



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

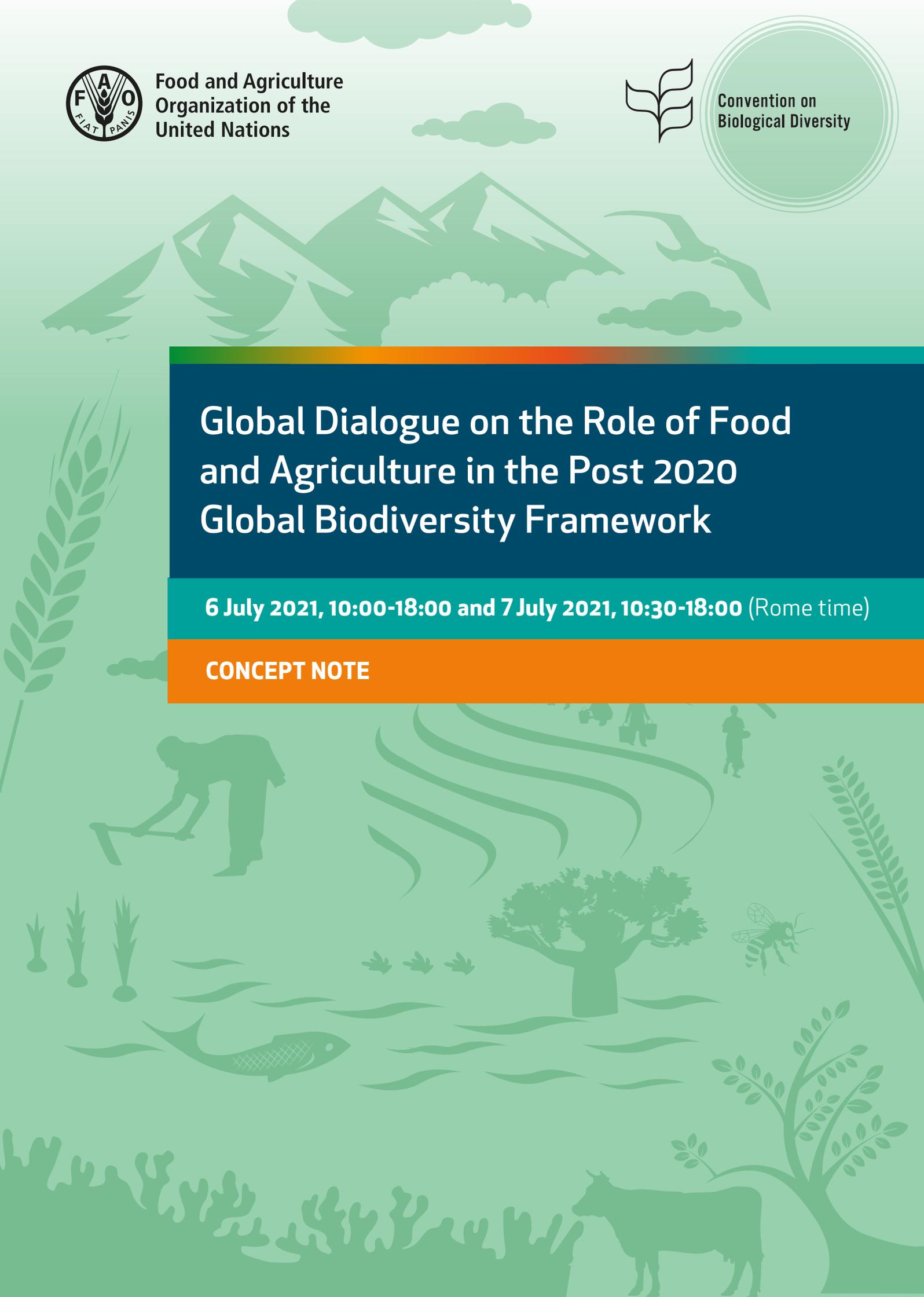


Convention on
Biological Diversity

Global Dialogue on the Role of Food and Agriculture in the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

6 July 2021, 10:00-18:00 and 7 July 2021, 10:30-18:00 (Rome time)

CONCEPT NOTE



Global Dialogue on the Role of Food and Agriculture¹ in the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Background

Achieving food security and improved nutrition for all depends on biodiversity. However, despite global efforts spanning several decades, biodiversity continues to be eroded. As the demand for agricultural products grows, the role of the agricultural sectors in securing the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity will become even more significant.

The recent adoption by FAO's Governing Bodies of FAO's *Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors* (Biodiversity Strategy) and the *Action Plan* for its implementation is a testament to the importance FAO Members attach to biodiversity.

