

# What is an IUCN National Committee?

Organised Members of IUCN who facilitate cooperation, coordination  
and participation

Voluntary, self-organising and self resourcing

# An IUCN National Committee\* can be:

\*other mechanisms are available

- A signpost and deliverer of IUCN tools, guidance, standards and strategy in a national context (for example, protected areas management categories, species translocations guidelines, nature-based solutions standard, Youth Strategy)
- An advocate and promoter of IUCN values - a just world that values and conserves nature – as well as a recruiter and retainer of Members
- A bridge and intermediary between the IUCN Council, Secretariat and the Members - an important node in the IUCN family network
- A three-way communications asset and networked expression of national activity between Members and the IUCN family, but also to the wider world
- An influential organiser of meetings, webinars, site visits, networking opportunities - the important convening role of IUCN, enabling Members to talk to each other
- An approved and recognised mechanism within the IUCN community

All the above apply to IUCN Regional Committees and to the IUCN Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development



**National**

**Regional**

**Global**

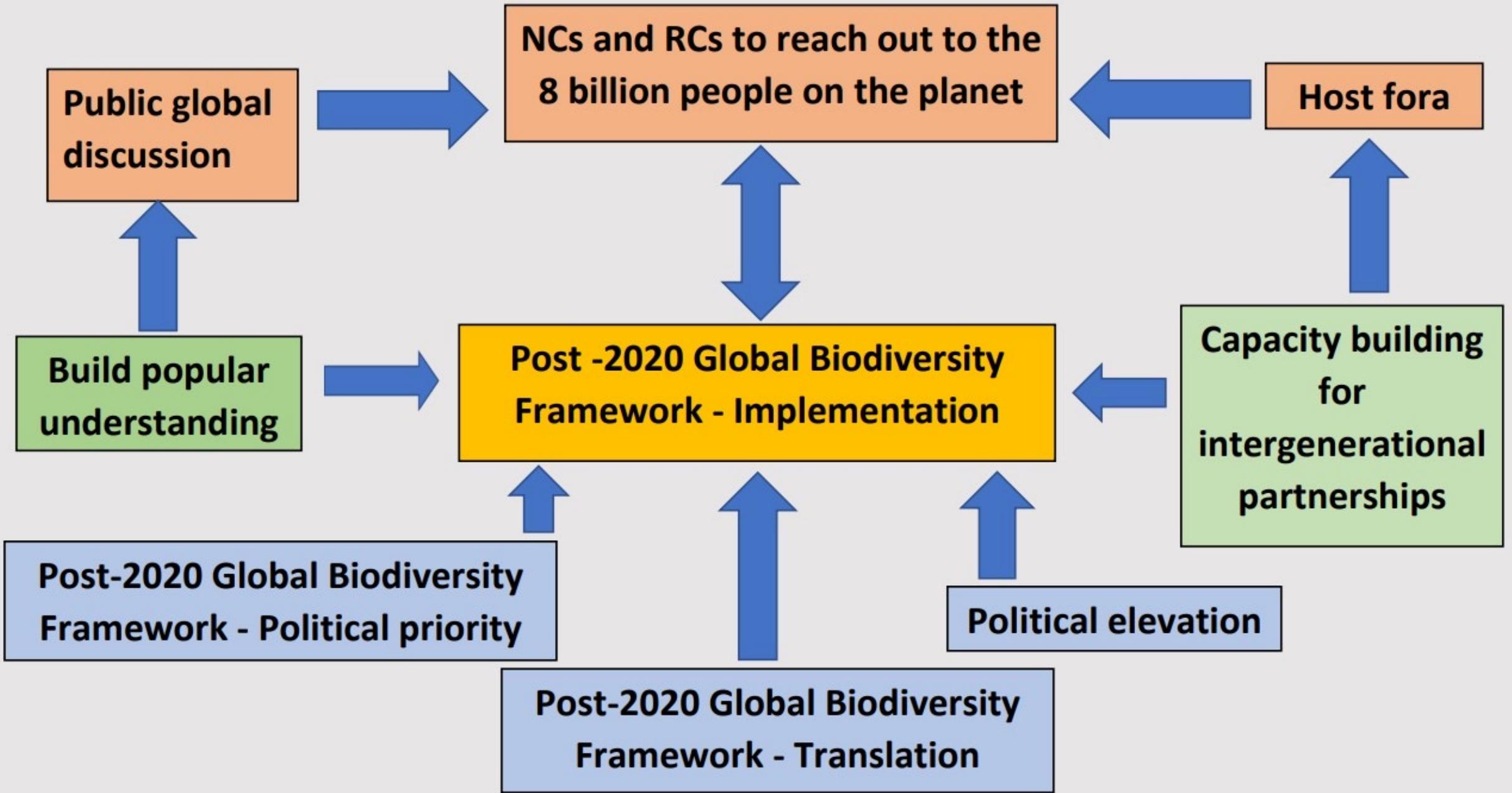
# How can the Union use the power of science to feed into global policy?’

