UNEP

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/SBSTTA/23/9
29 November 2019

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Twenty-third meeting
Montreal, Canada, 25-29 November 2019

REPORT OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON ITS TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held its twenty-third meeting in Montreal, Canada, from 25 to 29 November 2019. It adopted seven recommendations concerning: (a) informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, (b) biodiversity and climate change, (c) sustainable wildlife management, (d) results of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean, (e) possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, (f) draft proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and (g) new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. These are provided in section I of the report.

The draft decisions contained within the recommendations will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for consideration at its fifteenth meeting.

The account of the proceedings of the meeting appears in section II of the report.

Contents
_Toc29288448

I. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

23/1. Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling recommendation XXI/1 and decisions 14/1 and 14/34,

1. *Welcomes* the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services[1] and its regional and thematic assessments;[2]

2. *Also welcomes* the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, and on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate and on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems;

3. *Takes note* of the information presented in the note by the Executive Secretary,[3] in particular:

(a) The overview of the findings of the global and other assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other relevant assessments, and implications for the work of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(b) Other information on the evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

4. *Stresses* the need for urgent action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, as well as those of climate change and land degradation, in an integrated manner, in line with the findings of the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to achieve the 2050 Vision;

5. *Calls on* Governments to make the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework a matter of high priority for all their ministries, agencies and offices with clear assignment of necessary actions;

6. *Recognizes* that a key element in the development of pathways for living in harmony with nature, includes making changes in global financial and economic systems towards a globally sustainable economy and ensuring the full implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;

7. *Requests* the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Executive Secretary to consider the information referred to in paragraphs 1 to 3 above when preparing documentation for the second meeting of the Working Group, taking into account the comments made by Parties at the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and *invites* the Working Group to consider this information in its deliberations;

8. *Recalls* the request from the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its first meeting to provide elements concerning guidance on specific goals, SMART targets, indicators, baselines, and monitoring frameworks, relating to the drivers of biodiversity loss, for achieving transformational change, within the scope of the three objectives of the Convention,

[1] https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services

[2] https://ipbes.net/assessment-reports

[3] CBD/SBSTTA/23/2 and addenda.

and *requests* the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group and the Executive Secretary to take into account the information contained in the annex to the present recommendation when preparing documentation for the Working Group;

9. *Requests* the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to consult biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant international agreements and processes in order to take into account their scientific and technical information for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

10. *Takes note* of the information documents [4] provided on indicators, and *invites* the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and other relevant bodies to continue to provide information in support of the process to develop the post-2020 biodiversity framework;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite written submissions from Parties and others seeking views, particularly on the possible targets, indicators and baselines related to the drivers of biodiversity loss as well as on species conservation and the mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors, compile the views and make them available for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its upcoming meetings and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fourth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Executive Secretary, when preparing documentation for the second meeting of the Working Group, to include information on the availability of indicators for targets included in the zero draft of the global biodiversity framework;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit for peer review by Parties and stakeholders the document on "Indicators for global and national biodiversity targets: experience and indicator resources for development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework",[5] and, in collaboration with other members of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, to prepare an analysis of the use of indicators in the sixth national reports, and, drawing upon this information as well as the inputs to the peer review and other relevant information,[6] including CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/3, to prepare a document that identifies the range of relevant existing indicators, baselines, baseline dates, or other appropriate methods for monitoring changes in biodiversity, indicator gaps, and, where relevant, options for filling such gaps and for a monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account the outcomes of the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and to issue the document no later than six weeks in advance of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration;

14. *Takes note* of the progress made in preparing the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, including the first draft and its summary for policymakers;

15. *Urges* Parties, and *invites* other Governments and relevant organizations and experts to participate in the peer review process for the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to complete the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and to revise the draft summary for policymakers, in accordance with decisions XIII/29 and 14/35, in the light of comments made at the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and

[4] CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/3 and INF/4.

[5] CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/4.

[6] Including but not limited to documentation related to or developed in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and those contained in the relevant sections of the documents prepared for the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Technological Advice as well as the input provided by Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and experts through the peer review process;

17. *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to submit their sixth national reports to the Executive Secretary;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to carry out a comprehensive analysis of information in the sixth national reports and to use this information when completing the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

19. *Welcomes* the financial support provided by Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and, recalling decision 14/35 of the Conference of the Parties, *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in a position to do so to provide timely financial contributions for the preparation and production of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and its related products, in line with the work plan and budget estimates for its preparation;

20. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services[7] and the related regional and thematic assessments;

2. *Welcomes* the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, and on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate and on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems;

[3. *Urges* Parties to take urgent action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss as identified in the *Global Assessment* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as well as those of climate change and land degradation, in an integrated manner through both the implementation and scaling up of existing proven measures and the initiation of transformative changes, [calling for the provision of resources to developing countries in order to address such changes, consistent with Article 20 of the Convention, and consistent with international obligations], to achieve the 2050 vision.]

[7] https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services

Annex

ELEMENTS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK[8]

I. 2030 MISSION

1. The contact group on agenda item 3 raised general issues on the formulation of a mission statement for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It was noted that a mission could:

(a) Contain measurable elements, serve as a milestone to 2050, be outcome-oriented in relation to the state of biodiversity, imply a sense of urgency and be concise and easy to communicate;

(b) Focus on what the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is attempting to achieve, for example by including language related to "bending the curve of biodiversity loss", "putting biodiversity on a path to recovery", and/or "no net loss";

(c) Focus on implementing solutions and taking urgent action for addressing biodiversity loss, sustainable use;

(d) Reflect the benefits, not only for people, but also for the planet and for sustainable development.

2. The contact group also considered six formulations of possible mission statements, one from document CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4 and the others from the interventions on item 3 in plenary, and provided observations on them:

(a) "Implement solutions across society by all stakeholders to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and enhance benefits-sharing/benefits of ecosystem services, contributing to the global development agenda and, by 2030, putting the world on a path to achieve the 2050 vision":

(i) Some suggested that halting and reversing biodiversity loss is not scientifically possible by 2030 and, therefore, the focus should be on changing trends in loss;

(ii) Some noted that this formulation is too long, not easy to communicate, not measurable or action-oriented, and not a milestone towards the 2050 Vision and that it does not address the elements in CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4, paragraph 12;

(iii) Some noted that the element on benefits of ecosystems is not clear and may be conflated with benefits in relation to access and benefit-sharing;

(iv) Some felt that the reference to the global development agenda was unclear and suggested instead referring to sustainable development;

(v) Some noted that some issues may need to be reflected in the mission statement implicitly and that a mission statement could be accompanied by a supporting or explanatory text for specific elements or terms;

(b) "By 2030, put nature on path to recovery for the benefit of all people by protecting wildlife, restoring ecosystems, tackling the drivers of biodiversity loss and avoiding a climate crisis":

[8] The present note, which was not negotiated, reflects the efforts by the Co-Chairs of the contact group on agenda item 3 to provide the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework with scientific and technical guidance on specific goals, SMART targets, indicators, baselines, and monitoring frameworks, relating to the drivers of biodiversity loss, for achieving transformational change, within the scope of the three objectives of the Convention. The issues raised in this annex should not be taken to mean that an agreement was reached on any particular issue and should be read in the light of the views expressed by Parties and observers at the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

(i) Some noted that this formulation, while short and direct, is too restrictive in scope, is not measurable, uses many terms and has a narrow focus on wildlife. It was also noted that the proposed actions are conventional and do not take into consideration transformative change;

(ii) Some felt that a reference to the "climate crisis" is not necessary in the mission statement, and that "environmental crisis" could be an alternative;

(iii) Some noted that this formulation focuses on how the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be implemented instead of what is trying to be accomplished;

(iv) Some suggested adding a reference to sustainable use and transformational change to this formulation;

(v) Some noted the use of technical language in this formulation and suggested it was not fit for a non-technical audience;

(vi) Some suggested replacing "benefit" with "nature's contribution to people", to avoid conflation with benefits of genetic resources, "protecting" with "conserving", "wildlife" with "biodiversity", "nature" or "species", and "ecosystems" with "habitats" for ease of communication;

(vii) Some suggested alternative formulations, including:

a. "By 2030, put nature on path to recovery, tackling the drivers of biodiversity loss for the benefit of all people";

b. "Protect – Restore – Act now for the benefit of all people and the planet";

c. "By 2030, sustainably utilize nature and put it on a path to recovery for the benefit of all people";

d. "To incorporate solutions on the drivers, contributing to bending the curve of biodiversity loss";

e. "By 2030, take action to change the course of loss of species, ecosystems and genetic diversity: restore, recover and use nature for the benefit of people and the planet by 2050";

f. "By 2030, trends of biodiversity loss have been reversed";

g. "Implement solutions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030";

(c) "By 2030, halt and reverse the unprecedented loss of biodiversity and put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of all people and the planet":

(i) Some noted that this formulation is short and easy to communicate. It was noted that "put nature on a path to recovery" can be used as a call to action, as it is understandable outside the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(ii) Some noted that it is not realistic to halt biodiversity loss and that the focus should be on halting the net loss of biodiversity and suggested using "change the course of loss" (bending the curve). However, some appreciated the urgency that such terms as "halt" and "reverse" carry in order to inspire action and felt that it was realistic;

(iii) Some suggested that "by 2030, put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of all people and the planet" could be an alternative formulation. However, some had concerns regarding how "put nature on a path to recovery" translates into different languages and suggested that the term "benefit" is not clear, and instead suggested using "sustainable development";

(d) "Take effective and urgent measures to halt the loss of biological diversity in order to ensure, by 2030, that ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, ensuring in this way the variety of life of the planet and contributing to human well-being and the eradication of poverty":

(i) Some noted that this formulation covers several elements, is too long, complex, and difficult to communicate;

(ii) Some suggested removing such adjectives as "effective" and "urgent". However, others appreciated having these because they link to key actions and indicators to measure the effectiveness;

(iii) Some appreciated the outcome-oriented nature of the formulation and the references to the eradication of poverty and the introduction of sustainable development;

(iv) Some suggested adding elements, such as guaranteeing resilience of ecosystems;

(v) A suggested alternative formulation was "take measures to halt the loss of biodiversity to ensure by 2030 ecosystem resilience and continue to provide services to ensure the majority of life for sustainable development";

(e) "By 2030, effectively integrate biodiversity into productive sectors and generate transformational changes in production and consumption patterns that allow the re-valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services":

(i) Some noted that this formulation is too complicated, difficult to communicate;

(ii) Some noted that, although mainstreaming is important, it is not necessary to refer to it in the mission;

(iii) Some noted that this formulation does not reflect the three objectives of the Convention and covers issues that are not within the scope of the Convention;

(iv) Some noted that it was not clear what "re-valuation of biodiversity" means;

(v) Some noted that this formulation focuses on how the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be implemented and not on what is trying to be accomplished;

(vi) Some suggested alternative language for this formulation, including:

a. "By 2030, implement solutions to integrate biodiversity";

b. "Building a shared future for nature and people" instead of "re-evaluation of biodiversity and ecosystem services";

c. "Putting nature on a path to recovery";

(f) "Implement solutions to address loss of biodiversity in order to increase the benefits that it provides to sustainable development":

(i) Some appreciated that this formulation is short, direct and process- and results-oriented;

(ii) Some noted that the formulation may not be measurable and that it is not time-bound;

(iii) Some noted that this formulation does not convey a sense of urgency and suggested adding such terms as "unprecedented loss" and "drastic loss";

(iv) Some suggested adding outcome elements, such as the eradication of poverty;

(v) Some noted that this formulation is anthropocentric and suggested referring to benefits to the planet;

(vi) Some suggested alternative language for this formulation, including replacing "implement solutions" with "take urgent action", adding "put biodiversity on the path to recovery"

"and secure all life on Earth", replacing "in order to" with "and" and replacing "provides" with "enhance", "contribute" or "strengthen".

II. TARGETS

3. The contact group on agenda item 3 considered the information on targets in document CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4. There was broad support for many elements in the annex to this document, and many were found to be relevant to the development of future targets. The contact group also made a number of observations and suggestions.

A. General issues on the formulation of targets

4. Some emphasized the need for a separate target on genetic diversity and that such a target could address the genetic diversity of wild and cultivated species, ex situ conservation and gene banks.

5. Some suggested using the direct drivers presented in the *Global Assessment* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as a framework on which to base the new targets.

6. Some cautioned against repetition by listing the components (for example habitat loss) in both the "biodiversity and conservation outcomes" topics and in the "drivers of loss" topics.

7. Some noted that biodiversity and conservation outcomes targets should relate to the long-term biodiversity outcome goals, making it clearer that the 2030 mission is a milestone to the 2050 vision.

8. Some emphasized the importance of constructing the global biodiversity framework from a bottom-up, rather than a top-down approach, taking into account the context and realities of each country and region.

9. Some highlighted the need for a glossary of terms.

10. Some noted the importance of including marine and other aquatic ecosystem issues throughout the targets, wherever relevant.

11. Some expressed concern over the logical flow of the target topics, and some suggested using a pressure-state-response model, extended to benefits.

12. Some noted the value of considering indicators when formulating targets.

13. Some noted that the global biodiversity framework is intended to extend beyond the Convention, and, therefore, it requires the engagement and participation of actors beyond the Convention focal ministries and partners as entry points for its effective implementation.

14. Some noted that the concept of a circular economy could be relevant to the whole framework. However, it was also noted that the capacity of countries to implement such approaches was variable and dependent on their national circumstances.

15. Some noted that the number of targets in the framework should be limited and that these should be clearly phrased and easy to monitor. It was also suggested that sub-targets could be used.

16. Some asked if indirect drivers of biodiversity loss would be reflected in the zero draft of the framework and, if so, how.

17. Questions were raised regarding whether targets should be included on curbing population growth, preventing conflict or addressing indirect drivers in other ways.

18. Some noted the need for health to be reflected as a cross-cutting issue.

19. Some noted the importance of gender; however, there was uncertainty regarding the best place to note this element.

20. It was noted that “youth” was not listed in document CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4 and needed to be addressed somewhere.

21. Some noted that it was important to consider whole government approach when addressing biodiversity issues.

22. Some participants emphasized the importance of scientific and technical monitoring for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the need to work on monitoring systems. They suggested that there should be a specific target on development and enhancement of observation systems for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

23. Some stated that indigenous peoples and local communities were important partners in implementing the Convention and that they should be reflected more broadly in the global biodiversity framework in addition to any target on traditional knowledge.

24. It was suggested that the global biodiversity framework should include principles of equity and human rights.

25. Some noted the need for further discussion on the flow in framework, to determine how to avoid overlaps and identify those targets that should be outcome oriented or action oriented.

B. Habitats

26. Some noted that the term “ecosystem” should be used instead of “habitats”. However, others felt that “habitats” was appropriate, and others suggested using both terms. Some suggested that the definitions of “habitats” and “ecosystems” in Article 2 of the Convention could be used.

27. Some noted that target(s) should address issues related to ecosystem integrity, ecological connectivity (both functional and structural), and ecosystem health as well as addressing issues related to the status and trends of habitats.

28. Some noted that targets should cover natural habitats, habitat mosaics, production landscapes, agricultural areas, cultural landscapes, and urban areas. Others suggested that the focus should be simply on natural habitats and habitats within national jurisdictions.

29. Some noted that targets could address specific habitats or biomes, including soil biodiversity, vulnerable ecosystems, coral reefs and mountains ecosystems, wetlands, wilderness, private land and key biodiversity areas.

30. Some noted the need for approaches that combine conservation, sustainable use and connectivity and linked to sustainable development.

31. A specific suggestion for a target was “no habitat loss by X date”.

C. Species

32. Some suggested that species abundance should not be included in a target as it is difficult to measure. However, others noted that it is an important element for a target, and others suggested using relative abundance.

33. Some suggested that a target could focus on the sustainable use of species, species sensitive to climate change, soil biodiversity, pollinators, endangered species, threatened species, risk status, common species, key stone species, and wild species for food and agriculture.

34. A specific suggestion for a target was “no more extinction by a certain date.” However, it was also noted that such a target would need to take into account exploitation at different levels.

D. Land use change

35. Some suggested that the focus should be on habitat loss and not on land use or land use change as these are not commonly used terms under the Convention. However, others felt that they should be referred to and suggested that issues related to sea use change and water use could be reflected.

1. Habitat loss

36. Some suggested that targets on these issues should be action-oriented and that land use and marine spatial planning could be tools to reach them, as well as a landscape approach.

37. Some noted that targets on this issue could be reached by increasing protection of ecosystem types, ensuring representativity, and investing in ecological infrastructure.

38. Some suggested the relevance of mainstreaming to this issue, including in the productive and extractive sectors that drive land-use and sea-use change. However, some also suggested that sectors could be mentioned under targets related to overexploitation.

39. Some suggested that this target topic should be renamed “planning” rather than “habitat loss to be action/solution-oriented”. Others suggested that it could be renamed “habitat modification” or “ecosystem modification”. Another suggestion was “land use and land use change”. However, others suggested continuing to use “habitat loss”.

