



TRAFFIC

September 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE
FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020

**GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY
FRAMEWORK**



A wild harvester in Bắc Kạn province, Viet Nam. Photo: TRAFFIC

KEY POINTS

TRAFFIC, AS A GLOBAL WILDLIFE TRADE SPECIALIST, WELCOMES THE PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AS A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS ACHIEVING A CRITICAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY AGREEMENT.

TRAFFIC strongly supports the recognition that the Framework now gives to addressing a key driver of biodiversity decline - illegal and unsustainable trade in wild species and the contribution of sustainable and legal wildlife trade to conservation and people. This is particularly reflected in Targets 5 and 9.

It is encouraging to see that the Target 5 language covers explicitly the aspects of harvesting, trade and use of wild species. It is important that ongoing negotiations on the targets fully take into account all wild species of fauna, flora and fungi, and encourage joined-up thinking around the systemic changes required to both reduce illegal and unsustainable trade and promote sustainable practices to reduce the threat across the various species.

Beyond Targets 5 and 9, there are other targets in the Framework where it is crucial for Parties to recognize the contribution of and implications for sustainable use of wild species. These include Target 1, in relation to

how integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning can provide species and products in trade; Target 4 on active management actions that can also support sustainable use; Target 6, on managing invasives where introduced species provide valuable livelihood and economic benefits; as well as Target 7 on pollution and Target 11 on water quality from aquaculture and loss of coastal mangrove ecosystems that can affect livelihoods, sustainability and economic and other benefits to humans.

Both Targets 5 and 9 are very ambitious and will require substantial resources for effective implementation. A clearly measurable monitoring framework is essential to measure progress on the implementation of these targets, including robust headline, component and complementary indicators. It is also critical that indicators are consistent with indicators used by other biodiversity Conventions, including the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030.

The monitoring framework will require further consideration to ensure that the indicators adequately measure the progress.

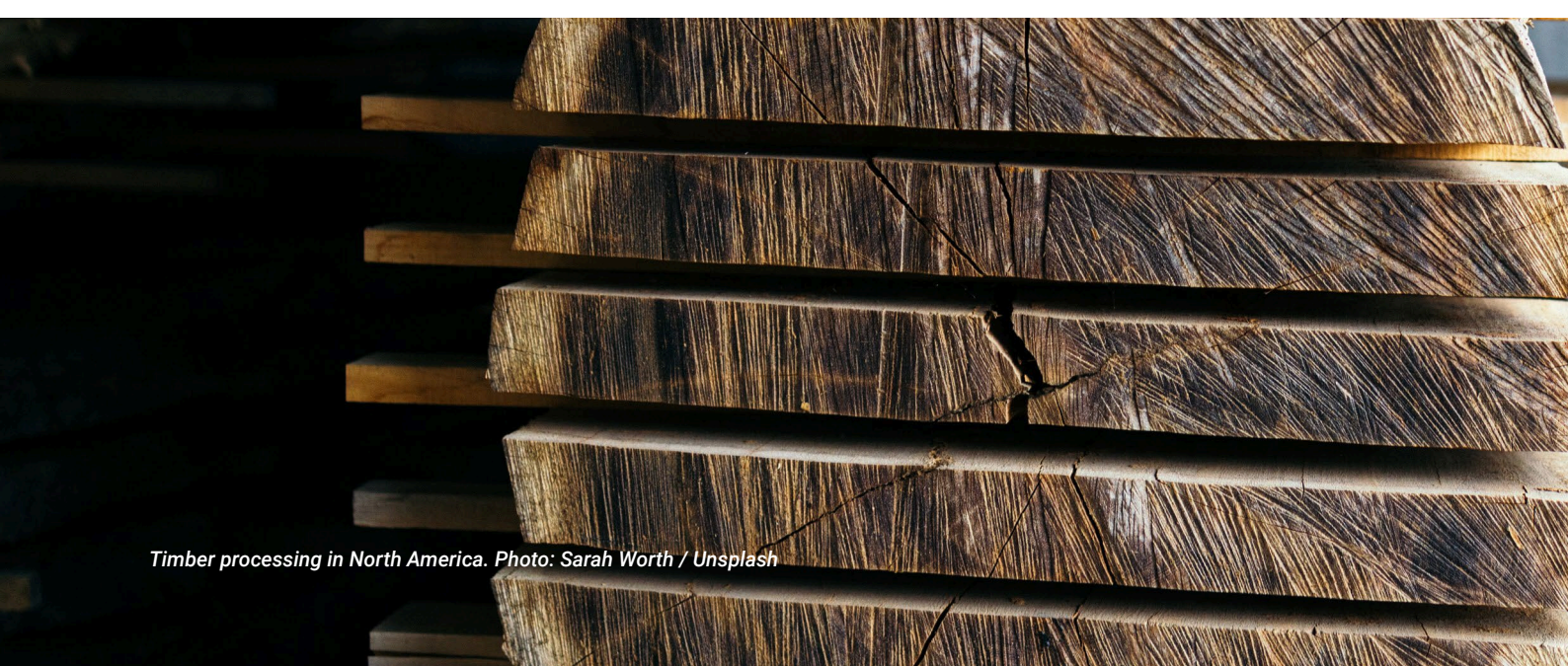
In many cases, data on the use of species, domestically and along the supply chain to the markets, is lacking. Therefore, it would be important to develop a monitoring framework that would encourage improved knowledge, information, and data on the use of species and its sustainability. TRAFFIC is looking forward to working with Parties and through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) to further develop and refine the monitoring framework.