1. Use and promote IUCN tools, guidance, standards and strategy and strong brand - need to get these into the mainstream and identify and promote the added value these bring
2. Be seen as a credible Union of scientists and conservation practitioners – we need to talk outside our box and inside the boxes of others
3. 2 way - Engagement with and listening to Members for influence (e.g. conflict areas response)
4. 2-way - Members to devote more time and energy to increased engagement opportunities
5. Help IUCN’s leadership to be more visible on the global policy stage by providing feedback
6. Mobilise the ‘Movement’ of Members
7. Make better use of the national and regional contexts when feeding into global policy
8. Don’t be afraid to firmly advise and recommend policy based on evidence – we are ‘Speaking up for Nature’ which has no voice of its own

# What are the major challenges at the moment for implementing policy for better conservation?

1. Policy is political so **political will** is important. Political will should reflect **public support** and this is demonstrated in democratic societies through the voting system. Votes are often made by **people's self-interests** and their priorities. We need to influence those priorities with our **messaging** that nature conservation is a matter of human survival and you don't get much more of a priority than that.
2. This matter of **relevance** for people is important. Policy must translate into action or it just remains as a paper exercise. There may be a **perception** that policy is left to governments and civil servants and scientists to deliver. Leave it to the experts. What is needed is an increase in **knowledge and empowerment** for concerned individuals and communities to take action at the grassroots level.
3. Here are the results of a panel session the Interregional Committee (ICENCA) organised at the IUCN Pavilion at CoP15 in Montreal which summarises some of the above:

<b>One Big Thing for 2023</b>	<b>Action by IUCN Member Committees and Commissions</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<b>Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - Translation</b>	<b>Supporting IUCN's positioning, Global Group to produce summary statement encouraging Member constituencies to pay attention to the outcomes of CBD CoP15 in their global, regional and national contexts and to identify actions to be taken towards implementation.</b>	<b>To raise GBF profile, maintain momentum and encourage specific action, recognising the 22 related IUCN Resolutions adopted</b>
<b>Post -2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - Implementation</b>	<b>IUCN Global Group to identify and share specific examples of GBF implementation by Member Committees and Commissions to showcase and incentivise others.</b>	<b>To raise GBF profile, maintain momentum and encourage specific action, including the 22 related IUCN Resolutions adopted</b>
<b>Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - Political priority</b>	<b>IUCN Global Group and regional committees <i>in situ</i> to discuss the means by which IUCN Members can best assist in making the GBF a political priority</b>	<b>Recognising that successful GBF implementation critically depends on it being a political priority</b>
<b>Political elevation</b>	<b>IUCN Global Group to discuss the means by which IUCN Members can best assist in elevating biodiversity conservation to the same political level as climate</b>	<b>Recognising that successful GBF implementation critically depends on it being a political priority</b>
<b>Build popular understanding</b>	<b>IUCN Global Group to discuss the means by which IUCN Members can best assist in building popular understanding of the GBF</b>	<b>Recognising that political priorities generally depend on public awareness and understanding</b>
<b>Public global discussion</b>	<b>IUCN Global Group to consider the role of IUCN Member Committees and Commissions in stimulating and supporting a public global discussion</b>	<b>Recognising that public awareness and understanding depend upon the comprehensibility of the language used</b>
<b>Host fora</b>	<b>IUCN Global Group to identify and share good practice in convening and promote bigger, better and more wide-reaching activities at global, regional and national levels</b>	<b>Recognising the convening power of the IUCN constituency, harnessing this potential to influence wider audiences using the example from Mexico</b>
<b>Capacity building for intergenerational partnerships</b>	<b>IUCN Global Group to work with partners to identify opportunities for intergenerational partnerships and collaborate in capacity building initiatives to support them.</b>	<b>For example, working with youth networks such as GYBN with 600k members,</b>
<b>NCs and RCs to reach out to the 8 billion people on the planet</b>	<b>IUCN Global Group, with others, to develop a strategy to mobilise NC and RC outreach as a bridge between IUCN and the wider public</b>	<b>Bursting the bubble</b>



# Where do we go from here? List a few actionable insights that Members and the audience can take away

1. Take IUCN seriously – prioritise getting involved – at the very least, promote the use of the IUCN Member logo in your organisation email signature and website.
2. Be proud of your IUCN Membership – you have earned it through qualification
3. Involve others in your organisation – Comms, Education, Senior Management, stakeholders – make the wider connections in your work
4. Unite for Nature and Work Better Together – share knowledge and experience with others
5. Talk outside our box and inside others – make and take the opportunities
6. Find resources for capacity building – we cannot achieve what is required without much more
7. Make a ‘movement’ – find ways of making IUCN popular (or at least better known/understood)
8. Urgency – if we are telling everyone we are in a biodiversity crisis then we need to act accordingly, with urgency!