40. Some suggested that the focus could be on sustainable use and that the role of indigenous peoples and local communities should be acknowledged in this respect.

41. Some suggested reflecting “water use” to address issues related to the marine environment and inland water ecosystems.

42. Some suggested specific issues that could be reflected in target(s) on this issue, including land degradation, net land-use change, the loss of natural habitats, forests, soil, habitats important for carbon storage, such as wetlands, peatlands, and seagrass beds, and high seas ecosystems.

43. Some noted that target(s) on this issue are linked to the issues of protected areas, other effective conservation measures and restoration.

44. Some noted that land-use change can be a direct driver of change, for example through conversion of forests to agriculture, but also an indirect driver, for example through the reconversion of converted land. Some noted that this indirect driver aspect should not be addressed in the framework as it would be beyond the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

45. Some noted the importance of including references to agricultural and issues related to subsidies or incentives, such as the incentivization of sustainable food production practices, in a target. However, others suggested that this issue was outside the scope of the Convention and that land use change is broader than just agriculture.

46. Some suggested that the reconversion of converted land, for example the conversion of deforested land to sustainable agricultural landscapes, could be a possible indicator of land-use change.

47. Some noted that this issue overlaps with possible targets related to biodiversity outcomes as well as tools for implementation.

48. Some noted the relevance of the land degradation neutrality under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

49. Some noted that a target could be developed in relation to recovery potential.

50. Some emphasized the importance of framing the targets in a positive and action-oriented way, looking at tools for action rather than focusing on loss.

51. A specific suggestion for a target on this issue was “Parties should commit to a land use target in line with Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 aimed at conserving X percentage of native vegetation, considering different ecosystems or biomes and marine areas under different categories of conservation and protected areas according to national legislation and priorities”.

2. Protected areas

52. Some noted that the issues addressed by Aichi Target 11 remain relevant but that greater emphasis on the qualitative aspects, including management effectiveness, financial sustainability, connectivity and representativity, is needed. Further, some noted that management effectiveness is linked to the available means of implementation.

53. Some noted a need for a reference to effective functional connectivity linked to broader landscape, including in forestry and agriculture.

54. Some suggested that a target on protected areas should reference key biodiversity areas (KBAs) as well as joint management, co-management, and the full and effective participation and respect of indigenous peoples and local communities.

55. Some suggested that a separate target on other effective conservation measures could be developed, and others noted the need for guidance on these.

3. Restoration

56. Some noted the relevance of the thematic workshop on ecosystem restoration for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in providing guidance on this target.

57. Some noted the need to ensure that no ecosystems are left unrestored and to acknowledge that different ecosystems have different restoration needs and that the costs and benefits of restoration should be shared. This topic target should not be focused only on forests and should reflect marine and water ecosystems.

58. Some noted that the focus should be on ecological restoration and that restoration should (a) use native species, (b) avoid using invasive alien species, (c) not replace natural habitat types with other types of habitats, (d) avoid using monoculture, and (e) focus on all habitat types and biomes, including landscapes and seascapes.

59. Some noted that restoration should be linked to sustainable development, sustainable use and the creation of “virtuous circles” whereby jobs are created and nature is restored.

60. Some noted that restoration is costly, and that appropriate means of implementation are needed. However, others noted that restoration can also generate benefits which could offset these costs. It was also noted that restoration can help to reach other objectives, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation.

61. Some noted that a target should also cover issues related to ecosystem recuperation and rehabilitation.

62. Some noted enabling conditions for restoration, including: involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, effective monitoring, baseline data, ensuring economic sustainability, including through subsidy reform, green financing and natural capital accounting, policy alignment, and the need to incentivize private land owners to restore.

63. Suggested target formulations were “during the decade 2021-2030, all types of degraded ecosystems will be under restoration and will show measurable improvement, prioritizing the areas and restorative activities consistent with achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity” and “Parties should commit to determining the percentage of their territories to be restored, taking into account their ecosystems and priorities.”

E. Overexploitation

64. Some felt that this topic should also include the exploitation of organisms to be in line with IPBES direct drivers.

65. Some noted that issues related to trade, incentives and consumer choices should not be addressed as they are not within the mandate of the Convention. However, others noted that it was important to address indirect drivers, such as trade. In that regard, some suggested including or addressing concepts related to telecoupling, supply chains, rules for access, enforcement, international coordination, the ecological footprint, patterns of consumption and production, demand management, and the circular economy.

66. Some suggested including the levers for transformational change from the IPBES *Global Assessment Report*, and guidance on how to address them.

67. Some suggested that wildlife trade should be referenced and noted that this topic could present an opportunity for collaboration with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

68. Some suggested that sectors should be included here as they are the entry points for addressing overexploitation – forestry, fisheries (legal and illegal overexploitation), and that they should be considered possible avenues for sustainable management/production.

69. Some noted the relevance of the work of the Informal Advisory Group process on the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming, the thematic consultation on sustainable use and the decision of the Conference of the Parties on mainstreaming to this topic.

70. Some suggested adding a reference to customary sustainable use.

71. Some cautioned against mixing sustainable use (exploitation) and unsustainable use (overexploitation). Some favoured the use of the words “unsustainable use” in this topic.

72. Some warned against creating perverse incentives in the formulation on this target. Some warned about avoiding “criminalizing” the exploitation of natural resources. Some emphasized that the problem of overexploitation was related to illegal practices and rules of access to natural resources, while others emphasized that the driver relates to both legal and illegal practices.

F. Invasive alien species

73. Some noted that more technical and scientific information was needed on this issue and suggested that processes should be established to obtain such information. In that regard, some noted the relevance of the upcoming meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species.

74. Some suggested that Aichi Target 9 contained the major elements that should be reflected in a target on this issue. However, some noted that a sub-target related to invasive alien species on islands should be developed.

75. Some suggested that issues related to invasive alien species in the marine and freshwater environments should be reflected.

76. Some noted a connection between climate change, plastic pollution and invasive alien species.

77. Some noted that issues related to the intentional and unintentional introduction of invasive alien species should be reflected in the target and noted the importance of risk assessment models with regard to the latter.

78. Some noted that the target should prioritize the prevention of invasive alien species, the control of introduction pathways, and early identification given the costs associated with eradication. In that regard, the relevance of considering trade, including wildlife trade, and sectors was noted by some.

79. The importance of regional and international cooperation, mitigation, considering health impacts, involving partners, capacity-building, undertaking studies and awareness-raising on invasive alien species was noted.

80. Some noted that efforts to control or eradicate invasive alien species should take into account the impact that those activities may have on indigenous peoples and local communities. Similarly, the importance of working with indigenous peoples and local communities on identification and control measures was also noted by some.

81. Some noted that countries should commit to developing national science-based regulations and allocate adequate resources to prevent and control invasive alien species, including through capacity-building.

G. Climate change

82. Some noted that climate change is a driver of biodiversity loss, but that biodiversity also offers means of adapting to and mitigating climate change. In that respect, some noted the need for holistic approaches on this issue.

83. Some noted the relevance of reflecting nature-based solutions in a target on this issue. In that respect, some noted that nature-based solutions are relevant to other targets and offer possible co-benefits, including for disaster risk reduction and adaptation and that nature-based solutions can also be used in urban environments. The importance of ecosystem-based approaches was also noted. However, it was also noted that nature-based solutions should not deviate efforts towards the mitigation of anthropogenic emissions and should not become a perverse incentive towards practices that do not really contribute to mitigation. It should also allow countries to identify and evaluate the potential of renewable energy sources based on ecosystem approaches.

84. Some noted the need to broaden the focus from what is in included in Aichi Targets 10 and 15. However, it was also noted that the text of these Aichi Targets is complicated and difficult to implement.

85. Some noted potential synergies with discussions and processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

86. Some noted the need for adaptive management in the light of future climate change impacts and the need to consider restoration, connectivity, protected areas and resilience.

87. Some suggested that disaster risk reduction should be reflected in a target on this issue.

88. Some noted the need to account for synergies and possible trade-offs between biodiversity and the actions taken to address climate change and the need to integrated biodiversity considerations into climate change policies.

89. Some noted the need to focus on vulnerable ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass habitats, mountains, polar ecosystems and lands and waters used by indigenous peoples and local communities. Similarly, some noted the need to also address the impacts on vulnerable species in terrestrial, marine and aquatic environments.

90. Some noted the need to focus on the protection and restoration of carbon-rich ecosystems, such as forests, peatlands, seagrasses and mangroves. The importance of blue carbon was also noted.

91. Some noted that this target links to and overlaps with several other possible targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

92. Some noted that ocean acidification could be reflected in a target on this issue.

93. Some noted the interconnections between climate change and human health.

94. Some noted the importance of considering this issue from a regulatory perspective.

95. Some noted the relevance of coastal zone planning, urban planning and landscape planning for this issue and the development of sustainable infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, in relation to strategies for resilience.

96. The importance of sustainable agriculture from both a mitigation and an adaption perspective was noted.

97. It was suggested that climate change impacts on islands could be used as an indicator for this target.

98. Some noted the need for alignment between national biodiversity strategies and action plans and nationally determined contributions and the ecosystem based-approach as a complementary solution to address the drivers of biodiversity loss.

H. Pollution

99. Some noted that pollution is a cross-cutting issues and noted the need to seek an expert opinion and possible further submissions on this issue to help inform discussions.

100. Some noted the relevance of applying a driver-pressure-state-impact-response model to this target.

101. Some suggested focusing on specific types of pollutants and pollution, including soil pollution, water pollution, air pollution, plastics, nutrients, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, light pollution, noise pollution, including underwater noise pollution, genetic pollution, nano-particle waste, mercury, nitrous oxide and ozone.

102. Some noted links to other conventions and processes, including the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the potential for synergies with these processes.

103. Some noted the importance of mainstreaming and the need to focus on sectors.

104. Some noted the links to human health and possible synergies in this respect.

105. Some noted that targets on this issue should focus on how to respond to the problem of pollution.

106. Some noted the need to look at the connectives between terrestrial and marine pollution.

107. Some noted the relevance of the circular economy concept, the need to consider sustainable consumption and production as well as waste management, addressing pollution at its source and emphasizing prevention.

108. Some suggested focusing on the impacts of pollution on species, for example on marine mammals.

109. Some suggested that a target on pollution should consider the impacts of industrialization and urbanization on biodiversity as well as science-based risk assessment frameworks. It was noted that such frameworks could be adopted by all countries to evaluate the positive and negative impacts of pesticides and other chemicals.

110. Some suggested that a target should consider a substantial increase in cooperation and technology transfer activities, particularly for the benefit of developing countries, to develop alternatives towards a more sustainable agricultural production system, including new emerging technologies.

I. Use and value of nature

111. Some noted links to the issue of sustainable use generally and suggested that “sustainable use” may be a better descriptor for these issues. However, some also suggested using sustainable use and benefits and that a better or common understanding of what “sustainable use” means should be developed. In that connection, some suggested that the concept of planetary boundaries and ecosystems services could be useful.

112. It was also noted that more understanding about how to address this issue in the global biodiversity framework was required, since many topics seem to overlap, the number of targets starts to increase, and the relationship between the sections becomes complex. The relevance of the topic on targets in this section was also reiterated.

113. Some noted the relevance of the concept of "nature's contributions to people" as used by IPBES and noted that their work on this issue could be used as a basis for targets and indicators.

114. Some noted the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in the productive sectors in relation to this issue.

115. Some noted the importance of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity as well as the ecosystem approach.

116. Some noted that several of the issues under this topic could be challenging to measure and noted the need to set targets which could be monitored.

117. Some noted that this target topic illustrates why biodiversity is important to society, for example in relation to human health, the economy, sustainable development, and the Sustainable Development Goals, and that thought needed to be given on how best to communicate this. One suggestion was that it could be done through the concept of ecosystem services, but another suggestion was to do it through such issues as jobs, economic development, poverty alleviation and equity.

118. Some noted that this target topic has links to sustainable consumption and production, which are addressed in other elements of the framework.

119. Some noted the need to be clear on the difference between action and outcome targets and to have clarity on what types of targets are needed in this section.

120. Some noted the need to link the issues under this topic to the mission statement and the long-term goals.

121. Some noted that the topics addressed under this section present opportunities reflect the contribution of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development.

122. Some noted the need to address potential trade-offs between the different types of services.

123. Some noted that there could be targets on each type of ecosystem services but that there could also be a more integrated target which addresses the different types of services together.

124. Some noted that this target topic presents an opportunity to integrate issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities.

125. Some noted the importance of reflecting ecosystem services generally and of integrating such concepts as natural capital accounting and reflecting biodiversity in national planning and budgetary processes.

126. Some noted that some ecosystem services are co-created between people and biodiversity and that this aspect should be considered in this section.

127. Some noted the importance of valuation for the different types of ecosystems services and ensuring that these values are integrated or reflected in decision-making at all levels. In that respect, some referred to national accounting, national budgets and national planning.

1. Material goods from nature

128. Some noted the need to capture monetary values not just but also the range of benefits that biodiversity provides, and some observed that there is a range of services which fall outside commodity chains and for which financial information is not available. In this respect, some noted the importance of valuation approaches which take into account different types of values, and some noted the relevance of

the work of IPBES on the diverse conceptualization of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people. In that connection, some suggested looking at broader issues, such as food security.

129. Some noted the need for targets related to sustainable industries and livelihoods.

130. Some noted the need to focus on issues related to meeting the needs of people in an equitable and accessible way.

131. Some noted the need to focus on the integration of biodiversity values into economic frameworks and some noted the relevance of environmental accounting, ecosystem accounting, environmental impact assessment, and strategic environmental impact assessment.

132. Some noted the need to focus on specific material benefits, including energy, biofuel and hydropower.

133. Some noted the relevance of reflecting issues related to food security.

134. Some noted the relevance of spatial planning for this issue.

135. Some noted the relevance of sustainable supply chains and the importance of involving sectors.

136. Some noted the relevance of overconsumption under this issue.

137. With regard to fisheries, some noted that the elements under Aichi Target 6 remain relevant.

138. Some suggested the need for a target which reflects the potential for the sustainable use of biodiversity to contribute to the generation of jobs and income and for poverty alleviation.

2. Regulating services of nature

139. Some noted the need to focus on the benefits provided to people.

140. Some noted the relevance of issues related to green spaces, green infrastructure, sustainable development, sustainable urban development and ecosystem services.

141. Some suggested specific services that could be reflected under this issue, including pollinators, climate change regulation, freshwater availability and quality, ecological flows, poverty eradication and food security.

142. Suggested targets on this issue were:

(a) By 2030, Parties have taken steps to provide technical assistance for small and family farmers for the adoption of sustainable practices;

(b) By 2030, Parties have developed and adopted legal instruments to promote payment for ecosystem services in respect of activities associated with food security, forestry and sustainable agriculture.

3. Non-material (cultural) services of nature

143. Some noted the importance of referring to emotional, inspirational and psychological benefits of nature.

144. Some noted the importance of considering relational issues.

145. Some noted the relevance of approaches that provide recognition of the rights of nature or legal personhood.

4. Biosafety

146. Some noted that issues related to biosafety could be addressed under this cluster of issues and expressed in terms of safe use.

147. Some noted the relevance of the outcomes of the meeting of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to this issue and noted the ongoing processes under the Cartagena Protocol related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

148. Some noted the need to address the effects of biotechnology on traditional farming as well as the need for capacity-building and technology transfer in this respect.

149. Some noted that that the outcomes of the first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and those of the Biosafety Consultation Workshop held in Nairobi in August 2019, are still relevant should be used in drafting the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

150. Some noted that biosafety should not remain under "cross-cutting issues" but could be better placed under "safe use", and that this topic should be considered in its broad sense and not limited to the Cartagena Protocol. Some Parties suggested that the targets or sub-targets should address case-by-case risk assessment and risk management.

151. Some noted the importance of new technologies and, recalling that there is a need for much more discussion on synthetic biology and digital sequence information, referred to the upcoming meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources under the process to develop the post-2020 framework.

5. Equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources

152. Some noted that, under this topic, the wording "access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization" should be used.

153. Some noted the importance of ensuring that the objective of the Convention on access and benefit-sharing is fully and effectively reflected in the framework. In this respect, some noted the need for an outcome target on this issue as well as a target which relates to the benefits or incentives provided to conservation and sustainable use.

154. Some noted that wording related to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 13 and 16 could be combined to create a new target on this issue.

155. Some noted the importance of reflecting traditional knowledge associated with genetic diversity on this issue.

156. Some noted that the ongoing process on digital sequence information might provide information relevant to a target on this issue.

157. Some noted that support to gene banks and associated support could be reflected under this target.

158. Some noted the need to refer to the monitoring of the use of genetic resources and noted the relevance of clearing-house mechanisms in this respect.

