

Preparing the post-2020 biodiversity framework

In October 2020, the parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the main international agreement on biodiversity protection, will meet in Kunming (China) to agree on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with conservation and restoration goals for the next decade. A party to the CBD, the European Union (EU) aims 'to lead the world' at this conference (COP15), as it did at the Paris climate conference. A debate is scheduled in view of the COP15 during Parliament's January I plenary session.

Background

Biodiversity – the diversity of life on Earth – delivers essential contributions to human life: crop pollination, climate regulation, water and air filtration, soil formation and disaster risk mitigation. However, biodiversity is declining increasingly rapidly, mainly due to human-induced pressure. According to the latest [global assessment](#) of the state of nature, human activity, responsible for significant alteration of 75 % of the land-based and 66 % of the marine environment, will drive one million plant and animal species to extinction, many within decades, unless broad policy action is taken to stem the drivers of this deterioration. Expected future climate change related temperature increases may threaten one in six species at global level.

EU policy

The Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive underpin EU nature conservation policy and provide the basis for the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, currently covering 18 % of EU land area and almost 9 % of EU marine waters. Other relevant EU legislation includes the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the common agricultural policy and the common fisheries policy.

In 2011, the EU adopted a [biodiversity strategy to 2020](#), reflecting the commitments made within the CBD. The European Environment Agency's [report](#) on the 'State of the Environment 2020', however, notes only two of the policy objectives set for 2020 are likely to be met. As part of the [European Green Deal](#), the European Commission has pledged to present, by March 2020, a biodiversity strategy to 2030, with measures targeting the main drivers of biodiversity loss to follow in 2021. The proposed strategy would include: an outline EU position for the COP, with global biodiversity protection targets; commitments to address the causes of biodiversity loss in the EU, with measurable objectives; and measures to restore damaged ecosystems. In December 2019, the Council provided [political guidance](#) for the work on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, expressing its commitment to leading by example and making a strong contribution to adoption of an ambitious and realistic framework, with measurable targets and indicators.

European Parliament position

Two questions for oral answer have been transmitted to the Commission and the Council, respectively, asking how they would scale up efforts to achieve the 2020 targets and whether they would propose a stronger implementation mechanism for the post-2020 framework, as well as strengthened accountability tools to improve governance and facilitate the development, revision and implementation of the post-2020 targets. A Commission statement is expected during the January I session. Parliament is also expected to vote on a [motion for a resolution](#) adopted on 3 December 2019 by its Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), stressing the need for the international biodiversity framework to take the form of a legally binding agreement. This text also calls on the Commission to move away from voluntary commitments and design a biodiversity strategy for 2030 that sets legally binding targets for the EU and its Member States, including specific ones to protect natural areas and restore degraded ecosystems by 2030.

Oral questions: [O-000043/2019](#); [O-000044/2019](#). Motion for a resolution: [2019/2824\(RSP\)](#). Committee responsible: ENVI.

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PE 646.121 – January 2020



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