



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada



CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Scott Wilson

Vanessa Préfontaine

**International Biodiversity Policy
ECCC/CWS**

UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the 14th Conference of the Parties

- UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992
 - Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
 - Convention to Combat Desertification
- Three objectives to the Convention
 - Conservation
 - Sustainable use
 - Sharing of benefits (Nagoya protocol – not ratified)
- 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14):
 - November 17-29, 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
 - High-Level Segment: mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors.
 - Concurrent meetings of Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols (Canada is not a Party)
 - The COP14 agenda had a total of 31 items



COP14 Outcomes (1)

Important Items for Canada included:

- Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
 - A definition, voluntary guidance, principles, and criteria for the identification of OECMs were adopted without any controversy
 - The COP decision is coherent with Canada's national approach
 - The recognition and inclusion of OECMs in the World Database on Protected Areas will support the recognition of diversified actors and approaches for area-based conservation
- Marine and Coastal Biodiversity.
 - Discussions heavily focused on processes of developing new, and modifying existing Ecologically and Biologically Significant marine Areas (EBSAs)
 - CAN along with like-minded states emphasized that any national EBSA process should respect sovereign rights
 - Parties and Non-parties of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) did not reach an agreement on referencing it as a legal basis for activities in high seas
 - Sections on EBSAs were left out of the COP decision



COP14 Outcomes (2)

- Article 8(j) and related provisions.
 - CAN expressed support for transforming the WG8J into a permanent specialized or expert advisory subsidiary body with a revised mandate; discussions to continue.
 - CAN was pleased to see the “Glossary of relevant key terms and concepts to be used within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions” being adopted after 12 years in the making.
- Post 2020 preparatory process (roadmap to COP15).
 - CAN supported a post 2020 process that is more gender responsive, participatory and inclusive, and that is Party-led, yet inclusive of others.
 - CAN stressed the need for more ambition, transparency and accountability on future implementation.
 - Parties agreed to establish a Party-led process to develop a post 2020 global biodiversity framework over the next 2 years, centered around the work of an open-ended working group, co-chaired by two people: Basile van Havre from Canada and Francis Ogwal from Uganda



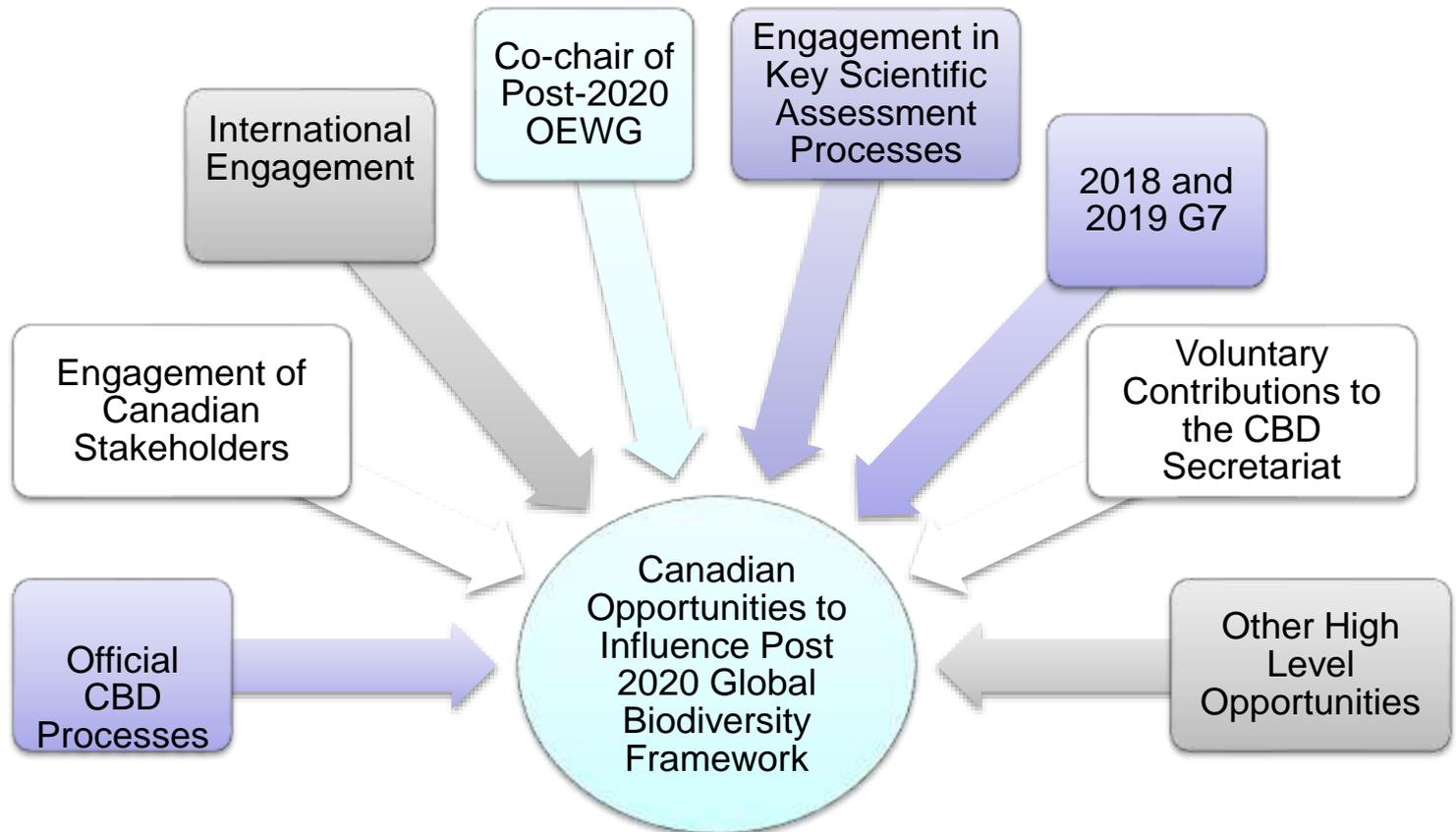
International Process for Developing a Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (1)

