McDonnell et al., 2020).

Anthropocentric and market-based sustainable development approaches may compromise the vision and mission of the Framework; especially if, on a national scale, developmental priorities favour economic expansion over environmental protection (Chan et al. 2019). This concern mirrors ongoing discussions over the involvement of businesses and the financial sector in the CBD process, specifically around concerns that businesses may shape biodiversity governance to suit their own short-term interests and economic agendas (Blythe et al. 2018; Smallwood et al. 2022). In practice, market-orientated approaches have the potential to lead to diluted or disingenuous action; for example, like-for-like compensation and mitigation approaches that do little to prevent biodiversity decline (Maron et al., 2024; Milner-Gulland, 2022; Zu Ermgassen et al., 2022). Recognising the prevalence of these logics in the KMGBF, and their potential for unintended socioecological harms, is an essential

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Lappe-Osthege and Duffy, 2024). For example, the UN Convention on Migratory Species is the first global convention to acknowledge non-human (animal) cultural diversity and recommend that '[animal] cultural repositories and capacities should be integrated into the development of IUCN, CMS, and other conservation strategies' ([UNEP-CMS, 2018](#), p2.).

first step when assessing the potential for transformative changes in biodiversity governance more widely. If we are to instigate transformative changes meaningfully, it will be necessary to recognise that the ecocentric and holistic perspectives articulated in the Considerations cannot be achieved when 'sustainability' is conceptualized and enacted through a short-term, anthropocentric, and market-driven lens that merely reconfigures the logic of the problem as the logic of the solution, without addressing or fundamentally changing the root of the problem itself (Büscher and Duffy, 2023; Martin, 2020; Sène, 2023).

#### *Why a balanced weighting in values and knowledges is important*

By untangling the weighting of underpinning knowledge and values in the Considerations (see Figure 1), we note an unequal representation of 'non-traditional' or 'other' forms of knowledge. This can be recognised as a form of epistemic injustice (see: de Sousa Santos, 2016) where certain forms of knowledge (i.e., those that align with Western scientific and political agendas) are dominant over others which can lead to procedural unfairness in decision-making (Smallwood et al. 2022, Hall 2022). Such an unequal divide in the balance of concepts, values, and knowledge foundations runs the risk that the emerging science-policy outcomes may inadvertently endorse or prioritise the worldviews of cultural and political centres of power; with Western knowledge production and rationality becoming the designated objective, irrespective of other heterogeneous ways of knowing (see: de Sousa Santos, 2016; Goyes, 2018). Transformative shifts from anthropocentric to ecocentric approaches have been repeatedly called for (Eckersley, 1990; Taylor et al. 2020; Kok et al. 2022); and, notably, the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 (2020) championed a 'humans with nature' (ecocentric) approach to leverage transformative change.

Whilst holistic values and worldviews are prominent in the Considerations (and the broader Vision of the Framework), Western-orientated and anthropocentric perspectives appear to have strongly influenced the shaping of the Framework's Goals and Targets. These are frequently orientated towards Western and anthropocentric perspectives that emphasise measurable, data dependent outcomes, and view sustainability and harmony through a human lens. For example, the 30 by 30 initiative to restore 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and marine areas by 2030 established through Targets 2 and 3 suggests a ranking of biological importance and ecosystem function (namely, by encouraging the conservation of high-priority sites based on select attributes). This reliance on quantification follows an anthropocentric mindset (repeating problems of Aichi Target 11) and may fail to capture the broader, holistic needs of biodiversity conservation. In practice, there is evidence that quantitative ambitions for area-based conservation reinforce inequalities, produce scientific expertise devoid of social context, and shape directionality to serve the interests of powerful groups (Turnhout et al., 2020; White, 2010). Progress has been made in the policy landscape to move to a

‘people and nature’ rather than a ‘people apart from nature’ paradigm, and implementation and operationalisation efforts may be further enhanced significantly if thought is given to how power dynamics can reinforce poor practices relating to rights, access, and control (Büscher & Ramutsindela, 2015; Domínguez & Luoma, 2020; Lee, 2023; Mahalwal & Kabra, 2023). At a time when transformative and system-wide changes are called for, it is important to reflect on whether more of the same will produce meaningful change.

