

What weight should we attach to the value of biodiversity in a successor to the 2010 Target?

What else should we consider?

The UK negotiating position has not been set. The UK believes there should be a new target and has set out some general principles to shape the new target but nothing has been fixed and we are keen to ensure that the EU does not try to dictate the terms of the new agreement but be in line with the rest of the world.

Mixed views about a reference to biodiversity valuation in the new target. Some concerns that it would be misleading, as it would be difficult to quantify and measure. Those with this concern thought it better to focus on maintaining the services associated with biodiversity. Others felt that a reference to biodiversity valuation in the target helped convey to wider society the services provided by biodiversity in economic terms, and would allow metrics to be designed that could measure progress towards the target .

In support of including a reference to valuation, some felt that it would allow countries to better understand the value biodiversity brings them and thereby lead to greater protection. It would also help environment ministries make the case for biodiversity conservation in other governmental departments.

Valuation is a tool for illustrating the importance it has for our economic survival – it is not an end in itself.

Important that the narrative around the new target seeks to bring together the climate change and biodiversity agendas into a single, clear message. Also important that that message is shaped by the term “resilience”. The climate is changing but maintaining the resilience of biodiversity is critical.

The target needs to take account of soil conservation and biodiversity below the ground.

Sustainable livelihoods issue needs to be included in the new target and brought out better than it is in the current target. Sustainable livelihoods is not just a developing country issue.

The global economy needs to be underpinned by the environment. Its role and the ecosystem services in the economy need to be better understood.

When we talk about “value of biodiversity” we are referring to “natural capital” – about securing the flow of services from ecosystems. The new target needs to be linked to ecosystem services.

Valuation is not just about money, it is also about cultural values.

The target needs to include language around “loss of biodiversity” and the concept of services that biodiversity provides.

It will be the responsibility of individual countries to assess the value of their biodiversity. The UK’s National Ecosystem Assessment is one of the tools being employed in the UK to do this.

Important to recognise who the target is for – if for the biodiversity community, then retain the sort of language in the current target; if for wider society, need something that helps convey the message about the services that biodiversity provides.

Important for the UK negotiating position to take account of the views from the devolved administrations and others from the Partnership

The Post 2010 target is sometimes referred to as the post 2010 framework. If a framework rather than a target is agreed, then this provides greater flexibility for national action.

Need to factor biodiversity into cost-benefit analyses and weight it against other values that have to be assessed, particularly those referred to in Treasury's Green Book.

Messages for Biodiversity Partnership

Defra should establish a blog site on the post 2010 target to allow views to be fed in electronically from the Partnership

The CAP reform and CFP reform negotiations have a significant impact for biodiversity conservation in the UK and the potential for meeting any new target. The Partnership has input into those negotiations and the new target needs to be drawn upon.

Partnership should initiate a quick review of the relevance of the Millennium Develop Goals in the UK, which could be linked to the actions in Government Departments, particularly as all have a biodiversity duty.