159. Some noted the need to promote domestic measures in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and to publish them in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing House as part of this target.

160. Suggested targets on this issue were:

(a) Transfers of genetic resources, in whatever form, and benefit-sharing, compliant with national laws implementing international access and benefit-sharing conventions, have increased at least 10 per cent per year by 2035, compared to 2020, to promote conservation, sustainable use, benefit-sharing and the development of new cultivars and breeds, new medicines and new biotechnologies, as needed, to ensure food and nutrition security and health;

(b) To achieve, by 2030, an increase of X per cent in the number of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation projects as well as sharing with holders of traditional knowledge, and in the number of projects to improve the livelihood, health and well-being of indigenous populations.

J. Tool, solutions and leverage points

161. Some noted that some of the actions in this section seemed prescriptive, and that Parties had differing approaches and systems in place to respond.

162. Some suggested that all targets on regulatory tools to address drivers and use should encompass considerations regarding their impacts on poverty in developing countries.

163. Some reiterated that many of the solutions under this heading related to mainstreaming and that many of the targets could be rolled under a separate heading of "mainstreaming". In addition, some recalled the process for developing the long-term strategic approach for mainstreaming as an input for this topic.

164. Some suggested that, if the framework uses a driver-pressure-state-impact-response model, the responses should be organized to respond directly to the pressures. Some also suggested that the figure in document SBSTTA/23/INF/3 could provide a structure.

165. Some also suggested that sustainable consumption and ecological footprint should be linked, and the concept of green development was important. It was noted that operationalizing sustainable consumption and improving upon Aichi Biodiversity Target 4 were important to make it more concrete. In addition, the concept of sustainable supply chains should be included in the framework.

166. Some noted that some of the cross-cutting issues that came from the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework were missing from the list provided in the annex to document CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4 and they should be included for consistency.

167. Some felt that there was some repetition with items here, such as values of biodiversity, which were also listed under previous sections.

168. Some were of the opinion that this was one of the most important sections as it deals with systems, structures and practices.

169. Some noted that there was a mix of what can be done at the global and national levels in this section, and this will become important when implementing.

170. Some noted that countries will need support to reach these targets and that this section links closely to the means of implementation.

171. Some suggested that there should be a target on intergenerational equity, as discussed at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

1. Incentives

172. Some suggested that positive incentives, including offsets and other elements, laws, regulations, policies and compliance and enforcement could be useful.

173. Some suggested that benefit-sharing could be looked at as an incentive.

174. Some suggested a new element could be added under incentives relating to small farmholders. Another new element suggested was sea- and landscape planning.

2. Laws, regulations and policies

175. Some emphasized the importance of having a target relating to environmental crime, wildlife crime or illegal wildlife trade under targets for laws.

176. Some noted the need for compliance and enforcement mechanisms and the necessary means for these.

177. Some suggested that a target could be developed on customary sustainable use.

178. Some discussed the importance of the interface between land management and sea management through spatial planning, environmental laws and policies covering spatial planning, i.e. ecological red-lining.

3. Sustainable consumption and production

179. Some felt that the landscape approach should be included.

180. Some felt that behavioural change will require communication and engagement and also to work on demand management for bio-products.

181. Some noted that there was repletion with terms such as footprint, supply chains and circular economy being relevant to several other sections.

182. Suggested targets on this issue were:

(a) "Up to 2030, Parties will, in accordance with national and regional priorities and policies, promote the coexistence of different agricultural systems, based on the continuous improvement, use and adoption of good practices, technologies and management that restore, preserve and foster the sustainable use of biological diversity, including the conservation of native vegetation in rural areas";

(b) "By 2030, Parties have developed and adopted regulations to establish, according to ecosystems they have and their priorities, xx per cent of the area in farmlands dedicated to biodiversity conservation".

4. Other issues for transformational change

183. Some agreed that consumption and waste are lever points and that sustainable consumption and demand management are important factors to consider. Natural capital approaches and accounting could be a sub-target that could promote this component.

184. Some reflected on the importance of keeping science and technology development for biodiversity policy in place.

185. Some felt that the title "other issues" could be renamed "major issues" to address issues relating to the indirect drivers and root causes of biodiversity loss and also suggested referring to CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/14.

186. Some felt that tools and solutions, such as traditional knowledge, technology, research and awareness, now listed as enabling conditions are in reality leverage points. It was noted that these leverage points need targets that directly address them in order to give the framework more ambition and provide for transformational change.

187. Some noted that leverage points need to be flexible enough to consider national circumstances in order to avoid constraining countries.

188. Some suggested including elements from the annex to document CBD/SBSTTA23/INF/14, which links the Aichi Biodiversity Targets with IPBES proposals on "possible actions and pathways to achieve transformative change".

K. Enabling conditions

1. National planning processes

189. Some noted the central importance of an implementation and review mechanism and that they looked forward to discussing the development of such a mechanism as part of the process to develop the global biodiversity framework.

190. Some noted the value of applying tools and such approaches as spatial planning and strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessments as part of national planning processes.

191. Some noted the need for alignment among Parties' NBSAPs and improved collaboration on developing and using a common reporting framework and an integrated reporting system among the biodiversity-related conventions (for example the Data Reporting Tool – DART) in order to make data available for use under various processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Resource mobilization

192. Some Parties expressed the need for new and incremental resources under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. There was also a suggestion to calculate the resource needs for reaching the targets and that there could be a resource mobilization component as part of each target.

193. Some suggested that there should be a dual approach focused on both the provision of resources and the mobilization of resources from a number of sources, including the private sector.

194. Some suggested including considerations of private sector financing and information disclosure rules for banking systems either under this cluster of topics or under "tools and solutions". The importance of including safeguards for the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity financing mechanisms was also noted.

195. Some noted that there is a need for much more discussion on resource mobilization and referred to the ongoing process for resource mobilization under the process to develop the post-2020 framework.

196. Some recalled the importance of Article 20 of the Convention and suggested that this topic should be a component of all the targets in the other topic areas.

3. Capacity-building

197. Some recalled that there is a need for much more discussion on capacity-building and referred to the ongoing process on this topic under the process to develop the post-2020 framework.

4. Traditional knowledge

198. Some suggested that there should be a separate target on this topic. One suggestion was to include due reward for traditional knowledge which is shared.

199. Some noted that the focus on this issue should be broader than just traditional knowledge and noted the need to refer to indigenous peoples and local communities generally.

5. *Knowledge and technology*

200. Some suggested that the two topics of knowledge and technology should be separated.

201. With regard to the knowledge, it was suggested that the topic could encompass traditional and other knowledge, knowledge management and information systems.

202. Some considered that access to knowledge, issues of knowledge absorption, and linkages with other targets should be included in addition to the generation of knowledge.

203. Some suggested that there could be a sub-target or an indicator addressing existing data gaps under each target.

204. Some noted the importance of new technologies as they impact on several fields, for example DNA barcoding.

6. Awareness

205. Some suggested that this topic is more about communication and education.

206. Some suggested that some advice could be requested from IPBES regarding the framing for communication of the *Global Assessment,* which is deemed by many to have been very successful.

207. Some suggested that messages could be framed not only around the state of nature but also on opportunities provided by nature for people.

208. Some noted that education was important in addition to awareness and that "connectedness to nature" should be included under this topic.

L. Cross-cutting

209. Some stressed the need for the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to consider the cross-cutting issues that were reflected in the outcomes of the first meeting of the Working Group.

210. Some emphasized the importance of women and children as vulnerable groups.

211. Regarding gender, several Parties recalled the importance of a gender-based approach to sustainable use and conservation.

212. Some Parties indicated that there should be a target on women as active actors in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, on how to reduce inequalities in women's access to ecosystem services, and on the roles, rights and leadership of women.

213. Some noted that a target should be developed on youth and intergenerational equity.

23/2. Biodiversity and climate change

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Welcomes* the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;[9]

2. *Also welcomes* the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: (a) *Global Warming of 1.5°C: An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty* (SR1.5), [10] (b) *IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems (SRCCL)*,[11] and (c) *IPCC special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate (SROCC)*;[12]

3. *Further welcomes* the review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change and its implications for the work of the Convention presented in the note by the Executive Secretary;[13]

4. *Notes* that nature-based solutions with biodiversity safeguards are an essential component of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

5. *Welcomes* the Metz Charter on Biodiversity, agreed at the G7 Environment Ministers' meeting, held in France in May 2019,[14] and the Communiqué of the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth, adopted in Japan in June 2019,[15] and the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, adopted in November 2018,[16] which encourages nature-based solutions with biodiversity safeguards and ecosystem-based approaches;

6. *Acknowledges* the ongoing joint activities between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on biodiversity and climate change;

7. *Stresses* the need for urgent climate action at all levels and across all sectors and the need to address biodiversity loss and climate change in an integrated manner;

8. *Invites* the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the associated thematic workshops, to consider the interlinkages and interdependence between biodiversity, climate change, desertification and land degradation when developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular the use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, making use of the information contained in the note by the Executive Secretary[13] and the various views discussed at the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice, as well as the underpinning source materials, with a view to supporting the integration of these issues in the global biodiversity framework;

9. *Also invites* the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, in the context of their deliberations on resource

---

[9] https://ipbes.net/global-assessment

[10] https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

[11] https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/

[12] https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/home/

[13] CBD/SBSTTA/23/3.

[14] https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

[15] https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/803.pdf

[16] UNEP/CBD/COP/14/INF/50, annex II.

mobilization, to consider opportunities from existing as well as new and innovative climate finance sources for ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

10. *Invites* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, when considering the need for guidance on updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and reporting, to take into account the need for strong interlinkages between the implementation of biodiversity and climate change policies, particularly with regard to ecosystem-based approaches;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite written submissions from Parties and others, seeking views on possible targets and indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to the interlinkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change, compile the views submitted and make them available for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its upcoming meetings and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fourth meeting;

12. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and land degradation are inseparable and interdependent challenges of unprecedented severity that must be coherently and consistently addressed urgently in an integrated manner in order to achieve the goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Paris Agreement,[17] as well as the voluntary land degradation neutrality targets under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, among other relevant regional initiatives,

Deeply concerned about the increasing impacts of climate change exacerbating biodiversity loss and weakening the delivery of crucial ecosystem functions and services,

Acknowledging that, while limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as compared to a 2°C rise or higher, is not sufficient to halt the loss of biodiversity, it would significantly reduce biodiversity loss,

Stressing that holding the increase in global average temperature below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is a prerequisite to avoid further biodiversity loss and land and ocean degradation and to achieve the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature, [and will require transformative change],

Noting that nature-based solutions with safeguards are estimated to provide 37 per cent of the climate change mitigation needed by 2030 to meet the goal of keeping global warming below 2°C, with likely co-benefits for biodiversity as stated in the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

Emphasizing that, while climate change should primarily be mitigated by reducing anthropogenic emissions, the enhanced use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction is also indispensable to achieve multiple globally agreed goals, including the goals of the Paris Agreement,[18]

[Noting that the large-scale deployment of intensive bioenergy plantations, replacing natural forests and subsistence farmlands, subsidies harmful to agriculture and other sectors that lead to biodiversity loss, among other examples of unfavourable tradeoffs, will likely have

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

negative impacts on biodiversity and can threaten food and water security as well as local livelihoods, and can increase social conflicts,]

Also noting that nature-based solutions with biodiversity safeguards are an essential component of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

Recalling decisions VII/15, IX/16, X/33, XIII/4, and 14/5 and, in particular, the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

1. *Welcomes* the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;[19]

2. *Also welcomes* the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: (a) *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty (SR1.5)*,[20] (b) *IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems (SRCCL)*,[21] and (c) *IPCC special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate (SROCC)*;[22]

3. *Further welcomes* the review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change and its implications for the work of the Convention contained in the note by the Executive Secretary;[23]

4. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including productive sectors, to promote and upscale the use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including ecosystem protection and restoration, sustainable infrastructure and ecosystem management, including agroecosystems, and taking into account their potential for synergies for addressing biodiversity loss and climate change while providing multiple benefits, including for human health, poverty alleviation and sustainable development, as well as their ability to avoid unfavourable tradeoffs between climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation;

5. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national legislation, when pursuing domestic climate action under the Paris Agreement,[24] to strengthen and upscale their efforts to integrate biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction into national and other planning processes, [including existing, new and updated nationally determined contributions] and national adaptation plans, as appropriate, and into national climate change-related reports, including national communications and biennial reports, and into spatial planning, and to develop indicators to measure implementation and the effectiveness of the application of these approaches;

---

[19] https://ipbes.net/global-assessment.

[20] https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

[21] https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/

[22] https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/home/

[23] CBD/SBSTTA/23/3.

[24] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

6. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in accordance with national legislation, when designing and implementing climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction measures, including ecosystem-based approaches, taking into consideration national circumstances:

(a) To make use of the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction,[25] as well as other tools and guidance developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international instruments;

(b) To identify and maximize potential synergies and promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts on biodiversity, [including those from the renewable energy transition,] particularly for vulnerable ecosystems and other ecosystems that are irreplaceable, and communities that directly depend on biodiversity;

7. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, financial institutions, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, consistent with Article 20 of the Convention:

[(a) To scale up investments [especially to developing country Parties] for ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable infrastructure;]

[(b) To include ecosystem-based approaches in relevant sectoral policies and budgets according to national priorities;]

(c) To develop and make use of synergies between biodiversity, climate change and land degradation financing mechanisms;

[8. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the productive and financial sectors, to consider the potential opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change, including through the use of ecosystem-based approaches, with a view to reducing risk to these sectors and to facilitate coordinated actions to promote sustainable resource management;]

9. [*Recognizes* that global strategies adopted to address biodiversity and climate change must take into account national circumstances and capabilities as well as such principles as common but differentiated responsibilities;]

10. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to consider the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;[26]

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, including when supporting activities under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to promote synergies and closer cooperation among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, the Rio conventions, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-

[25] Adopted in decision 14/5 and published with complementary information in *CBD Technical Series No. 93*, available at ttps://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf

[26] Adopted in decision 14/5 and published with complementary information in *CBD Technical Series No. 93*, available at https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf.

2030,[27] the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the New Urban Agenda,[28] and other relevant organizations and processes to enhance integrated approaches to addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and land and ocean degradation;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding duplication of efforts, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and processes, in particular the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, indigenous peoples and local communities, and stakeholders:

[(a) To provide and develop, as appropriate, guidance on ways and means to address threats, including through risk assessment and risk management, to vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change and ecosystems with a high mitigation potential and communities that directly depend on ecosystem functions and services, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and to submit a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

(b) To facilitate capacity-building, particularly for developing countries, to increase awareness and understanding of ecosystem-based approaches, as a complement to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020;

(c) To support the initiatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in accordance with national legislation on community-based monitoring and information systems for climate change, taking into account customary sustainable use of biodiversity and traditional knowledge;

13. *Appreciates* the continued collaboration and further development of synergies between the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions or its successor and other relevant bodies within the Convention on Biological Diversity.

[27] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

[28] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

23/3. Sustainable wildlife management

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling decision 14/7,

1. *Takes note* of the information presented in the note by the Executive Secretary on actions taken pursuant to decision 14/7 and its associated information documents;[29]

2. *Notes* that demand reduction strategies and alternative livelihood approaches to wild meat consumption, and to wildlife use in general, are more likely to be necessary when consumption or use are illegal and/or unsustainable, as sustainable wildlife management can significantly contribute to biodiversity conservation, as opposed to other alternatives that may result in land use changes that may be harmful to the environment and ecosystems;

3. *Invites* the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to consider the following information when developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account the second objective of the Convention, "sustainable use of the components of biological diversity":

(a) The report of the Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Wildlife Management Beyond 2020, in particular the recommendation that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should address overexploitation as a driver of biodiversity loss and promote sustainable wildlife management;[30]

(b) The results of the survey on sustainable wildlife management;[31]

(c) The comments made by the Parties at the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

4. *Invites* Parties, and *encourages* other Governments and relevant organizations that are in a position to do so, to provide financial assistance and support capacity-building and monitoring initiatives in developing countries for the implementation of decision 14/7, including the development of non-detriment findings of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, among other elements of sustainable wildlife management;

5. *Invites* the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to take into account the outcomes of the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice with a view to integrating issues related to sustainable wildlife management in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a crucial contribution to the sustainable use of biodiversity and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to make information available to the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting regarding the progress of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, in order to inform the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with respect to sustainable wildlife management;

7. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management to continue promoting the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector and collating additional examples of practical applications from different contexts, including consumptive and non-consumptive uses, in particular those of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

---

[29] CBD/SBSTTA/23/5.

[30] See CBD/WG2020/1/INF/3.

[31] See CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/19.