In a similar vein, reconciling anthropocentric and ecocentric positions reflect a conceptual impasse that is yet to be resolved. For instance, a focus of Goal A to halt the ‘human-induced extinction of known threatened species’ suggests a reliance on documented extinction risk of species, which is supported by inter/national Red Lists, databases, and scientific monitoring efforts. There are substantial challenges in maintaining these resources, they are not as representative as they need to be, with, for example a bias towards higher vertebrates<sup>3</sup> and may additionally be incompatible with indigenous and holistic perspectives (Piccolo et al. 2022). To borrow from Turnhout and Purvis (2020, p. 675): ‘there is the risk of mistaking what is easily counted for what counts, and overlooking what is not counted’. We simply do not know how human actions and inactions are impacting the health and survival of the vast majority of the estimated 8.7 million species with whom we share this planet (Mora et al., 2011; IUCN, 2022). This challenge has long been recognised with Stuart et al. (2010) drawing attention to the need for a representative ‘barometer of life’ and the need for assessments for be representative of biodiversity, including geography stated in the IUCN Red List Strategi Plan for 2021-2030 (IUCN 2021). Notably, the clause in Goal A concerned with increasing the abundance of wild species to healthy and resilient levels (irrespective of their conservation status) is much more explicitly attuned to an ecocentric and holistic mindset, but effective approaches to address this are yet to be developed. Ultimately, anthropocentric and technocratic approaches to biodiversity and environmental governance can fail to address broader notions of social, multi-species, planetary, and intergenerational justice<sup>4</sup> (Biermann, 2021; Celermajer et al. 2020) which will undoubtedly produce challenges for the effective and just implementation of the Framework.

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<sup>3</sup> Notably, only 2 percent of invertebrates, 8 percent of fungi and protists, and 17 percent of plants have been evaluated on the IUCN Red List, compared to 84 percent of described vertebrates (accurate as of June 2024 – see [IUCN Red List version 2024-4 Table 1a](#)).

<sup>4</sup> For more on expansive concepts of justice see: Biermann, 2021; Celermajer et al. 2020; Lerner & Berg, 2017; Washington et al., 2018; Washington & Maloney, 2020.

### **Implementation tools for transformative changes in biodiversity governance**

The conflicts and diverging viewpoints highlighted in the above discussion introduce the potential for some of the more holistic (and demanding) elements in the Framework to be sidelined, especially considering the challenges and constraints facing many Parties (i.e., political will and agenda-setting, a lack of knowledge and implementation capacity, and unequal power and representation in international fora). Additionally, whilst there is a general consensus on the urgent need to prevent further biodiversity losses, there remains a considerable implementation gap between research and on-the-ground action (namely, knowing what needs to be done and implementing appropriate actions). This implementation gap is widened further when we consider previous failures in achieving global biodiversity targets related to discrepancies between what Parties acknowledge they must do (what changes are needed to live in harmony with nature) and the practicalities of delivering and implementing these changes to safeguard biodiversity (see Friedman et al 2002; Koh et al 2021; Knight et al 2008). Without coherent integration of these more holistic Considerations, continuation of business-as-usual approaches remains a strong possibility.

The challenge then, for implementation, is how to respond to contrasting and often conflicting perspectives and approaches to provide the best combined outcomes for nature, biodiversity, and people. This, we suggest, can take two forms. Firstly, a recognition that anthropocentric framings have not only established the underpinning conditions for the biodiversity crisis but continue to perpetuate harms and injustices toward all species and the environment. Secondly, to motivate normative changes in the implementation of the KMGBF, a reframing of the holistic and ecocentric values introduced in the Considerations as fundamental to implementation mechanisms (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans - NBSAPs) to value, at their core, expansive concepts of ecological, multi-species, epistemic and social justice. To begin this learning process, the following questions may help inform the transition to ecocentric approaches when implementing the Framework into national policy and decision making:

- Are the Rights of Nature, Indigenous Peoples, and future generations integrated into national biodiversity planning (NBSAPs and reporting)? This would involve representatives for, and participation of, these groups to influence the target setting, decision-making, reflection, and evaluation stages of CBD processes (COP, SBSTTA, SBI, working and advisory groups and other meetings); and to expand, recognise, and reinforce holistic concepts of justice (such as, but not limited to: Indigenous, social, ecological, and multi-species justice).
- Are there targets, indicators, management, and reporting mechanisms in place to track the integration of ecocentric, Indigenous, socially, and ecologically just values and practices in

broader governance, planning, and policy? This would involve coordinated implementation beyond biodiversity related planning (e.g. NBSAPs) to encompass a whole-of-government and whole -of-society approach, ensuring that strategies are developed to continually motivate transformative shifts in thinking and doing to break free from business-as-usual, technocratic, and anthropocentric approaches.