- Numerous CBD intersessional meetings and workshops in 2019 and 2020 will be used to develop a draft framework and get agreement from CBD Parties ahead of COP15.
- COP15 (Oct. 2020, China): updated Global Biodiversity Framework will be considered for approval with updated and possibly new global goals and targets.



Canada's approach to the Post 2020 process

Canada is using a multipronged approach to support the development of a Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



Canada's Post 2020 Discussion Group (1)

- ECCCC/CWS/IBP launched an informal discussion group on the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in February 2018 to engage interested federal departments, provinces and territories, national Indigenous organizations, NGOs, industry, others.
- Purpose is to gain insight and varied perspectives to inform eventual Canadian negotiating positions on the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Over 85 individuals have participated thus far from 9 fed orgs, 6 PTs, 1 municipal org, 11 NGOs, 2 NIOs (including 1 women's group), 1 university, 1 youth rep. and unaffiliated individuals - and growing!



Canada's Post 2020 Discussion Group (2)

Highlights of views received in Phase 1:

- The existing set and structure of global biodiversity Aichi targets should be used as the foundation for the Post 2020 targets. Existing targets need to be updated.
- Structure could be reorganized for improvement.
- Ambition and accountability must be increased globally.
- Need to enhance synergies across biodiversity related Conventions, frameworks and other relevant processes such UN SDGs and the UNFCCC.
- Increased mobilization of resources needed for more global ambition.
- Recognize an enhanced role of indigenous women.

Phase 2:

- Now looking at individual targets, how to improve them.
- Bi-monthly sessions from October 2018 to February 2019
- Non-papers to spur discussion and reflect on various options.



Some key questions from the Discussion Group

- Should a nationally-determined contribution (voluntary commitment) model – like under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement – be used for post-2020?
- How could Parties' accountability to their commitments be strengthened?
- Should the scope of the work under the CBD be broadened to non-Parties? How?
- How could the synergies between the various Rio conventions be strengthened? (i.e. biodiversity to be more integrated in climate change work?)
- There is common agreement that urgent and global transformational change is required to “bend the curve” of biodiversity loss. How could the CBD effectively influence/contribute to this change?



International Process for Developing a Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (2)

- Indicative Timeline:
 - Jan – April 2019: Regional consultations
 - Summer 2019: Global consultations with science/TK community
 - Mid 2019: 1st Meeting Post-2020 Open Ended Working Group.
 - Mid 2019: 1st draft post-2020 discussion document
 - Fall 2019: CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice / Working Group on Article 8j
 - Winter 2020: 2nd Meeting Post-2020 Open Ended Working Group
 - Spring 2020: CBD Subsidiary Body Meetings
 - Summer 2020: IUCN World Conservation Congress
 - Summer/Fall 2020: High Level Biodiversity Event / UNGA
 - October 2020: CBD COP-15, Beijing, China



Next Steps on Post-2020

- Until Feb. 2019 – still time to contribute to the Discussion Group!
- Sustained engagement with the Discussion Group in the two-year period heading towards COP15
- March – Dec 2019: Canadian engagement in global CBD post-2020 discussions :
 - Opportunities to feed into Canadian preparations
 - Possible participation in Canadian delegations to international meetings.
 - Ongoing engagement of post-2020 discussion group.
- Early 2020: Development and approval of Canadian negotiating mandate for formal international discussions.
- Mid to end 2020: final CBD negotiations of post-2020 global biodiversity framework:
 - Opportunities to feed into Canadian preparations
 - Possible participation in Canadian delegations to international meetings.





Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada



Thank you!!

Scott Wilson
Vanessa Prefontaine
International Biodiversity Policy
ECCC/CWS

Scott.wilson5@canada.ca
Vanessa.prefontaine@canada.ca

Updated target structure – The IUCN proposal

