

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Humankind's promise for sustainability and biodiversity

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Overview

- (1) What is special about the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)? The context and key elements**
- (2) What is a COP, a MOP, what is the role of the „Secretariat“? – The Bodies of the Convention**
- (3) What next? – What are current discussions and directions?**



What is special about the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)? The context and key elements



The context

First generation agreements:

- **Ramsar Convention** on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (agreed 1971, entry into force 1975, 172 parties)
- **CITES**: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (agreed 1973, entry into force 1985, 184 parties)
- **CMS**: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (agreed 1979, entry into force 1983, 133 parties)
- **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** (adopted 2001, entry into force 2004).

Rio conventions (1992): - **CBD**

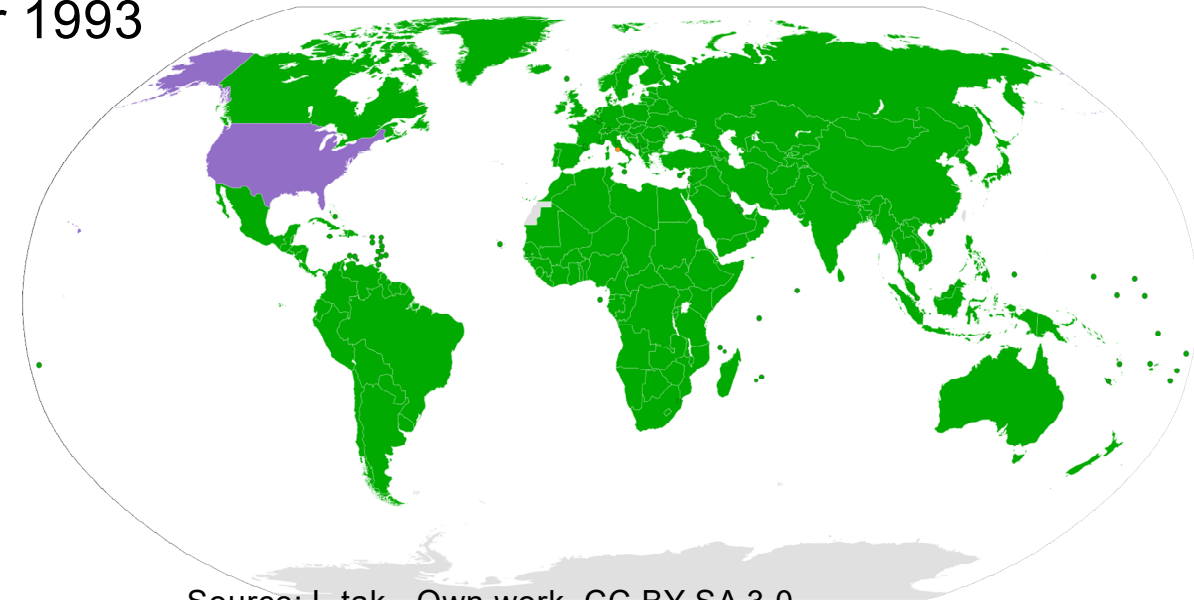
- **UNFCCC**: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **UNCCD**: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



- an international legally binding treaty
- Initiated by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) convening the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity
- Signed 1992 at the Rio Summit for Environment and Development
- entered into force on 29 December 1993
- 196 Parties
- Home to the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols



Source: L.tak - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=33232578>

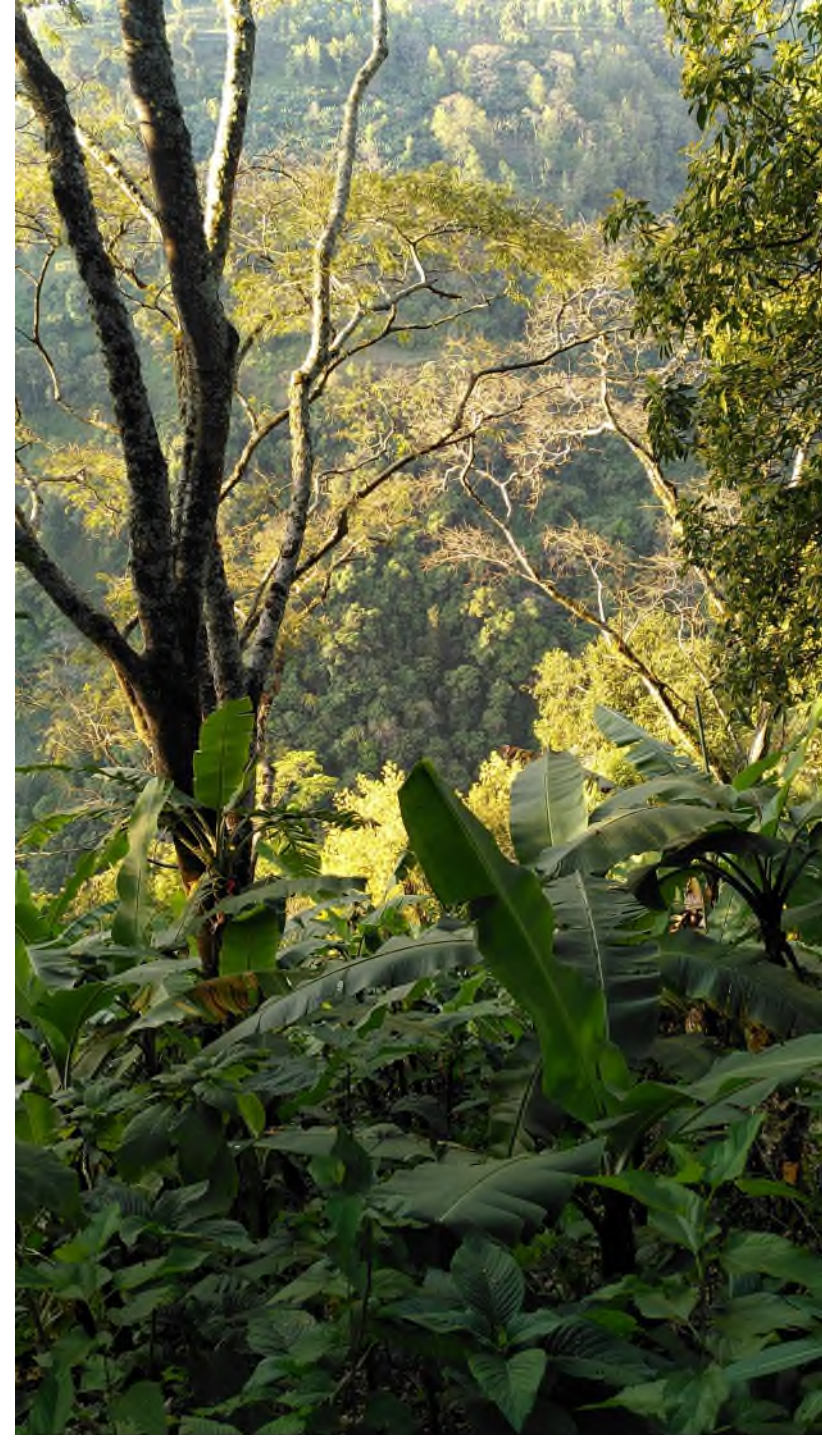
Introducing the term “**Biological Diversity**” (Article 2)

“‘Biological diversity’ means the **variability among living organisms** from all sources including, inter alia, **terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems** and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes **diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.**”



Addressing three forms of Biodiversity

- **Genetic diversity**- the total genetic information contained in the genes of all species
- **Species Diversity**- the variety of species, refers to the number of species and the number of individuals in a species
- **Ecosystem Diversity**- the variety of habitats natural communities and ecological processes



Objectives (Article 1)

- “the conservation of biological diversity,
- the sustainable use of its components and
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources”

Basic principle: States have ... the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