- Are the Rights of Nature, Indigenous Peoples, and future generations recognised in regional, national, and international legislation? Are protections effectively implemented? This would involve ensuring that policy and legislation frameworks are strengthened to protect and promote these rights. Substantively, human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples must clearly intersect with the wellbeing of nature and the natural world.

*Ensuring that the Considerations matter – from soft-law to transformative shifts in governance*

Although the CBD is a hard law instrument, it has adopted a soft law and flexible framework approach, allowing Parties extensive discretion in implementation (Harrop and Pritchard, 2011). Despite this flexibility, Parties are legally bound to implement the Convention in good faith and have a legal obligation to implement the agreed KMGBF, as this constitutes a legal clarification on the Convention itself (Ekaradt et al., 2023). The Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) Secretariat have also put forward a recommendation that Parties indicate how the Considerations have informed actions towards the Mission, Targets, Vision, and Goals (SBSTTA/25/3, footnote 2). SBSTTA have additionally encouraged that the Considerations are incorporated into the implementation of the Framework; implementation success should not just be a measure of progress towards Targets, but should also assess progress towards the overall Mission, the Considerations (section C) and sections I, J and K (see [SBSTTA/25/13](#), and our supplementary information). This highlights the underlying intent that the Considerations are integral to the implementation, reporting and evaluation of the KMGBF.

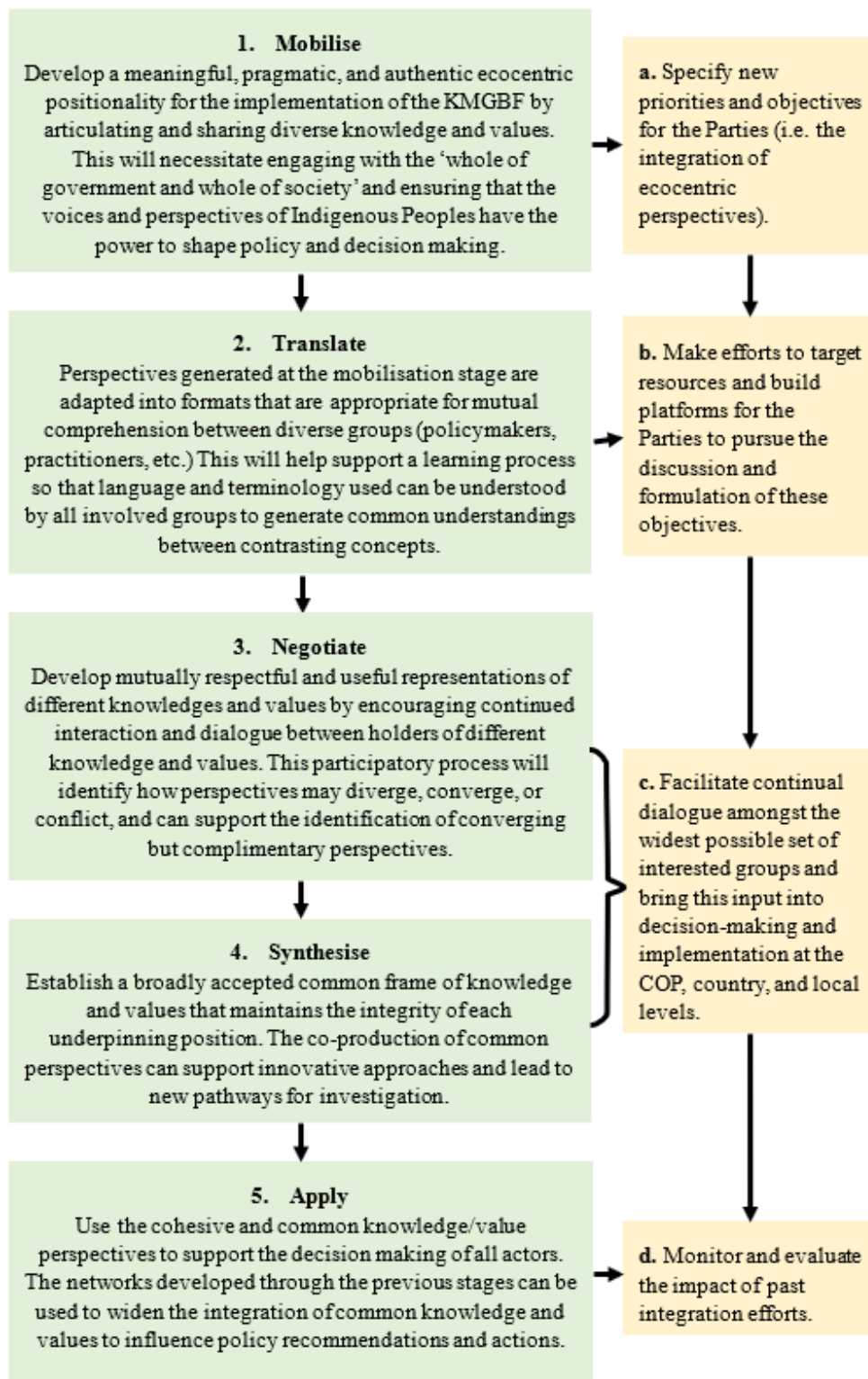
In light of SBSTTA's efforts to ensure that the Considerations are duly incorporated, we now describe how a combined process of practice and learning may support the ecocentric, holistic, and collaborative positions described in the Considerations to ensure that these positions are integrated meaningfully into the Framework's implementation. Given that principles of soft law and an iterative process have informed the evolution of the CBD's governance so far (Harrop and Pritchard, 2011), the integration of the more transformative and ecocentric perspectives into practice would benefit from explicit highlighting in all stages of each the CBD process (COP, SBSTTA, SBI, working groups etc.,). As the implementation of the Convention is a Party led process, Parties often have to work within CBD institutional norms and expectations to gain acceptance by the Parties, resources for incorporate