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to identify actions to fully reflect, address and integrate the findings of the gender gap analysis in the implementation of the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector;

9. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that the sustainable use of biodiversity, including management of wildlife, contributed to progress towards several of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals and continues to be relevant for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Recognizing that unsustainable wildlife management hinders progress towards several of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the progress made on the consideration of the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector in the tropics and the sub-tropics,

Welcoming the existing collaboration on issues related to sustainable wildlife management between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, as well as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and others involved in law enforcement,

Recognizing that achieving sustainable use of biodiversity requires innovative strategic approaches and topics, efficient implementation and actions to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity into all relevant sectors,

Noting that demand reduction strategies and alternative livelihood approaches to wild meat consumption, and to wildlife use in general, are more likely to be necessary when consumption or use are illegal and/or unsustainable, as sustainable wildlife management can significantly contribute to biodiversity conservation, as opposed to alternatives that may result in land use changes that may be harmful to the environment and ecosystems,

Taking note of recommendation 23/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on sustainable wildlife management,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, and other relevant stakeholders and right holders, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To complete the work mandated in decision 14/7, including identifying other areas beyond the wild meat sector that may require complementary guidance, such as other geographical areas, species and uses, making full use of the outcomes and the findings of the report of the Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Wildlife Management Beyond 2020[32] and the results of the survey on sustainable wildlife management;

(b) To continue close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the thematic assessment of

[32] See CBD/WG2020/1/INF/3.

the sustainable use of wild species and its implications for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) To collaborate with all relevant actors and stakeholders in order to promote the mainstreaming of the sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular that of wild species, into all relevant sectors;

(d) To further collaborate and enhance synergies in the field of sustainable use of wildlife with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

(e) To report on the progress of the activities listed above and formulate recommendations for the future work of the Convention on the issues surrounding sustainable wildlife management for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

23/4. Results of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Acknowledges* the collaboration between the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, particularly as regards their pioneering work related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean;

2. *Invites* the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to use scientific information related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas as a knowledge base to support the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with respect to the marine environment;

3. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Acknowledges* that the Executive Secretary, as requested by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth and eleventh meetings,[33] has successfully completed the series of regional workshops, covering most of the world's ocean, facilitating the description of 338 areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Parties, other Governments, organizations and stakeholders that have contributed to this process, and *encourages* continued efforts to describe areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas using the best available scientific information and to increase the number and coverage of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas around the world;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Sweden for hosting the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean, as well as the Governments of Denmark, France, Germany and Sweden for providing financial support for the workshop, and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission for providing valuable scientific and technical input;

4. *Welcomes* the summary reports prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-third meeting, which are annexed to the present draft decision and are based on the report of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean;[34]

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include the summary reports in the EBSA repository, and to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and its relevant processes, as well as Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations, in line with the purpose and procedures set out in decisions X/29, XI/17, XII/22, XIII/12 and 14/9.

[33] See decisions X/29, para. 36, and XI/17, para. 12.

[34] CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/5.

Addendum

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE DESCRIPTION OF AREAS MEETING THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN AND ADJACENT AREAS

BACKGROUND

1. Pursuant to decision X/29, paragraph 36, decision XI/17, paragraph 12, decision XII/22, paragraph 6, decision XIII/12, paragraph 8, and decision 14/9, paragraph 4, a regional workshop was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) in the North-East Atlantic Ocean (Stockholm, 23-27 September 2019).[35]

2. The description of areas as meeting the criteria for EBSAs does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Nor does it have economic or legal implications; it is strictly a scientific and technical exercise.

3. Pursuant to decision XI/17, paragraph 12, a summary of the results of this regional workshop is provided in table 1 below, while full descriptions of how the areas meet the criteria for EBSAs are provided in an annex to the report on the workshop.

4. In decision X/29, paragraph 26, the Conference of Parties noted that the application of the EBSA criteria is a scientific and technical exercise, that areas found to meet the criteria may require enhanced conservation and management measures, and that this can be achieved through a variety of means, including marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and impact assessment. It also emphasized that the identification of EBSAs and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.[36]

Key to the tables

[35] For the report on the workshop, see CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/4.

[36] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

RANKING OF EBSA CRITERIA	CRITERIA
Relevance **H: High** **M: Medium** **L: Low** **-: No information**	• **C1**: Uniqueness or rarity • **C2**: Special importance for life-history stages of species • **C3**: Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats • **C4**: Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery • **C5**: Biological productivity • **C6**: Biological diversity • **C7**: Naturalness

Table 1. Description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria in the North-East Atlantic Ocean and adjacent areas

(Details are provided in the report of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean (CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/4))

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
1. Danish Skagerrak • Location: This area is situated in the Danish part of the Skagerrak. The area reaches westwards to 6°45'E, to Skagen, the northern tip of Jutland, and stretches northeast from Skagen. It comprises an area of 7,876 km^2 and reaches depths from the coastline to 465m. The northern and western parts cover the southern reach of the Norwegian Trench. • This area focuses on a highly productive upwelling zone along the southern edge of the Norwegian Trench. This area has high fish biomass and diversity, and the upwelling zone also provides valuable feeding grounds for a number of cetacean and bird species.	H	H	M	L	H	M	L
2. Danish Kattegat • Location: The Kattegat area comprises the northern part of the inner Danish waters. It is bordered to the south by the north coast of Sealand, to the west by the northeast Jutland coast, to the east by the Danish-Swedish border and to the north by a line from the northernmost point of Denmark to the northeast. It covers a total area of 14,995 km^2. The existing EBSA (Area no. 9: Fladen and Stora and Lille Middelgrund), described in the CBD regional EBSA workshop for the Baltic Sea, borders this area (see workshop report here: https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/aa9a/bde9/eaf24f73bd471d64e8094722/ebsa-ws-2018-01-04-en.pdf). • The Danish part of Kattegat hosts a landscape comprising shallow sandy flats, deeper muddy channels and areas with boulder reefs and bubbling reefs. The area has a diverse avifauna, with elements from pelagic environments in the North Sea, as well as wintering birds from breeding grounds in the Russian Federation and Scandinavia. Parts of the area are difficult to access for human activities and thus serve as valuable moulting sites for seaducks, such as common scoter and velvet scoter. The area is a meeting site for two subpopulations of harbour porpoise. Eelgrass meadows exist here, although they are smaller than they were in the year 1900. Seaweed forests and rich fauna are found on boulder reefs and bubbling reefs in this area, and infauna communities have high biomasses. Horse-mussel beds are found primarily in the southern part of Kattegat, where they form biogenic reef structures. *Haploops tubicola,* a small crustacean, is present in the area, but no longer forms a specific habitat with high densities.	H	H	H	H	M	M	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
3. Cantabrian Sea (Southern Bay of Biscay) • Location: The area is located in the south of the Bay of Biscay and is bounded by the parallels 43º 25'N and 45º 00'N and meridians 2º 10'W and 7º 00'W. The feature for which this area is described also extends eastwards and northwards, beyond the boundaries currently described. • The Cantabrian Sea ecosystem includes the continental shelf and slope and the deep abyssal basin (5000 m water depth) located along the northern border of the Iberian Peninsula (Southern Bay of Biscay), from the Capbreton Canyon head to Estaca de Bares Cape, on the Galician coast. It is a highly complex area, where the narrow continental shelf is deeply affected by the action of tectonic compression. The area contains important geomorphological elements, such as large submarine canyons and seamounts. The hydrology is also complex due to the interaction between waters formed in the Atlantic and waters of Mediterranean origin. This area includes a variety of benthic habitats, including habitats that are considered hotspots of biodiversity. These habitats serve as spawning grounds for several commercial species. The area also contains habitats for endangered, threatened and declining species and for migratory pelagic species, including cetaceans.	H	H	H	H	H	H	L
4. West Iberian Canyons and Banks • Location: The area is located in waters surrounding Portugal and Spain. Its total area is 189,239 km^2 and is divided into three sections: North Western Iberian Peninsula, Center Western Iberian Peninsula and South Western Iberian Peninsula. The area includes 12 submarine canyons, five seamounts structures, banks, islands and an archipelago. • The area includes marine protected areas (including six OSPAR Marine Protected Areas), one UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, 12 Natura 2000 Sites of Community Interest and 10 Natura 2000 Special Protection Areas for seabirds. The area is divided into three sections: North Western, Centre Western and South Western. The features in the area are hotspots of marine life, and they represent areas of enhanced productivity, especially when compared with surrounding areas. The area has a high diversity of benthic communities and spawning grounds for several species, and it is an important area for cetaceans. A total of 3,411 species are listed in the area, 11 per cent of which are protected under international or regional law.	H	H	H	H	H	H	L
5. Gulf of Cádiz • Location: The area is located to the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula. Its eastern boundary is the Strait of Gibraltar, on the western border of the Mediterranean Sea. It is bounded by the parallels (37º 00'N and 35º 56'N) and meridians (6º 00'W and 7º 24'W).	H	H	H	H	H	H	L

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
• The area is very structurally complex and contains important geomorphological elements such as large submarine canyons and seamounts. The hydrology is also complex due to the interaction between waters formed in the Atlantic and waters of Mediterranean origin. This area includes a variety of benthic habitats, both on soft and rocky bottoms, that are considered hotspots of biodiversity, and which serve as various habitats for endangered, threatened and declining species. It is also a seasonal migratory pathway for large migratory pelagic species and is, in particular, an important area for cetacean species.							
6. Madeira – Tore • Location: The area is bounded by the parallels 39º28`4.39``N and 33º31`17.04``N, and the meridians 13º31`12.88`` W and 14º25`58.54``W. • This area includes19 remarkable structures,17 of which are seamounts. Seamounts are hotspots of marine life and, in general, they are areas of enhanced productivity, especially when compared with surrounding abyssal areas. Madeira – Tore has an area of 197,431 km^2, with depths ranging from 25m (top of Gettysburg seamount) to 4930m (bottom of Tore seamount). The area includes a proposed Site of Community Importance (Gorringe Bank) and an OSPAR High Seas Marine Protected Area (Josephine seamount). A total of 965 species are present in this area, 7 per cent of which are protected under international or regional law.	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
7. Desertas • Location: This area includes the marine areas adjacent to the Desertas Islands. It has an area of 455 km^2 and is located southeast of Madeira Island, Portugal (32.47N/-16.52W). • The Desertas Islands hold some of the most important colonies of seabirds in the Atlantic, with large populations of Procellariiforms, including the only population of vulnerable Desertas petrel (*Pterodroma deserta*). They also contain important reproductive and resting habitats for the endangered monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in the form of pupping caves and resting beaches.	H	H	H	H	-	-	-
8. Oceanic Islands and Seamounts of the Canary Region • Location: The area is located in and around the Canary Islands, between the parallels 24º60'N and 32º27'N and meridians 20º96'W and 30º33'W. It includes volcanic edifices (e.g., emerged islands, seamounts and banks) and has a maximum depth of 3000 m. • The area around the Canary Islands includes a set of islands and seamounts influenced by magma-driven processes over tens of millions of years over the Canary hotspot. The archipelago is made up of seven major islands, a group of islets in the northeast and three seamount fields: one in the northeast of	H	H	H	H	H	H	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
the archipelago, one in the southwest and another between the islands. Some of these seamounts (Concepción Bank, El Banquete and Amanay) as well as coastal areas of the Canary region have been intensively studied. Thirty-nine marine Special Areas of Conservation and two Sites of Community Importance (both under the Natura 2000 network), as well as three marine reserves are located in the area. This region, with its subtropical oceanographic conditions, represents the southern distribution limit for many pelagic and benthic species. It includes a variety of benthic habitats, including some that are considered hotspots of biodiversity. These habitats serve as spawning grounds for several commercial species. The area also includes habitats for endangered, threatened and declining species and for migratory pelagic species, including cetaceans.							
9. Tropic Seamount • Location: The Tropic Seamount is located in the North-East Atlantic (23°55' N, 20°45' W), along the north-western African continental margin. • The Tropic Seamount is home to numerous vulnerable taxa, including high-density octocoral gardens, *Solenosmilia variabilis* patch reefs, xenophyophores, crinoid fields and deep-sea sponge grounds. A recent study offered the first biological insight to ground-truth the occurrence of potential vulnerable ecosystems on the Tropic Seamount, alongside predictive models to increase the spatial coverage beyond surveys conducted by remotely operated and autonomous underwater vehicles. Predicted habitat for the glass sponge (*Poliopogon amadou)*, a biogeographically restricted hexactinellid forming extensive near-monospecific grounds, was found to favour the deep seamount flanks of this area within a very narrow oceanographic regime.	H	-	H	H	M	H	H

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
10. Atlantis-Meteor Seamount Complex • Location: The area is situated roughly 700 km south of the Azores and about 1500 km northwest of Africa. It has a total area of 134,079 km^2, with depths ranging from 265m (top of Atlantis seamount) to 4800m (bottom of Great Meteor seamount). The area is bounded by the parallels 35º30'0,000''N and 29º12'0,000''N and meridians -27º0'0,000''W and -31º30'0,000''W. • The Atlantis-Meteor Seamount Complex comprises 10 seamounts. These seamounts are hotspots of marine life and areas of enhanced productivity, especially when compared with surrounding abyssal areas. This seamount complex has a total area of 134,079 km^2, with depths ranging from 265m (top of Atlantis seamount) to 4800m (base of Great Meteor seamount). A total of 437 species are present in this area (with 16 per cent of mega- and macrofauna and up to 91 per cent of meiofauna endemic to the seamount group), 3.9 per cent of which are protected under international or regional law.	H	H	H	H	M	H	M
11. Ridge South of the Azores • Location: The area is located on the Atlantic Ocean – South of the Azores. This area has structures at depths ranging from 3460 m (inferred depth – south Oceanographer FZ), to the mid-range at 2320 m (measured depth – Rainbow), to the shallowest at Albert Monaco Ridge. • This area encompasses the axial valley and ridge crests of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, from the Menez Gwen hydrothermal vent field area to the Haynes fracture zone. At the east ridge crest, the area includes part of the Alberto Monaco Ridge and seamount-like features associated with the western portions of the ridge. The area includes three marine protected areas (part of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas) – Lucky Strike, Menez Gwen and Rainbow vent fields. The features in this area are both hotspots of marine life and areas of enhanced productivity when compared with surrounding bathyal and abyssal areas. The hydrothermal temperatures range between 10^o C (Menez Hom and Saldanha) and 362^o C (Rainbow). The area also includes other seafloor features at the ridge crest that host sponge aggregations, cold-water corals and other charismatic fauna.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
12. Graciosa • Location: This area encompasses the surrounding waters of Graciosa Island and two smaller islands: Baixo and Praia islets. It has an area of 277 km^2 and is the northernmost island of the Azores, Portugal (39.05N/-27.99W). • This is a key area for the only breeding population of the vulnerable and endemic Monteiro's storm-petrel (*Hydrobates monteiroi*) and is also important for the breeding population of the Audubon's shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri baroli*), which is listed by OSPAR as a threatened and/or declining species. Many other seabirds occur in these waters, such as band-rumped storm-petrel (*Hydrobates*	H	H	H	H	-	-	-

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
castro), Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris borealis*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*). All of these species have low recovery rates and are highly sensitive to environmental degradation or depletion by human activity.							
13. North Azores Plateau • Location: The area is spread over a wide part of the Atlantic Ocean, north of the Azores. The area is home to multiple types of structures (i.e., hydrothermal vent field, Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores High Seas Marine Protected Area, seamounts), which are very distinct in terms of biology and geology, and which have different compositions, locations and ages. • This area is composed of several seamounts, one hydrothermal vent field, an undersea trough and a large portion of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores Plateau. The structures in this area are hotspots of marine life and, in general, are areas of enhanced productivity, especially when compared with surrounding abyssal areas. The Moytirra is the first known deep-sea hydrothermal vent field on the slow-spreading Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores, making this area highly unique. A total of 536 species have been observed in this area, 6 per cent of which are protected under international or regional law.	H	H	H	H	M	H	M
14. Mid-North-Atlantic Frontal System • Location: This area has a well-defined western boundary (front), coinciding with the maritime boundary of the OSPAR Commission. It extends north along the east flank of the Grand Banks, where it forms a loop called the Northwest Corner and continues to the east. The northern boundary is defined by the northern extent of the Subpolar Front at 54°N. The North Subarctic Front is topographically fixed at the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone at 30°W. It is known that the North Atlantic Current and frontal branches vary strongly, with latitudinal shifts up to 250-300 km. Thus, maps of annual means have been used to ensure that the area's full temporal variability has been captured. • This is a remote area of intense mesoscale activity with near stationary eddies and numerous thermal fronts aligned in zonal bands. These fronts and eddies enhance primary productivity and retain and concentrate secondary productivity both vertically and horizontally. The combination of localised high-intensity mixing in the eddies results in patchy, high-surface productivity at fine scales. Tracking data collected for seabirds, whales, sea turtles, tunas and sharks (several of which are globally threatened) confirm that this is an area of high productivity with a high intensity of foraging activity, suggesting that this productivity cascades to higher trophic levels.	-	H	M	H	H	H	H

