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**WORK OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE IN THE LIGHT OF THE 2014-2018 WORK PROGRAMME OF
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM FOR BIODIVERSITY
AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION**

INTRODUCTION

1. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision XII/25 on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which contains a number of requests to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Executive Secretary. The Subsidiary Body was also asked to evaluate the scope, process and findings of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* in the light of the work of the Intergovernmental Platform.
2. In order to address these requests, it is necessary to look at the work programme for the Subsidiary Body for the period up to 2020, taking into account decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties that concern the work programme under the Convention up to 2020 and that have direct or indirect implications for the work of the Subsidiary Body during this period. Among these decisions are decision XII/31 on the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020 and decision XII/26, in which the Conference of the Parties established the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.
3. The present note provides information on a number of interrelated matters, including interaction with the Intergovernmental Platform with regard to its deliverables, the roles of future editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the guidelines for the sixth national reports, and the relationship between the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation with regard to scientific and technical matters.
4. The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its meetings in 2015, considered, among other things, how the work to be undertaken by the Subsidiary Body until 2020 would support the Conference of the Parties, as well as the relationship of the Subsidiary Body

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/1.

with the Intergovernmental Platform and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.¹ The conclusions of the Bureau provide the basis for this note.

5. Section I contains an overview of relevant mandates as well as the work under the Convention as outlined in the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020 (decision XII/31). Section II contains information on how and when the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services are expected to feed into the work scheduled under the Convention. In section III, the role of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* in supporting the work of the Convention up to 2020 and its envisaged scope are discussed. Section III also contains deliberations on the guidelines for the sixth national reports in the context of the information contained in previous sections. Section IV provides considerations on the relationship between the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation with regard to scientific and technical matters.

I. BACKGROUND

Mandates

6. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chair and Bureau of the Subsidiary Body, to continue to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services where relevant, strengthening synergies and avoiding duplication of work, and to review the progress on elements of the work programme of the Platform that are relevant to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision XII/25, para. 5(a)).

7. The Executive Secretary was also requested to bring the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the attention of the Subsidiary Body for its consideration with regard to the relevance of the findings for the work of the Convention, and for the development, as appropriate, of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties (decision XII/25, para. 5(e)).

8. Furthermore, the Subsidiary Body was requested to evaluate the scope, process and findings of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* in the light of, and avoiding duplication with, the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services (decision XII/1, para. 19). On a related matter, the Executive Secretary was requested to develop a proposal on guidelines for the sixth national report, taking into account the types of information from the fifth national reports used in the preparation of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and gaps that have been identified, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at meetings held prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision XII/1, para. 9(a)).

9. In order to address these requests, it is necessary to take into account the decisions of the Conference of the Parties on its multi-year programme of work up to 2020 (decision XII/31), as well as its decision to establish the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (decision XII/26). The Subsidiary Body on Implementation will consider its modus operandi at its first meeting. The draft modus operandi will be prepared by the Executive Secretary in line with the terms of reference contained in the annex to decision XII/26, and, among others, taking into account the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.²

Work programme under the Convention up to 2020

¹ The minutes of the meetings of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body are available at <https://www.cbd.int/sbstta-bureau/default.shtml>. The Bureau had considered, in this context, the report of an informal meeting of the European SBSTTA-Focal points and other interested experts dealing with SBSTTA and related issues, which had been held in Brussels, Belgium on 11 December 2014.

² Decision VIII/10, annex III, and section II of decision IX/29.

10. The Conference of the Parties, in decision X/2, adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In paragraph 14 of this decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to share experiences relevant for implementation and to provide guidance on means to address obstacles encountered, at its future meetings. In this context, in paragraph 17(b) of the same decision, it also foresaw assessing the contribution of national and regional targets established in accordance with the Strategic Plan towards the global targets. A comprehensive mid-term assessment was undertaken at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the basis primarily of the fifth national reports and the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

11. In line with decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties is expected to keep under review, at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings, the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with a view to providing further guidance, as necessary. Moreover, as part of this, the Conference of the Parties is expected to keep under review the means of implementation (technical and scientific cooperation and mobilization of financial resources, among other things).

