

First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Agenda Item 4 - Cluster 4

Statement by World Animal Net, Compassion in World Farming and Born Free Foundation

Cluster 4 – Cross-cutting approaches and issues.

Thank you Chair. This statement is on behalf of World Animal Net, Compassion in World Farming and Born Free Foundation

We welcome consideration of this cluster, and its inclusion of partnerships and synergies.

With regard to partnerships and synergies, we hope that this will also include breaking out of CBD silos to cooperate with other related policy streams. We already heard of the existing work of FAO in this regard. Another example is the World Organisation for Animal Health, which leads work on international animal health and welfare standards, including guiding principles for animal welfare – which have been adopted by its 182 member countries. Clearly animal health and welfare plays an important role in the protection of animal species (as well as individual animals).

There is increasing evidence across a wide range of academic disciplines that animal welfare and conservation are intrinsically linked to human health, prosperity and well-being. We believe that these issues should be given due consideration and acknowledged as a catalyst for both biodiversity protection and sustainable development, and therefore be an integral part of the discussions on the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

We can and should also draw upon the work of other biodiversity-related conventions including the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), which has established a working group dedicated to examining how “animal culture, social complexity [and] social learning” contribute to conservation. CITES also addresses several wildlife welfare and health issues.

All too often our focus on biodiversity leads to a type of “group-think” which focusses on the “big picture” of species, without sufficient recognition of the importance of individual animals and their health and welfare – despite the fact that these are sentient beings. And the fact that the whole is made up of individuals.

This is another silo – a silo of the mind.