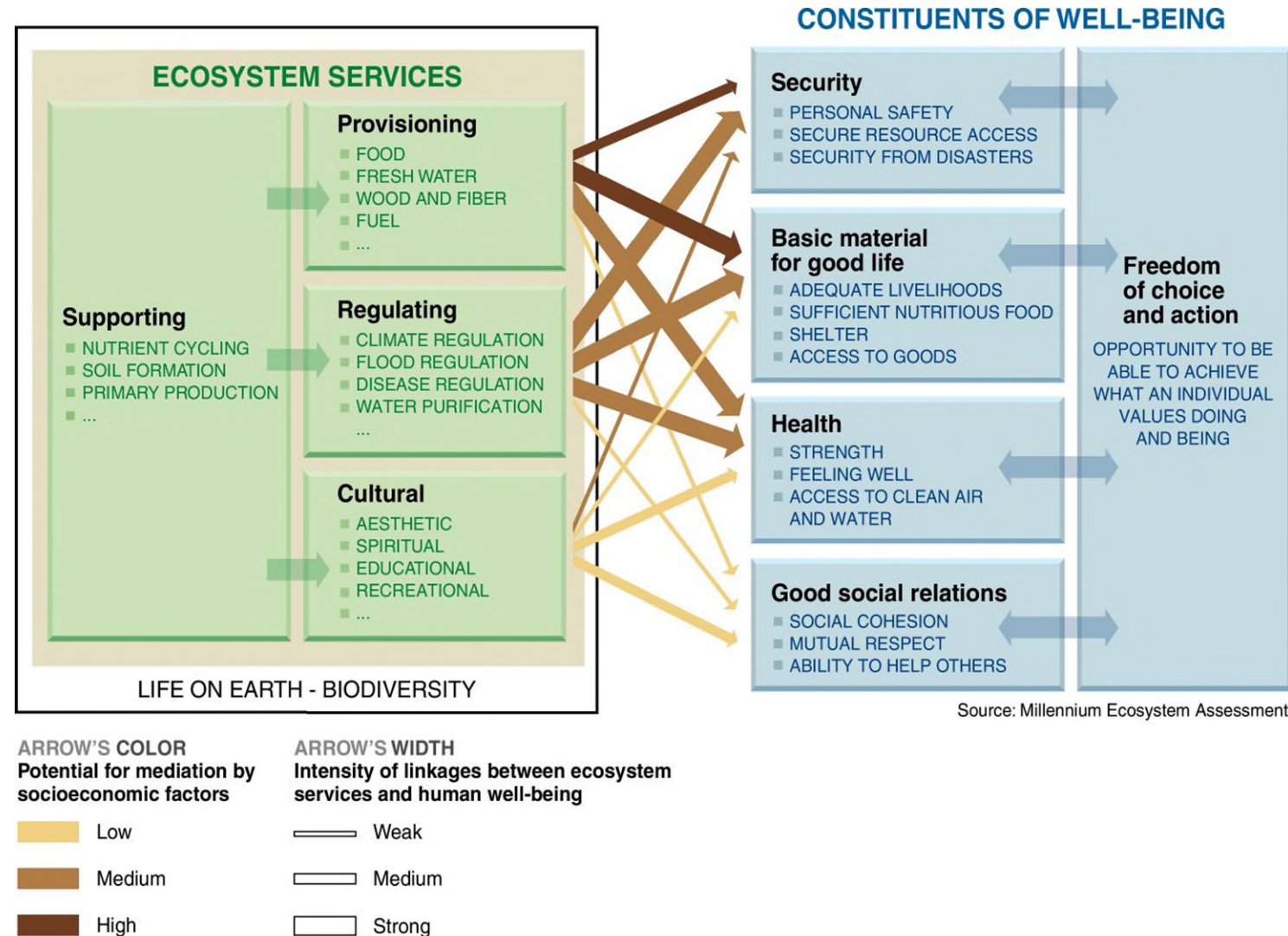


Protecting indigenous communities (Article 8j):

“Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate ... respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices **of indigenous and local communities** embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological ...”



Dominant narrative: Ecosystem services and biodiversity



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2003). Ecosystems and Human Well-Being. A Framework for Assessment. Washington D.C., Island Press.

Alternative new framework: Nature's Contribution to People (NCP)

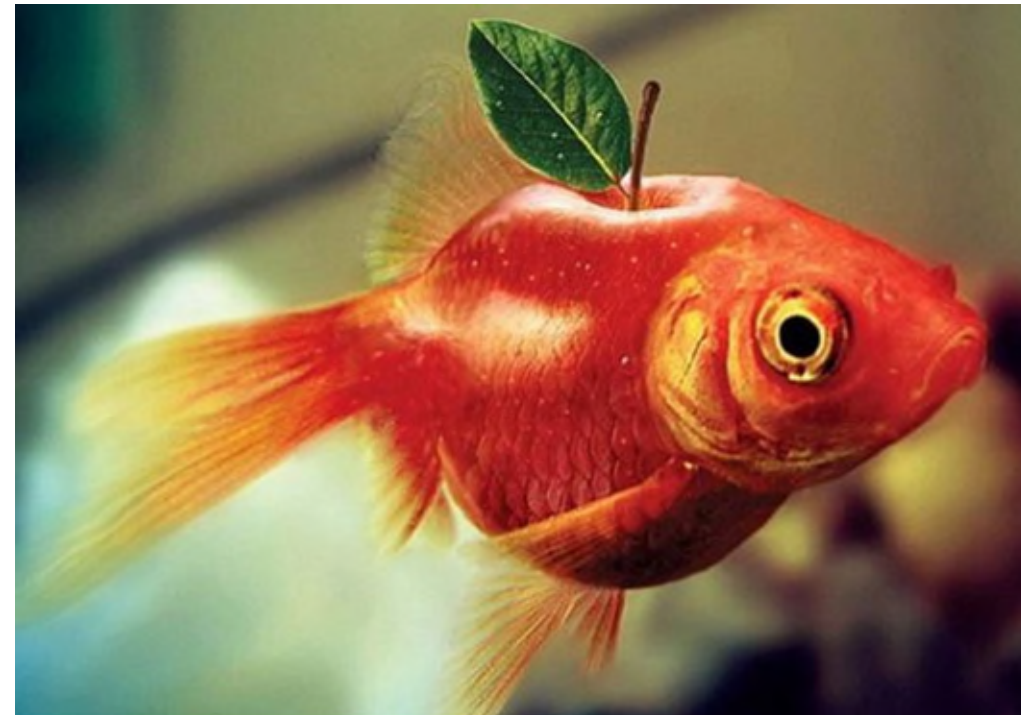
FOCI OF VALUE	TYPES OF VALUE	EXAMPLES
NATURE	Non-anthropocentric (Intrinsic)	Animal welfare/rights
		Gaia, Mother Earth
NATURE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEOPLE (NCP)	Instrumental	Evolutionary and ecological processes
		Genetic diversity, species diversity
GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE	Anthropocentric	Habitat creation and maintenance, pollination and propagule dispersal, regulation of climate
		Food and feed, energy, materials
	Relational	Physical and experiential interactions with nature, symbolic meaning, inspiration
		Physical, mental, emotional health
		Way of life
		Cultural identity, sense of place
		Social cohesion

Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability



The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

- an international treaty governing the movements of **living modified organisms (LMOs)** resulting from modern biotechnology **from one country to another**
- Adopted January 2000
- entry into force September 2003
- 173 Parties (to date)



Source: <https://www.avensonline.org/blog/genetically-modified-organisms.html>

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization

- an international agreement aiming at **sharing the benefits** arising from the utilization of **genetic resources in a fair and equitable way** and contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components
- adopted by CBD 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan
- Entry into force October 2014
- 142 ratifications (today)



Hoodia gordonii cactus in Southern Africa

Source: © Roger de la Harpe/Shutterstock at <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/what-is-the-convention-on-biological-diversity-and-what-does-it-do.html>

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- Adopted at COP 15 in 2022
- **Vision:** a world of living in harmony with nature where “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”
- **4 Goals for 2050, e.g. A2:** Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels
- **23 action-oriented targets**



Source: UN Biodiversity - 22dec07-COP15-COP-opening-3185, CC BY 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=126537453>

Target 3: „Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, ... are effectively conserved and managed ...”

What is a COP, a MOP, what is the role of the „Secretariat“? – The Bodies of the Convention



Convention Bodies

- **Conference Of Parties (COP):** the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the Convention through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings
- **Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA):**
 - responsible for providing recommendations to the COP on the technical aspects of the implementation of the Convention;
 - mainly government representatives with expertise in relevant fields;
 - responsible for providing recommendations to the COP on the technical and scientific aspects of the implementation of the Convention



Convention Bodies (contd.)

- **Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI):** Reviewing implementation; strategic actions to enhance implementation, operations of the convention and the Protocols (meets 2-4 years)
- **Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas:** Exploring options for marine protected areas, financial mechanisms, developing "tool kits" for national and regional systems of protected areas
- **Working Group on Article 8(j):** addressing issues related to traditional knowledge that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and customary sustainable use.
- **new Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities** with the primary mandate to advise future COPs on matters relevant to indigenous peoples and local communities



Secretariat of the CBD

- Located in Montréal, Canada
- linked to UNEP
- 110 staff
- preparing for, and servicing meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (COP) and other subsidiary bodies of the Convention
- coordinating with relevant international bodies
- Communicating about biodiversity

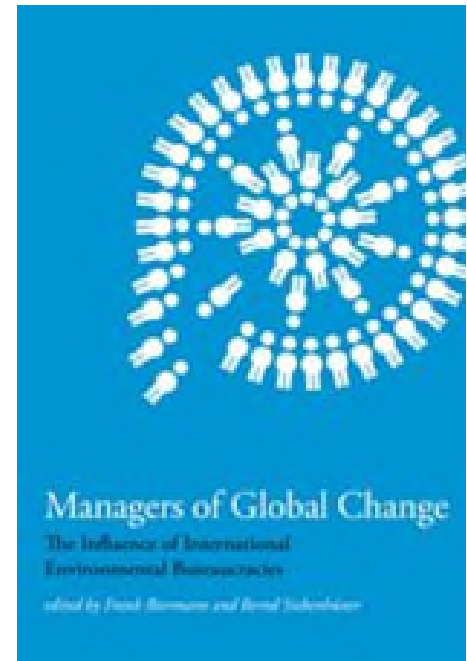


Sources: https://www.cbd.int/sites/default/files/inline-images/DavidCooper_0.png;
<https://enb.iisd.org/events/23rd-meeting-cbd-subsiary-body-scientific-technical-and-technological-advice-sbstta-23-3> ; <https://www.cbd.int/secretariat/>

Secretariat of the CBD: Own study from 2009

- „lean shark“
- Clear hierarchy, oversight by UNEP
- Very good website
- Mostly natural scientists
- Broad representation of regions
- Evaluation through the COP

Biermann, F. / Siebenhüner, B. (2009). *Managers of global change: The influence of international environmental bureaucracies*. MIT Press.