reviews, knowledge exchange, training, and benchmarking would further support a 'learning by doing' approach to the integration of Considerations, emphasising non-binding measures, which can help build the potential for dialogue and consensus-building (Victor, 1998; Mewes and Unger, 2021).

In addition to a learning by doing approach, some form of ratcheting mechanisms that give space for learning as well as encouraging and facilitating actors to increase commitments, for example at each COP, could be designed, such as seen in the climate process (Levy, 1993). If we consider each CBD COP as an individual step in an ongoing governance process, the integration of the Considerations and their new ecocentric and holistic dimensions may be expedited by a two-strand normative expansion and incorporation process following the suggestions of Tengö et al. (2017) and Jordan and Lenschow (2010). First, bridges between diverging knowledge and value systems can be established following Tengö et al. (2017) facilitating knowledge exchange and learning frameworks to mobilise, translate, negotiate, synthesise, and apply multiple perspectives into biodiversity decision making and practice. In tandem with this bridging process, the integration of ecocentric policies into CBD governance structures and routine political practices may be strengthened and enhanced through four distinct stages of the policy-making process (see Jordan & Lenschow, 2010). We illustrate this two-strand process in Figure 2 and describe this process in more detail next.

This two-strand approach represents a process of learning and exchange over time and should support and enhance the genuine integration of ecocentric perspectives throughout the development and implementation of the KMGBF. Incorporating holistic and ecocentric values into biodiversity governance and national implementation processes will require conscious reinforcement of these values both within and beyond the implementation of the KMGBF. To begin with mobilisation and priority setting (Strand 1-a, Figure 2), the integration process would benefit from further embedding community and Indigenous voices both in the formal meetings and informal dialogue and networking of the CBD process (Domorenok and Zito 2021). This may, for example, include making space for and expanding the involvement of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) to strengthen the ability of less powerful and marginalised groups to shape and inform decision making (see Zafra-Calvo, 2020). Whilst recognising and supporting such perspectives in the formal CBD meetings will be important, equally critical will be the creation of informal and formal multilateral networks that enable non-Western thinkers to engage with other non-Western, ecocentric practitioners and viewpoints as well as with those practitioners who adhere to the more Western, anthropocentric perspectives.





