



The Convention on Biological Diversity COP15

Samantha Vine
Head of Conservation & Science, BirdLife Australia



Black-necked Stork by Kirsty Richardson

On the agenda

1. The Long Road to COP 15

- The lost decade
- Development of the Framework
- Work left to do
- Importance of the moment
- Recent announcements

2. Critical Elements Enabling conditions

- Protect and recover nature
- Address drivers of loss
- Implement and monitor progress

3. What's next




birdlife
AUSTRALIA

Sacred Kingfisher by Emma Parker

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Progress towards the 2050 vision of “Living in harmony with nature”

In 2010, the world signed up to a set of global targets to halt the disastrous loss of biodiversity – the abundance and variety of life on earth upon which we all depend.

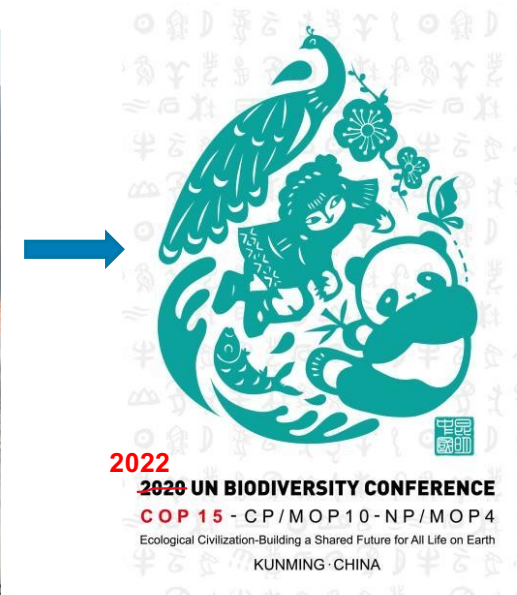


World

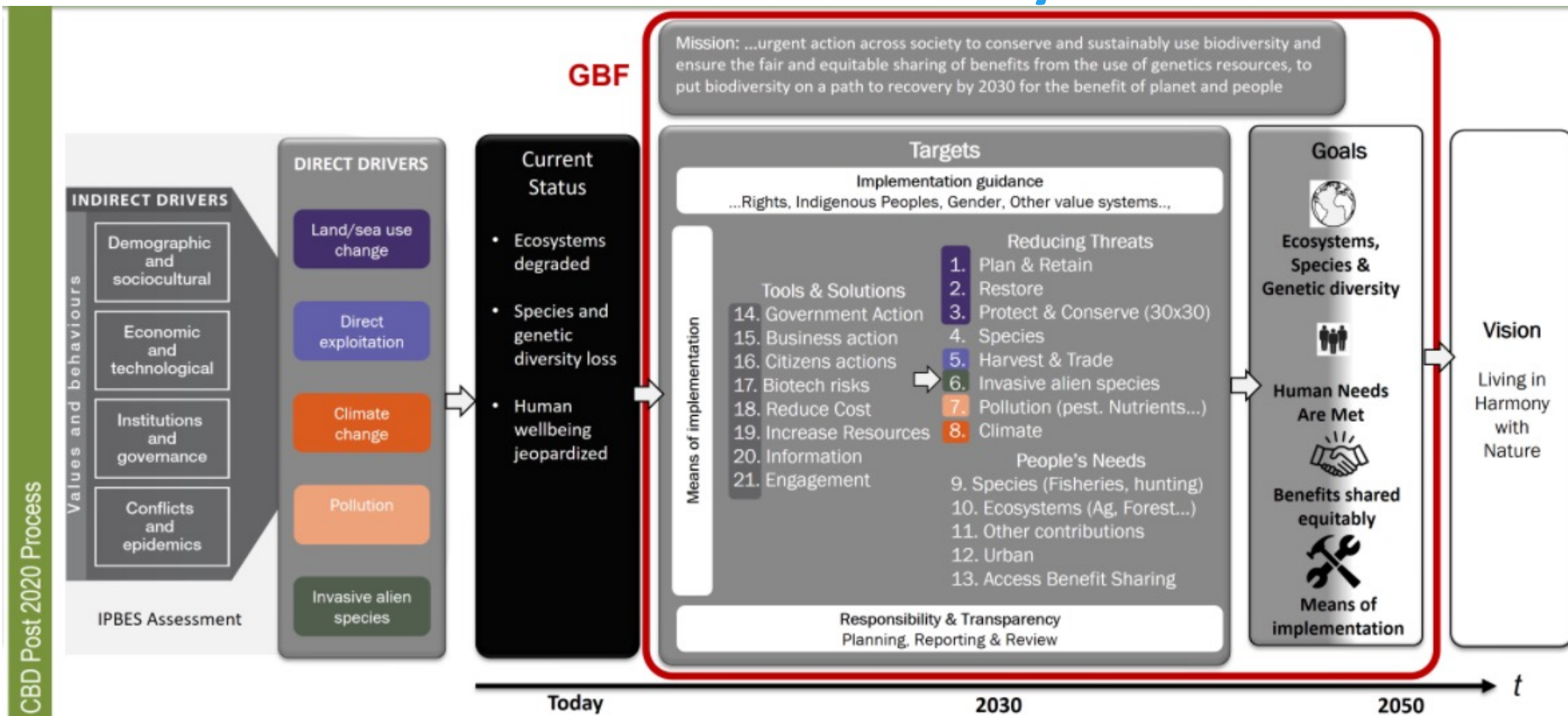
A decade ago, the world agreed to 20 biodiversity targets. It did not meet any of them.