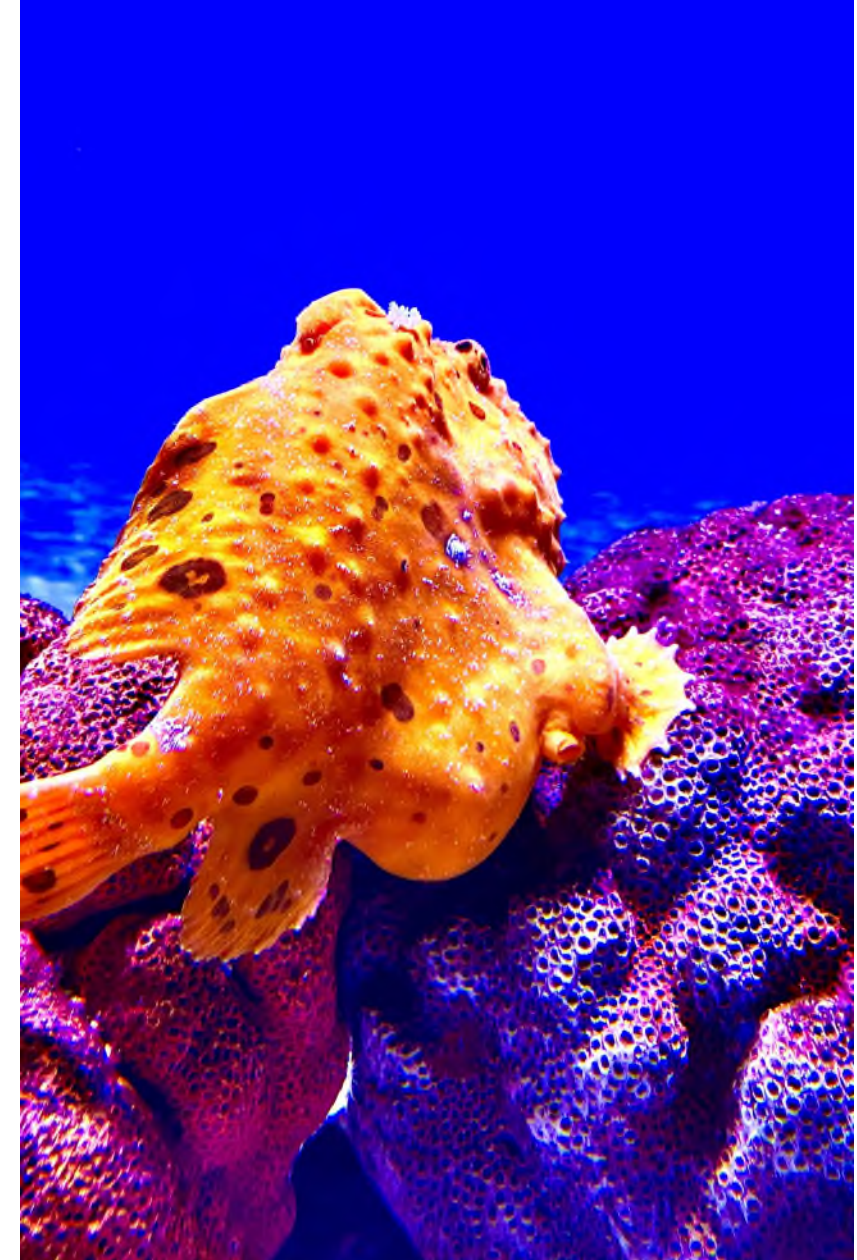


What next? – What are current discussions and directions?



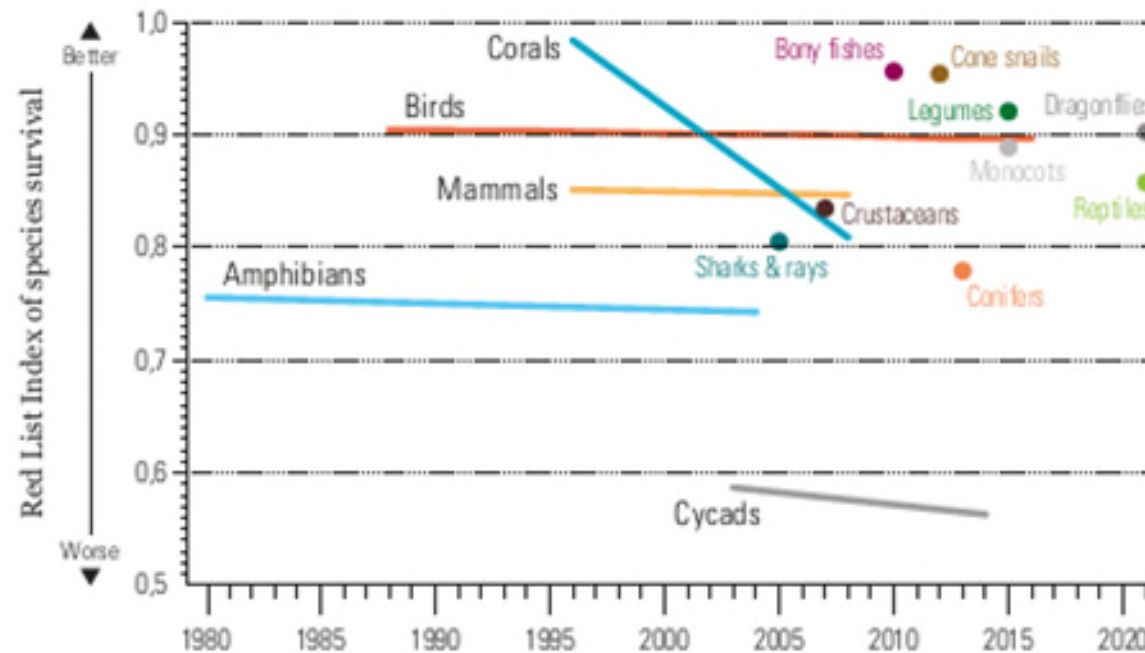
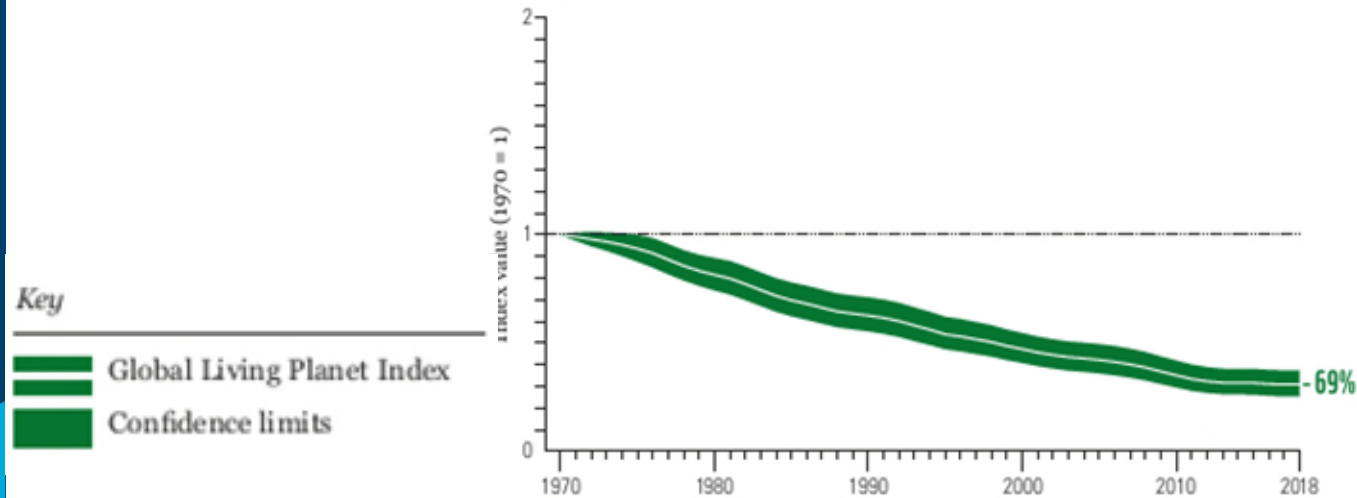
Persistent and new challenges