**Figure 2. Proposed two-strand normative expansion process to support a practice of learning and review both in global biodiversity governance and everyday political practices. Stages adapted from Tengö et al. (2017) and Jordan & Lenschow (2010) shown in green and yellow respectively.**

To support the translation of knowledge and values into appropriate formats (Strand 2-b, Figure 2), efforts for policy, organisational, and instrumental learning would need to develop financial support tools to enable the broad discussions and pluralist dialogue between state, substate, non-state, and interested parties in meetings and more informal networking events. Additionally, the development of tools to support reflexive learning will be necessary; for example, developing knowledge sharing templates, training materials, benchmarking instruments, and collaborative networks that can assist the co-production of common understandings between contrasting perspectives (e.g., between anthropocentric norms, and transformative ecocentrism).

To enable negotiation, synthesis and facilitated dialogue (Strand 3 and 4-c, Figure 2), platforms for learning and reflection about diverse values will need to be developed and strengthened. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) may provide guidance and support in this direction as their current programme of work includes a transformative change assessment as well as a focus on facilitated access to expertise and information and approaches to strengthen knowledge foundations (see: [Decision IPBES 1/3](#)). Information events and other vehicles for exchange will support the negotiation of converging and complimentary perspectives and create opportunities for synthesis. For example, this could involve the systematic development of training and knowledge sharing across the width of CBD (at COP, SBSTTA, SBI, Global Partnership Meetings, and across working groups and other events) and the broader policy landscape (IPBES, national institutions, governing bodies, NGOs, local and community groups etc.).

Finally, for application and evaluation (Strand 5-d, Figure 2), reporting and evaluating mechanisms that set benchmarks for how biodiversity plans incorporate these new perspectives as well as tools that allow Parties to present their own measures and experiences and learn from those of others will be essential to measure and understand progress. Creating learning forums, networks, and other platforms will support the CBD community experiment and share experiences of integrating ecocentric, holistic, and non-economic values into the Framework and broader policymaking, as well as providing avenues to reconcile some of the tensions inherent in current efforts. These networks and forums will generate pools of practical knowledge on successful local experiences and efforts. By comparing a Party's own progress and experiences with that of others, certain Parties may be encouraged and emboldened to be more ambitious in their approach for the next COP. Before and during negotiations, negotiators would benefit from various events and other platforms that create a 'learning forum' dynamic where shared experiences and interaction might encourage and persuade Parties to change their thinking and integrate new perspectives (Rietig, 2019).

## Final remarks

The political negotiations underpinning the KMGBF speaks volumes towards the prevalent values held towards nature and the prioritisation of actions and responses to safeguard biodiversity. A track record of poorly performing and ineffective Strategic Plans, and calls for transformative change in the values, goals, and paradigms underpinning biodiversity governance (IPBES, 2019) highlight how business-as-usual responses are no longer an option if we are to seriously address species loss and biodiversity decline. Issues around the marginalisation of people and nature and the combined issues of human, gender, intergenerational, and ecological injustice have been under-established in environmental-policy discourse (Francis, 2020). Whilst we acknowledge that political will and constraints in both time and capacity will influence the implementation of the Framework, a fundamental shift in approaches will be essential to meet the ambitions outlined in the Framework.

To support the expansion of effective, justice-informed, and holistic implementation approaches, this paper has teased out the juxtapositions and tensions between the Considerations and has suggested pathways for more holistic implementation efforts. We maintain that the ecocentric approaches introduced in the Considerations provide areas to foster growth and transformative change in biodiversity governance by extending legal, procedural, and policy dimensions to recognise and uphold the rights of - and justice for - nature and biodiversity. We encourage all Parties, practitioners, academics, local community and interest groups to reflect on how underpinning knowledges and values may influence their contributions to achieving the KMGBFs Vision of living in harmony with nature; and encourage the meaningful and authentic integration and adoption of the holistic and ecocentric practices that have been introduced in the Considerations.