12. In its decision XII/31, the Conference of the Parties updated its multi-year programme of work up to 2020. Apart from the interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and related means of implementation, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider, at its thirteenth meeting: the implications of the findings of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and fifth national reports; strategic actions to enhance national implementation, in particular through mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, including agriculture, forests and fisheries; the implications of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the sustainable development goals and of other relevant international processes for the future work of the Convention; as well as guidelines for the sixth national reports and modalities for future editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.³

13. Apart from another interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Conference of the Parties decided to address, at its fourteenth meeting, long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity, approaches to living in harmony with nature and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.⁴

14. At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will conduct its final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is also expected to adopt a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to consider related means of implementation, including resource mobilization.⁵

15. The following sections contain information on the role of (a) the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, (b) the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, and (c) the sixth national reports in the work under the Convention up to 2020. Annex I provides an overview timeline bringing together these different strands of information.

³ In addition, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider ways and means to enhance the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention, in particular as regards training and capacity-building for developing countries to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, integration among the Convention and its Protocols, and the determination of funding needs to inform the GEF-7 replenishment for the 2018-2022 cycle.

⁴ In addition, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct a review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols.

⁵ In addition, the Conference of the Parties decided to address the determination of funding needs to inform the GEF-8 replenishment for the 2022-2026 cycle.

II. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DELIVERABLES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FOR WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION

16. In 2013, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services adopted the work programme of the Platform for 2014-2018 (decision IPBES-2/5). Information on progress in implementing the work programme was submitted to the Subsidiary Body at its eighteenth meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/12/Rev.1 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/19) as well as the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/28). An updated progress report will be made available in an information note.

Fast-track assessments

17. Currently, assessments are being prepared by the Platform on (a) pollination and pollinators associated with food production; and (b) scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services (decision IPBES-2/5). The Executive Secretary invited Parties and organizations to facilitate the expert review of drafts of these assessments (notification 2015-061 of 25 May 2015). Secretariat experts also provided input to the review process for both assessments.

18. These assessments are expected to be adopted at the fourth session of the Plenary of the Platform, in February 2016. The Subsidiary Body at its twentieth meeting will consider the implications of these assessments for the work under the Convention (items 7 and 11 on the agenda of the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body), and prepare recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its thirteenth meeting.

Regional, subregional and thematic assessments

19. The regional and subregional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration are also currently under way and are expected to be adopted by the Plenary of the Platform at its sixth session, in 2018. Opportunities to review draft assessment reports are expected for the second quarter of 2016 (first order draft of the assessment report) and the first quarter of 2017 (second order draft of the assessment report and first order draft of the summary for policymakers). The Executive Secretary will inform Parties of these opportunities. It is expected that ongoing relevant work under the Convention, including the outcomes of the interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, at the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, will feed into the regional and subregional assessments.

20. The implications of these assessments are expected to be considered by the Subsidiary Body at a meeting in the second quarter of 2018. Any recommendations by the Subsidiary Body will then be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting later in 2018 in the context of the interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

21. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform, at its meeting in February 2016, is expected to confirm the launch of a methodological assessment regarding diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. The decision will be taken based on a scoping report, which is currently being revised by an expert group. The expert group is also developing a preliminary guide on the conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people. The Executive Secretary has provided the expert group with comments.

22. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform, at its meeting in February 2016, will also decide on whether to undertake thematic assessments of invasive alien species and their control and of the sustainable use of biodiversity, conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools. Governments and experts have been invited to review and further develop the initial scoping for these assessments during an e-conference which will be held from 7 to 25 September 2015. If these assessments receive approval at the Plenary meeting in February 2016, it is expected that they will be adopted at the

seventh Plenary meeting of IPBES in early 2019. The Subsidiary Body would then review their outcomes with regard to the implications for the work under the Convention at a meeting in the fourth quarter of 2019. Relevant processes under the Convention will feed into the development of the thematic assessments, for instance tools developed on invasive alien species and on ecosystem restoration.

Global assessment

23. Currently, the scoping process for the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Platform is also under way. The Executive Secretary will inform Parties of opportunities to review the draft scoping report if these should arise. It is expected that the global assessment will be launched at the fourth session of the Plenary, in February 2016, and adoption envisaged for early 2019.

