

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/COP/15/2
15 October 2022

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Fifteenth meeting - Part II
Montreal, Canada, 7-19 December 2022

DRAFT DECISIONS FOR THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

The present note contains a compilation of draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. These draft decisions are organized according to the provisional agenda for the meeting and the annotations for part II of the meeting (CBD/COP/15/1/Rev.1 and CBD/COP/15/1/Add.3). This note includes the draft decisions contained in the various recommendations from the twenty-third and twenty-fourth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, and the first, second, third, and fourth meetings of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) and, where appropriate, additional elements developed by the Executive Secretary in the light of previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties or recommendations of its subsidiary bodies; these are highlighted in light grey throughout the document. The mandates for these additional elements are provided in the documentation prepared for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This document will be complemented by the outcomes of the fifth meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will be held from 3 to 5 December 2022.

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ELEMENTS OF DRAFT DECISIONS BY ITEMS OF THE AGENDA

Items 1-4

No draft decisions are foreseen under items 1-4, which are procedural (such as opening of the meeting, organization of work, election of officers, reports, etc). The action required on the part of the Conference of the Parties under these items is reflected in the revised annotations to the provisional agenda (CBD/COP/15/1/Add.3)

Item 5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

The following is taken from recommendation 3/19 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties

[Decides that, following the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, meetings of the Conference of the Parties will be held every two years unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.]

Item 6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings

In accordance with previous practice, the Conference of the Parties may wish to take note, in the report of the meeting, of the reports presented by subsidiary bodies (item 6 of the agenda) and take substantive matters raised in these reports under the relevant items of the agenda.

- (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on its eleventh meeting;
- (b) Report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-third meeting;
- (c) Report of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on part I of its third meeting;
- (d) Reports of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on its first, second and the part I of its third meeting;
- (e) Report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-fourth meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/24/12);
- (f) Report of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on its third meeting (CBD/SBI/3/21);
- (g) Reports of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on its third meeting (CBD/WG2020/3/7), its fourth meeting CBD/WG2020/4/4) and its fifth meeting (CBD/WG2020/5/--).

The regional groups may wish to report to the Conference of the Parties on the results of any regional preparatory meetings to be held prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the Trust Funds

The following elements of draft decisions have been prepared by the Executive Secretary.

The tables on administrative and budgetary matters, to be annexed to decision will be finalized by the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocols on the basis of proposals prepared by the Executive Secretary and provided in document CBD/COP/15/7

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 14/37 and decision 9/16 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its ninth meeting, and decision 3/16 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing at its third meeting,

Also recalling its decision EM-2/1, in which it approved the extension of the budget for the biennium 2019-2020 and, on an exceptional basis, a core interim budget for 2021,

Further recalling its decision 15/1, in which it approved the extension of the budget for the biennium 2019-2020 and, on an exceptional basis, a core interim budget for 2022,

1. *Decides* to adopt an integrated programme of work and budget for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing;

2. *Also decides* to share all costs for secretariat services among the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol on a ratio of 72:15:13 for the biennium 2023-2024;

3. *Approves* a core (BY) programme budget for the Convention of [*to be completed*] United States dollars for the year 2023 and of [*to be completed*] United States dollars for the year 2024, representing 72 per cent of the integrated budget of [*to be completed*] United States dollars for the year 2023 and [*to be completed*] United States dollars for the year 2024 for the Convention and the Protocols, for the purposes listed in the tables X and X below;

4. *Expresses* its appreciation to Canada as the host country for its renewed support to the Secretariat and welcomes the contribution of [*to be completed*] Canadian dollars for the year 2023 and [*to be completed*] Canadian dollars for the year 2024, from the host country, Canada, and the Province of Quebec, to the rental and associated costs of the Secretariat, which has been allocated on a ratio of 72:15:13 to offset contributions from the Parties to the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol, respectively, for the biennium 2023-2024;