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## Supplementary Information

### Development of Considerations in the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework

#### **ZERO DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

Open-Ended Working Group 2 Rome 24-29 February 2020

CBD/WG2020/2/3 6 January 2020

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/da8c/9e95/9e9db02aaf68c018c758ff14/wg2020-02-03-en.pdf>

Section B: Purpose contains three paragraphs, each starting with the words: “The Framework aims to ...” or “The Framework will ...”

#### **UPDATED ZERO DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1 17 August 2020

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3064/749a/0f65ac7f9def86707f4eaefa/post2020-prep-02-01-en.pdf>

Unchanged from the Zero Draft

#### **FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

Open-Ended Working Group 3 Online, 23 August – 3 September 2021

CBD/WG2020/3/3 5 July 2021

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/914a/eca3/24ad42235033f031badf61b1/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf>

Section B: Purpose contains two paragraphs, each starting with the words: “The Framework aims to ...”

The third paragraph from the Updated Zero Draft was put in Section C: Relationship with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

#### **REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK ON ITS THIRD MEETING**

Open-Ended Working Group 3 (part II) Geneva, Switzerland, 14–29 March 2022

CBD/WG2020/3/7

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/50c9/a685/3844e4030802e9325bc5e0b4/wg2020-03-07-en.pdf>

The report of the meeting included an appendix containing a proposal from the Co-Chairs for a new section (B.bis) of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, presented in document CBD/WG2020/3/6, together with submissions from delegates for changes to or additional elements to this new section. The elements were included as submitted and were not discussed in contact group 1. Some Parties and observers expressed the view that Section B.bis should not result in removal of important principles and standards (such as rights-based approaches, rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and gender and youth) from the goals, targets and other sections of the framework, as appropriate.

Section B.bis began [alternative wording suggested in []

[title:] B.bis Principles and Approaches [Guidance] for the implementation of the framework

[chapeau:] The following principles and approaches were [guidance was] used in the development of the global biodiversity framework and should guide and underpin its implementation:

#### **REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK ON ITS FOURTH MEETING**

Open-Ended Working Group 4 Nairobi, 21–26 June 2022

CBD/WG2020/4/4 21 June 2022

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3303/d892/4fd11c27963bd3f826a961e1/wg2020-04-04-en.pdf>

Section B.bis in a separate Section, indicating that there should be some notion of principles or underpinning perspectives to the implement of the Framework. The potential titles and introduction (chapeau) were proposed as follows.

[Section B Bis [Principles and] [Approaches] [Guidance] for the implementation of the framework 7. The following [principles and] [approaches] [guidance] should underpin the implementation of the framework:

#### **OUTCOMES OF THE WORK OF THE INFORMAL GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

Informal Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Montreal, Canada, 26-30 September 2022

CBD/WG2020/5/2 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/dfeb/e742/b936c09eae9dd558c1310b5b/wg2020-05-02-en.pdf>

Considered Section B.bis in detail and what its purpose may be, viz: *The Group agreed that this section could provide very important context and foundational elements for the entire framework, including on how it should be implemented. In this context some suggested that the formulation of the section should provide an unambiguous articulation of the specific purpose and intended content of this section.*

There was discussion over the title of the section, perhaps referring to ‘principles’ for the implementation of the Framework. There was, however, concern about the potential legal nature of ‘principles; and so ‘premises’ or ‘guidance’ were suggested. There was discussion about the reflection of “common but differentiated responsibilities” in various multinational agreements and in the context of the Convention. A list of 17 issues were identified as such cross-cutting issues, principles or underlining premises.

As a result the Co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group developed text for 13 ‘fundamental premises for the implementation of the framework’, which formed the basis of discussion at OEWG 5.

#### **RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

Open-Ended Working Group 5 Montreal 3-5 December 2022

CBD/WG2020/REC/5/1 5 December 2022 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/wg2020-05/wg2020-05-rec-01-en.pdf>

Section Bbis was only partially discussed by the contact group at OEWG 5 and much of the text remained in square brackets (ie not agreed by consensus). Importantly, it states that the Framework is to be acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated, consistent with these ‘principles/ premises/guidelines and approaches’. In other words, they should inform every stage of action concerning the KMGBF.