- Vast uncertainty about numerical measures of biodiversity
- Climate change and other anthropogenic drivers, most rapidly: the Arctic
- Search for a baseline to measure biodiversity loss („no 1.5 C goal for biodiversity“)
- Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework
- Adoption and implementation of the new agreement Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) = the high seas: measures, models and protection schemes



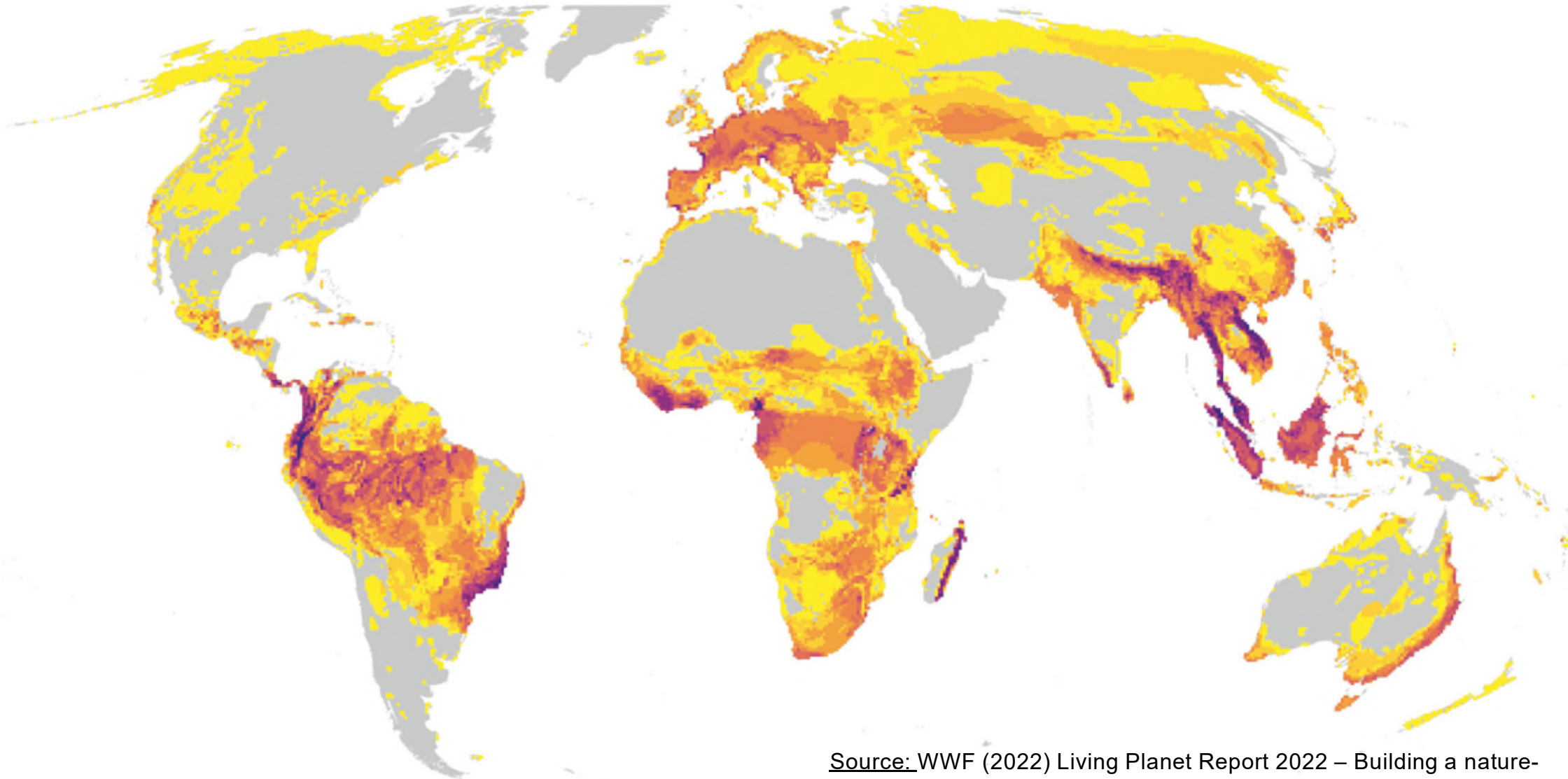
Source: www.cbd.int

Effects and opportunities



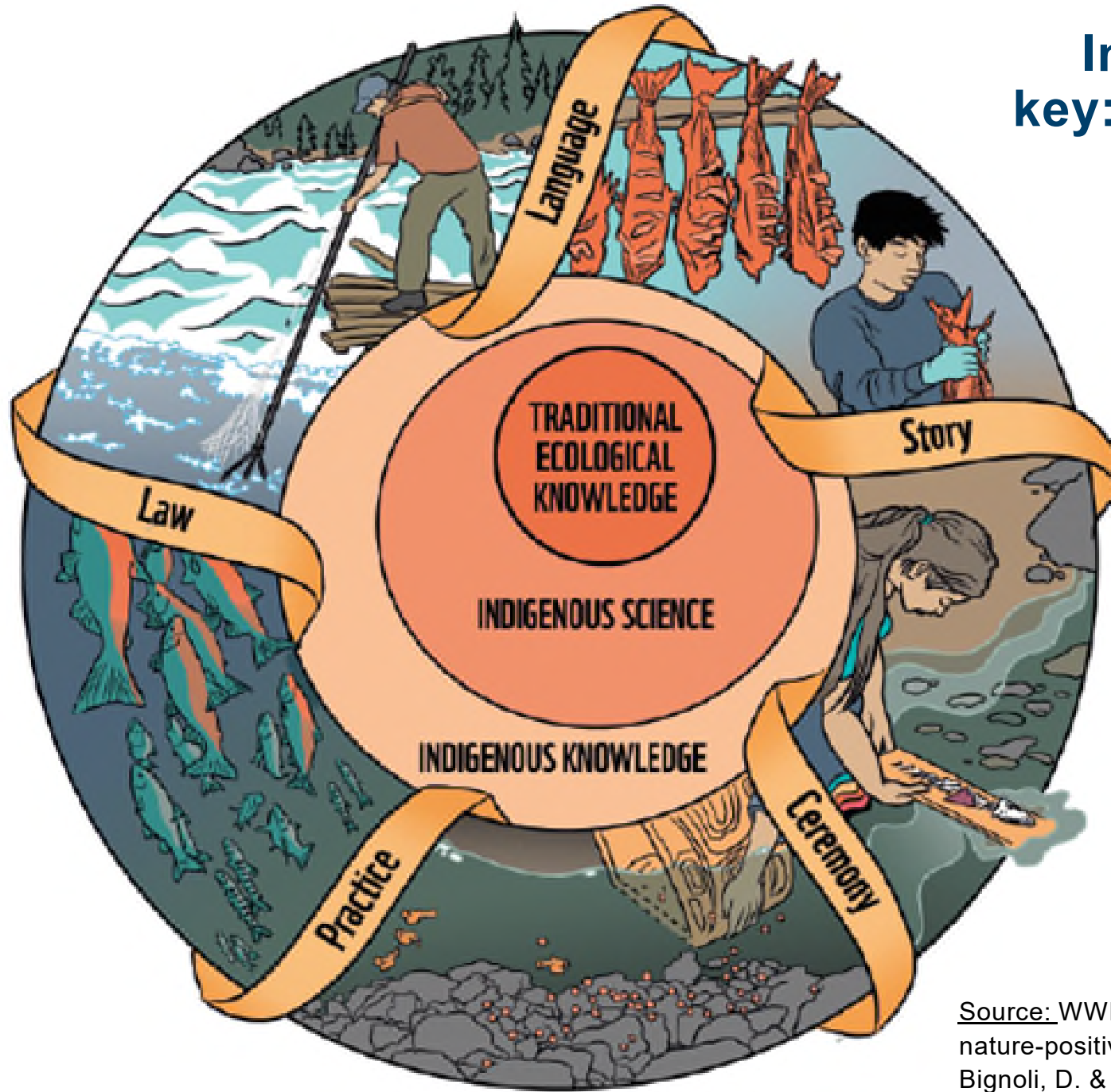
Source: WWF (2022) Living Planet Report 2022 – Building a nature-positive society. Almond, R.E.A., Grooten, M., Juffe Bignoli, D. & Petersen, T. (Eds). WWF, Gland, Switzerland, p. 33, 38