5. *Adopts* the scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for 2023 and 2024, in accordance with the current scale of assessments of the United Nations, as contained in table x of the present decision;

6. *Takes note* of the indicative staffing table x of the Secretariat for the biennium 2023-2024 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget;

7. *Recalls* that the staffing arrangement of the Secretariat should ensure that the legal obligations under the Convention and its Protocols are met;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Bureau and provide it with all necessary information, including with regard to the application of the administrative arrangements between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to

ensure the guiding role of the Bureau with regard to preparations for and conduct of meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, within the rules and regulations of the United Nations and without prejudice to any decision by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, to adjust the staffing levels and numbers, and structure of the Secretariat, provided that the overall cost of the Secretariat of the Convention and its Protocols remains within that of the indicative staffing table and that there are no consequent increases in the staff costs in the integrated budget in future bienniums, and to report on the adjustments made to the Parties of the Convention and its Protocols at their next meetings;

10. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to enter into commitments up to the level of the approved budget, drawing on available cash resources, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income, in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations of the United Nations Environment Programme;

11. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to transfer resources among the programmes between each of the main appropriation lines set out in table x below up to an aggregate of 15 per cent of the total programme budget, provided that a further limitation of up to a maximum of 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply;

12. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core programme budgets (BY, BG and BB) are due on 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted and to pay them promptly, and requests that Parties be notified of the amount of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which the contributions are due;

13. *Notes with concern* that a number of Parties to the Convention and its Protocols have not paid their contributions to the core budgets (BY, BG and BB Trust Funds) for 2021 and prior years, including Parties that have never paid their contributions, and also notes that, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards adopted by the United Nations,¹ arrears estimated at [*to be completed*] United States dollars for the Convention, [*to be completed*] United States dollars for the Cartagena Protocol and [*to be completed*] United States dollars for the Nagoya Protocol are outstanding at the end of 2021 and are deducted from the fund balance to cover doubtful debt and, so, cannot be used for the benefit of all the respective Parties;

14. *Urges* Parties that have still not paid their contributions to the core budgets (BY, BG, BB Trust Funds) for 2021 and prior years to do so without delay or conditionalities, and requests the Executive Secretary to publish and keep up to date the information on the status of contributions to the Convention's Trust Funds (BY, BG, BB, BE, BH, BX, BZ and VB) and to keep the members of the Bureaux of the Convention and its Protocols updated so that they can provide information on unpaid contributions and their consequences at regional meetings;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in its capacity as Trustee, to utilize all available diplomatic channels to communicate to the relevant Parties, arrears in their contributions to the trust funds of the Convention on Biological Diversity (BY, BG and BB) from 2021 and prior years with a view to the payment of such arrears in full for the benefit of all Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Bureau and the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting on the status of these arrears;

16. *Confirms* that, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2005 onwards, Parties whose contributions are in arrears for two (2) or more years will not be eligible to become a member of the Bureaux of the Convention, its Protocols or the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice or to nominate a member of a compliance committee, and decides that this will only apply in the case of Parties that are not least developed countries or small island developing States;

¹ See General Assembly resolution [60/283](#), sect. IV.

17. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to enter into arrangements with any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years to mutually agree on a “schedule of payments” for such a Party to clear all outstanding arrears within six years depending on the financial circumstances of the Party in arrears and pay future contributions by the due date, and report on the implementation of any such arrangement to the Bureau at its next meeting and to the Conference of the Parties;

18. *Decides* that a Party with an agreed arrangement in accordance with paragraph 17 above and that is fully respecting the provisions of that arrangement will not be subject to the provisions of paragraph 16 above;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the President of the Conference of the Parties, through a jointly signed letter, to notify Parties whose contributions are in arrears inviting them to take timely action and to thank those Parties that have responded in a positive manner in paying their outstanding contributions;