It is encouraging to see the reference made to 'safe to human health' in the draft text of Target 5. However, more ambition and coherence is needed in the Framework around the commitments on the nexus of health and biodiversity and effective implementation of the One Health approach. TRAFFIC recommends that clear indicators are developed that reflect the priorities and milestones identified in the Draft Global Action Plan for Biodiversity and Health (CBD/SBSTTA/24/9).

The monitoring and implementation elements of Target 10 concerning Forests need to be strengthened and include reference to tools and approaches developed specifically to address the sustainable production of non-wood products, such as FairWild Standard principles, and to ensure that forestry operations and management plans are inclusive of non-wood products.

Targets 14, 15 and 16 are key elements of the Framework, and it will be necessary for these to include recognition of the contribution of legal and sustainable trade in wildlife (across various taxa) to halting biodiversity loss. In relation to sustainable consumption practices, this could include the need for reporting on compliance with responsible trade and production practices; financial institutions divesting investments from activities leading to illegal and unsustainable trade in wildlife and encouraging biodiversity-friendly investments in sustainable production practices; as well as integrating the value of wildlife trade in natural capital accounting and other relevant policies.

With regard to Target 16 specifically, the text of the target and the accompanying indicators appear to focus only on waste and overconsumption of food and 'materials', which may not adequately reflect the need for reducing unsustainable consumption of many forms of wildlife resources. A more appropriate (and perhaps more measurable) target and indicator for these could be changes in demand that reflect responsible consumption (e.g. reduction in demand for illegal and unsustainable harvested wild species and increased demand for sustainably harvested wildlife resources as an alternative).



Timber processing in North America. Photo: Sarah Worth / Unsplash

TARGET 5

ENSURE THAT THE HARVESTING, TRADE AND USE OF WILD SPECIES IS SUSTAINABLE, LEGAL, AND SAFE FOR HUMAN HEALTH.

the target appears to be very ambitious given the scale of the current harvesting

TRAFFIC does not propose any changes to the language of the target.

However, the target appears to be very ambitious, considering the scale of the current harvesting, use and trade of wild species, as indicated, e.g. by the ongoing IPBES Sustainable Use assessment. To demonstrate the scale involved, the CITES Appendices alone regulate international trade in over 38,700 species (roughly 5,950 species of animals and 32,800 species of plants); approximately 26,000 of plant species are in well-documented use for medicinal purposes, and around 1,000 of those in international trade are wild harvested. In addition, a large

number of species in use and trade are not listed in the CITES Appendices and are used domestically. Enabling the implementation of such ambition, while necessary, will require substantial resourcing of efforts globally and the establishment of a robust monitoring framework and capacities.

TRAFFIC does not think that the current headline and component indicators in the current draft of the monitoring framework will be sufficient to measure the progress on this target and will provide suggestions for consideration.

TARGET 9

ENSURE BENEFITS, INCLUDING NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY, MEDICINES, AND LIVELIHOODS FOR PEOPLE ESPECIALLY FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WILD TERRESTRIAL, FRESHWATER AND MARINE SPECIES AND PROTECTING CUSTOMARY SUSTAINABLE USE BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

the headline and component indicators require more work to be done

TRAFFIC welcomes this target and does not propose any changes to the language of the target.

However, more work needs to be done on the proposed headline and component indicators and TRAFFIC can provide suggestions for consideration. For example, the indicator on national environmental-economic accounts of benefits from the use of wild species should refer to sustainable use of wild species. The Biodiversity for Food and Medicine indicator developed as part of the BIP may also provide an appropriate headline indicator for this target: <https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/7300/biodiversity-for-food-and-medicine-english.pdf>.

The component indicator referring to the number of people using wild resources may also be misinterpreted to encourage people to depend increasingly on wild resources and should perhaps refer to the 'number of people benefitting from verifiably sustainable

management practices of wild species of fauna and flora' instead. This indicator could be measured through a combination of metrics proposed for Target 13 (Numbers of users that have shared benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources with the providers of the resources and/or knowledge), with the focus on biological resources, rather than genetic resources.