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
15. Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone • Location: This area extends from 48°N and 55°188′N along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone occurs at 52º30′N. The area extends from about 25°W to 45°W, with the transform faults occurring between 30°W and 35°W. The eastern boundary of the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone is detectable beyond 42°W. The southern ridge continues uninterrupted to 45°W. This area encompasses the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone, the meandering Sub-polar Frontal Zone and the benthic communities of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in this area, including individual seamounts. • Fracture zones are common topographic features of the ocean that arise through plate tectonics. The Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone is an unusual left lateral strike-slip double transform fault in the North Atlantic Ocean, along which the rift valley of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge is offset by 350 km near 52°30′ N. It opens the deepest connection between the northwest and northeast Atlantic (maximum depth of approximately 4500 m) and is approximately 2000 km in length, extending from about 25° W to 45° W. It is the most prominent interruption of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge between the Azores and Iceland and the only fracture zone between Europe and North America that has an offset of this size. Two named seamounts are associated with the transform faults: Minia and Hecate. The area is a unique geomorphological feature in the North Atlantic. Further, it captures the Earth's geological history, including significant ongoing geological processes. The sub-polar front is also representative of a pelagic frontal system. The area is described based on its importance as a section of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge and is a biogeographically representative section of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. There is evidence of both deep-sea sponge aggregations and cold-water corals in this area. In addition, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge is the only extensive hard substrate available for the propagation of benthic suspension feeders off the continental shelves and isolated seamounts in the region.	H	-	H	H	-	H	M
16. Southern Reykjanes Ridge • Location: The northern boundary of the area is Iceland's Exclusive Economic Zone. The southern boundary of this area is 55°188′N, well north the Sub-Polar Front, which separates the warm- and cold-water masses and is usually found between 52°N and 53°N. The 2,500 m depth contour was used to define the boundaries of the area, as this captures most of the Ridge crest and known distribution of deep-water corals (maximum 2,400 m). • Reykjanes Ridge is part of a major topographic feature of the Atlantic Ocean, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge separates the Newfoundland and Labrador Basins from the West-European Basin and the Irminger Sea from the Iceland Basin, influencing hydrography and circulation. The ridge crest is generally cut by a deep rift valley along its length, bordered by high rift mountains, which are	H	M	H	H	M	H	-

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
bordered by high fractured plateaus. This region is largely composed of volcanic rock, which is the foundation of the area and provides a hard-bottom substrate for the colonization of benthic communities, including vulnerable and habitat-forming species. The area supports several endangered and threatened shark and ray species. The Ridge itself and its complex hydrographic setting contributes to enhanced vertical mixing and turbulence, resulting in areas of increased productivity above it. The 2,500 m depth contour is used to delineate the boundary of the area, capturing most of the Ridge crest and known distribution of deep-water corals.							
17. Hatton and Rockall Banks and Basin • Location: The area is situated in the North-East Atlantic approximately 400-500 km west-northwest of Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and 400-500 km south-southeast of Iceland. It comprises the seabed and pelagic zones shallower than 3000m overlying the Rockall and Hatton Banks, together with the Rockall-Hatton Basin between them. The 3,000 m contour has been selected as delineating the boundary of this feature because: (i) it marks the accepted boundary between the bathyal and abyssal environments; (ii) review of oceanographic data suggests the 3,000 m contour corresponds well with the oceanographic influence of the feature and thus its likely influence on pelagic communities and (iii) new data on birds and mammals suggest that species use the pelagic areas just off the bank, which are captured by the boundary of this area. • The Hatton and Rockall Banks, as well as their associated slopes and connecting basin, represent offshore pelagic and bathyal habitats from the surface to 3,000 m deep that collectively constitute a unique and prominent feature of the North-East Atlantic. The area has high habitat heterogeneity and supports a wide range of benthic and pelagic species and associated ecosystems. Its comparatively remote oceanic location several hundred kilometres from the continental shelf afford it a level of protection and isolation from many human activities that are known to degrade the natural marine environment.	H	M	H	H	M	H	M

23/5. Possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding options for possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020;[37]

2. *Recommends* to the Conference of the Parties the following:

[(a) That nothing in the programme of work on the links between nature and culture should be interpreted or used to support non-tariff barriers to trade;]

(b) That the invitation in operative paragraph 2 of the recommendation of the Working Group, be extended also to relevant processes, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

[(c) That the following task be added to the joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity:

(i) Element 1, Task 1.b

The Secretariat of the Convention, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and other relevant bodies, will develop an effective strategy to ensure that the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably with the holders of traditional knowledge in order to preserve their culture, health and well-being.]

[37] CBD/WG8J/REC/11/3.

23/6. Draft proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Underlining the importance of robust technical and scientific cooperation and other means of implementation in supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Noting the constraints and challenges encountered in the delivery of technical and scientific cooperation programmes under the Convention,

Recognizing that technical and scientific cooperation will need to extend across a wide range of fields and disciplines to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity in other sectors, and to address drivers of biodiversity loss,

Recalling decision 14/20, in particular paragraph 3, and *noting* the ongoing discussions on digital sequence information on genetic resources,

Recalling the importance of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity as a key element for fostering technical and scientific cooperation as stated in Article 18(3) of the Convention and in decision X/15,

1. *Takes note* of the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework contained in annex I below;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, pursuant to decision 14/24 and subject to the availability of resources, to develop proposals for an inclusive process to review and renew technical and scientific cooperation programmes, including the Bio-Bridge Initiative, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative and the Global Taxonomy Initiative, in order to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to submit these proposals for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, to submit to the Executive Secretary, by 20 January 2020:

(a) Additional views and suggestions regarding the proposals referred to in paragraph 1 above, including elements of technical and scientific cooperation for enabling technology horizon scanning, assessment and monitoring, avoiding duplication of related technologies considered by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology;

(b) Examples of effective institutional mechanisms, partnerships, networks, and regional and subregional institutional arrangements;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further develop the proposals referred to in paragraph 1 above, taking into account the advice and amendments provided in annex I below and the submissions made by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and to submit the updated proposals for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting and the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its third meeting;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in undertaking the task in paragraph 4 above, to, as far as possible and subject to the availability of resources, provide:

(a) Information on the advantages and disadvantages of the three options for institutional arrangements;

(b) Information on the costs associated with the three options;

(c) An initial compilation and analysis of information on relevant institutional arrangements, and networks at the global, regional and/or subregional levels relating to different thematic topics,

including ongoing work by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its task forces;

6. *Welcomes* the draft terms of reference of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation as contained in annex II below, and *invites* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting to consider them and make a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

Annex I

DRAFT PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. Introduction

1. Article 18(1) of the Convention requires Parties to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, where necessary, through the appropriate international and national channels. Other parts of Article 18 also require Parties, in accordance with national legislation and policies, to encourage and develop methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuit of the objectives of the Convention, and, subject to mutual agreement, promote the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of relevant technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention. In addition, related articles are also relevant to technical and scientific cooperation, such as Articles 12 (Research and Training), 16 (Access to and Transfer of Technology), 17 (Exchange of Information) and 19 (Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of its Benefits).

2. The Conference of the Parties has adopted a number of decisions relating to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer. These include decisions VII/29, VIII/12, IX/14, X/16, X/23, XI/13, XII/2 B, XIII/23, XIII/31 and 14/24. In decisions XI/2 and XII/2 B, the Executive Secretary was requested to develop a coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer and to build partnerships and capacity with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of Article 18 and related articles of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In response, a number of tools and initiatives, such as the Bio-Bridge Initiative, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, the Global Taxonomy Initiative and others, have been developed to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties. However, those efforts have been beset by various challenges and limitations.

3. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare proposals for an inclusive process to review and renew technical and scientific cooperation programmes, in order to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (decision 14/24 B, para. 9). The proposals below have been prepared in response to the above request and in the context of the ongoing preparations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Responding to alarming numbers regarding biodiversity loss during past decades, the framework will be designed to step up action and bring about transformative change towards the 2050 Vision of "living in harmony with nature". Such ambitious efforts will require solid and systematic means of implementation if meaningful change is to occur on the ground. Enhanced technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and promotion of innovative solutions, involving a wide range of actors, are essential elements to achieve that change.

4. The proposals have been developed with due account being taken of the views and needs of Parties, and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and build on previous work on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention. They also draw on the experiences and lessons learned from various technical and scientific cooperation initiatives within and outside the Convention[38] and build on relevant earlier proposals regarding the development of a coherent,

[38] See the scoping document (CBD/COP/13/INF/22) and the overview provided in section II of the present document.

consistent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer,[39] proposals on options for measures and mechanisms to facilitate access to and adaptation of technologies[40] and proposals for the establishment of a biodiversity technology initiative.[41]

5. In accordance with decision 14/24, these draft proposals will be further developed through an inclusive process. As the first step, the Executive Secretary undertook a desk analysis of relevant previous decisions and initiatives on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer and prepared a draft document that was reviewed by the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism at its meeting held in June 2019 and also peer-reviewed by the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Following the consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-third meeting, the revised draft proposals will be sent to all Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations for additional views and suggestions. A third draft incorporating the views received will be issued for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and further discussed at the Global Thematic Consultation on Capacity-building and Technical and Scientific Cooperation to be held on 1 March 2020. The fourth revised draft proposals will then be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting, in May 2020, and the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in July 2020. The final draft proposals will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, in October 2020.

6. In the context of these proposals, technical and scientific cooperation is referred to as a process whereby two or more countries or institutions pursue their individual or collective biodiversity-related goals through cooperative actions and/or exchange of scientific knowledge, expertise, data, resources, technologies and technical know-how. It includes human resources development, institutional building, exchange of expertise, joint training, joint research, joint development and diffusion of technologies (including indigenous and traditional technologies), and transfer of technology and know-how.

2. Goal, objectives and guiding principles

(a) Goal and objectives

7. The overall goal of the proposals is to promote and facilitate collaboration among Parties and relevant organizations to enable them to effectively harness science, technology and innovation to support the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention and its protocols. The specific objectives would be as follows:

(a) To contribute to the development and strengthening of national capacities, in relation to science, technology and innovation, by means of human resources development and institutional capacity-building;[42]

(b) To promote and facilitate the development, transfer and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies;[43]

(c) To promote and encourage joint research and cooperation in the use of scientific advances in relevant research;[44]

[39] See UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3/Add.1.

[40] See UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19/Add.2.

[41] See UNEP/CBD/WGRI/3/10.

[42] This is pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

[43] This is pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 4, of the Convention.

[44] This is pursuant to Article 12 of the Convention.

(d) To build expertise and promote and scale up the development and implementation of innovative solutions, including modern biotechnology and other emerging technologies, according to national regulations and based on a precautionary approach;

(e) To facilitate access to and exchange of relevant technical and scientific data, information and knowledge, including, but not limited to, results of technical, scientific and socioeconomic research, specialized knowledge, indigenous and traditional knowledge, and best practices.[45]

(b) Guiding principles

8. In the light of past operational experience, best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of various technical and scientific cooperation programmes, technical and scientific cooperation efforts would be guided by the following principles:[46]

(a) *Demand-driven:* Technical and scientific cooperation support activities will be demand-driven and initiated at the request of Parties and relevant institutions and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, based on their identified and prioritized needs and according to national legislation;

(b) *Flexibility:* Technical and scientific cooperation support activities will be implemented in a flexible and adaptive manner, taking into account the varying needs, conditions and circumstances of the Parties and stakeholders involved;

(c) *Efficiency:* Efforts will be made to ensure that technical and scientific cooperation support activities respond to needs that have not yet been addressed by partner organizations;

(d) *Efficacy:* Measures will be taken to ensure that technical and scientific cooperation activities generate the desired changes and that results can be quantified;

(e) *Tailored approach:* Technical and scientific cooperation initiatives will foster tailored solutions with strong potential for buy-in and uptake at the local level, ownership of the beneficiary national and local partners, and better sustainability prospects;

(f) *Programmatic approach:* Technical and scientific cooperation initiatives will adopt a programmatic approach, emphasizing delivery through an integrated cooperative approach involving a plan with steps and milestones and sustained long-term engagement rather stand-alone short-term interventions;

(g) *Partnerships and collaboration:* Technical and scientific cooperation initiatives will be based on active engagement with institutional partners and providers of technical assistance, including (i) research and specialized networks, (ii) academic and scientific institutions, (iii) the private sector, (iv) subnational, national and regional governmental institutions, (v) national and international non-governmental organizations, including organizations engaging in citizen science, (vi) indigenous and local communities, (vii) bilateral and multilateral institutions, and (viii) funding institutions;

(h) *Mutual respect:* Technical and scientific cooperation initiatives will adhere to the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit;

(i) *Respect for regulatory requirements:* Technical and scientific cooperation will be subject to appropriate safeguards and will comply with the legal and regulatory requirements of the collaborating countries;

(j) *Continuous education and development:* Technical and scientific cooperation initiatives will include provisions for continuous education and learning opportunities as a part of the long-term

[45] This is pursuant to Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

[46] These guiding principles are consistent with the normative and operational principles outlined in the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/19/3).

programmatic approach to further address the progress in the development of new and emerging technologies and strengthen the technical knowledge of the recipients.

3. Priority focal areas

9. Technical and scientific cooperation work in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework could be organized around the following focal areas:

(a) *Science*: Promotion of research cooperation to foster effective use of scientific information to support evidence-based policies, actions, tools and mechanisms;[47]

(b) *Technology*: Development, transfer, promotion and use of appropriate technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies and knowledge, to scale up solutions;

(c) *Innovation:* Promotion of innovation.[48]

4. Options for technical and scientific cooperation activities and pathways

10. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention could be facilitated and strengthened through a number of strategic pathways and actions, subject to the availability of resources and in line with the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 currently under preparation. The options could include the following:

(a) *Help desk support services:*

(i) Provide information and advice on technical and scientific cooperation with a view to facilitating access to technical expertise and know-how;

(ii) Support requesting Parties and, in accordance with national legislation, relevant institutions and stakeholders, including subnational governments, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, in articulating their identified needs and formulating project proposals to address these needs;

(b) *Matchmaking services:*

(i) Work with an interdisciplinary network of international, regional and national providers and partners [49] to harness technical and institutional knowledge in biodiversity-related fields;

(ii) Mobilize technical assistance through matchmaking between requesting Parties, based on self-identified needs, and Parties and/or relevant institutions and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in a position to assist;[50]

(iii) Promote or strengthen partnerships and joint ventures to accelerate the development and diffusion of appropriate technologies and scalable solutions;

(iii) Promote private sector engagement in the development of innovative solutions;

---

[47] Article 12, paragraphs (b) and (c), of the Convention requires Parties to promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries, inter alia, in accordance with decisions of the Conference of the Parties taken in consequence of recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and, in keeping with the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 20, promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

[48] For the purposes of the present document, "innovation" is described as a process that encompasses design, experimentation, application and scaling up of new ideas and solutions, resulting in transformative and more impactful change.

[49] Including but not limited to specialized networks, academic and scientific institutions, the private sector, governmental and non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, bilateral and multilateral institutions, and funding institutions.

[50] Ibid.

(c) *Network development and partnership-building:*

(i) Catalyse and strengthen international and regional technical and scientific networks;

(ii) Promote biodiversity research data-sharing;

(iii) Further improve biodiversity monitoring through cooperation, with the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and the Biodiversity Observation Network of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO-BON), among others, to improve the acquisition, coordination, delivery and use of biodiversity-related Earth observation data and related services;

(iv) Identify, publicize, link and strengthen centres of expertise;

(d) *Capacity-building in areas related to technical and scientific cooperation:*

(i) Strengthen scientific institutions through the facilitation of training and educational programmes, including mentoring of experts and young scientists;

(ii) Support Parties to put in place and promote enabling policies, regulatory frameworks, institutional arrangements and incentives to catalyse and scale up innovation;

(iii) Facilitate the provision of skills training to develop technical know-how in specialized areas, such as remote sensing, scenario analyses and modelling, valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, DNA technologies, gene editing, synthetic biology, digital sequence information, status assessments for species and ecosystems, identification of spatial biodiversity priority areas, and others;[51]

(e) *Facilitation of research and development:*

(i) Strengthen the capacity of national and subnational scientific institutions to conduct relevant research, including through partnerships with counterpart organizations in other countries, the facilitation of joint research projects, and the exchange of experts and staff;

(ii) Establish or strengthen technology incubator programmes and accelerator mechanisms to promote and facilitate the development of biodiversity-related innovations and solutions, including locally designed technologies and solutions, and indigenous technologies;

(f) *Identification and promotion of exemplary cooperation initiatives:*

(i) Facilitate the sharing of relevant information, success stories and best practices, in line with the Knowledge Management Strategy, including information on results of technical and scientific research, relevant training and technical assistance programmes, and funding mechanisms;

(ii) Identify, map and publicize existing relevant technologies with a view to facilitating their accessibility and utilization;

(iii) Identify, promote and facilitate the implementation and scaling up of impactful innovations;

(iv) Showcase exemplary cooperation projects (bright spots) and case studies;

(v) Organize technology and innovation fairs and expos to showcase cutting-edge technologies and solutions.