20. *Notes* that the trust funds for the Convention and its Protocols (BY, BG and BB) should be extended for a period of two years beginning 1 January 2024 and ending 31 December 2025, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to seek the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly for their extension;

21. *Acknowledges* the funding estimates for:

(a) The Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity (BE) for the period 2023-2024 included in table X below;

(b) The Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ) for Facilitating the Participation of Developing Country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States as well as Parties with economies in transition, in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period 2023-2024, contained in table X below;

(c) The General Trust Fund (VB) for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period 2023-2024, contained in table X below;

22. *Recalls* rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the Convention, and stresses the need to have a wide range of Parties attending meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols;

23. *Reaffirms* the importance of full and effective participation of the developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, in the meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols and, in this context, requests the Executive Secretary to take into account the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of the Parties to its Protocols on concurrent meetings and on improving the efficiencies of the structures and processes of the Convention and its Protocols;

24. *Strongly encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, including in the context of the South-South cooperation, to provide the necessary financial resources to the BZ Trust Fund in order to enable the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

25. *Recalls* paragraph 31 of decision IX/34, and requests the Executive Secretary, when allocating the funding from the BZ Trust Fund, to continue to accord first priority to funding for least developed countries and small island developing States;

26. *Encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, to facilitate engagement by the Secretariat with potential alternative donors to the BZ Trust Fund, including private bodies, to assist in funding the participation of eligible developing countries in meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols;

27. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to remind Parties in January of each fiscal year of the need to contribute to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ) at least six months prior to the ordinary meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, to issue requests in December of each year covering the needs of all relevant meetings in the subsequent year, and to issue early invitations to other donors to make contributions;

28. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux, to continue to monitor the availability of voluntary contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ);

29. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare and submit an updated, detailed and integrated programme of work for the period 2025-2026, which sets out the objectives, tasks to be completed by the Secretariat, and results expected in regard to each budget item, for the Convention and its Protocols, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Parties to its Protocols at their next meetings, and a corresponding programme budget following the format of the proposed programme budget for the United Nations Environment Programme

30. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to its Protocols at their next meetings on income and budget performance, unspent balances and the status of surplus and carry-overs as well as any adjustments made to the budget for the biennium 2023-2024.

Item 8. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

8 A. Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The following is taken from recommendations 23/1 and 24/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The two draft decisions have been combined to ensure a logical sequence: paragraphs 1, 2 and 8 are taken from SBSTTA recommendation 23/1 and paragraphs 3 to 7 are taken from SBSTTA recommendation 24/1 (former paras. 1 to 5).

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 Services² 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. [Welcomes][Takes notes of] the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*,³ including its summary for policymakers, as well as the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*⁴ and the *2020 Plant Conservation Report*,⁵

4. Acknowledges with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as the European Union for the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

5. Takes note of the general conclusions from the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

6. Also takes note of the lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020⁶ identified in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

7. Encourages Parties, and invites other Governments and local and subnational governments as well as relevant organizations, as appropriate, to use the reports and to take steps to widely disseminate their findings, including by translating the reports into local languages and producing other appropriate communication products for different stakeholders, and to make use of the reports when implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

[8. 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

² <https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services>

³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020). *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*. Montreal.

⁴ Forest Peoples Programme (2020). *Local Biodiversity Outlooks 2: The contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and to renewing nature and cultures. A complement to the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook*. Moreton-in-Marsh, England (United Kingdom) (see www.localbiodiversityoutlooks.net).

⁵ Sharrock, S. (2020). *Plant Conservation Report 2020: A review of progress in implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020*. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Richmond, United Kingdom. *Technical Series No. 95*.

⁶ Conference of the Parties decision [X/2](#), annex.

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.]

