

The Measurable Nature Positive Goal for the CBD Mission

naturepositive.org

March 17, 2022

To the parties negotiating the post- 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

We believe the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework's Mission should be revised to contain the following nature positive goal:

For the benefit of people and planet, take urgent action across society to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and achieve a nature positive world by 2030, so that there is more nature in 2030 than 2020, using biodiversity sustainably and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.

Humanity faces three existential and interconnected threats of its own making: nature (biodiversity) loss, climate change and inequitable human development patterns. There is a high- level measurable goal for climate change under the Paris Agreement and Glasgow Climate Pact: carbon neutrality (net zero) by 2050 with the 2030 goal of reducing global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent relative to the 2010 level. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a set of overall umbrella goals and seek to create a fairer world by 2030. We need a similar simple, complementary and measurable global goal for nature (biodiversity) to align and drive all sectors in society, business and governments to contribute to that goal.

The nature positive global goal is designed to be integrated with the SDGs and the climate goals of the Paris Agreement to create a coherent unified global approach of creating an Equitable, Nature Positive, Carbon Neutral (net zero) world.

We know how to measure the state of nature in 2020 with enough detail to know whether we have made things better or worse by 2030.

Measuring the nature positive global goal by 2030

The nature positive global goal for nature was proposed in early 2021 supported by a scientific paper that took an Earth systems approach that emphasized the importance of all three scales of nature: species (including genes), ecosystems and natural processes (see naturepositive.org).

It set three basic measurements for 2030:

- zero net loss of nature from 2020,
- net positive improvement in nature by 2030, and

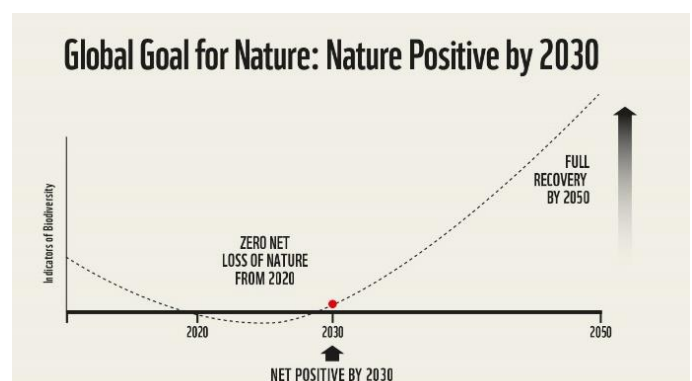


Figure 1. The trajectory of nature positive by 2030.

- full recovery of nature by 2050¹.

The nature positive goal recognizes that nature is important for its in own sake and is a key aspect of global processes - climate, weather, hydrology and chemistry – which drive biodiversity. Biodiversity in turn provides a range of nature’s benefits to people which is the basis for human well-being.

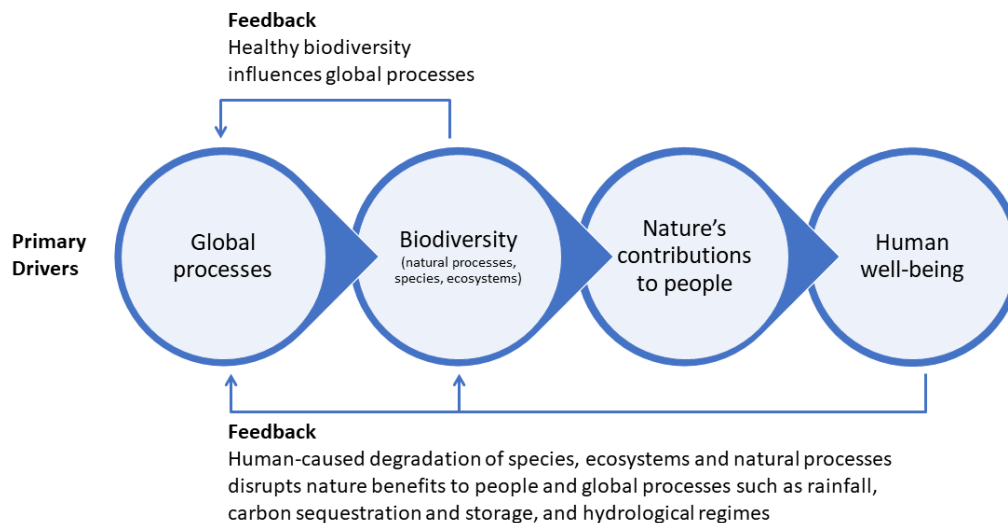


Figure 2: Adapted from: *A Nature-Positive World: The Global Goal for Nature*. Locke et. al. 2021

Halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 so there is more nature in the world than there is now is necessary to prevent us from crossing dangerous tipping points in the earth system that would profoundly disrupt the habitability of the world as we know it. Achieving such a nature positive result by 2030 requires nature positive outcomes which require nature positive actions.

Measuring Nature Positive Outcomes

Nature-positive outcomes can be measured by quantifying the maintenance and improvement of natural processes, ecosystems and species over time.

