



WWF suggestion for the “transparent implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanism”

BRIEFING

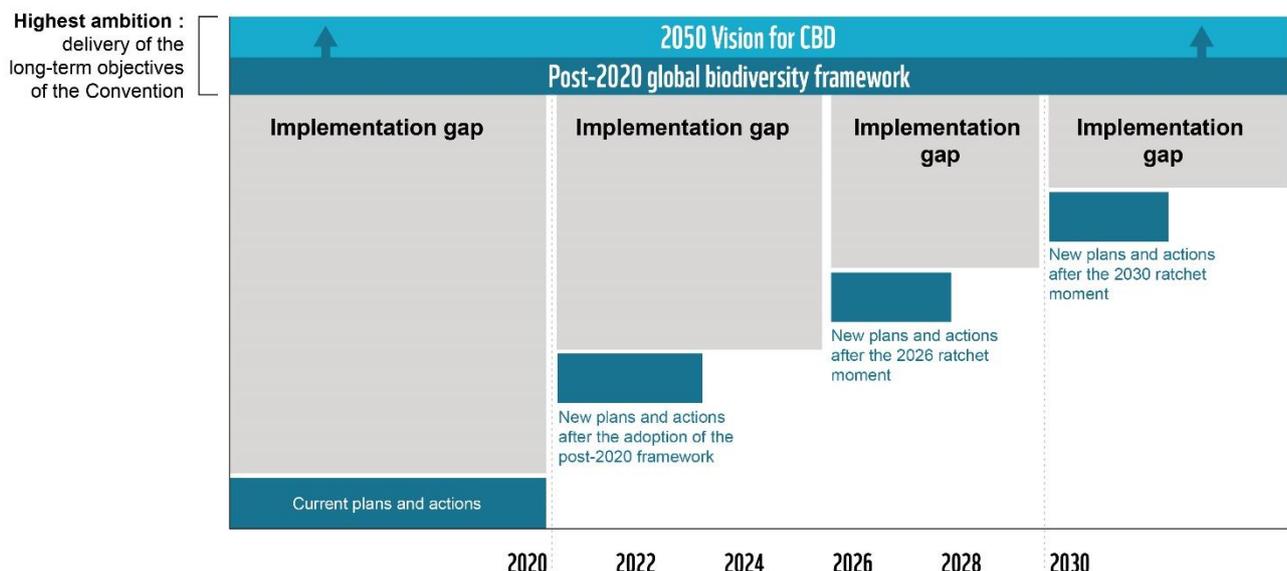
Summary

Closing the implementation gap must be a key priority in the adoption of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. WWF suggests that a transparent implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanism should include three components: “**present, review, ratchet**”, forming an **iterative, synchronised and coordinated process** that builds on existing CBD mechanisms, including the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national reporting.

Closing the implementation gap: a key priority for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The **post-2020 global biodiversity framework** to be adopted at CBD COP-15 should be ambitious yet realistic in terms of its goals and targets, but it should also be **comprehensive** and include an effective and practical implementation mechanism. This mechanism would ensure that goals and targets translate into action on the ground, and that progress can be monitored and reviewed.

Implementation under the Convention has faced and is still facing challenges and most of the current Aichi Biodiversity targets will not be met due to difficulties with implementation. The implementation mechanism for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should enable the assessment of global progress towards the delivery of the framework’s targets, and contribute to **closing the implementation gap**. The implementation gap refers to the difference between what the post-2020 framework aims at achieving (in terms of mission and targets) and the current plans and actions delivered on the ground. The implementation mechanism should also support the **credibility** of the framework, by enhancing **accountability** and **transparency** under the Convention.



The implementation gap. The difference between what the post-2020 framework aims at achieving and the current plans and actions has led to an implementation gap. The “present, review, ratchet” mechanism will progressively reduce this gap thanks to a cyclical process where plans and actions are strengthened over time (WWF, 2019).