24. The global assessment will, together with other sources of information, form the basis of the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to be undertaken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, in 2020.⁶ It is expected that the Subsidiary Body would review the outcomes of the global assessment and the thematic assessments with regard to implications for the work under the Convention at a meeting in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Capacity-building, knowledge foundations and catalogue of policy tools and methodologies

25. Under the Platform, a task force on capacity-building for the period 2014-2018 has been established and tasked to work with all relevant subsidiary bodies under the Platform in ensuring that the priority capacity-building needs of the Platform (approved in decision IPBES-3/1) are fully addressed. The task force met twice during 2014 and once in 2015 to advise the Platform on the implementation of deliverables mandated by the Plenary, including (a) the development of a matchmaking facility, (b) an IPBES Capacity-Building Forum, which will convene representatives of conventional and potential sources of funding to catalyse financing for capacity-building activities, working closely with the matchmaking facility, and (c) regional capacity-building dialogues to help build the capacity needed for the delivery of the regional assessments. The matchmaking facility will promote and facilitate dialogue and cooperation among institutions, organizations and individuals looking for technical and financial support, and those in a position to provide such support. It comprises two components: a web-based tool bringing together those looking for support and those seeking to offer support for development and implementation of capacity-building activities in a common, searchable interface; and a set of enabling activities, including regional dialogues, the Capacity-building Forum, and other face-to-face networking and support activities. A call for proposals and pledges of support for capacity-building projects and activities was launched under the prototype matchmaking facility in July 2015. It is envisaged that, when fully operational, the IPBES matchmaking facility will receive pledges and project proposals on a continuous basis.

26. It is envisaged that the Matchmaking Facility and Capacity-Building Forum will contribute to achieving, among other things, Aichi Biodiversity Target 20 on mobilization of financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Secretariat experts are following the work of the task force closely and provide inputs in order to promote optimal synergies between the work of the Convention and the Platform. In the second half of 2015, the first Capacity-building Forum of the Platform will be held in Dehradun, India. The young fellows pilot programme of the Platform started in March 2015.

⁶ See the work programme for 2014-2018 adopted in decision IPBES-2/5 which provides for a global assessment that is envisaged to contribute to the process for the evaluation and renewal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The global assessment responds to the request in decision XI/13 C (para. 6) focusing on status and trends, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being, and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The workplan envisages the global assessment to be completed in time to be adopted by the Plenary of the Platform at its 7th meeting, in early 2019.

27. The Platform has also established a task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems. The task force continues to develop procedures for and approaches to working with indigenous and local knowledge, which will be considered by the Plenary of the Platform at its fourth session. Secretariat experts are participating actively in the work of the task force closely, including by serving as its chairperson, and provide information in order to achieve synergies between the work of the Convention and the Platform. The Executive Secretary will inform Parties of opportunities to review the draft procedures and approaches if these should arise.

28. The Platform is also in the process of developing a catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies and guidance for its use, as well as guidance on how the further development of tools and methodologies could be promoted and catalysed in the context of the Platform. Secretariat experts have provided the Platform with relevant information in order to enable synergies with existing structures, such as the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and the NBSAP forum.

Collaboration between multilateral environmental agreements and the Platform

29. With regard to the collaboration between multilateral environmental agreements and the Platform, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform invited the Secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate, to work with the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Platform to develop strategic partnerships, modelled on the memorandum of cooperation between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Platform, setting out areas for collaboration and cooperation, to be approved by the Plenary at a future session (decision IPBES-3/4: Communications, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnership). The Executive Secretary is currently consulting with the Secretariat and Bureau of the Platform as well as the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements on these matters.

III. MODALITIES OF THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE *GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK* AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GUIDELINES FOR THE SIXTH NATIONAL REPORTS

Global Biodiversity Outlook

30. The Subsidiary Body was requested to evaluate the scope, process and findings of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* in the light of, and avoiding duplication with, the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services (see decision XII/1, para. 19).

31. The third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* had been evaluated through an external assessment,⁷ which recommended, among other things, the following: (a) including references in the printed version of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* to enable readers to easily access the sources of information that underpin the report; (b) continuing to contract a science journalist or writer as well as lay-out and graphic design services to make sure the findings are easy to understand and accessible to a variety of different audiences; (c) increasing efforts to analyse information from national reports in a comprehensive manner; (d) continuing to report on indicators, to present information on scenarios and to contract expertise in order to develop scenario-based information; and (e) making explicit the links between biodiversity, the Millennium Development Goals and human well-being.

32. The recommendations provided by the evaluation were taken into account when preparing the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. The fourth edition was designed to provide a mid-term review, focusing on assessing the current state of progress, the likelihood of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets if current trends continue and the actions needed to enhance implementation. In comparison, the fifth edition will provide an assessment of the extent to which the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were met and the implications for a follow-up strategy on biodiversity.

⁷ The results of the assessment are available in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/1 and the complete report can be accessed from http://www.cbd.int/doc/gbo3/GBO-3_Evaluation.pdf.

33. The fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* was well received. In their interventions at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties and other partners unanimously welcomed it, and many noted the report's usefulness as a basis for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It was also considered to be a useful basis for the assessments being undertaken by the Intergovernmental Platform.

34. In addition, there were observations pertaining to the scope, process and findings of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and to the implications of the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for future editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. These can be summarized as follows:

(a) The main scope of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* was to provide the technical basis for the mid-term review of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in the form of an assessment of progress towards its implementation, drawing on information from national reports, a range of indicators and their extrapolations to 2020, long-term scenarios, scientific literature and other evidence;

(b) The process of its preparation was guided by an Advisory Group for the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and overseen by the Bureau for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice. A few interventions commented on the expertise drawn upon in the preparation of the *Outlook*, noting that both individual experts and institutions contributing to the analyses were considered to be highly qualified;

(c) Almost all interventions expressed agreement with the main findings of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and noted that the analysis provided a useful basis for enhancing implementation. A number of Parties emphasized in their statements that the actions to enhance progress towards each target would need to be interpreted and used in a flexible manner on the basis of national circumstances and priorities.

35. The fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties in decision XII/1. The Conference of the Parties gave its general conclusions and encouraged Parties, other Governments and organizations, to make use of the lists of key potential actions that could accelerate progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 contained in the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and to further develop lists of potential actions with additional key potential actions.

Evolution of the Global Biodiversity Outlook

36. To date, four editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* have been prepared. The first edition was prepared in 2001, providing both an overview of the status and trends of global biodiversity and a summary of work under the Convention. The second edition was launched in Curitiba, Brazil, on 20 March 2006, during the opening session of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It comprised an assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity and the key drivers of biodiversity loss and highlighted the importance of biodiversity to human well-being. It contained an overview of the status of the implementation of the Convention, progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It identified key actions required at the individual, institutional and systemic levels to achieve the 2010 target.

37. The third edition was launched at the opening of the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body, in 2010. Drawing on a range of information sources, including national reports, biodiversity indicators information, scientific literature, and a study assessing biodiversity scenarios for the future, the third edition summarized the latest data on status and trends in biodiversity and provided the final assessment of the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, concluding that the target had not been achieved.⁸ It

⁸ The assessment was also published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal: Stuart H. M. Butchart, et al., "Global biodiversity: indicators of recent declines", *Science* 328, 1164 (2010).

drew conclusions for future work under the Convention and thereby provided the foundation for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

38. The fourth edition was launched on the first day of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2014. Published almost at the halfway point of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, it provided an assessment of progress towards meeting the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and suggested key potential actions to accelerate that progress; on prospects for achieving the 2050 Vision on “Living in Harmony with Nature”; and on the importance of biodiversity in meeting broader goals for sustainable human development during this century. The fourth edition and its underlying technical reports drew upon several sources of information, thus providing multiple lines of evidence to the assessment of progress and the identification of actions to accelerate progress. The sources of information used included national biodiversity strategies and action plans, fifth national reports, recent trends in 55 biodiversity-related indicators and their statistical extrapolation to 2020, model-based scenarios to 2050, as well as scientific literature and other reports.

39. In terms of their relationship to scientific assessments, the four editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* show an evolution. The first edition was mainly based on information contained in the first national reports, while the second edition built on a broader range of sources, including the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* reports, and provided a summary of scenario-building work prepared by the GLOBIO Consortium (Global Methodology for Mapping Human Impacts on the Biosphere Consortium). Models were used by the Consortium for a quantitative analysis of the effects of different policy interventions on biodiversity to inform policy responses and to communicate the challenges for achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the longer term goal of halting biodiversity loss.

40. For the third edition, scientists from a wide range of disciplines collaborated to identify possible future outcomes for biodiversity change during the rest of the twenty-first century. Their work was based on a combination of observed trends, models and experiments and drew upon and compiled all previous relevant scenario exercises conducted for the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, the *Global Environment Outlook* and earlier editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, as well as scenarios being developed under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This work paid particular attention to the relationship between biodiversity change and its impacts on human societies. In addition to the analysis of existing models and scenarios, a new assessment was carried out on potential “tipping points” that could lead to large, rapid and potentially irreversible changes. The in-depth study underlying the third edition was published as CBD Technical Series No. 50: *Biodiversity Scenarios: Projections of 21st Century Change in Biodiversity and Associated Ecosystem Services*.⁹ It included recommendations for future work on biodiversity models and scenarios that were also provided to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.¹⁰

41. The fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* brought together multiple lines of evidence derived from a wide range of sources. It drew upon targets, commitments and activities of countries as reported in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, as well as Parties’ own assessments of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It took into account information on the status and trends of biodiversity reported by Parties and in the scientific literature, and made use of indicator-based statistical extrapolations to 2020¹¹ as well as longer-term model based scenarios, in particular the scenarios developed by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency “Roads from

⁹ Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-50-en.pdf>. Based on this study, two papers were published in peer reviewed journals: Henrique M. Pereira, et al., Scenarios for Global Biodiversity in the 21st Century, *Science* 330, 1496 (2010), and Paul Leadley et al., “Interacting regional-scale regime shifts for biodiversity and ecosystem services”. *BioScience* (2014) Oxford University Press, available at <http://bioscience.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2014/06/25/biosci.biu093.full>.

¹⁰ See the note by the Executive Secretary on collaboration with the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/19/Add.1), available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/official/cop-11-19-add1-en.pdf>.

¹¹ Also published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal: Tittensor et al., “A mid-term analysis of progress towards international biodiversity targets”, *Science* 346, 6206 (2014).

Rio+20: Pathways to achieve global sustainability goals by 2050”. It was underpinned by a detailed assessment carried out by a group of international experts, published as CBD Technical Series No. 78: *Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An Assessment of Biodiversity Trends, Policy Scenarios and Key Actions*,¹² as well as a scenario assessment related to different economic sectors, published as CBD Technical Series No. 79: *How Sectors Can Contribute to Sustainable Use and Conservation of Biodiversity*.¹³ The results of the High-Level Panel on the Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 were also considered in this edition.

42. In a parallel process and using a similar approach, a mid-term review of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was undertaken, drawing on information from national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, information from participants in capacity-building workshops, submissions from members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, and a review of scientific literature. Following a review of a draft by the Subsidiary Body at its eighteenth meeting and a further revision, the *Plant Conservation Report 2014* was issued as CBD Technical Series No. 81 as a contribution to the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

Modalities for the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook

43. Consideration of the modalities for the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* should take into account previous experiences of the Outlook (see paras. 33-42 above), the programme of work under the Convention (see paras. 10 to 15 above and annex I), as well as the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (see sect. II above).

44. It is expected that a fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* would, in terms of underpinning scenario work, draw heavily on the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular on the outcomes of its work on scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as the thematic and regional assessments and the global assessment.

45. The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice considered these matters at its meeting in April 2015.¹⁴ On the basis of the deliberations of the Bureau, it is expected that the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* would be prepared to provide, on the one hand, a focused “final report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”. Its structure would be expected to be similar to the structure of the fourth edition, including a target-by-target analysis of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with an assessment at the same scale and following the same format. On the other hand, the fifth edition would also provide the basis for an updated strategic plan for biodiversity beyond 2020. It would draw heavily on the regional and global assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Platform (see annex II). The Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body will maintain regular contact with the IPBES Secretariat and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel to ensure complementarity between the assessments undertaken by IPBES and the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and keep Parties informed of progress in the development of the IPBES assessments.

46. The timing of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* would need to be aligned with the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020 (see also schedule in annex I). A draft of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* would therefore be reviewed by the Subsidiary Body at a meeting in the fourth quarter of 2019. The final version would be launched at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body in the second quarter of 2020, and the Subsidiary Body would consider its implications for the work under the Convention, i.e. the scientific aspects of a draft updated strategic plan for biodiversity 2021-2030. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation would take the work of the

¹² Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-78-en.pdf>.

¹³ Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-79-en.pdf>.

¹⁴ See the minutes of the second meeting of the Bureau, in 2015, available at <https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-19/sbstta-bur-2015-02-en.pdf>.

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice into account and finalize a draft decision containing the updated strategic plan, for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, later in 2020.

Implications for the guidelines for the sixth national reports

47. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a proposal on guidelines for the sixth national report (decision XII/1, para. 9(a)). The proposal should take into account the types of information from the fifth national reports used in the preparation of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and gaps that have been identified. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation will consider this proposal, and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twentieth meeting will address the technical considerations underlying the draft guidelines and provide advice for the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting is expected to adopt guidelines for the sixth national reports and agree on the date for their submission. It is envisaged that informal discussions on the guidelines for the sixth national reports will be held in the margins of the nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to allow Parties to agree on the general direction of the next round of national reporting and provide inputs for the further development of the guidelines.

48. As to the content of the sixth national report, Parties would be asked to provide information on their progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and in achieving the national targets established in the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the corresponding Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Subject to further consultations, the sixth national report could include the following information: (a) an introduction that includes the country profile; (b) an overview of the Party's updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan, and national targets; (c) a section on measures and actions taken, including mainstreaming, to implement the updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan and national targets; (d) a section on changes observed in outcomes (such as status of trends, pressures) including with reference to the national targets; (e) an assessment of progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and contributions towards achieving the sustainable development goals; an evaluation of the effectiveness/effects of measures and actions taken; as well as lessons learned and overall conclusions and recommendations for further work under the Convention.

49. It is envisaged that the sixth national reports would have a modular format. Online tools would be available to facilitate the preparation of each module. The modular format would promote a consistent approach among countries and facilitate subsequent analysis and synthesis of information by the Secretariat and Parties.

50. In this approach, sections of the national report could be completed module-by-module. This approach would provide an opportunity for Parties to complete modules as information becomes available and allows for updates as necessary. The guidelines for the sixth national reports would also aim to facilitate first steps, where feasible, towards a convergence of reporting elements under the Convention and its Protocols.

51. Taking into account the work under the Convention up to 2020 as well as the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services outlined in the previous sections, the date for the final submission of the sixth national reports should be the first quarter of 2019 in order to allow the reports to feed into the final assessment.

IV. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

52. The consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at its first meeting, of its *modus operandi* provides an opportunity to further define the role of this body. The draft *modus operandi* for the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will be prepared by the Executive Secretary in line with the terms of reference contained in the annex to decision XII/26, and, among others, taking into account the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

In this context, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may consider recommending to the Conference of the Parties a revision of its own modus operandi (decision VIII/10, annex III), if necessary.

53. The annex to decision XII/26 contains the terms of reference of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The terms of reference of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice are set out in Article 25 of the Convention. According to paragraph 1 of Article 25 of the Convention, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was established to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation was also established to support the Conference of the Parties in keeping under review the implementation of the Convention pursuant to Article 23, paragraph 4.

54. While, in theory, this could lead to an overlap in the work of the subsidiary bodies, the terms of reference of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation provide that this body, in performing its functions, should take into account, where appropriate, input from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and that the two bodies should carry out their respective functions taking into account each other's specific role and functions with a view to ensuring complementarity in their work and avoiding overlap. An indicative allocation of the functions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation is provided in a table in annex III. The provisional agenda for the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/1), also provides more information on some of the areas that will be taken up by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

55. In this context, based on the conclusions of the deliberations of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, it does not appear necessary to undertake a comprehensive revision of the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body. It was expected by the Bureau that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice would work with the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in a constructive and pragmatic fashion towards achieving the objectives of the Convention. However, minor changes could be recommended to adjust the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the current way of working under the Convention.

V. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Convinced that the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular its methodological, thematic, regional and global assessments can contribute significantly to the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as the development of an updated strategic plan for biodiversity beyond 2020,

1. *Emphasizes* the need for the timely delivery of the IPBES assessments in order to maximize their contribution to the work under the Convention;

2. *Welcomes* the close collaboration between the Secretariats of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Convention with regard to facilitating the implementation of the 2014-2018 work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a coherent and efficient manner;

3. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties decide, at its thirteenth meeting, that the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* should:

(a) Provide a concise final report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including a target-by-target analysis of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(b) Provide a key basis for an updated strategic plan for biodiversity beyond 2020 to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;

(c) Draw upon the thematic, regional and global assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as well as the sixth national reports;

4. *Notes* the technical considerations on the timing, form and content of the sixth national report as contained in section III of the note by the Executive Secretary on the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in the light of the 2014-2018 work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and relationship with the Subsidiary Body on Implementation,¹⁵

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take these considerations into account when developing a proposal on guidelines for the sixth national report.

¹⁵ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/9.

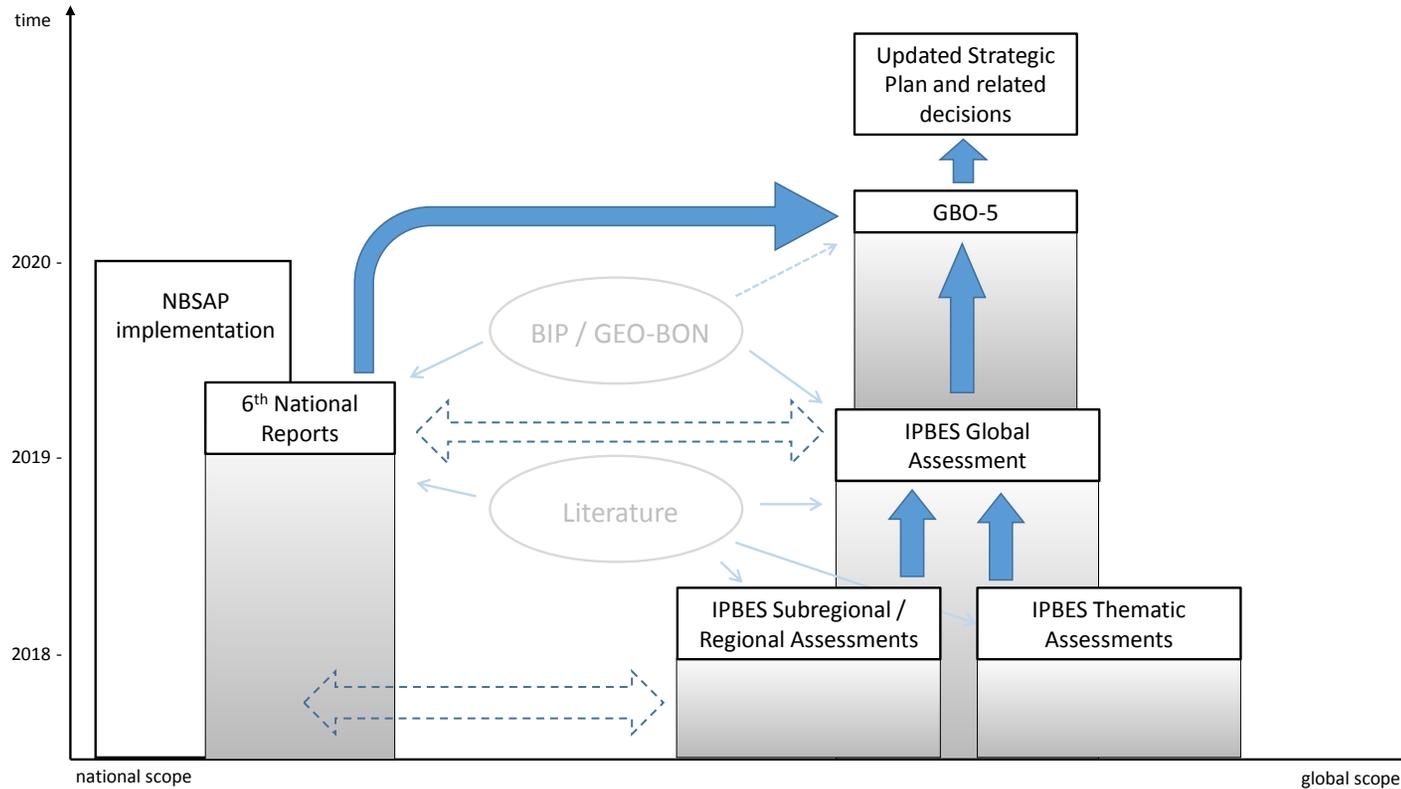
*Annex I***OVERVIEW TIMETABLE FOR WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION**