1. Natural processes.

- o hydrological integrity,
- o sediment transport and the integrity of estuaries,
- o migration patterns,
- o carbon sequestration and storage,

¹ Due to lag times in recovering the many damaged aspects of nature, we will not be able to achieve full recovery of nature before 2050. But we can improve things by 2030. This is why we need a clear goal to have more nature in 2030 than there was in 2020.

- integrity of tidal zones
 - natural fire regimes, and
 - vegetative cover that supports rainfall patterns.
2. Ecosystems
 - extent of habitat
 - ecological integrity of the habitat
 - function of species in their ecosystems
 3. Species
 - extent & abundance of species
 - extinction risk of species
 - genetic diversity

Actions that maintain and improve these metrics would lead to more nature in the world in 2030 than there was in 2020. The Ecosystems and Species metrics above are already well captured in the GBF indicator discussions to date, but more work needs to be done on the Natural Process indicators.

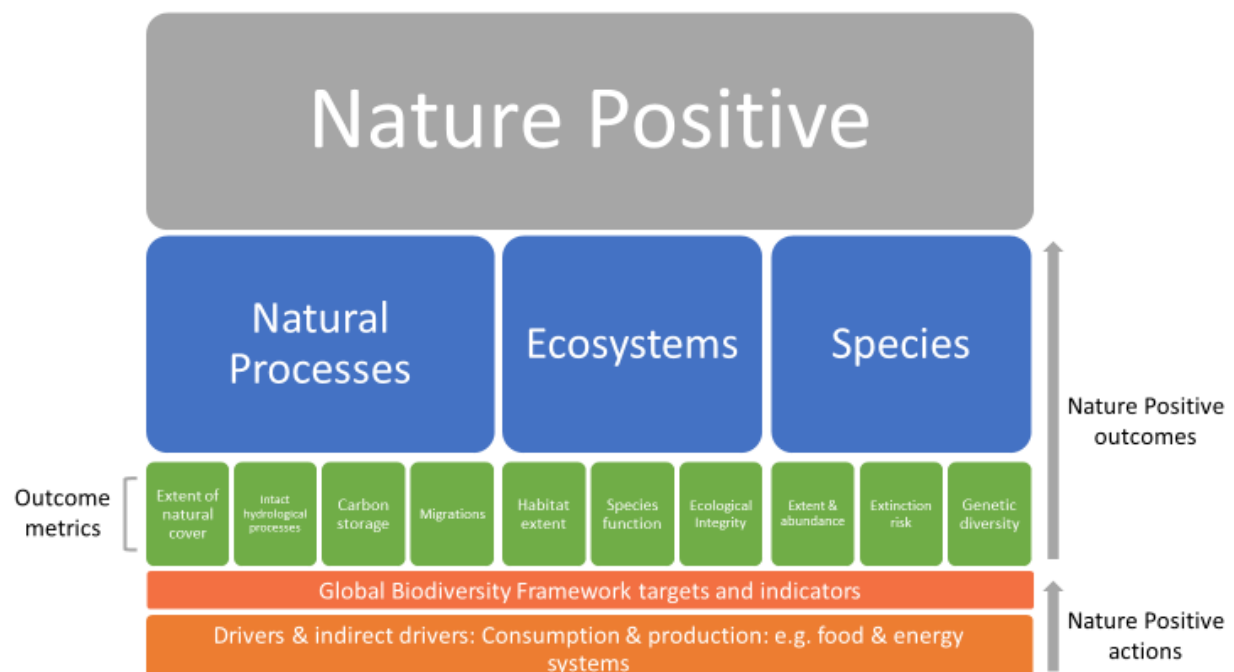


Fig 3. Nature positive actions and outcomes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The actions set in the Targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework should be ambitious enough to ensure a nature positive outcome by 2030.

Implementing nature positive actions

On land, the Three Global Conditions framework for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use provides an approach that uses a 2020 baseline to measure the extent of large wild areas, shared lands and cities and farms, together with strategies for nature-positive actions appropriate to each of those unique situations. These encompass actions such as retaining large intact areas, networks of protected areas (to support the 30% by 2030 target), good urban planning to provide access to nature, threatened species recovery actions, and agricultural chemical management. The cities and farms areas and strategies are tightly coupled to the health of ocean estuaries. In contrast, the number one direct threat to nature in the open ocean is overfishing which can be measured from a 2020 baseline. (Ocean acidification, deoxygenation and warming are measurable but require climate action under the Paris Agreement).

People positive and nature positive

Implementation of the nature-positive goals requires a whole-of-society approach supported by an ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework that at the same time supports the SDGs and climate goals and *vice versa*. All governments from those who sign global agreements and set national policies, to regional and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as business, financial institutions, and individuals can act to support and contribute to the implementation of targets to create an equitable, nature positive and carbon neutral (net zero) future.