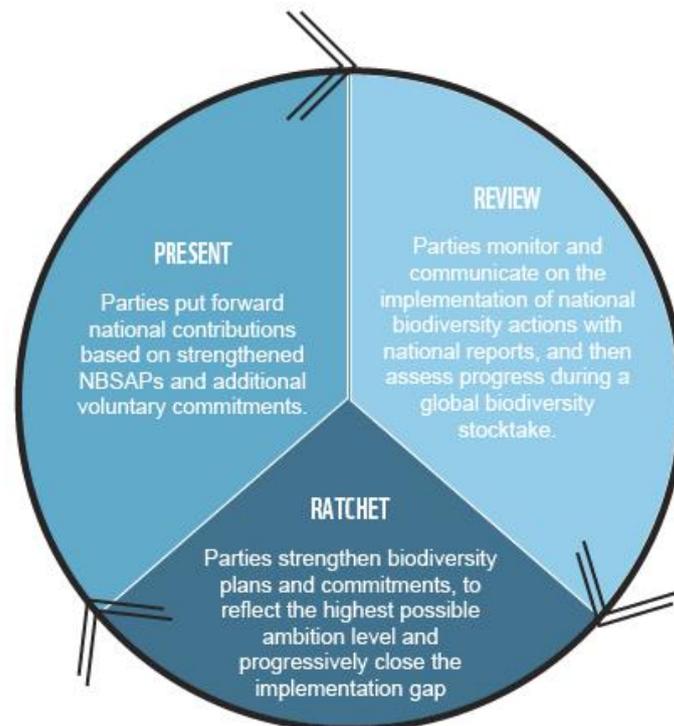
Our proposal: the “present, review, ratchet mechanism”

WWF suggests that a transparent implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanism should include **three components**: “**present, review, ratchet**”:

- **Present**: putting forward national biodiversity actions based on existing **NBSAPs** in alignment with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and additional **voluntary commitments** put forward in the run up to CBD COP-15.
- **Review**: monitoring and communicating on the implementation of national biodiversity actions with **national reports**, and then assessing progress during a **global biodiversity stocktake**.
- **Ratchet**: strengthening biodiversity plans and commitments, to reflect the highest possible ambition level and **progressively closing the implementation gap**.

This proposal is inspired by and builds on the “ambition mechanism” of the Paris Agreement agreed under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)¹, and the Review Mechanism of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)², as well as on the already existing CBD tools and processes.

It provides suggestions for a transparent implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanism, but does not address the means of implementation (including resource mobilisation and stakeholder engagement), which are equally important for implementation and should also form part of the new framework. They will be addressed in a separate briefing.



The suggested three steps of a transparent implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanism for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (WWF, 2019)

¹ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement>

² <https://www.cms.int/en/activities/review-mechanism-and-national-legislation-programme>

How does the “present, review, ratchet” mechanism work?

The “present, review, ratchet” mechanism is based on three steps that build on and improve existing policy instruments.

1) Present

Parties put forward their national biodiversity actions. **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** should remain the central instrument for fulfilling Parties' obligations under the Convention and implementing the Convention at the national level. However, they should be **strengthened** to enhance **accountability** as well as **transparency**. This step should be a **light-touch amendment to existing NBSAPs** in light of the new framework.

Strengthening NBSAPs entail different steps:

- *Revise NBSAPs slightly so that they align with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and explicitly refer to and deliver on the targets of the new framework;*
- *Ensure consistency of NBSAPs with the post-2020 framework and national reports, through common indicators;*
- *Align NBSAPs with the 2030 development agenda and other conventions;*
- *Sustain the participatory and inclusive nature of NBSAP processes.*

To complement NBSAPs, **voluntary commitments** can be useful. Voluntary commitments come in addition to Parties' existing obligations and do not replace them. They could galvanise political momentum and **raise ambition in the lead-up to CBD COP-15**. Such commitments can be submitted by Parties and non-Party stakeholders. For Parties, voluntary commitments should induce **additional actions** compared with those already set out in NBSAPs. Parties should also consider if they want to include voluntary commitments and actions from non-Party stakeholders.

2) Review

Parties monitor and communicate on the implementation of national biodiversity actions towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its goals and targets³ at the domestic level. **National reports** should remain the central instrument to review implementation of the new framework at the national level. National reports should however demonstrate greater **transparency** and **consistency** among Parties and over time, in order to enable an aggregation of progress at the global level. This would make reporting easier for countries, with national reports more streamlined and focused on the actions through which a country intends to contribute to international targets.