While there are many examples of success, biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history, with growing adverse effects on people and the planet.² The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the planetary emergency of inter-related global challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change land degradation and health crisis.

2021 is a key year, a 'super year for nature', and the 15th CoP to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is expected to adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) with goals and targets that contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and place the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, "Living in harmony with nature". The design and effective implementation of this framework must bend the curve of biodiversity loss, put nature on a path to recovery and meet the SDGs.

Consultations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework have been delayed by Covid-19 restrictions, but are ongoing. FAO continues to support the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity.

In its contributions, FAO highlights the dependence of agricultural sectors on biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides; the positive contributions of biodiversity to securing food, nutrition and livelihoods; and, reciprocally, the important role of the food and agricultural sectors for the sustainable use, enhancement, conservation and restoration of biodiversity as a whole. Recognizing that the improvement of agricultural practices offers the largest potential contribution for biodiversity conservation in productive landscapes and aquatic ecosystems outside of dedicated conservation areas, FAO calls for making the productive sector a true ally in biodiversity conservation.

Within FAO, biodiversity and ecosystem services become a cross-cutting programme in the new Strategic Framework, strengthening transformative change in agri-food systems to support the enhanced use of biodiversity as part of the solutions for sustainable production for world food security and healthy and nutritious diets; and promoting measures to reduce food losses and waste, as well as to minimize the negative externalities of agricultural sectors on biodiversity by encouraging the judicious use of inputs and improving management of land, freshwater and marine ecosystems, and increasing efficiency and inclusiveness across food value chains.

¹ The term "agriculture" and its derivatives include crop and livestock production, fisheries and aquaculture, marine products, forestry and primary forestry products.

² FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, J. Bélanger & D. Pilling (eds.). FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments; FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture assessments; FAO. 2020. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture – Sustainability in Action*; FAO. 2020. *The State of the World's Forests - Forests, biodiversity and people*; FAO. 2020. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020*; IPBES. 2019. *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors).





Dialogue and High-Level Segment

In July 2021, several relevant meetings will take place: FAO will host the UN Food Systems pre-Summit; and the High-Level Political Forum will review Voluntary National Reviews including biodiversity related SDGs.

In addition, FAO will organize a Global Dialogue on the Role of Food and Agriculture in the Global Biodiversity Framework (6 July), followed by a High-Level Segment on the Role of Food and Agriculture in the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (7 July).

Objectives

The proposed virtual **Dialogue**, to be co-organized with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), will provide a forum to highlight the role and facilitate the engagement of the food and agriculture sectors in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Dialogue will be followed by a virtual **High-Level Segment** that would bring together representatives from all relevant sectors, including environment, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, to consider the conclusions of the Dialogue.

The conclusions of the Dialogue and the outcome of the High-Level Segment will feed into the ongoing CBD negotiations of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Food Systems Summit, including its preparatory process. The Dialogue and the High-Level Segment aim to support a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that:

- reflects the **positive contributions of biodiversity to the agricultural sectors** and world food security and nutrition;
 - supports **increases in sustainable production that enhance the use of biodiversity** by agricultural sectors through ecosystem approaches;
 - promotes measures to reduce **negative externalities on biodiversity** and thus increase the resilience and sustainability of agri-food systems.
- The Dialogue and the High-Level Segment will also:
- highlight the **important role of the food and agricultural sectors** for the management, enhancement, conservation and restoration of biodiversity as a whole;
 - note the important role of **food diversity** in shaping and enhancing biodiversity;
 - signal the **commitment of the agricultural sectors** to collaborate with other sectors and take action to build the resilience of our agri-food systems;
 - highlight the **commitment of the agricultural sectors** to mainstream biodiversity by promoting sustainable agricultural practices and ecosystem approaches, and reducing the negative impacts of agricultural practices and inputs/agrochemicals on biodiversity;
 - stress **FAO's important role and commitment for supporting Members** in their transition towards sustainable agri-food systems, from production to consumption, and promotion of ecosystem approaches in mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across the agricultural sectors;
 - affirm FAO's critical function as partner in and facilitator of the **transformation of the agri-food systems** and, thus, the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.





Outputs

The Dialogue will end with a co-chairs report. The High-Level Segment would welcome the co-chairs report of the Dialogue and stress the important role the food and agriculture sector and its stakeholders need to play in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The summative report reflecting the discussions of both meetings will be brought to the attention of the CBD processes (OWEG-3 and COP 15).



CONTACT
US

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy
Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB)
Biodiversity@fao.org