

Proteus Partners update: Fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-4)

The fourth meeting of the CBD Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-4) was held in Nairobi from 21 to 26 June 2022, to continue text-based negotiations on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Key messages and implications for business include:

- **Overall progress with the negotiated text was limited.** Despite some progress being made in specific areas, there are very many unresolved brackets and areas for negotiation across the draft text, with some issues seeming to go backwards from Geneva. The current draft outcome from Nairobi on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is available [here](#) and will be appended to the draft CBD CoP decision for which some potential elements were briefly discussed in Nairobi ([here](#)).
- **Momentum towards mandatory disclosures for business and financial institutions is growing.** However, emerging issues under draft target 15 relate to the challenge of including all businesses and financial institutions, with many Parties considering that such a target would be unrealistic to implement. The inclusion in the target of mandatory disclosures of impacts and dependencies (the latter of which remains in brackets) along the entire value chain and business operations remains contested, as many Parties were of the view that such disclosure practices are not well developed in most countries and relevant indicators are not fully developed and available for use.
- **The scope of disclosure requirements under draft target 15 remains unresolved.** Bracketed text remains on the requirement to provide information to consumers; comply and report on access and benefit sharing; take legal responsibility for infractions; and follow a rights-based approach (including human rights and the rights of Mother Earth). There was a request for the expert workshop on indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that took place in Bonn, Germany in early July to consider development of indicators for outstanding issues, particularly on disclosure but also on the numeric elements of the framework. The outcomes from the workshop will be made available [here](#) for consideration in advance of COP 15 Part 2.
- **There is a real need and interest in scaling business action in line with the framework.** Business was represented throughout the negotiations and an information session on the [Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People](#), provided information and examples of business and financial institution's commitments and biodiversity actions. Participants expressed a need to showcase clear actions from business, and improve visibility of contributions from non-state actors on progress towards global goals and targets.
- **There were divergent views on the scope and extent of draft target 14 on mainstreaming.** The reference to accounts remains in brackets as many Parties were of the view that not all countries have integrated biodiversity into national accounts or have the capacity to do so. Delegates were divergent on inclusion of social, economic and production sectors and including an expansive list of sectors, as this runs the risk of leaving out certain sectors and making for long wording in the target. The concept of safeguards was introduced and remains in brackets. Parties were also divergent on alignment of this target with the SDGs.

Regarding next steps, a roadmap from Nairobi to Montreal will be prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group, to include the convening of a 5th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group immediately prior to COP 15 Part 2. This would be necessary to make further progress in the text before it is sent to the COP for its consideration. In this regard, subject to the availability of financial resources, such a meeting will take place immediately prior to the second part of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([COP 15 Part 2](#)) that will take place in Montreal, Canada, from 5 to 17 December 2022, under the COP Presidency of China. The announcement of a confirmed date and venue for COP 15 Part 2 provided certainty and a sense of urgency for the work ahead for Montreal, Canada.

The level of progress made in Nairobi will disappoint many who were expecting agreement on a final draft text to be submitted to the COP 15 Part 2. The coming months will be imperative to make progress during the intersessional process in the lead up to COP 15 Part 2. Despite the unresolved text, the recognition from Parties on the importance of business for scaling global action is growing. This presents a unique opportunity to align business action with global goals and advance thinking towards a nature-positive future. Through Proteus we will continue to provide regular updates and find opportunities to help you engage in a meaningful way.

Proteus Partners looking to engage further can consider:

- Reviewing comments through observers such as [Business for Nature](#), [Finance for Biodiversity Foundation](#), [IPIECA](#), [ICMM](#) etc on the [draft decision](#) by 2 September 2022.
- Getting in touch with national governments with their views on targets, such as 14 and 15, among others.
- Putting out company and/or sector position statements in advance and working together with coalitions to develop position statements.
- Finding opportunities and committing to participate in COP 15 Part 2 and relevant business engagement events (more information to be released in due course).