November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of further implications of GBO-4 and other strategic actions on mainstreaming into and across sectors 	SBSTTA-19
April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and assessment of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets – assessment of national targets and means of implementation • Consideration of further support to enhance national implementation, including mainstreaming • Consideration of sixth national report guidelines and proposals for GBO-5 • Consideration of IPBES assessments on pollination; and scenario analysis and modelling and implications for the future work of the Convention 	SBSTTA-20 and SBI-1
December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim review of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity / assessment of progress Aichi Biodiversity Targets • Further implications of GBO-4; strategic actions, in particular mainstreaming • Support to enhance national implementation, including Article 12 • Determination of funding needs to inform GEF-7 • Implications of relevant international processes (SDGs, climate) • Approval of sixth national report guidelines and modalities for GBO-5 • Consideration of IPBES assessments on pollination; and scenario analysis and modelling and implications for the future work of the Convention 	COP-13
4 th quarter 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for COP-14 items 	SBSTTA-21
1 st quarter 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of IPBES subregional/regional assessments and thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration and implications for the future work of the Convention (tbc) • Preparation for COP-14 items 	SBSTTA-22 and SBI-2

4 th quarter 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim review of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity / assessment of progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets • Approaches to living in harmony with nature • Synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions • Consideration of IPBES subregional/regional assessments and thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration and implications for the future work of the Convention (tbc) 	COP-14
1 st quarter 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for sixth national reports (for example, March) 	
2 nd quarter 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPBES Global Assessment approved by IPBES Plenary 	IPBES-7
4 th quarter 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of IPBES Global Assessment and implications for the future work of the Convention • Review of draft GBO-5 	SBSTTA-23
2 nd quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of GBO-5 providing final review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and assessment of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets • Consideration of implications of GBO-5 for the future work of the Convention • Scientific and technical review of draft updated Strategic Plan for 2021-2030 • Recommendation to COP on draft updated Strategic Plan for 2021-2030 	SBSTTA-24 SBI-3
4 th quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final formal review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and assessment of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets • Adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030 • Determination of funding needs to inform GEF-8 	COP-15

Annex II

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GBO-5 AND IPBES ASSESSMENTS



This schematic representation illustrates the relationship between the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the sixth national reports, the implementation of the NBSAPs, and the assessments of IPBES. Solid blue arrows indicate how information from one product will be used in another. The white boxes roughly indicate when products will be finalized. The shaded boxes indicate the processes leading up to the finalization of the various products. Double-headed arrows indicate possibilities for ongoing exchange of information during the preparatory processes.

Annex III

INDICATIVE ALLOCATION OF ITEMS BETWEEN THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION¹⁶

Key areas or items	SBSTTA Results (the what)	SBI Mechanisms (the how)
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Global Biodiversity Outlook</i> ➤ Assessments and studies on specific issues ➤ Review of IPBES deliverables regarding implications for work under the Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Awareness-raising ➤ Effectiveness of Convention processes and mechanisms ➤ Financial resource assessment
Review of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scientific assessment of progress being made in implementation, including: Progress towards achieving targets ➤ Focus on outcomes (aggregate impacts), global targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review of relevant information on progress in implementation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Preparation, updating and implementation of NBSAPs, national targets ❖ Progress towards achieving targets ❖ Means of implementation, including financial resource mobilization
Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of measures and actions to enhance implementation based on science and assessments of the effectiveness of types of measures ➤ Measures on scientific and technical topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of measures and actions for Parties to overcome obstacles ➤ Means of implementation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ financial resources mobilization ❖ technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building ❖ cooperation and partnerships ➤ Methods and approaches: mainstreaming, peer-reviewing ➤

¹⁶ As presented to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties at its meeting on 27 April 2015. Based on annex II to the minutes of the second meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, available at <https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-19/sbstta-bur-2015-02-en.pdf>.

Key areas or items	SBSTTA Results (the what)	SBI Mechanisms (the how)
Technical and scientific needs and cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of scientific and technical needs ➤ International cooperation in research and development ➤ Identification of technologies and know-how ➤ Ways and means of developing or transferring technologies (generic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of further guidance or needs and proposals for appropriate measures ➤ Technical and scientific cooperation as a supporting mechanism ➤ Clearinghouse mechanism ➤ Advancing and evaluating progress in technology transfer
Operations of the Convention/ Protocols		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Efficiency of structures and processes
Addressing needs of protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To be determined by respective MOPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enabled by the terms of reference for the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. Specific cases to be determined by MOPs