[51] Pursuant to decision 14/24 B of the Conference of the Parties.

11. The choice of which options to apply would be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on a number of factors, including the needs and circumstances of the Party(ies) requesting assistance, the level of technical and financial resources required, the ability of the countries to absorb and sustain the technologies, and other considerations.

12. Based on previous experience, it is anticipated that the pathways and actions listed above could help address some of obstacles and challenges that have beset technical and scientific cooperation efforts. For example, they could help to:

(a) *Increase the number of successful cooperation partnerships established:* By scaling up activities and resources to respond to most requests for assistance submitted by Parties and relevant institutions to meet technical and scientific needs;

(b) *Strengthen existing networks:* Through partnerships and exchange programmes between Parties and technical partners, technical training, local knowledge transfer, and sharing of equipment and expertise between institutions and countries;

(c) *Increase the visibility and use of local and indigenous technologies and solutions:* Support the development and promotion of endogenous technologies and solutions to foster sustainability and reduce dependence on external technologies.

5. Options for institutional mechanisms and modalities

13. Enhanced technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would require an effective governance structure, efficient operational mechanisms and adequate financial and human resources.

14. With regard to governance, the Conference of the Parties would provide the overall strategic and policy/political guidance. The Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, to be established by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting pursuant to decision 14/24 B, paragraph 5, would provide advice and recommendations on programmatic and operational matters. The proposed terms of reference of the Informal Advisory Group are presented in the appendix below.

15. Possible options for operational institutional mechanisms to facilitate and enhance technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention could include the following:

(a) A global technical and scientific cooperation support centre autonomous from the Secretariat, working in close collaboration with various technical assistance providers;

(b) Regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres designated by the Conference of the Parties;

(c) Initiatives and programmes implemented/coordinated by the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners.

Option A: Global technical and scientific cooperation support centre

16. Under this option, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer would be promoted and facilitated by an autonomous global technical and scientific cooperation support centre that would be separate from the Secretariat of the Convention. This operational entity would be hosted and managed by a reputable international institution designated by the Conference of the Parties and could operate in a manner similar to such entities as the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), an operational arm of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Technology Mechanism hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development

Organization (UNIDO).[52] Criteria for selecting the host institution for the centre would be considered and approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

17. The global support centre would have a mandate to mobilize resources to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It would provide a central "one-stop shop" for Parties to submit their requests for assistance or opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation and support. Its specific proposed functions would include the following:

(a) Operate a help desk: to provide, at the request of Parties and relevant institutions and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, information, advice, and technical support in terms of articulating their needs and developing targeted project proposals, in collaboration with a network of institutional partners and providers of technical assistance to harness institutional knowledge and mobilize technical expertise;

(b) Facilitate matchmaking: to connect requesting Parties and relevant partners selected among the members of the above-mentioned network of partners and providers, in order to respond to self-identified and self-prioritized needs;

(c) Provide project support services: to assist with the implementation of technical and scientific cooperation projects to:

(i) Foster North-South, South-South and triangular partnerships, using a programmatic approach;

(ii) Facilitate the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including existing tools and techniques, scalable initiatives, and innovative local solutions;

(iii) Facilitate access to and utilization of scientific knowledge, information, and data, as well as indigenous and traditional knowledge;

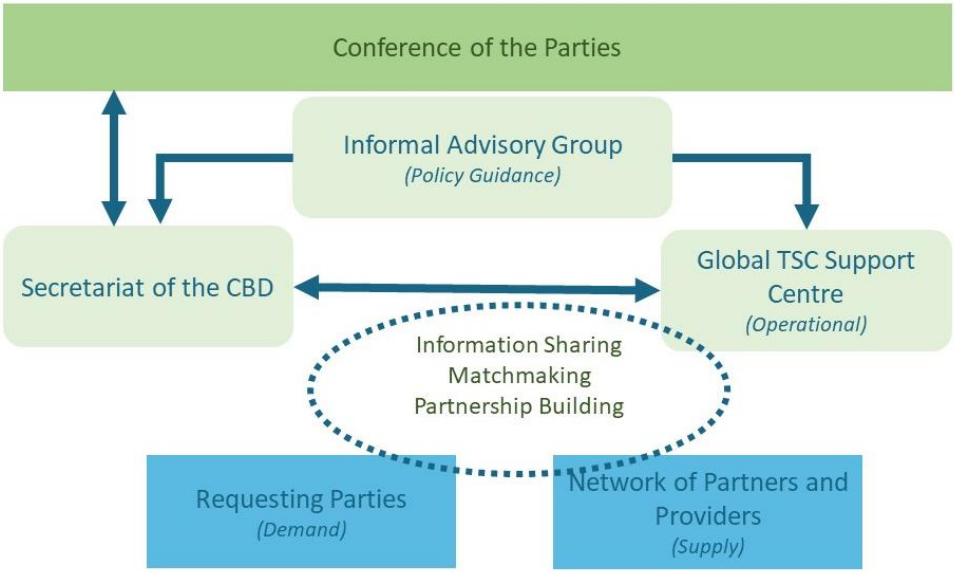
(d) Facilitate information-sharing through the identification and submission to the clearing-house mechanism of information identified in paragraph 10, subparagraph (f)(i) above;

(e) Perform such other activities as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

18. The global centre would work under the strategic guidance of the Conference of the Parties and would take into consideration the guidance and recommendations of the Informal Advisory Group described in paragraph 14 above. The centre would submit progress reports on its activities to the Conference of the Parties through the Secretariat of the Convention. A schematic illustration of the possible operational framework of the global centre and its relationship with the Conference of the Parties and other stakeholders, is presented in figure 1 below.

[52] See details at UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/13 and https://www.ctc-n.org/

Figure 1. Schematic illustration of the global institutional mechanism to support technical and scientific cooperation



19. The global support centre would require dedicated resources for its operations. If this option is selected, the Conference of the Parties may wish to invite the financial mechanism of the Convention and other donors to provide the global centre with funding to enable it to provide Parties with timely support so that they can access relevant technologies, expertise and other technical support required in order to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework effectively.

Option B: Regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres

20. Under this option, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer would be promoted and facilitated through regional and/or subregional centres designated by the Conference of the Parties. The regional support centres would be hosted in existing partner institutions that possess relevant expertise and institutional capacity to provide technical assistance to countries in the region or subregion upon request and to mobilize resources for technical scientific cooperation projects in their respective regions.[53] Criteria for selecting the host institutions for the centres would be considered and approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

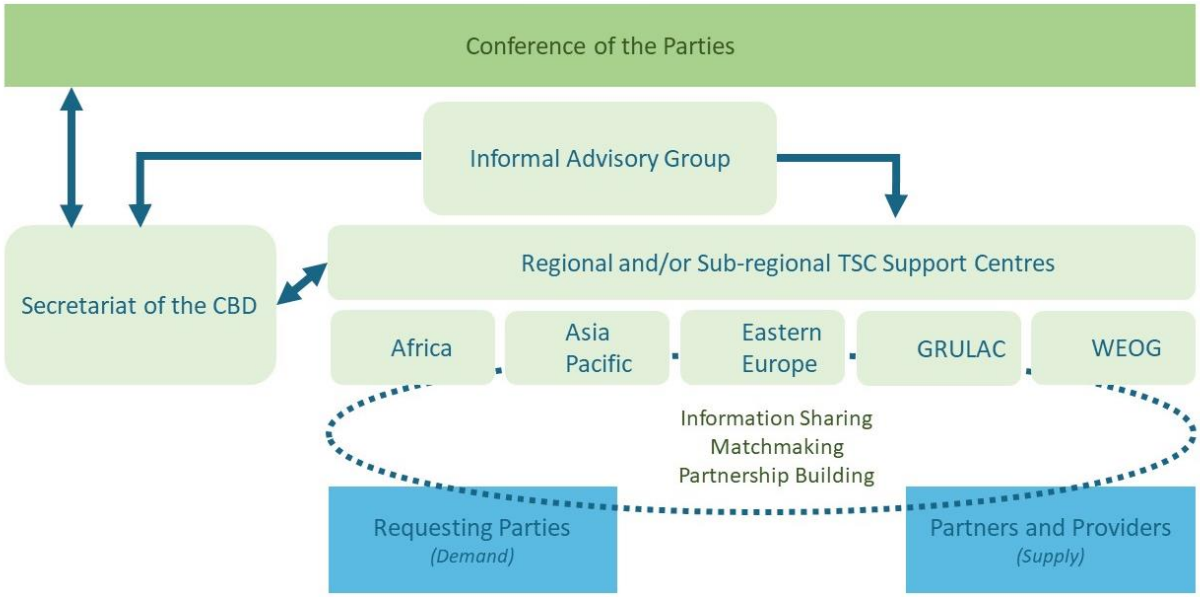
21. The regional support centres would carry out functions similar to those of the global centre as described above but would operate within their respective regions or subregions. Where necessary, they would coordinate with other centres to mobilize all the expertise required to fully support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and address priorities identified in their regions or subregions.

22. The centres would work under the strategic guidance of the Conference of the Parties and would take into consideration the relevant guidance and recommendations of the Informal Advisory Group described in paragraph 14 above. The centres would submit progress reports on their activities to the Conference of the Parties through the Secretariat of the Convention. A schematic illustration of the proposed regionally based institutional mechanism to promote and support technical and scientific

[53] The regional and/or subregional centres could operate in a manner similar to such entities as the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, which provide technical assistance and promote the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of their obligations under the Stockholm Convention (see http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Overview/tabid/425/Default.aspx)

cooperation, including the relationship between the above components, the Conference of the Parties and other stakeholders, is presented in figure 2 below.

Figure 2. Schematic illustration of the regional institutional mechanism to support technical and scientific cooperation



Option C: Technical and scientific cooperation support through Secretariat-coordinated programmes

23. Under this option, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer would continue to be promoted and facilitated through programmes coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention in collaboration with partners, including the Bio-Bridge Initiative, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the Sustainable Oceans Initiative. Each programme would implement targeted interventions in a specific thematic area. The Secretariat would submit progress reports to the Conference of the Parties, which would take into consideration the guidance of the Informal Advisory Group, as mentioned in paragraph 14 above. Their functions would differ from one programme to another on the basis of the priorities and requirements of donors.

24. The Secretariat would also continue to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation through partnership agreements and collaborative programmes with various partners, including research and academic institutions, international organizations and networks. These might include the Climate Technology Centre and Network (for example on promoting ecosystem-based solutions to climate change), the International Barcode of Life (iBOL), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR Centers), and the Biodiversity Observation Network of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO-BON). Others include the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the Global Biological Resource Centre Network (GBRC), the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership, the Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN), the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, the Sustainable Oceans Initiative and the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity.[54]

[54] An overview of other relevant initiatives is provided in UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3/Add.1 and UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/2.

25. To play an effective role in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Secretariat would require adequate and predictable funding support. The Secretariat's core budget would need to provide for dedicated staff positions responsible for technical and scientific cooperation as well as for core activities.

Role of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

26. In line with Article 24 of the Convention, the Secretariat of the Convention would:

(a) Prepare relevant documents and reports on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer (Articles 16 to 18 of the Convention) for the Conference of Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

(b) Compile relevant information related to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in the field of biological diversity and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism, in line with the knowledge management strategy;

(c) Coordinate, as appropriate, with biodiversity-related conventions, relevant Parties' agencies, the Consortium of Scientific Partners, the Business and Biodiversity Platform, and other relevant networks and initiatives carrying technical and scientific expertise and/or involved in cooperation;

(d) Co-organize with partners biodiversity science forums, technology and innovation expos and other events on the margins of international meetings;

(e) Perform such other activities as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

Annex II

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

1. Background

1. Article 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires Parties to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, where necessary, through appropriate international and national institutions, including by promoting cooperation in human resources development and institution-building, encouraging and developing methods of cooperation for the development and use of relevant technologies (including indigenous and traditional technologies), promoting cooperation in the training of personnel and exchange of experts, and promoting the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for development of relevant technologies. Article 18 also stresses the importance of the clearing-house mechanism for fostering technical and scientific cooperation.

2. In decisions, VII/29, VIII/12, IX/14, X/15, X/16, XII/2, XIII/23 and XIII/31, the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of measures and provided guidance on various aspects relating to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

3. In decision 14/24, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider establishing, at its fifteenth meeting, an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation, to be operational at the end of the mandate of the current Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-house Mechanism in 2020, to provide the Executive Secretary with advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention.

2. Purpose

4. The Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation will provide advice to the Executive Secretary on ways and means to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, capacity-building, knowledge management, and the clearing-house mechanism in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In particular, the Informal Advisory Group will provide advice, guidance and recommendations on:

(a) Practical measures and approaches to promote technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention;

(b) Measures to enhance collaboration with other relevant international agreements, processes and organizations with respect to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer initiatives;

(c) Strategic approaches to addressing the needs and priorities of Parties through programmatic implementation of relevant technical and scientific cooperation initiatives established under the Convention;

(d) Monitoring the implementation of the strategies on technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and knowledge management in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure coherence and consistency;

(e) Development and implementation of tools and mechanisms for promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and knowledge management, including science and traditional knowledge systems;

(f) Matters relating to the clearing house-mechanism and, in particular, on how to improve its effectiveness as a mechanism for promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation and exchange of information;

(g) Potential opportunities for mobilizing technical and financial resources to promote and sustain technical and scientific cooperation activities;

(h) Identification and mapping of existing collaboration activities.

5. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will support the work of the Informal Advisory Group, including the provision of necessary logistical and secretarial support for its work.

3. Membership

6. The Informal Advisory Group will be composed of experts nominated by Parties, with due regard to equitable regional representation and gender balance, as well as experts from indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations. The number of experts from organizations will not exceed the number of experts nominated by Parties. Members will be selected on the basis of the following criteria, as evidenced in their curriculum vitae:

(a) At least five years of working experience on technical and scientific issues related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and/or other relevant international agreements and processes;

(b) Expertise relevant to technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building, and knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism or similar online information-sharing platforms;

(c) Demonstrated experience with regional or international cooperation processes and programmes related to biodiversity and/or the environment.

7. The co-chairs of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity will be invited as ex officio members.

8. Members of the Informal Advisory Group will be selected through a formal nomination process based on the above criteria. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the co-chairs of the Informal Advisory Group, may invite additional experts knowledgeable in specific issues or thematic areas to be discussed at relevant meetings of the Informal Advisory Group, ensuring a balance of experts on matters related to the Convention. The members will serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of a government, organization or other entity.

9. Members of the Informal Advisory Group will serve for a term of two years, with a possibility of renewal for one additional two-year term.

4. Modus operandi

10. The Advisory Group will meet face-to-face at least once per year, subject to the availability of resources, wherever possible in the margins of other meetings. The frequency of meetings may be adjusted by the members as the need arises. The Group will work intersessionally, as appropriate, and remotely via electronic means.

11. The Advisory Group may, as appropriate, establish subcommittees to support it in addressing specific issues or thematic areas and co-opt relevant experts to assist.

12. The Advisory Group members shall not receive any honorarium, fee or other remuneration from the United Nations. However, costs for the participation of Group members nominated by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition will be covered, in line with the rules and regulations of the United Nations.

13. The Informal Advisory Group will elect two co-chairs to serve for a two-year period.

14. The working language of the Group will be English.

23/7. New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Takes note* of the proposals for new and emerging issues summarized in the note by the Executive Secretary on new and emerging issues;[55]

2. *Decides* to defer consideration of the submission that synthetic biology should be classified as a new and emerging issue to its twenty-fourth meeting, considering the advice provided by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology;

3. *Recommends* that, pending the outcome of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the subject of synthetic biology,[56] the Conference of the Parties decide not to add to the agenda of the Subsidiary Body in the coming biennium a new and emerging issue, pursuant to the procedure established through decision IX/29.

[55] CBD/SBSTTA/23/8.

