

Chair's Report on the Outcomes of the Contact Group on the Post-2020 Framework and Connectivity

Members of the Working Group

11 Main and alternate members of the ScC and COP-Appointed Councillors, 5 Party observers, 12 observers from IGO, NGO and others and Secretariat staff.

Meeting: 6 July 2021, 11:30-13:00 CEST

Chaired by: Fernando Spina, COP-appointed Councillor for Connectivity.

Indicators for the post-2020 Framework

The Contact Group reviewed (in summary) the suggestions made to date by CMS regarding indicators to support the goals and targets in the post-2020 Framework (Document UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.4.2/Annex), concentrating on connectivity and sustainable use. Support was expressed for the approach being taken. Suggestions were made regarding additional indicators worth considering, the interpretation of “use”, and improved ways of wording the target (4) in the Framework that deals with harvesting, trade and use.

Revised drafts of the Framework and its indicators are due on 12 July: the Secretariat will review them and engage in consultations with the Working Group on the CMS inputs to the post-2020 Framework, of which many Councillors are members, in advance of the next CBD-convened Working Group meeting (OEWG3) in late August.

Future Sessional Committee work on connectivity

The Contact Group examined all the documents assigned to it and concluded its business.

The Group commented on a circulated document that elaborated the possible elements for Terms of Reference for the (six) activities concerning connectivity contained in the Sessional Committee's draft Programme of Work and mandated by COP Decision 13.114. The suggested elements would be a basis for seeking funding as well as developing the work itself. Support was expressed for the direction this was taking, including the overall emphasis on ecological processes and the functional (not only structural) aspects of connectivity; but with some caution about keeping work well-focused and realistic. It was suggested to bring the Convention's work on social learning and animal culture into the task concerning connectivity and resilience. It has to be noted that the Secretariat has just received a pledge from the Government of Switzerland for two of these activities.

The only changes made to the Sessional Committee's Programme of Work on connectivity reflected the development of these elements for Terms of Reference and the funding secured so far.

The Group also looked forward to future work being undertaken by a proposed Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity, and provided input to a draft of the Terms of Reference for such a Group.

Action for Plenary:

Chair, the Plenary would need to consider:

1. the endorsement of the Sessional Committee's Programme of Work on connectivity contained in CRP3/E;
2. the endorsement of elements for Terms of Reference for activities concerning connectivity of the Sessional Committee's Programme of Work contained in CRP3/E/Annex1;
3. the establishment of the Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity, and the endorsement of its Terms of Reference which are contained in CRP3/E/Annex2.