Many initiatives are providing guidance to the private sector for nature positive approaches. Some examples are Science-Based Targets for Nature, The Natural Capital Protocol and associated tools and guidance, Task Force on Nature Related Financial Disclosure, and "[What does nature positive mean for business](#)", developed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

To ensure a sustainable supply of nature's benefits to people we need to address the things that impact nature, both directly and indirectly. Direct impacts are things such as primary ecosystem conversion, species over-exploitation, habitat fragmentation, and climate change. Indirect drivers of nature's decline are production and consumption patterns that are not sustainable.

Many of the indirect causes of biodiversity loss are linked to agriculture and energy systems. Success on addressing these indirect drivers of loss is integral to success across the nature positive goal, climate goals and the SDGs.

There are metrics for measuring progress on actions towards achieving the SDG's in place. Measuring progress on addressing climate change is done through the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. These can be combined with nature positive actions and metrics to create an integrated approach to addressing drivers common to all of them.

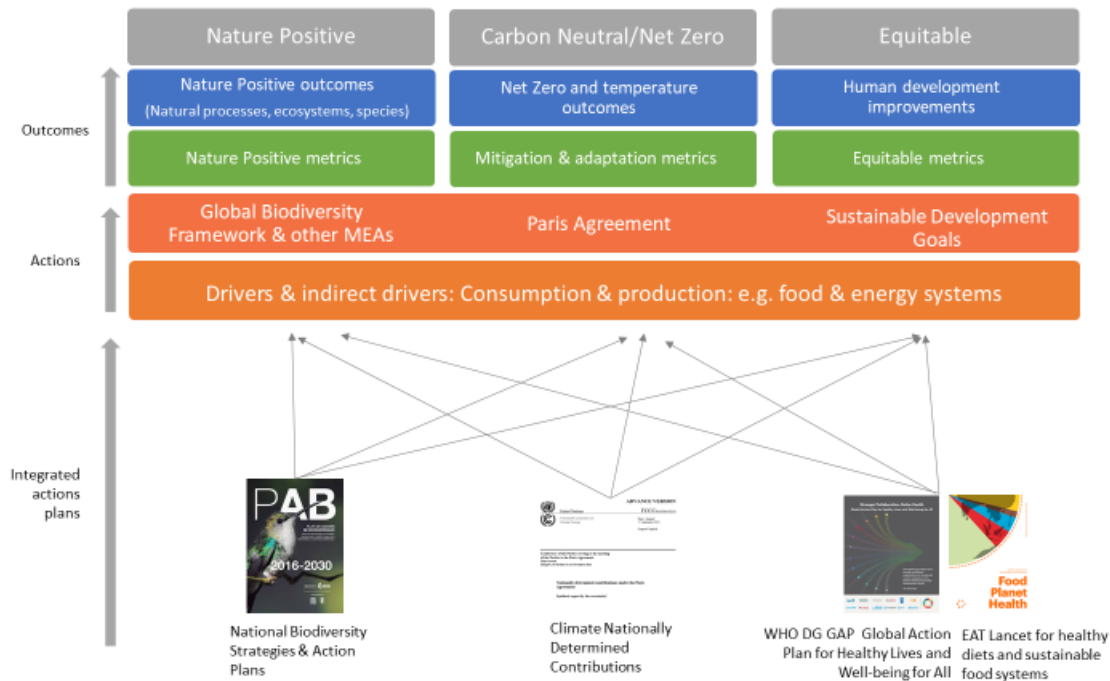


Fig. 4 Actions can drive Equitable, Nature Positive, Carbon Neutral and outcomes

Adoption of the nature positive goal

The Nature Positive goal has been adopted in other international settings. The G7 Leaders 2030 Nature Compact called for the world to become not only net zero but also nature positive. It was endorsed by the members of IUCN at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille. Nature-positive was prominently featured in many sessions and country pavilions in Glasgow at COP26.

We therefore urge that the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework's Mission contain the following 2030 Mission to drive all actions towards a measurable nature positive outcome:

For the benefit of people and planet, take urgent action across society to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and achieve a nature positive world by 2030, so that there is more nature in 2030 than 2020, using biodiversity sustainably and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.

Endorsements

**Signatories may also make more separate submissions regarding the Global Biodiversity Framework*

Patricia Zurita, Chief Executive Officer, Birdlife International
Eva Zabey, Executive Director, Business for Nature

Brian O'Donnell, Director, Campaign for Nature
Mark Gough, Chief Executive Officer, Capitals Coalition
M. Sanjayan, Chief Executive Officer, Conservation International
Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer & Chairperson, Global Environment Facility
Patrick Frick, Global Coordinator, Global Commons Alliance
Paul Polman, Co-Founder, IMAGINE
Madhu Rao, Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
Professor Johan Rockström, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
Dr. James C. Deutsch, Chief Executive Officer, Rainforest Trust
Jennifer Morris, Chief Executive Officer, The Nature Conservancy
Dr. Cristián Samper, President & Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Conservation Society
Peter Bakker, President & Chief Executive Officer, World Business Council for Sustainable Development
Ani Dasgupta, President & Chief Executive Officer, World Resources Institute
Marco Lambertini, Director General, WWF International
Jodi Hilty, President & Chief Scientist, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative