

# ELEVATING MOUNTAINS

## IN THE POST-2020

# GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

2.0

**Briefing note – Mountains in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**  
**To support preparations for the resumed OEWG-3/SBSTTA-24/SBI-3 sessions in Geneva, 13 – 29 March 2022**

*Authored by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) and GRID-Arendal<sup>1</sup>*

Dear CBD focal points,

Dear Mountain Partnership members,

The protection of mountain biodiversity is a critical step towards stopping biodiversity loss and for maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems. The [declaration of 2022 as the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development](#) adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, provides an important impetus and opportunity to continue highlighting mountains and their unique biodiversity. It is essential to strengthen the importance of mountains and highlight the needs of

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<sup>1</sup> All partners contributed equally to the production of the briefing note on mountain biodiversity.

mountain people within key global policy processes to garner continuous collaborative action towards the protection of mountain biodiversity. Furthermore, it essential to acknowledge and support the role of local mountain communities as guardians of biodiversity. The recognition for the specific challenges that mountain regions are facing e.g. with respect to the adverse impacts of climate change<sup>2</sup>, as well as for the (adaptation) solutions developed in mountain regions in different parts of the world to address there impacts, are also key for driving the global ambitions needed to protect mountain biodiversity.

The resumed **OEWG-3, SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 sessions** in Geneva (13 – 29 March 2022) provide an **important opportunity to reiterate a need for the global protection of mountain biodiversity and of the ecosystem functions and services upon which** communities in mountains and beyond rely.

The need to consider **relevant indicators that are key for monitoring mountain biodiversity and thereby inform decisions to safeguard it should be reiterated during the upcoming discussion on the first draft of the Post-2020 GBF and the related Monitoring Framework**. This will be a main step before the Post-2020 GBF will be presented for adoption during COP15 Phase 2 in Kunming, China in the second half of 2022 (dates tbd).

The explicit reference to mountain ecosystems in [CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1](#) (11 July 2021) on “Proposed headline indicators of the monitoring framework for the Post-2020 GBF” and the proposed disaggregation of the headline indicators to mountain relevant scales can be considered a very positive development. Nonetheless, it is crucial that the discussions at the resumed OEWG-3, SBSTTA-34 and SBI-3 sessions in Geneva emphasize once more that indicators to assess and monitor mountain biodiversity are critically needed to protect mountain biodiversity. As such, **it is essential that the specific reference to mountains remains in the monitoring framework**.

**For the upcoming negotiations, the following action points are recommended in order to ensure that mountains remain highly acknowledged in the “Proposed headline indicators of the monitoring framework for the Post-2020 GBF” as well as in the “[Non-paper on item 3: Proposed monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)”:**

| Recommendation                     | Indicator  | Disaggregation at mountain-relevant scales <sup>3</sup>                           |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Stress the importance to maintain: | <b>A.0.1. (Extent of selected natural and modified ecosystems, i.e. forest, savannahs and grasslands, wetlands, mangroves, saltmarshes, coral reef, seagrass, macroalgae and intertidal habitats) for Goal A</b> | and especially the <b>proposed disaggregation at the mountain-relevant scales</b> |
|                                    | <b>A.0.2 (Species Habitat Index) for Goal A</b>  |   |
|                                    | <b>3.0.1 (Coverage of Protected areas and OECMS) for Target 3</b>  | and the proposed <b>disaggregation at the mountain-relevant scales</b>            |

<sup>2</sup> Joint efforts by UNEP, the [MRI](#), the [G MBA](#) and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and also member states, so far have resulted in the publication of two mountain policy briefs ([1.0](#) and [2.0](#)) and a [set of indicators](#) considered important to safeguard mountain biodiversity, which has been acknowledged as INF document to the SBSTTA-24 meeting. Furthermore, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat joined these collective efforts, bringing their perspectives, and those of the members of the Mountain Partnership, on impacts on mountain communities and food security.

<sup>3</sup> A disaggregation to mountain-relevant scales indicates that the resolutions of data/info/indices need to be sufficiently disaggregated at the scales required for monitoring in complex terrain.

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Stress the importance to <b>include</b> : |  | a <b>disaggregation of indicator A.0.2 (Species Habitat Index) at the mountain-relevant scales for Goal A</b>   |
| Suggest to <b>include</b> :               | <b>2.0.2. Species Protection Index<sup>4</sup></b> to support Target 3 | (a disaggregation by mountains has already been proposed for the indicator 3.0.1 Coverage of Protected areas and OECMS (by effectiveness) currently assigned to Target 3) |

The attached **indicator document**, developed based on scientific input and expertise from the MRI and GMBA networks, was made available to member states before the last virtual SBSTTA-24 meeting (3 May to 13 June 2021) and was made available as an **official INF document** to the meeting. The document provides the detailed rationale for the above headline indicators that are considered effective for safeguarding mountain biodiversity.

The Mountain Partnership, during the drafting process of the new GBF, has kept drawing the attention on the critical role of mountain people in managing and protecting mountain biodiversity, including agrobiodiversity. The conservation of highly diverse yet fragile mountain ecosystems rely on the long-term maintenance of healthy and active mountain communities to prevent land abandonment and promote sustainable livelihoods. The Call to Action made by the Mountain Partnership in the Policy Note released in April 2021 "[Including Mountains in the CBD Post-2020 GBF](#)" can guide CBD parties to finalize their positions regarding the inclusion of mountains in the final steps of drafting the new GBF, and in particular the presence of specific and useful indicators in the monitoring framework.

Furthermore, the first draft of the Post-2020 GBF recognizes the **importance and need for integration of relevant multilateral environmental agreements** and other relevant international processes, including at the **regional level**. In this light, the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions can support an efficient and effective implementation of the GBF, e.g. through strengthening or establishing transboundary cooperation mechanisms.

The **trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Alpine Convention, and the Carpathian Convention**, currently being updated, calls for institutional cooperation between the Conventions and can be considered a useful instrument to enhance synergies and initiate joint activities in addressing mountain biodiversity in the European Alps and Carpathian regions. It shows, therefore, a high potential to guide the effective implementation of the Post-2020 GBF in these regions and beyond and can work as best-practice example.

Furthermore, the **Carpathian Convention will develop its commitments for the implementation of the Post-2020 GBF in the Carpathians**, which shall support translating the global biodiversity goals and targets at the regional level. The Alpine Convention committed to the protection of mountain biodiversity and its promotion at international level in a dedicated [Declaration of the XVI Alpine Conference in December 2020](#).

<sup>4</sup> In the [Non-paper on item 3: Proposed monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) (released on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021) the Species Habitat Index gets mentioned as "Component indicator" to support Target 3.



The promotion of the important role that mountain conventions and regional mechanisms play for the development and implementation of the Post-2020 GBF is highly recommended, also in alignment with the [UN General Assembly resolution on “Sustainable mountain development”](#) (19 December 2019), the CBD’s Programme of Work on Mountain Biological Diversity, and the outcome document of the Rio +20 Conference. Instruments such as the above-mentioned MoC can function as best practice examples to foster commitment and collaboration as well as joint efforts by parties.

We look forward to continuing cooperating with member states on this matter and providing our technical assistance. We thank you for your continuous support and collaborative efforts to protect mountain biodiversity on a global scale.