[56] Consequential changes may need to be made accordingly on the final draft decision for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Montreal, Canada, at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization, from 25 to 29 November 2019, back-to-back with the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and other Governments:

Afghanistan
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahamas
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Bhutan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Czechia
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
European Union
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Niger
Norway
Pakistan
Palau
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Saint Lucia
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Seychelles
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
South Sudan
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America

3. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended:

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Global Environment Facility
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
International Fund for Agricultural Development
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
UN Women
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Office for Project Services
United Nations University Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability
World Health Organization

4. The following organizations were also represented by observers:

ABS Capacity Development Initiative
African Union
African Union Development Agency-NEPAD
African Wildlife Foundation
AGROICONE
Aichi Prefecture
American Museum of Natural History
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
Assembly of First Nations
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Australian Rainforest Conservation Society
Avaaz
Barnes Hill Community Development Organization
Biodiversity Matters
Bioversity International
BirdLife International
Born Free Foundation
Botanic Gardens Conservation International
Campaign for Nature
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
CBD Alliance
Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North/Russian Indigenous Training Centre
Centro para la Investigación y Planificación del Desarrollo Maya
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)
Central African Forest Commission
Conservation International
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
DHI Water & Environment
ECOROPA
Environment Management Group
ETC Group
Federation of German Scientists
Forest Peoples Programme
Foundation on Future Farming (Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft)
Friends of the Earth International
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Future Law
German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ)
Global Biodiversity Information Facility
Global Forest Coalition
Global Youth Biodiversity Network
Greenhorns
Greenpeace International
Group on Earth Observations – Biodiversity Observation Network
ICCA Consortium
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
Indigenous Information Network
Indigenous Leadership Initiative
Indigenous Reference Group of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales
Institute for Biodiversity Network
Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander Von Humboldt
International Development Law Organization
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
International Institute for Sustainability
International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty

International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity
Inuit Circumpolar Council
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
Japan Civil Network for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity
Japan Committee for IUCN
McGill University
National Capital Commission
Natural Resources Canada
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nirmanee Development Foundation
Nordic Council of Ministers
OGIEK Peoples Development Program (OPDP)
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Queen's University
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
Ramsar Network Japan
Regions4 Sustainable Development
Réseau des gestionnaires d'aires marines protégées en Méditerranée
Rueda de Medicina y Asociados, A.C.
Saami Council
Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Smithsonian Institution
Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation - Nepal
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
State University of New York at Plattsburgh
Stockholm Resilience Centre
SWAN International
Tebtebba Foundation
The Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators
The Mountain Institute
The Nature Conservancy
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Union for Ethical BioTrade
The World Bank Group
Third World Network
TRAFFIC International
Tulalip Tribes
United States Council for International Business
Université de Montréal
Université de Sherbrooke
University of Strathclyde
University of Wageningen
Wetlands International
Wildlife Conservation Society
Wilfrid Laurier University
World Agroforestry Centre
WWF International

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened at 10:10 a.m. on Monday 25 November 2019, by Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico), Chair of the Subsidiary Body. He reminded the Subsidiary Body that, of the 15 items for consideration by the Subsidiary Body from decisions adopted at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 8 would be addressed at the current meeting and the remaining 7 at the twenty-fourth meeting, in May 2020. The discussions on those decisions should be based on the best possible advice, which would be presented under subsequent items; political considerations should be reserved for the Conference of the Parties. The state of biodiversity was critical and was linked to economic, social and moral sustainable development; political and economic steps would therefore have to be taken to guarantee sustainable, equitable use of biodiversity and to ensure that the best was being done for humanity and the planet. The work of the Subsidiary Body would also contribute to the "zero draft" of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which was to be submitted in October 2020, to address critical trends and intensify actions to attain vision 2050 built on clear science.

6. An opening statement was made by Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat of the Convention. She thanked the Governments of Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as the European Union for providing financial resources to support participation of representatives of developing countries, countries with economies in transition and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities. The meeting was being held at a critical time for biodiversity and for the Convention, after publication of the first *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The

Assessment had concluded that, although biodiversity was decreasing significantly at all levels, several actions had been successful in reducing the loss. The Secretariat was conducting an open, transparent consultation with all Parties and stakeholders for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Parties had requested that the process be based on the best science and evidence, and the "zero draft" would therefore also draw upon the discussions at the current meeting, including guidance on specific goals, specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely (SMART) targets, indicators, baselines and monitoring frameworks for the drivers of biodiversity loss. A clear, actionable, global framework on biodiversity that could also be used at the national level would be one of the pillars of international sustainable development. She looked forward to participants' proposals to review and potentially renew various technical and scientific cooperation programmes under the Secretariat.

7. One of the Convention's achievements had been the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). The first round had covered over 75 per cent of the global ocean, and more than 300 areas met the EBSA criteria. All drivers of biodiversity loss must be addressed, as shown by the IPBES assessment. In the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the issues would be addressed in an integrated manner by supporting all women, men, indigenous peoples, youth and marginalized groups in playing active roles in achieving the biodiversity objectives, with governments and business. Immense energy had been expended in bringing the issues to the attention of policymakers. Through other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral environmental agreements and frameworks and United Nations initiatives, such as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the challenges could be addressed holistically. She concluded by reiterating that it was not too late to slow, halt and eventually reverse the loss of biodiversity, and the Subsidiary Body could provide the impetus for identifying the solutions.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. At the 1st session of the meeting, on 25 November 2019, chaired by Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico), the Subsidiary Body took up consideration of the agenda of the meeting.

9. The Subsidiary Body adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau (CBD/SBSTTA/23/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
4. Biodiversity and climate change.
5. Possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
6. Sustainable wildlife management.
7. Technical and scientific cooperation.
8. Results of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean.
9. New and emerging issues.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the meeting.

B. Election of officers

10. In accordance with the elections held at the twenty-first and twenty-second meetings of the Subsidiary Body, the Bureau at its twenty-third meeting comprised the following members:

Chair:	Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico)
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda)
	Mr. Oleg Borodin (Belarus)
	Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
	Mr. Moustafa M.A. Fouda (Egypt)
	Ms. Marina Von Weissenberg (Finland)
	Mr. Sigurdur Thrainsson (Iceland)
	Ms. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
	Ms. Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives)
	Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco)
	Mr. Marthin Kaukaha Kasaona (Namibia)
	Mr. Byoung-Yoon Lee (Republic of Korea)
	Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia)
	Mr. Norbert Bärlocher (Switzerland)
	Mr. Sergy Gubar (Ukraine)

11. The Secretariat informed the Subsidiary Body that Mr. Sergy Gubar had indicated that he was unable to continue serving on the Bureau.

12. The Chair invited members of the Bureau to nominate new members. He was informed that the regional groups had not yet completed their discussions and proposed that the item be addressed later in the week.

13. At the 11th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body formally elected the following officers, for a term commencing at the end of the twenty-third meeting and expiring at the end of the twenty-fifth meeting, to replace the outgoing members from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Maldives, Namibia and Saint Lucia: Ms. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles), Ms. Gwendalyn K. Sisior (Palau), Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia) and Ms. Tia Stevens (Australia).

14. The Subsidiary Body also elected Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway) as an alternate on the Bureau for issues related to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol.

15. The Chair informed the Subsidiary Body that Ms. Marina von Weissenberg, Bureau member from Finland, would assist him by chairing the sessions of the meeting on agenda items 3, on informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; Mr. Sigurdur Thrainsson (Iceland) would chair the sessions on item 4, on biodiversity and climate change, and item 5, on possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; Ms. Ilham Atho Mohammed (Maldives) would chair the session on agenda item 6, on sustainable wildlife management; Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia) would chair the session on agenda item 7, on technical and scientific cooperation; and Ms. Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) would chair the sessions on agenda item 8, on the results of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean, and item 9, on new and emerging issues.

16. It was agreed that Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco) would act as Rapporteur for the meeting.

17. At the invitation of the Chair, the Rapporteur made a statement on behalf of all the participants in the meeting. He congratulated the Chair of the Subsidiary Body, the members of the Bureau, and the Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat and her team for the high quality of the preparations for the meeting. He also thanked the Government of Canada for hosting the meeting and those Parties that had generously

provided funding to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries. He expressed his confidence that the deliberations would be productive and thanked the Chair for giving him the opportunity to speak.

ITEM 3. INFORMING THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EVIDENCE BASE FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

18. At the 1st session of the meeting, on 25 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 3. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/23/2) and four addendums covering the following: (a) the findings of the *Global Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and other relevant assessments, and implications for the work of the Convention, in particular the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.1); (b) other information on the evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.2); (c) a draft summary for policymakers of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.3); and (d) observations on potential elements for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4). It also had before it the draft fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the following information documents: Bending the curve of global freshwater biodiversity loss – an emergency recovery plan (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/2); The post-2020 biodiversity framework: targets, indicators and measurability implications at the global and national level (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/3); Indicators for global and national biodiversity targets – experience and indicator resources for development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/4); Considerations for a post-2020 target on area or site-based conservation measures, as a possible successor to Target 11 (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/5); Synthesis of the proposals of Parties and observers on the structure of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its targets (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/6); Status of the sixth national reports of Parties to the Convention (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/8); Report of the Ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/9); Including access and benefit sharing in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/10); Including food systems, biodiversity, nutrition and health in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/11); Plant conservation report summary document: a report on progress towards the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020 (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/12); Accelerating progress in species conservation post-2020: the species threat abatement and restoration metric (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/13).

19. Participants heard presentations related to the evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

20. Mr. Eduardo Brondizio, one of the co-Chairs of the IPBES *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, said that the assessment was the story of models, ideas and goals in economic development. They had looked at the implications for nature of the expansion of the global economy and of trade over the past 50 years and had found that the benefits and the burden were unevenly distributed. The burden had accumulated at a global scale, on land and in the oceans and freshwater environments, for all indicators of biodiversity. Progress made in meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets had been analysed to identify the factors underlying the changes and how they could be leveraged. Indigenous peoples had made huge contributions with their knowledge, innovations and practices; their contributions must be recognized, and they should be full partners in environmental governance. Various scenarios had been assessed, from economic optimism to regional competition and global sustainability. They had found that "business as usual" would compromise achievement of 80 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals, and indicators of biodiversity would also deviate from the targets. Scenarios that included climate change showed that it would play an increasing role over the next 10 years, and land use would be a strong determinant. Plausible scenarios required fundamental changes in production and consumption, reduced population growth, ecological, socially fair climate adaptation and mitigation and cross-sectoral planning and incentives. Although there had been a huge response, locally and globally, it

was not sufficient in scale or pace, as little progress had been made in addressing the indirect drivers of change, such as social values. There were strong underlying causes associated with development, in which natural materials were used without respect for their ecology. Protected areas had many limitations. For example, in the Amazon region, indigenous peoples and local communities had been granted rights and deforestation had been slowed, but the development model would undermine them in the long term, as infrastructure planning was largely ignored; thus, dams, roads and buildings would determine the outcomes. Cross-sectoral, pre-emptive resilience and planning and different types of governance were required to use nature to achieve better socioeconomic outcomes. The values of governance, the public sector and individuals must be leveraged to move towards a more sustainable economy, addressing the interactions between markets and trade and the whole supply chain in an integrated global approach, as resources were taken from more and more distant regions. Responsible techniques should be the norm in industry and not the exception. The value of resources increased as they left their source, leaving little for local communities to build economic development. One of the most important steps would be to remove perverse subsidies and replace them with positive incentives, even if that meant confronting vested interests. "Bending the biodiversity curve" meant bending the inequality curve. Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals all together should be based on integrating the global agreements, which would strengthen them, while respecting regional roles.

21. The representative of Colombia asked whether the *Global Assessment Report* provided any information on the specific production sectors that drove biodiversity loss. He had been asked by businesses in his country whether they should take action or reassess their work with respect to the use of ecosystems.

22. Mr. Brondizio described the process by which they had identified direct drivers of biodiversity loss. They had first evaluated the literature on direct drivers and then determined those with the strongest effect by region. They had then identified the instruments used to address them, such as monitoring, offering incentives, requiring certification and changes in technology in different sectors, and the outcomes. In that way, they had concluded what had limited some direct drivers.

23. The Chair commented that specific social and economic levers should be found to eliminate direct drivers.

24. Mr. Andreas Benjamin Schei (Norway) spoke about the outcomes of the ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, during which it had been observed that the process towards a new global biodiversity framework was drawing great attention. The Conference had been informed that the number of published scientific papers on biodiversity was increasing rapidly and heard presentations on a wide range of assessments that demonstrated that there was a good knowledge base on which to build. He said that fundamental changes in Earth systems were occurring, due to changes in the biosphere, and the options for addressing that required transformative change. Participants had identified a broad range of possible pathways to achieve the 2050 vision of "Living in harmony with nature" and had provided a number of insights on how transformative change could be achieved to move beyond "business as usual" actions. The participants had also considered a range of elements that could be included in the post-2020 framework and the outputs of those deliberations were available at (https://trondheimconference.org/outputs-from-interactive-sessions-and-elements).

25. Mr. Tim Hirsch of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility then provided an overview of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. Currently, at the review stage prior to publication in May 2020, the fifth edition would serve to evaluate progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and inform the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Key sources of information for the fifth edition included: the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* and the regional and thematic assessments carried out by IPBES; the sixth national reports provided by Parties; the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*; the Plant Conservation Report; updated indicators from the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership; and work on scenarios relating to pathways for realizing the 2050 vision. The fifth edition reviewed the conclusions of earlier editions and placed the current edition in the context of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, highlighting the existing opportunity to bring

biodiversity into the mainstream given the prominence of climate change in political agendas and heightened public concern for the state of the planet. As the decade of biodiversity neared its end, progress towards each Aichi Target was evaluated, with notable examples of success even though none of the targets were on track to be achieved. In its final section, the fifth edition summarized the latest information on pathways to a sustainable future and the transitions needed in key interconnected areas, including examples of such transitions. Reflecting that actions to achieve the 2050 vision would entail a wide variety of choices reflecting the diverse aspects of people's relationship with nature and that finding an appropriate balance between those aspects would be an important part of the policy choices of the coming decades, Mr. Hirsch urged Parties to comment on the draft of the fifth edition before 6 January 2020, when the review period would end.

26. Ms. Joji Carino said that the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* highlighted the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities. The first draft of the second edition, which had been prepared with generous financing from various sources, included 40 case studies illustrating innovations for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The first strategic goal was to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity into government and society, which was of relevance for the post-2020 agenda. Although the values of indigenous peoples and local communities had much to contribute in addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, they were marginalized in decision-making, to the detriment of both biodiversity and society. Mainstreaming of biodiversity required empowerment of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge. Biodiversity was decreasing at an alarming rate but less rapidly in the lands and territories of indigenous peoples and local communities, although they were under great pressure from agribusinesses, extractive industries and infrastructure development. They had nurtured agricultural biodiversity for millenniums, and full legal recognition of customary land tenure would improve conservation and revitalize indigenous food systems. Their contributions to ecosystem integrity, functions and services were underreported, and funding for their actions remained largely ad hoc, local and insecure, although financial resources were required for capacity-building, programming, bridging diverse knowledge systems and integrating indicators relevant to indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and reporting. Their collective actions contributed to the objectives of the Convention, the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate change agreement. Their contributions could be further increased by reducing inequality and promoting equity, providing funding and supporting community monitoring and information systems. The draft of the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* was available, and she looked forward to its launch with the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* at the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

27. Ms. Maïté Delmas, of the French National Museum of Natural History, speaking on behalf of the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation, presented the *Plant Conservation Report*, which had reviewed progress towards achieving the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. She said that, while it was unlikely that many of the targets would be achieved by 2020, considerable progress had been made. The targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation had promoted global responses and new initiatives, and had stimulated considerable growth in networks and partnerships, both nationally and internationally. She said that the most important lessons to be drawn from the last two decades were that progress was made when targets were measurable and supported by a focused and committed community. She stressed the importance of accessible data and the need for greater alignment and reporting between the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the frameworks of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Following a recommendation emanating from the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a first draft of plant conservation targets for the period 2021-2030 had been prepared, targets which were closely aligned with the existing Aichi Targets. She said that, given the importance of plants in supporting all life in Earth, it was essential that plants should continue to be evident in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

28. Ms. Wadzi Mandivenyi from South Africa reported on the workshop held on 23 November 2019 on the evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Workshop participants had heard presentations on the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, the fifth edition of

the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* and the next edition of the *Plant Conservation Report* and had discussed issues relevant to the evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including: the status of and trends in biodiversity, implications for human well-being and the need for transformational change; what transformational change might mean in practice and how to bring it about; the levers and leverage points needed for transformational change; and what scenarios suggest are possible futures for biodiversity and the pathways to better outcomes for society. Overall, the workshop had demonstrated the need to draw on the best available evidence in developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the benefits of collaboration. A report of the workshop would be made available as an information document for the current meeting, and workshop presentations would be posted on the workshop meeting page.

A. IPBES assessments, other relevant information and the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook

29. The Chair said that interventions should first be made on the issue of the IPBES assessments, other relevant information and the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, after which the Subsidiary Body should discuss guidance for the mission, goals, targets, indicators, baselines, and monitoring frameworks for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

30. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Cambodia, the European Union, Finland, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand and Trinidad and Tobago (on behalf of the small island developing States).

31. At the 2nd session of the meeting, on 25 November 2019, chaired by Ms. Marina von Weissenberg, the Subsidiary Body continued its discussion of the first part of the agenda item addressing the IPBES assessments, other relevant information and the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

32. Statements were made by representatives of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries present), Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt (on behalf of the African group), Ethiopia, France, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Malawi, Malaysia (on behalf of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)), Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

33. Statements were also made by representatives of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

34. Additional statements were made by representatives of Biodiversity International, CBD Alliance, CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF).