Improving transparency and consistency in national reports requires different elements:

- *Enhance guidance in the development of national reports, with updated templates and guidelines that improve consistency at the national level and allow for 'add-up-ability';*
- *Include SMART and nationally harmonised indicators within national reports;*
- *Revise the submission timeline for national reports, so that reporting happens every four years and is aligned with the global biodiversity stocktake;*
- *Ensure consistency of national reports with NBSAPs and the post-2020 framework, through common indicators;*
- *Align the reporting process under the Convention with other reporting processes and allow for additional transparency, for example through peer review processes;*
- *Ensure national reports are based on an open and participatory consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders.*

³ To enable this process, it would be important that the post-2020 global biodiversity targets are SMART (especially measurable) and allow for translation at the national level.

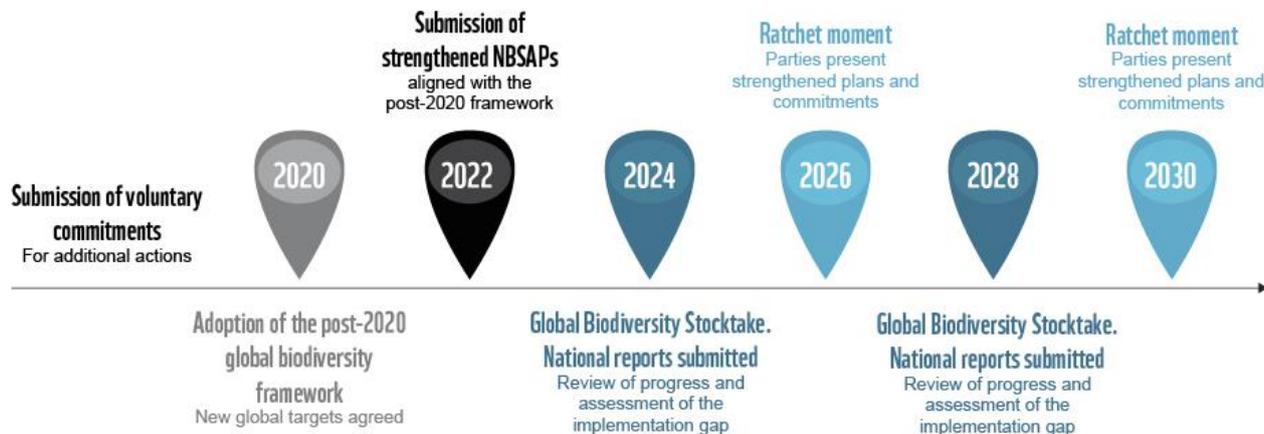
As part of the review phase, a new **global biodiversity stocktake** will aim at regularly assessing progress at the global level and measuring the implementation gap. Before the stocktake, a global **review of progress** will be undertaken (for example by the CBD Secretariat with the support of IPBES) and informed by national reports and science, with inputs from Parties and non-Party stakeholders. During the stocktake, Parties **identify obstacles, gaps, challenges and lessons learned** from implementation and the review of progress. They can also **share best practices**.

3) Ratchet

Once Parties have collectively assessed how much progress they have made towards achieving the global targets of the post-2020 framework, they get a clearer picture of what remains to be done after the global biodiversity stocktake. They have the opportunity to **ramp up the delivery of their biodiversity plans and commitments** and to **strengthen their national targets**, in order to reflect the highest possible ambition level. Parties should also be able to **request additional technical and financial support** to achieve their plans and commitments.

An iterative process to close the implementation gap

The “present, review, ratchet” mechanism would **repeat itself every four years** until the implementation gap is fully closed. Each ratchet phase would include further commitments and actions, and would be followed by a stocktake after two years, and then by another ratchet after two additional years. The timeline below shows how the process would apply for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework until 2030. It can of course be extended for 2030-2040, 2040-2050, and beyond if necessary.



Suggested timeline for the “present, review, ratchet” mechanism under the CBD in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (WWF, 2019)

Carrying out the “present, review, ratchet” mechanism with additional support

The “present, review, ratchet” mechanism requires additional efforts from Parties on each of the three steps. It also represents an opportunity for Parties to better quantify their financial needs in the implementation of the post-2020 framework. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) or other sources could provide the support for Parties to strengthen their NBSAPs and national reports, and support the CBD Secretariat in the preparation and delivery of the global review of progress and global biodiversity stocktake.

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