

# Rethinking Biodiversity Governance for transformative change

Rio Conventions Pavilion, CBD COP 14, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

- **Partners:** PBL, IDDRI, FNI, GMU, Strathclyde University, SwedBio/SRC, UN Environment and UNEP-WCMC
- **Focal Points:** Marcel Kok (PBL), Aleksandar Rankovic (IDDRI), Tristan Tyrrell (SwedBio/SRC)
- **Date:** Wednesday, 21 November 2018

## Description

While traditionally research around biodiversity governance has been concerned with multilateral and national policies to achieve biodiversity-objectives and the mechanisms supporting the implementation of the multilateral agreements, we now see a growing diversity of governance arrangements and actors engaged in governing nature. No longer is the governing of nature confined to governmental policies, rather an increasing number of state and non-state actors is concerned with conserving biodiversity and the sustainable use of nature in the broad sense. Furthermore, biodiversity governance is increasingly drawing linkages to other domains and agendas (e.g. agriculture and food systems, sustainable consumption and production, poverty), as now also called for by the SDGs. Related to this, there is a growing interest in the solutions that nature might provide in other domains, whether this be in terms of ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, creating coastal resilience, or through 'nature based solutions' that provide multi-functional responses to complex sustainability challenges.

The governance of biodiversity nowadays can therefore probably be best characterised as a 'polycentric' or 'distributed' biodiversity governance landscape, as a collection of state and non-state actors, top-down and bottom initiatives for biodiversity, across all scales and regions. This growing diversity of actors, modes and narratives in the governance of nature and biodiversity of course raises questions about the design of international agreements and possible interventions aimed at achieving sustainability outcomes. It is necessary to think about the implications of these changes in the governance of biodiversity and the potential and challenges that this poses for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the transformative changes that are now being called for.

Taking account this background, the specific objectives of the day are:

- 1) To discuss the future of biodiversity governance, as part of the transformative change agenda, in supporting the achievement of the objectives of the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD, other biodiversity-related conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- 2) To share knowledge, and exchange experiences, on improved biodiversity governance for transformative change by a variety of actors involved in biodiversity governance;
- 3) To discuss ways of improving biodiversity governance in the design and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The overall aim of the day is to consider the question of how biodiversity governance can become more transformative, and where biodiversity policy could improve, on which achievements of the CBD one can build and where changes are needed.

Focussing on the question of what would make biodiversity governance 'transformative', and what this would imply for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its implementation, topics for the day include:

- What does a transformative change perspective imply for the international governance of biodiversity? What underlying structural drivers, often connected to institutional and legal frameworks, of biodiversity loss need to be addressed?
- How can various global environmental goal frameworks, such as biodiversity, climate change, sustainable land management, better support each other, including in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals?
- What can be the role of the Rio Conventions and the biodiversity-related convention in making the synergies agenda truly transformational?  
How to move towards enhanced implementation of decision of Rio-Conventions, other biodiversity-related conventions and the SDGs? How to facilitate the contribution of non-state action to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- What measures and approaches are necessary to mainstream biodiversity in sectors with the highest impact and dependence on biodiversity? How can improved management, legal and regulatory systems help?
- What lessons regarding non-state action can be drawn from the Paris Agreement and other international conventions related to biodiversity and how to make the positive ones operational in context of CBD?
- Enhancing international funding to support national efforts to strengthen the rule of law and governance approaches to implement biodiversity goals.
- What would be options for a synergistic design of the next strategic plan? What has been achieved with the current Strategic Plan, the MDGs and SDGs, and what needs to be improved?

Consider how biodiversity governance can become more transformative, and where biodiversity policy could improve, on which achievements of the CBD one can built and where changes are needed.

Time	Event	Lead organisation
9:00-9:15	<b>Welcome by the organizers</b> <i>Setting the stage: introductory presentation on behalf of Rethinking Biodiversity Network</i>	IDDRI, FNI, PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Strathclyde University, SwedBio/SRC, UN Environment, UNEP- WCMC, Agence Française pour la Biodiversité (AFB)
09:15-10:15	<b>Global changes and biodiversity governance</b> <i>Roundtable discussions to set the scene for next sessions, that will focus on various governance issues and actors and their contribution to a transformational post-2020 biodiversity framework.</i>	
10:15-10:30	<b>Drinks break</b>	
10:30-11:30	<b>The conventions landscape in a post-2020 context</b> <i>Facilitated discussion on the biodiversity governance landscape and exploration of ways in which a post-2020 biodiversity framework could strengthen transformative biodiversity governance.</i>	
11:40-12:40	<b>Human rights and biodiversity: how to design the post-2020 governance system</b>	

Time	Event	Lead organisation
	<p><i>Highlighting the role of human rights for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and on the role of biodiversity for human rights, and a debate on how the biodiversity governance landscape can play a stronger role in linking biodiversity with human rights in the post-2020 framework.</i></p>	
12:40-13:40	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:40-14:40	<p><b>How to create an enabling environment to engage businesses in the post 2020 global biodiversity framework?</b></p> <p><i>Identifying the key success factors to mobilize the private sector in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</i></p>	
14:50-15:50	<p><b>The future of biodiversity governance for civil society</b></p> <p><i>IPLCs, NGOs and CSOs will debate how enhanced biodiversity governance can strengthen their standing and influence in a post-2020 context.</i></p>	
15:50-16:00	<b>Drinks break</b>	
16:00-17:00	<p><b>Local governance – the key role of cities and other sub-national initiatives in transformative change for biodiversity</b></p> <p><i>Case-studies and lessons learned about the involvement of local governments for biodiversity in Mexico, South Africa and France.</i></p>	
17:10-18:10	<p><b>Post-2020 – Policy panel</b></p> <p><i>Key messages from the previous sessions concerning options for a design of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that responds to the different biodiversity governance issues in a synergistic manner and a high-level discussion with country representatives.</i></p>	
18:10-19:00	<b>Reception</b>	