Global hotspots of biodiversity loss



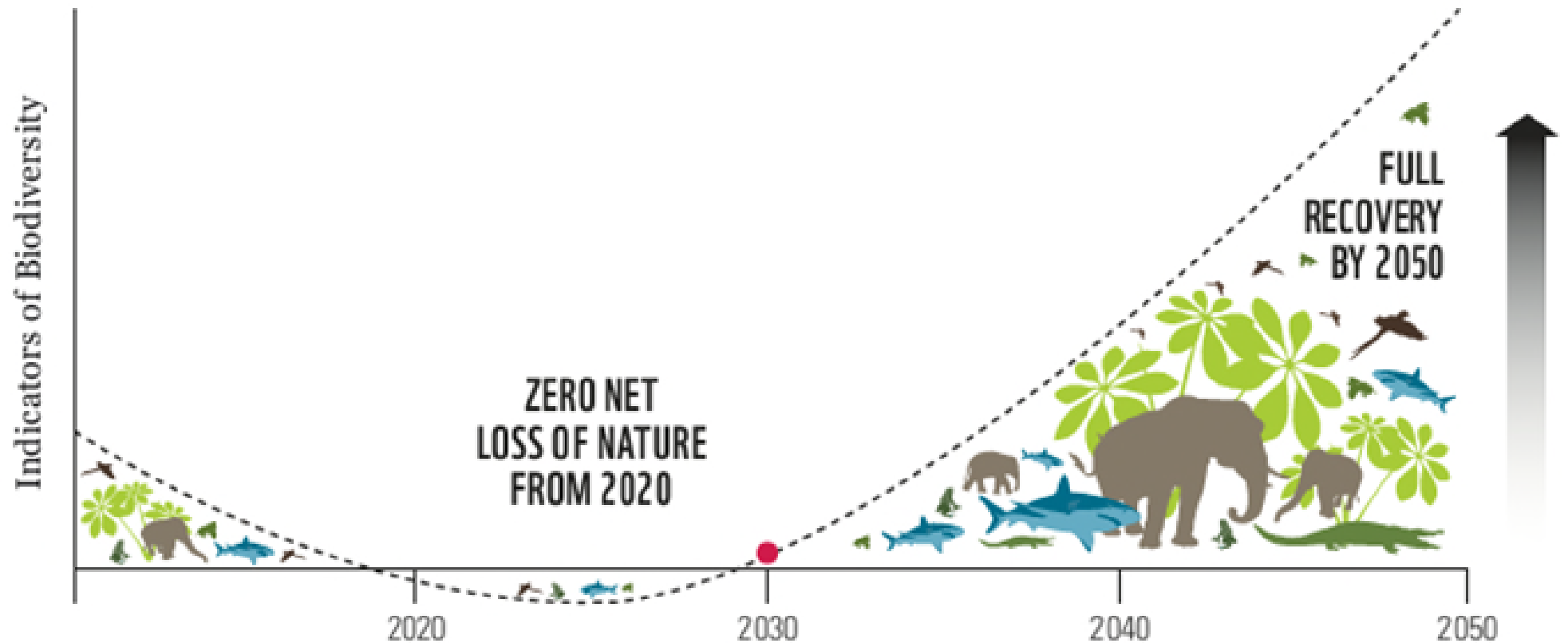
Source: WWF (2022) Living Planet Report 2022 – Building a nature-positive society. Almond, R.E.A., Grooten, M., Juffe Bignoli, D. & Petersen, T. (Eds). WWF, Gland, Switzerland, p. 41

Indigenous knowledge is key: the example of Salmon Fishers



Source: WWF (2022) Living Planet Report 2022 – Building a nature-positive society. Almond, R.E.A., Grooten, M., Juffe Bignoli, D. & Petersen, T. (Eds). WWF, Gland, Switzerland, p. 41

Bending the curve: The opportunity to become 'nature positive' by 2030



Source:

Locke, H., Rockström, J., Bakker, P., Bapna, M., Gough, M., Lambertini, M., Morris, J., Zabey, E. & Zurita, P. (2021). A Nature-Positive World: the Global Goal for Nature, Naturepositive.org. <<https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hubfs/4783129/Nature%20Positive%20The%20Global%20Goal%20for%20Nature%20paper.pdf>>

Thank you!