Their recommendation for this section began:

Section B bis. [The fundamental [premises]/[principles]/[guidelines and approaches] for the implementation of the framework\*

[8. The implementation of the framework, including its Goals and Targets, is underpinned by fundamental [premises]/[principles]/[guidelines and approaches] that are key for its success [and are to be considered at all stages[, including planning, monitoring, reporting, and review]. [The comprehensive implementation of the framework includes consideration of these [premises]/[principles]/[guidelines and approaches] at all stages. In that regard, the Goals and Targets are to be understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated, consistent with the followings]]:]

There then follows 13 suggested issues, and a further eight drawn from the report of OEWG4.

**DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

CoP 15 Part II Montreal, Canada, 7-19 December 2022

CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 19 December 2022 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

**Section C. Considerations for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

7. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its Vision, Mission, Goals and Targets, is to be understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated, consistent with the following:

*Contribution and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities*

(a) The Framework acknowledges the important roles and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and as partners in its conservation, restoration and sustainable use. The Framework's implementation must ensure that the rights, knowledge, including traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity, innovations, worldviews, values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities are respected, and documented and preserved with their free, prior and informed consent,<sup>1</sup> including through their full and effective participation in decision-making, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>2</sup> and human rights law. In this regard, nothing in this framework may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights that indigenous peoples currently have or may acquire in the future;

*Different value systems*

(b) Nature embodies different concepts for different people, including biodiversity, ecosystems, Mother Earth, and systems of life. Nature's contributions to people also embody different concepts, such as ecosystem goods and services and nature's gifts. Both nature and nature's contributions to people are vital for human existence and good quality of life, including human well-being, living in harmony with nature, and living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth. The Framework recognizes and considers these diverse value systems and concepts, including, for those countries that recognize them, rights of nature and rights of Mother Earth, as being an integral part of its successful implementation;

*Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach*

(c) This is a framework for all - for the whole of government and the whole of society. Its success requires political will and recognition at the highest level of government and relies on action and cooperation by all levels of government and by all actors of society;

*National circumstances, priorities and capabilities*

(d) The goals and targets of the Framework are global in nature. Each Party would contribute to attaining the goals and targets of the Framework in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities;

*Collective effort towards the targets*

(e) The Parties will catalyse implementation of the Framework through mobilization of broad public support at all levels;

*Right to development*

(f) Recognizing the 1986 United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>3</sup> the Framework enables responsible and sustainable socioeconomic development that, at the same time, contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

*Human rights-based approach*

(g) The implementation of the Framework should follow a human rights-based approach, respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights. The Framework acknowledges the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;<sup>4</sup>

*Gender*

(h) Successful implementation of the Framework will depend on ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and on reducing inequalities;

*Fulfilment of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and their balanced implementation*

(i) The goals and targets of the Framework are integrated and are intended to contribute in a balanced manner to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Framework is to be implemented in accordance with these objectives, with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, as applicable;

*Consistency with international agreements or instruments*

(j) The Framework needs to be implemented in accordance with relevant international obligations. Nothing in this Framework should be interpreted as agreement to modify the rights and obligations of a Party under the Convention or any other international agreement;

*Principles of the Rio Declaration*

(k) The Framework recognizes that reversing the loss of biological diversity, for the benefit of all living beings, is a common concern of humankind. Its implementation should be guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;<sup>5</sup>

*Science and innovation*

(l) The implementation of the Framework should be based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge and practices, recognizing the role of science, technology and innovation;

*Ecosystem approach*

(m) This Framework is to be implemented based on the ecosystem approach of the Convention;<sup>6</sup>

*Intergenerational equity*

(n) The implementation of the Framework should be guided by the principle of intergenerational equity which aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and to ensure meaningful participation of younger generations in decision-making processes at all levels;

*Formal and informal education*

(o) Implementation of the Framework requires transformative, innovative and transdisciplinary education, formal and informal, at all levels, including science-policy interface studies and lifelong learning processes, recognizing diverse world views, values and knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities;

*Access to financial resources*

(p) The full implementation of the Framework requires adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial resources;

*Cooperation and synergies*

(q) Enhanced collaboration, cooperation and synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, other biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes, in line with their respective



mandates, including at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, would contribute to and promote the implementation of the Framework in a more efficient and effective manner;