This indicator could also measure the utilization of implementation of tools that collate information on measurable benefits from sustainable wild use/trade practices, including the FairWild Standard (for equitable, sustainable trade in wild plants, fungi and lichen, as highlighted in SBSTTA-24-INF-20-en <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/ca58/9dba/0dc0d3ef9f902794cb7548f3/sbstta-24-inf-20-en.docx>), the BioTrade Principles, and others. Specific to the FairWild

Standard implementation, the focus could be on: Number of people harvesting and trading wild plant, fungi and lichen products benefitting from the Premium prices and Premium Fund. Similar proxy indicators can be consolidated from other taxonomic groups of species in terms of the equitable trade in biological resources.

It is also not clear what is meant by ‘traditional employment’ in the component indicator referring to “percentage of the population in traditional employment” and how this indicator is linked to securing benefits from sustainable management of wild species.

TARGET 10

ENSURE ALL AREAS UNDER AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FORESTRY ARE MANAGED SUSTAINABLY, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY, INCREASING THE PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE OF THESE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Under the component on forestry, it is noted that **where forest management plans exist, they are frequently limited to ensuring the sustained production of wood and lack sufficient attention to the sustainable production of non-wood products and ecosystem services and the maintenance of social and environmental values.** TRAFFIC agrees with this observation and proposes the inclusion of clear monitoring of the tools developed specifically for the verification of the

sustainable production of non-wood products, such as the FairWild Standard, under the component indicators for this target.

TRAFFIC also recommends that the focus on forestry includes operations by the forestry and related agencies to ensure the relevant systems, procedures, and institutions are in place to manage forests sustainably.

forest management plans frequently lack sufficient attention to the sustainable production of non-wood products and ecosystem services



A busy market selling wildlife products in Bohicon, Benin. Photo: Peeterv / iStock

TARGET 14

FULLY INTEGRATE BIODIVERSITY VALUES INTO POLICIES, REGULATIONS, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES, POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES, ACCOUNTS, AND ASSESSMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND ACROSS ALL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, ENSURING THAT ALL ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL FLOWS ARE ALIGNED WITH BIODIVERSITY VALUES

TARGET 15

ALL BUSINESSES (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, LARGE, MEDIUM AND SMALL) ASSESS AND REPORT ON THEIR DEPENDENCIES AND IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY, FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL, AND PROGRESSIVELY REDUCE NEGATIVE IMPACTS, BY AT LEAST HALF AND INCREASE POSITIVE IMPACTS, REDUCING BIODIVERSITY-RELATED RISKS TO BUSINESSES AND MOVING TOWARDS THE FULL SUSTAINABILITY OF EXTRACTION AND PRODUCTION PRACTICES, SOURCING AND SUPPLY CHAINS, AND USE AND DISPOSAL.

TARGET 16

ENSURE THAT PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED AND ENABLED TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE CHOICES AND HAVE ACCESS TO RELEVANT INFORMATION AND ALTERNATIVES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CULTURAL PREFERENCES, TO REDUCE BY AT LEAST HALF THE WASTE AND, WHERE RELEVANT THE OVERCONSUMPTION, OF FOOD AND OTHER MATERIALS.

integrating wildlife trade data in the measurement of values of biodiversity

These three targets are crucial components of the Framework. It will be necessary for these to include recognition of the contribution of legal and sustainable trade in wildlife (across various taxa) to halt biodiversity loss. Areas to consider include:

The integration of wildlife trade data in the measurement of values of biodiversity and integrating these in natural capital accounts, as well as aligning financial flows to nature positive outcomes and managing the risks associated with the trade of wildlife (such as the divestment from businesses and operations involved in illicit and unsustainable trade in wild species, and investment in supply chains that demonstrate sustainable, legal and safe trade practices) (Target 14),

Reforming economic sectors towards sustainable practices along the supply chains for wildlife trade by eliminating the involvement in the illegal and unsustainable trade, and promoting the uptake of responsible practices, in sectors as diverse as global timber trade, fisheries, and wild plant resources, as well as enabling sectors such as finance, transport, online commerce, tourism and others (Target 15),

The contribution of wild natural resources (such as timber, fisheries, wild plant ingredients), as well as efforts to reduce the consumption and demand for illegally traded wild species, to undertaking measurable steps towards sustainable consumption lifestyles (Target 16).

With regard to Target 16 specifically, this first draft removed wording on eliminating “unsustainable consumption patterns” from the zero draft. While it can be argued that the current wording on making “responsible choices” can be interpreted to include avoiding unsustainable consumption, the text of the target and the accompanying indicators appear to focus only on waste and overconsumption of food and ‘materials’, which may not adequately reflect the need for reducing unsustainable consumption of many forms of wildlife resources. A more appropriate (and perhaps more measurable) target and indicator for these could be changes in demand that reflect responsible consumption (e.g. reduction in demand for illegal and unsustainable harvested wild species and increased demand for sustainably harvested wildlife resources as an alternative).



A consumer shops for marine products in Busan, South Korea. Photo: Markus Winkler/ Unsplash

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TRAFFIC is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

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