Preparations for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework

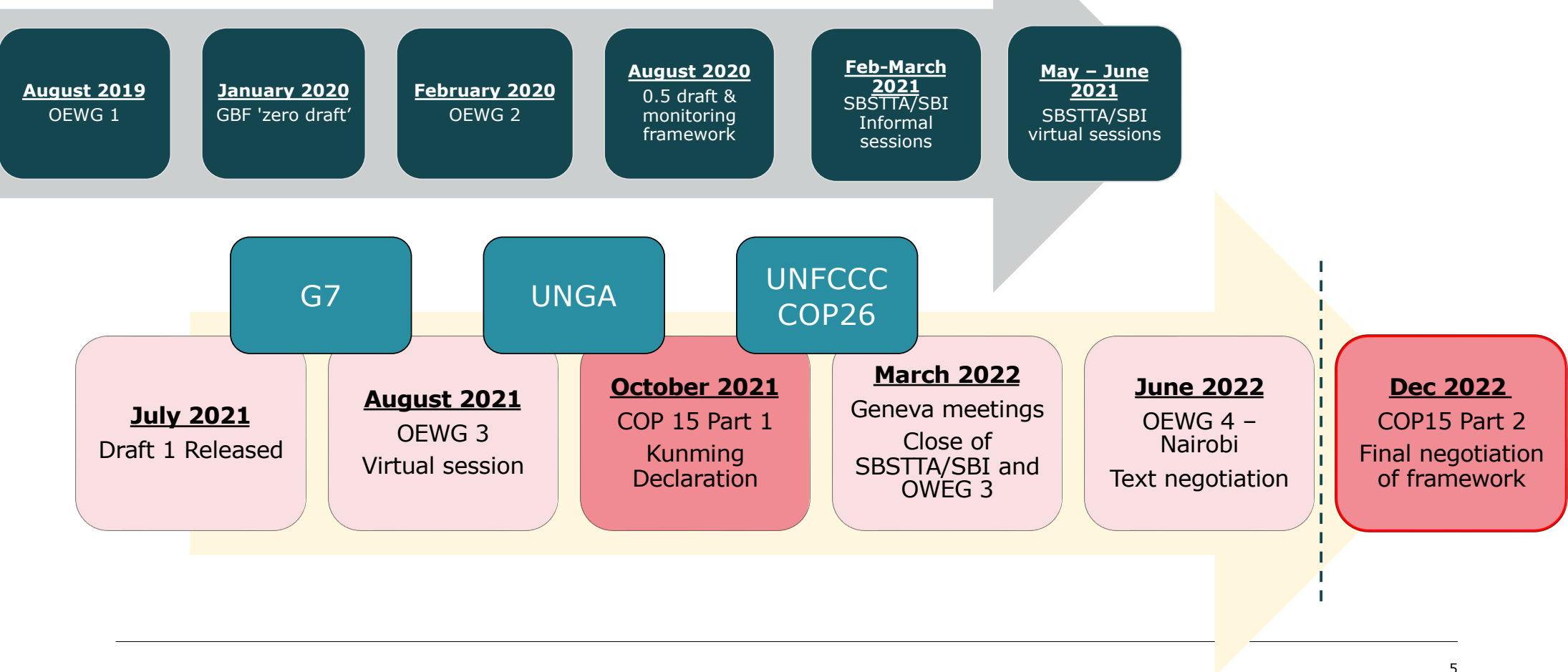


The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

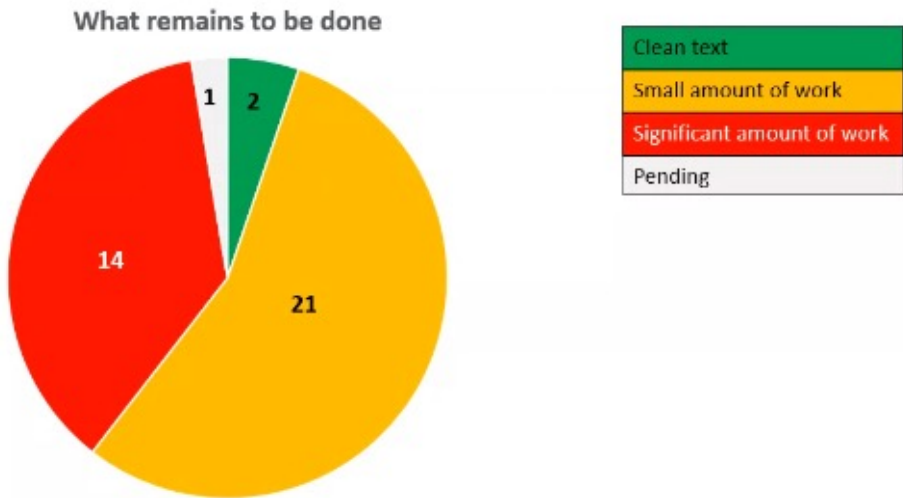


Source: CBD Secretariat

The long road to COP15



4. GBF - Summary of Progress



The road to Kunming
Biodiversity

'Sleepwalking through extinction':
China urged to end delays to Cop15
summit

Expert Opinion: COP15 delays are costing the Earth

Crucial COP15 biodiversity summit set to be delayed a fourth time

The COP15 summit on the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, due to be held at Kunming in China during April and May, will now be held in August instead, *New Scientist* understands



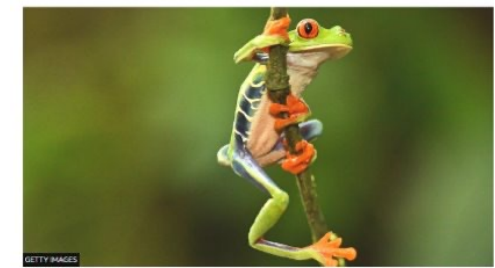
ENVIRONMENT 8 March 2022, updated 8 March 2022

By Adam Vaughan



COP15: UN biodiversity summit moved from China to Canada

21 June



GETTY IMAGES
The vision is to live in harmony with nature by 2050

Importance of COP15

COP15 is a critical moment to turn the tide, to halt and reverse the loss of nature over the next decade

Has the potential to mobilise significant momentum, resources and political awareness for biodiversity

A key tool to leverage domestic action

Provides opportunities for accountability, and to get countries to 'compete' on the global stage to raise ambition and action



Resource mobilisation will strongly influence the outcome of COP15

The likelihood of whether we get an ambitious or weak GBF ... or even if we get one at all

Capricorn Yellow Chat by Matt Wright



Recent Announcements

New initiatives announced a high-level event alongside UN General Assembly

- next phase of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC for Nature and People 2.0)
- Endorsement of the *Leaders' Pledge for Nature* by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, committing Australia to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030
- Colombia announces Accelerator for action on biodiversity



Recent Announcements (cont'd)

- Germany will now commit funding to €1.5 billion per year - highest total international yearly financial commitment of all industrialized countries to biodiversity conservation so far.