*Biodiversity and health*

(r) The Framework acknowledges the interlinkages between biodiversity and health and the three objectives of the Convention. The Framework is to be implemented with consideration of the One Health Approach, among other holistic approaches that are based on science, mobilize multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to work together, and aim to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems, recognizing the need for equitable access to tools and technologies including medicines, vaccines and other health products related to biodiversity, while highlighting the urgent need to reduce pressures on biodiversity and decrease environmental degradation to reduce risks to health, and, as appropriate, develop practical access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

## POST COP15

### RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

**Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical And Technological Advice 25** Nairobi 15–19 October 2023  
CBD/SBSTTA/25/13 19 October 2023

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/698b/dca4/dadb1b93ace9acae10f1bb04/sbstta-25-13-en.pdf>

I Recommendations adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

25/1. Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice ...*

9. *Encourages* the Expert Group to take **section C** of the Framework into consideration when addressing the gaps in the monitoring framework in preparation for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

25/2. Scientific, technical and technological inputs that should inform the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice ....*

1 *Decides* that the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will be a process comprising several elements, including a global report focussed primarily on assessing progress in the implementation of the Framework and containing the following elements in its structure:

....

c A review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, including a target-by-target assessment of progress towards the 23 targets, the 2030 Mission and other elements of the Framework, including **sections C, I, J and K**;

### RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

**Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical And Technological Advice 26** Nairobi 13–18 May 2024

Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on 18 May 2024 18 May 2024 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-26/sbstta-26-rec-02-en.pdf>

## 26/2. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

### *The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice ...*

2. Concludes that most of the guidance that has been developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity is relevant and that there is a wealth of tools and guidance developed through other processes that also support the implementation of the Framework and the potential to work with them to mainstream the **considerations** for the implementation of the Framework<sup>7</sup> into their activities, and that access to guidance, adequate financial resources, capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation are needed by Parties for the implementation of the tools and guidance;

6. Recommends that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties consider adopting a decision along the following lines, noting that complementary recommendations may be elaborated by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation:

### *The Conference of the Parties ...*

Welcoming the establishment of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global knowledge support service for biodiversity,

#### *1. Recognizes:*

(d) That there is an opportunity to mainstream the Framework into the work undertaken under other relevant intergovernmental agreements and processes and by international organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and into capacity-building and development initiatives, with a view to integrating the **considerations** for the implementation of the Framework<sup>6</sup> into tools and guidance developed through such processes and initiatives, so that they support biodiversity-inclusive actions and outcomes;

4. Requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources: ...

(b) To continue to facilitate the development of further tools [and exchange of good practices][and guidance and updating of existing guidance, ]where needed, to address gaps identified [by Parties] [in annex III to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2, section IV.B of and the annex to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3 and document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15], in cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, [other competent intergovernmental organizations,] [the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global knowledge support service for biodiversity], relevant processes and organizations, [avoiding duplication of tools and guidance,] and in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and relevant stakeholders, and, where appropriate, [and in line with their respective mandates,] to work with such relevant processes and organizations to integrate the **considerations** for the implementation of the Framework into tools and guidance being developed under those processes and by those organizations in order to support biodiversity-inclusive actions and outcomes;

## **RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION**

**Subsidiary Body on Implementation 4** Nairobi 21–29 May 2024

CBD/SBI/REC/4/1 29 May 2024

Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on 29 May 2024  
CBD/SBI/REC/4/1 29 May 2024 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbi-04/sbi-04-rec-01-en.pdf>

4/1. Review of implementation: progress in the preparation of revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the establishment of national targets in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

*The Subsidiary Body on Implementation ....*

1. Urges Parties to revise or update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>9</sup> as requested in paragraph 6 of decision 15/6 of 19 December 2022, taking **section C** of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>10</sup> into account;

Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on 29 May 2024  
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbi-04/sbi-04-rec-02-en.pdf>

4/2. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

*The Subsidiary Body on Implementation ....*

**[Annex II** Reporting of commitments by non-State actors<sup>11</sup>

26. Potential ways to address challenges and opportunities in achieving effective implementation of the commitment and its contribution to the Framework, including its **section C** and its targets and goals, and other decisions (e.g. Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)).<sup>12</sup> (optional)