



**Statement by
Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Natural Capital Accounting side event
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11:00am**

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Greetings to you all and thank you to the organizers for inviting me to be here today.

As we near the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, a few consistent messages have arisen during discussions, which are also relevant for the discussion here today.

There is a need for mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors.

Science and data should be the foundation for guiding decisions and actions as well as consistent implementation and progress tracking needed to ensure we are moving in the right direction.

Natural capital accounts can fill key knowledge gaps which can, in turn, help to better track progress, guide decision making and support biodiversity mainstreaming.

One of the changes in the post-2020 framework versus the previous Aichi Targets for biodiversity is the increased focus that Parties have put on transparency and responsibility.

They have called for an agreed monitoring framework to accompany the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

This monitoring framework is in recognition of the need for better information, including better geospatial coverage, reducing temporal gaps and increasing the reliability of biodiversity indicators.

The monitoring framework will include a number of indicators which can be derived from the natural capital accounting on the state of biodiversity, benefits from ecosystem services and other key biodiversity related issues.

In order for the monitoring framework to be nationally relevant, operationalized at the national level and to have enough data from global aggregation, it will require **collaboration between the statistical community and the biodiversity community.**

A siloed way of thinking is no longer an option.



We must move beyond that in order to achieve the framework and to ensure that action occurs in the right places, in the right ways, in order to drive transformative change.

I see this event today as a step in the right direction toward further strengthening collaboration and production of biodiversity indicators.

The important role of statistical standards and methodologies that Parties can use to improve their national monitoring systems has been recognized in the discussion on monitoring the framework and is noted in the draft decision.

The draft decision 15/2 item 9B includes language which “Invite(s) the United Nations Statistical Commission... to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”.

Additionally, alignment with the UN Statistical Commission is included in the monitoring framework criteria.

It references the value of selecting “indicators used for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and other frameworks for official statistics, including the UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounts”.

As we wrap up COP 15 later this month, we will move towards implementation of the new framework.

We need collaboration between those working on biodiversity, data and statistical experts, policy makers and others to monitor the biodiversity framework and to ensure that actions are guided by data and science which is effective to move towards implementation of the new framework

I thank you all for your kind attention.