*“Germany resolutely supports an ambitious global framework on biodiversity” ... “we want to **send a strong signal** for an ambitious outcome of the biodiversity COP15.” - Chancellor Olaf Scholz*

- Ecuador, Gabon, the Maldives & UK release the ***Political Vision: The 10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity***



Recent Announcements (cont'd)

- UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution on 28th July 2022, declaring
access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, a universal human right

- *Also reconised by the Human Rights Council resolution at its 28th meeting*



Critical elements - Enabling conditions

- A 2030 mission or global goal to achieve a **nature-positive world** by 2030 for the benefit of planet and people
- Enhanced synergies across all Rio, Human Rights, and other biodiversity related conventions (UNFCCC, UNDRIP etc) & SDGs to maximise convergence
- Rights based approach

Australian Pelican by Stephanie Owen



The framework should align with State obligations under accepted human rights conventions and declarations, including ILO169 and UNDRIP (which uphold Indigenous rights) and integrate the newly recognised right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

A Rights-based Approach

Means:

- fully respecting, protecting and fulfilling Indigenous rights, lands, and resources;
- ensuring free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and other mechanisms for full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples;
- establishing a strong accountability mechanism; and
- enhancing access to justice and flows of financial and technical resources, with a focus on capacity building and local empowerment

Strong support for this, with specific text in Section B.bis and Targets 20 (access to information) and 21 (participation and rights), though push for IPLC and Human Rights groups to have explicit mention in other targets, in particular Target 3



- Prevent extinction, reduce extinction risk & increase population abundances by at least 20% by 2030 (Goal A), proactively manage for the recovery of species (Target 4)
- Conserve at least 30% of the planet, focussed on the most important places (especially Key Biodiversity Areas) through **effective** and **equitable** management recognising roles & rights of IPLCs (Target 3)
- Restore >30% of ecosystems increasing biodiversity and ecological integrity with a focus on key areas for biodiversity and ecosystems of importance for climate change mitigation and adaptation (Target 2).



Critical Elements – drivers of loss

- Shift to a carbon-neutral, nature-positive economy
- Address intensive land and sea use by
 - incorporating sector-specific measurable indicators and safeguards (Targets 10 & 14).
 - NBS Guidelines; 1. protect, 2. manage 3. restore (Target 8)
 - Halting conversion of natural habitats & overexploitation, tackling climate change & invasive species, reducing pollution.
 - Significantly reduce the ecological footprint of production & consumption in agriculture, fishing, forestry, extractive industries, and infrastructure sectors
- All businesses assess & publicly report on dependencies & impacts (Target 15).
- Align all financial flows with a nature-positive economy, closing biodiversity finance gap, including through the removal or redirection of **all harmful subsidies and incentives**



Critical Elements – drive, monitor & report on progress

- Robust monitoring framework & implementation mechanism
- Maximise opportunities to ratchet and drive collective progress by ensuring comparability of national commitments and progress through aligned common formats for NBSAPs
- Independent reporting of global progress via a subset of headline indicators (e.g., coverage of KBAs by Protected Areas/OECMs and the Red List Index)
- Financial resources commensurate with full and effective implementation of an ambitious framework, including national biodiversity finance plans



Monitoring Framework

- Accessible indicators needed to assess whether enough action is being taken to meet the GBF's goals and targets across the decade.
- Process to develop been long, complex and opaque - arguably less progress than GBF
- Current draft COP15 decision operationalising the GBF recommends adoption of the monitoring framework at COP.

Monitoring Framework cont'd

- Adopting a preliminary version is necessary to provide guidance to Parties on updating NBSAPs and reporting progress
- Need to adopt at least a set of headline indicators that allow every goal and target to be measured – with clear process to add.
- Clear Terms Of Reference for Expert working Group (AHTEG) to start its work immediately - Only 10 of the 39 proposed headline indicators from the Bonn expert workshop are ready for use now. 13 need further development and 17 need to be developed (e.g. no existing methodology).



What's next?



Red-necked Avocet by Andrew Peacock

1. We need Heads of State and Ministers to attend



Parties must have the leadership, authority and political will to negotiate and build consensus.

2. We need significant resources on the table



Developed nations must bring adequate resources to negotiations to support implementation of an ambitious framework.

White-winged Fairy-wren by Marie-Louise Myburgh

3. A visible mandate



Beautiful Firetail by Matt Wright

Heads of State
require a clear
mandate from their
constituencies to
invest significantly in
an ambitious global
deal for a nature-
positive world



Thank you

Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo by Hamilton Burrell