35. The representative of the Secretariat, responding to a query about the topics for the third part of the draft global biodiversity outlook, said that they had been principally selected from chapters 5 and 6 of the IPBES report, although other sources, such as FAO, had been used as well. However, several interventions had highlighted the need for issues such as pollution and infrastructure outside urban areas to be considered as well, along with information taken from the sixth national reports.

36. After the exchange of views, the Chair said that she would prepare a revised text for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the view expressed orally by the Parties and the comments received in writing.

B. Guidance for the mission, goals, targets, indicators, baselines, and monitoring frameworks for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

37. At the 2nd session of the meeting, on 25 November 2019, Ms. Weissenberg invited Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Basile van Havre (Canada), Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to make a presentation on their expectations for input from the Subsidiary Body. She recalled that the Co-Chairs of the Working Group had provided an informal briefing the previous day on the progress made and the next steps for preparing the framework. She invited them to express their expectations for the input that the Subsidiary Body would provide to the Working Group, in particular in preparation for its second meeting.

38. The Co-Chairs recalled the mandate that the Working Group had been given by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, in its decision 14/34. In the conclusions of its first meeting, the Working Group had requested the Co-Chairs to prepare a "zero draft" of the framework; it had also invited the Subsidiary Body to undertake the tasks listed in the outcome document and make any additional recommendations, in particular in relation to the IPBES assessment. The Subsidiary Body had also been invited to provide guidance on goals, indicators, baselines and monitoring frameworks for the drivers of biodiversity loss and for achieving transformational change within the scope of the three objectives of the Convention. The Subsidiary Body at its current meeting was asked to provide advice on organization of the key structural elements, inspirational, motivating options for the 2030 mission and thematic areas for goals and targets, particularly for addressing drivers of biodiversity loss. The Co-Chairs suggested that the Subsidiary Body refer to document CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4 and a slightly amended version of the informal update presented the previous day. The role of the Subsidiary Body was to provide scientific advice on the structure and elements of the framework and assessment of the outputs of negotiations.

39. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Indonesia, Maldives, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Seychelles (on behalf of small island developing States).

40. At the 3rd session of the meeting, on 26 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of the second part of the agenda item addressing guidance for the mission, goals, targets, indicators, baselines, and monitoring frameworks for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

41. Statements were made by representatives of Australia, Austria, Egypt, the European Union, Germany, Iceland, India, Japan, Jordan, Malawi, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

42. Statements were also made by representatives of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, FAO, the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (speaking for the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, United Nations University, UN Women, the World Bank, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the World Health Organization.

43. Further statements were made by representatives of the Advisory Committee of Sub-national Governments for Biodiversity, Birdlife International (speaking also for Conservation International, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and The Nature Conservancy), CBD Women's Caucus (supported by Canada), ETC Group, GeoBon (Group on Earth Observations - Biodiversity Observation Networks), the Global Forest Commission (speaking also for Friends of the Earth International), the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, Promote Pollinators, Worldwide Fund for Nature (supported by Ghana) and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

44. Following the exchange of views, the Chair established a contact group to be facilitated by Ms. Anne Teller (European Union) and Mr. Jorge Murillo (Colombia), with the mandate to develop guidance for the long-term goals, 2030 mission, targets for drivers of biodiversity loss, indicators, baselines and monitoring frameworks for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on the basis of the available evidence and the note by the Executive Secretary (CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4).

45. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered a revised text prepared by the contact group, which included an annex containing non-negotiated text intended to support the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

46. Interventions were made by representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Malawi and Switzerland.

47. At the 10th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of the revised text prepared by the contact group.

48. Interventions were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, Israel, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Timor-Leste and the United Kingdom.

49. After the exchange of views, the Chair proposed that a small drafting group consisting of representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the European Union, Finland, France, Iceland, Malawi and Mexico discuss the paragraph on which consensus had not been reached.

50. At the 11th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered the revised draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.

51. The representative of Brazil requested that the following statement be included in the report of the meeting: “Brazil underlines that the annex to document CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.8 lacks balance on capturing the positions submitted by Parties. We understand that this is part of an ongoing negotiation and we look forward to rectifying it. Brazil also notes an attempt to alter the meaning of ‘benefit sharing’ – which under the Convention relates to financial benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources – when it was joined to payment of ecosystem services, which implies a seller-buyer relationship, by a slash, its meaning was altered and thus re-signified.”

52. The draft recommendation, as orally amended, was adopted as recommendation 23/1. The text of the recommendation, as adopted, is contained in section I of the present report.

ITEM 4. BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

53. At the 3rd session of the meeting, on 26 November 2019, chaired by Mr. Sigurdur Thrainsson, (Iceland), the Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 4. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on biodiversity and climate change (CBD/SBSTTA/23/3). It also had before it, as an information document, a review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change and potential implications for the work of the Convention (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/1).

54. Mr. Paul Watkinson, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), addressed the Subsidiary Body by video message regarding the links between the two conventions and the two subsidiary bodies, which he said should be strengthened, particularly with respect to the question of basing their work on scientific assessments. He noted that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had issued three important special reports in the preceding year. Given the links between climate and biodiversity, climate negotiators at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2019 had been briefed on the IPBES *Global Assessment*, and the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference in December would include Earth Information Day, focused on research on and systematic observation of the atmosphere but also oceans and land. He expressed the hope that the dialogue between the two conventions would continue and institutional links

would be strengthened to facilitate action on both climate and biodiversity, for the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

55. Following Mr. Watkinson's remarks, statements were made by representatives of Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African group), Finland, Indonesia, Norway, Palau (on behalf of the small island developing States), Singapore (on behalf of the ASEAN member States) and Switzerland.

56. At the 4th session of the meeting, on 26 November 2019, the Subsidiary Group resumed its consideration of item 4.

57. Statements were made by representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belgium, Botswana, Cameroon, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, the European Union, France, Georgia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries), Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nepal, Niger, Peru, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

58. Statements were also made by representatives of FAO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

59. Further statements were made by representatives of BirdLife International, GFC (also on behalf of Friends of the Earth International), GYBN, IIFB, IPC, IUCN, Regions4, CBD Women's Caucus and World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

60. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would prepare a text for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties or supported by them and the comments received in writing.

61. At the 7th session of the meeting, on 28 November 2019, the Subsidiary Group considered the draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.

62. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, the European Union, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom.

63. During consideration of the draft recommendation, the representative of Turkey requested that the following statement be included in the report on the meeting: "Turkey reiterates the fact that the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of IPBES serves as policy advice based on the best available scientific and other types of knowledge but does not and cannot serve as a policy prescription. Thus, Turkey welcomes the summary for policymakers in the report and takes note of the policy options, which will be considered by Turkey on a case-by-case basis."

64. The representative of Argentina requested that the following statement be included in the report of the meeting: "The time frame of analyses of the IPBES *Global Assessment* only partially captures historic responsibilities of countries on biodiversity loss. Further studies are required to address this issue."

65. At the 8th session of the meeting, on 28 November 2019, the Subsidiary Group continued discussing the draft recommendation.

66. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, the European Union, France, Germany, Guinea, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

67. At the request of the Chair, the representative of IIFB also made an intervention.

68. Following the exchange of views, the draft recommendation, as orally amended, was approved for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.4.

69. At the 11th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.4, as orally amended, as recommendation 23/2. The text of the recommendation, as adopted, is contained in section I of the present report.

ITEM 5. POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF WORK ON THE LINKS BETWEEN NATURE AND CULTURE IN THE POST-2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

70. At the 4th session of the meeting, on 26 November 2019, chaired by Mr. Sigurdur Thrainsson, (Iceland), the Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 5. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on options for possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/23/4-CBD/WG8J/11/5) as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions on the matter (CBD/SBSTTA/23/4/Add.1).

71. Mr. Hamdalla Zedan, Chair of the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, reported on the relevant outcomes of that meeting. The Working Group had considered, among other things, possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, an item that was also being considered by the Subsidiary Body at its current meeting. One such element was the creation of an inter-agency mechanism bringing together entities working with nature with those working on culture to ensure enhanced integration of biological and cultural diversity to assure the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050. The Working Group had also prepared a recommendation on possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. He also said that the Secretariat had organized, prior to the meeting of the Working Group, a Global Thematic Dialogue for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and that the Working Group had recommended that the Subsidiary Body take note of the outcomes of that dialogue.

72. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Moldova (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries), Morocco, the Philippines and Sweden.

73. A statement was also made by the representative of UNESCO.

74. Further statements were made by representatives of IIFB, IPC and IUCN.

75. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would prepare a text for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties or supported by them and the comments received in writing.

76. At the 7th session of the meeting, on 28 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered the draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.

77. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

78. After the exchange of views, the Chair proposed that a small drafting group consisting of representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Finland, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom discuss those paragraphs on which consensus had not been reached.

79. The representatives of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Mexico and South Africa proposed joining the drafting group.

80. At the 8th session of the meeting, on 28 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered the revised text submitted by the small drafting group.

81. The Subsidiary Body approved the revised draft recommendation for formal adoption as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.2.

82. At the 11th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.2, as orally amended, as recommendation 23/5. The text of the recommendation, as adopted, is contained in section I of the present report.

ITEM 6. SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

83. At the 5th session of the meeting, on 27 November 2019, chaired by Ms. Ilham Atho Mohammed, the Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 6. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on sustainable wildlife management: report on actions taken pursuant to decision 14/7 (CBD/SBSTTA/23/5), and the report of the Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Wildlife Management Beyond 2020 (CBD/WG2020/1/INF/3).

84. Ms. Kristina Rodina, Forestry Officer, Wildlife and Protected Area Management, FAO, and Secretary of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), said that sustainable wildlife management supported biodiversity conservation by emphasizing the benefits to be obtained from biodiversity and thereby encouraging people to safeguard and manage wildlife responsibly. Its role was likely to increase in the face of global stress on wildlife from the increasing human population, land use transformation and changing lifestyles. Nevertheless, wild meat was an essential source of protein and income for millions of indigenous peoples and local communities and could account for 60 to 100 per cent of dietary protein. She recalled that CPW had been established by the Conference of Parties in its decision XI/25 in 2012 to address four themes: wildlife, food security and livelihoods; human-wildlife conflict; unsustainable hunting and wildlife crime; and animal health. CPW considered that the promotion of sustainable use of wildlife should address the drivers and root causes of unsustainable use and management and the contribution of sustainable wildlife management to improving community livelihoods and promoting local economic growth. Efforts should ensure that indigenous peoples and local communities benefited from their rights to use and manage wildlife, in accordance with their traditional cultural practices. CPW had held a consultative workshop to better understand how wildlife management could be integrated into the post-2020 framework (CBD/WG2020/1/INF/3).

85. Ms. Carolina Behe, speaking on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Council on the voluntary guidelines for a sustainable wild meat sector, said that Arctic indigenous food security depended on the entire ecosystem, in which each element was equally important. Challenges arose when policy recommendations were made for only one element without consideration of the cumulative impact. The natural right of all Inuit meant that they were responsible for sustainable management of the environment, such as sustainable harvesting, never taking more than necessary and only when the weather was conducive, which sometimes conflicted with state or federal regulations. Inuit groups had formed bilateral agreements, such as for management of polar bear, walrus, whales and the biodiversity of the polynya, and an Inuit Wildlife Summit had been held, resulting in the creation of the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Committee. The voluntary guidelines should accurately reflect their values, practices, institutions and views, including defining their hunting, gathering, fishing, land and water policies to support food sovereignty. She said that many of the proposed guidelines would not result in sustainable wildlife management in the Arctic or support biodiversity or the health and well-being of the entire ecosystem. She suggested that meetings be held with Arctic indigenous peoples to learn about their thousand-year-old practices and understand the different conceptions of conservation and that indigenous peoples be involved equitably in substantive and procedural decision-making. It would be important to recognize the relevance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the discussion.

86. The two speakers clarified points raised by representatives of Pakistan and Timor-Leste.

87. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Belarus (also speaking on behalf of the Central European countries), Belgium, Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon (on behalf of the African group), Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, India, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

88. A statement was also made by a representative of IPBES.

89. Further statements were made by representatives of IIFB, CBD Women's Caucus, Union Paysan de Québec (also speaking on behalf of Via Campesina and IPC) and Traffic (also speaking on behalf of the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF).

90. After the exchange of views, the Chair said that she would prepare a text for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties and the comments received in writing.

91. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, for formal adoption as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.6.

92. At the 11th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.6, as orally amended, as recommendation 23/3. The text of the recommendation, as adopted, is contained in section I of the present report.

ITEM 7. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

93. At the 5th session of the meeting, on 27 November 2019, chaired by Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia), the Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 7. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary containing draft proposals to renew and strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/23/6). In his introduction of the document, the representative of the Secretariat informed the Subsidiary Body that the section labelled "appendix" should be called "annex II", meaning that annex II became annex III. The Subsidiary Body also had before it information documents on metabarcoding and its potential to enable global biomonitoring (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/7) and capacity-building in DNA barcoding for species identification through the global taxonomy initiative (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/18).

94. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African group), the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Morocco, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkmenistan (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries present) and the United Kingdom.

95. At the 6th session of the meeting, on 27 November 2019, chaired by Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia), the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of item 7.

96. Statements were made by representatives of Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Japan, Malawi, Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste and Uganda.

97. Statements were also made by representatives of ETC Group (also on behalf of the Third World Network and the European Network for Ecological Reflection and Action (ECOROPA)), GEOBON, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the International Indian Treaty Council (on behalf of IPC) and IIFB.

98. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would consult further with Parties where there were differences and would prepare a text for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties or supported by them and the comments received in writing.

99. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.

100. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, the European Union, Finland, France, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

101. After the exchange of views, the Chair proposed that a small drafting group consisting of representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, the European Union, Mexico, South Africa, Uganda and the United Kingdom discuss those paragraphs on which consensus had not been reached.

102. At the 10th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered the revised draft recommendation submitted by the Chair. Following an exchange of views, the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, was approved for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.7.

103. At the 11th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.7, as orally amended, as recommendation 23/6. The text of the recommendation, as adopted, is contained in section I of the present report.

ITEM 8. RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO FACILITATE THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN

104. At the 6th session of the meeting, on 27 November 2019, chaired by Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 8. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it the results of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean (CBD/SBSTTA/23/7), the draft summary report on the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean (CBD/SBSTTA/23/7/Add.1), and the report of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean (CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/5).

105. Statements were made by representatives of Denmark, Finland, France, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Morocco, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

106. Statements were also made by representatives of Union Paysanne and Via Campesina (on behalf of IPC) and IIFB.

107. The representatives of Ireland and the United Kingdom expressed the wish that the report should reflect the fact that they remained committed to the EBSA process, which provided important scientific information that could and should be used in the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans. They were not opposed to the recommendation being brought forward to the Conference of the Parties but elucidated that their lack of opposition was without prejudice to their positions on the recommendation when it was considered by the Conference of the Parties.

108. After the exchange of views, the Chair said that she would prepare a text for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties and the comments received in writing.

109. At the 9th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, for formal adoption as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.5.

110. At the 11th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.5, as orally amended, as recommendation 23/4. The text of the recommendation, as adopted, is contained in section I of the present report.

ITEM 9. NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES

111. At the 6th session of the meeting, on 27 November 2019, chaired by Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 9. In considering the item, the

Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (CBD/SBSTTA/23/8).

112. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom.

113. Statements were also made by representatives of ETC Group and the International Indian Treaty Council (on behalf of IPC).

114. After the exchange of views, the Chair said that she would prepare a text for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties and the comments received in writing.

115. At the 8th session of the meeting, on 28 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body considered the draft recommendation submitted by the Chair. The Subsidiary Body approved the revised draft recommendation for formal adoption as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.3.

116. At the 11th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.3, as orally amended, as recommendation 23/7. The text of the recommendation, as adopted, is contained in section I of the present report.

ITEM 10. OTHER MATTERS

117. At the 11th plenary session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, a presentation ceremony was held for the winners of the poster sessions that had been held concurrently with the meeting of the Subsidiary Body. The winning posters were:

(a) #stopanimalselfies, from the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica;

(b) Bighorn Sheep in Sonora, Mexico: A tale of recovery due to its sustainable use, CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico (CONABIO), Mexico;

(c) Cameroon's sustainable wildlife management outlook, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, Cameroon.

ITEM 11. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

118. The present report was adopted, as orally amended, at the 11th session of the meeting, on 29 November 2019, on the basis of the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur (CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.1), on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

ITEM 12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

119. The Chair informed the Subsidiary Body of the death of Ms. Romana Alejandra Barrios Pérez in May 2019. She had been the national focal point for access and benefit-sharing in Mexico who was dedicated to the Convention and its Protocols. She would be missed by all those who had had the privilege to meet her.

120. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was closed at 10.30 p.m. on Friday, 29 November 2019.

_____