

IFAD Global Policy Engagement Forum

“The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Placing Food Systems and Rural People at the Centre of Accelerated Action”

Small-scale farmers, rural communities, women and indigenous peoples have a vital role to play in the preservation of land, water and energy as they are both dependent on biodiversity, and important custodians of it. Biodiversity and the preservation of nature is essential to realizing the 2030 agenda, with 80 percent of the needs of the world’s poor dependent on natural resources. It is also critical to the Paris Agreement as around one third of the net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to meet the Paris Agreement’s goals could come from ‘nature-based solutions’.¹

Yet, biodiversity loss is still on the rise. From tackling pollution to protecting coral reefs, the international community did not fully achieve any of the 20 Aichi biodiversity targets agreed in Japan in 2010 to slow the loss of the natural world. It is the second consecutive decade that governments have failed to meet targets. Despite progress in some areas, natural habitats have continued to disappear, vast numbers of species remain threatened by extinction from human activities, and \$500bn of environmentally damaging government subsidies have not been eliminated. Failure to act could undermine the goals of the Paris agreement on the climate crisis and the sustainable development goals. If the world is to meet the targets, investments in nature-based solutions need to triple by 2030 and to increase four-fold by 2050.²

Conflicts are a key driver of food insecurity and exacerbate the fragility of global food systems, in particular in the midst of a planetary emergency. The current crisis threatens severe shocks to supply and price, as well as increasing debt burdens and limiting growth prospects for developing countries. This further reduces the fiscal space for development expenditures, notably in nature where the need is huge. Armed conflicts also bring direct severe environmental health risks and damage to countries’ biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources. As crises unfold, in addition to addressing immediate humanitarian concerns, it is vital to invest in sustainable action that enhances the resilience of ecosystems, addresses challenges of food security, protects against future crises and sustains peace.

A [Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) is being developed and is expected to be adopted at COP-15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The agriculture sector is central to meeting most of the new proposed targets, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), through its work with the most disadvantaged farmers, fishers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and others engaged in agriculture, is well positioned to contribute. Alignment of financial flows with global biodiversity goals is going to be important for the effective implementation of the global biodiversity framework. There is significant scope for IFAD to work with partners across the public and private sectors, to assist countries in catalysing additional and targeted financial resources to meet the ambitions of the new framework, and ensuring that finance reaches ‘last mile’ rural people.

Objectives. Recognizing the urgent need to act to ‘bend the curve’ on biodiversity loss, this 90-minute session is organized by IFAD to facilitate a dialogue among interested players, and identify concrete actions to support the implementation of the framework through sustainable and inclusive food systems

¹ [Global Biodiversity Outlook](#).

² [State of Finance for Nature](#). UNEP, WEF, ELD, Vivid Economics. May 2021.

finance and other effective delivery mechanisms. In the lead up to COP-15, the event will convene key stakeholders from government, financial institution and civil society to:

1. Discuss **why** actions taken toward the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature", did not succeed in fully achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, focusing on the role of finance and of the implementation support mechanisms.
2. Identify **how** and **to what extent** the Global Biodiversity Framework addresses lessons learned.
3. Identify **what** can be done to address gaps and failures, **which actions** can be undertaken and what should and could IFAD and partners do to accelerate effective investment to support the implementation of the new framework. *Concrete examples and projects, taking into account national biodiversity finance planning would help the discussion.*
4. Promote the **uptake** of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework involving relevant stakeholders, including concrete suggestions for project and policy interventions, partnerships and through linkages to other global processes (e.g. G20; Finance in Common).

Following the event, an outcome summary of key priorities and/or areas for urgent attention identified will be prepared and published on IFAD's website.

There is no better time than now, in the wake of the UN Food Systems Summit and COVID-19, to galvanize actions to achieve the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature", taking concrete steps to implement this ambition through sufficient and adequate finance and policies.

This event is the first appointment of IFAD's new 'Global Policy Engagement Forum' (GPEF) event series, which aims to bring together external speakers from academia, international cooperation and the policy sphere to exchange perspectives and ideas on topical global policy issues, and identify collaboration opportunities to drive positive change for our food systems.

References:

- [IFAD Strategy on Biodiversity 2022-2025](#)
- [First draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)
- [Biodiversity Outlook 5, published in 2020](#)
- [The State of Finance for Nature in the G20 report](#)

Agenda:

- 14:00 - 14:05 **Welcome**
- 14:05 – 14:15 **Welcome remarks.** *Jo Puri, Associate Vice-President of the Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD*
- 14:15 - 14:23 **Presentation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.** *Chris Pereira, Agriculture and Inland Waters Biodiversity Consultant, CBD Secretariat.*
- 14:23 - 15:08 **Moderated panel**
- 15:08 - 15:23 **Live Q&A**
- 15:23 – 15:28 **Closing**