Template for the review of the draft information document CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/21 on detailed scientific and technical information to support the review of the proposed goals and targets in the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS

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General comments

Specific comments		
Page	**Paragraph**	**Comment**
40	139C	The current text focuses on pesticides for agricultural purposes but leaves out the use of insecticides for the control of vector-borne diseases. Insecticides are today the main tool to fight vector-borne diseases, including malaria that killed over 400,000 people and infected over 229 million people in 2019 alone (WHO world malaria report 2020)[1]. Vector control is an essential part of WHO Global Technical Strategy for malaria 2016-2030[2]. Considering the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in different sectors including health, and to ensure that the post-2020 biodiversity framework is aligned with the SDG, including SDG 3.3 (which includes ending malaria), the text of paragraph 143 should mention the need for innovation in the field of vector control and other malaria interventions.
75	Target 16	Considering the text of the Convention, and para 253, 255, the text of Target 16 should include potential positive impacts or potential benefits.
75	251	We welcome the text proposition "provisions to facilitate access to environmentally safe biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity" but would welcome the promotion of innovation and research in this field as the challenge is not only for some parties to "access" those biotechnologies but for those to be developed, evaluated, and then implemented. The need for innovation is widely accepted, and as pointed in the recent IUCN

[1] https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/malaria/world-malaria-reports/9789240015791-double-page-view.pdf?sfvrsn=2c24349d_5

[2] http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/176712/9789241564991_eng.pdf;jsessionid=2A1E817A09155341AE41B72B111D47CF?sequence=1

		report on synthetic biology and conservation[3], additional research is needed in this field to better understand the potential opportunities and risks.
76	255	This paragraph mentions that biotechnology can have "potential positive, negative or neutral impacts on biodiversity" and yet the proposed target is focusing only on "preventing adverse impacts". This is an unbalanced wording as it does not account for the potential neutral or positive impacts and therefore is not aligned with existing CBD decision text (article 19[4]). By not integrating the potential positive impacts does not align with the overall recognition that innovation, research and development will be needed to achieve the biodiversity framework ambitious objectives. We would therefore propose integrating "[promoting/harnessing/optimizing] potential positive impacts"
76	259	This paragraph mentions again adverse impacts on biodiversity and human health. There have been recent progress and achievements of biotechnologies in the field of health. Starting with the vaccine against COVID-19 using mRNA. But also, the progresses towards a potential innovative vector control tool against malaria using gene drive technology and the recent position paper of WHO highlighting the potential benefits of this research[5] (as well as the need to take a rigorous step-by-step approach). In addition, biotechnologies including synthetic biology holds some potential benefits for conservation (IUCN report[3]). As such, the monitoring should ensure this balance between positive and negative impacts, and support the knowledge exchange and information of parties about both aspects so that they can harness the potential innovations that could benefit to biodiversity.
76	260	Considering the importance of capacity building and the emphasis put by parties on this component during the informal SBSTTA, and the focus on this aspect in the report on the Cartagena Protocol implementation, it seems important that this dimension of capacity building and support to parties be integrated in the monitoring framework.

Comments should be sent by e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int by 23 April 2021. Please note that review comments previously sent on document CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2 will be considered in the revision of this document and there is no need to resend comments already submitted.

[3] https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48408
[4] https://www.cbd.int/convention/articles/?a=cbd-19
[5] https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240013155