8 B. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020

The following is taken from recommendation 3/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

[Recalling decision X/2 on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,]

[Also recalling paragraph 3 of decision X/2, in which it urged Parties and other Governments, with the support of intergovernmental and other organizations, as appropriate, to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and in particular to develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets, as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and taking into account both the global targets and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization, with a view to contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global targets,]

[Further recalling paragraph 10 of decision X/2, in which it urged Parties, in particular developed country Parties, and invited other Governments and international financial institutions, regional development banks, and other multilateral financial institutions to provide adequate, predictable and timely financial support to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries, the small island developing States and the most environmentally vulnerable countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to enable the full implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and reiterated that the extent to which developing country Parties would effectively implement their commitments under this Convention would depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under this Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology,]

*Recalling the conclusions of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* and the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that, despite some progress, none of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets has been fully achieved and that this undermines the attainment of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and other international goals and objectives,*

1. *Welcomes* the updated analysis of national biodiversity strategies and action plans⁷ and of the national reports⁸ and the review of progress towards the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020⁹ provided in these documents;

2. *Welcomes also* the efforts made by Parties to reflect the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the efforts made to reflect indigenous peoples and local communities, traditional knowledge, the customary sustainable use of biodiversity and gender issues therein;

3. *Welcomes further* the efforts made by Parties to implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and their efforts to better reflect issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities and their traditional knowledge and the customary sustainable use of biodiversity, and to gender issues in the national implementation of the Convention;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Parties to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders in the development and implementation of national biodiversity

⁷ CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1.

⁸ CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.2.

⁹ CBD/SBI/3/2.

strategies and action plans and the efforts of these groups to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

[5. *Notes with deep concern* [that the lack and adequate means of implementation has been a persistent obstacle to the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan in developing country Parties thus highlighting the need for enhanced international cooperation, and] that the national targets set by Parties through their national biodiversity strategies and action plans are [collectively not commensurate with the level of ambition set out in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets][[not commensurate with the collective global efforts needed to reach the Aichi Biodiversity Targets] and that, while there has been encouraging progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, progress on the whole has been limited;]

[5 *alt Notes with deep concern* that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were not achieved at the global level despite strong efforts and progress in some areas;]

6. *Also notes with deep concern* that the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action¹⁰ has not been fully implemented and that while awareness and understanding of biodiversity and gender issues has increased, gender is not adequately reflected in the implementation of the Convention or in many national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

7. *Further notes with deep concern* that, despite encouraging progress, the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and the consideration of traditional knowledge and the customary sustainable use of biodiversity have not been adequately reflected in the implementation of the Convention or in many national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

[8. *Takes note* of the lessons from the review of progress towards the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 [annexed to the present decision][presented in the note by the Executive Secretary¹¹], and [commits to taking these lessons into account][will consider these lessons], as appropriate, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

9. *Encourages* Parties, when developing, updating or revising their national biodiversity strategies and actions, to take into account the lessons from the review of progress towards the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as well information contained in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* and the review of implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

10. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments and organizations to support national dialogues with indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders, including women, and youth on the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, and with the participation of the Parties, to organize international dialogues with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, including women and youth on progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the post-2020 gender plan of action.

[Annex

LESSONS FROM THE REVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

1. Over the implementation period of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, a number of lessons have been identified in relation to national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), the national reports, capacity-building, resource mobilization, the review of implementation and the implementation of the Convention generally.

¹⁰ Decision XII/7, annex.

¹¹ CBD/SBI/3/2.

These lessons [should be taken into account in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its associated processes and mechanisms. They] include:

- (a) The need to keep attention and actions focused on implementation;
- (b) The need to strengthen NBSAPs and associated planning processes, including by making them whole-of-government policy instruments [at different levels];
- (c) The need to ensure that the targets, commitments or ambitions set by Parties at the national level are commensurate [and integrated] with global frameworks;
- (d) The need to reduce time lags in planning and account for time lags in implementation so as not to delay action on implementation;
- (e) The need for more effective, [efficient] comprehensive and actionable reviews of implementation;
- (f) The need for sustained and targeted support to Parties and a more concerted effort to facilitate [and link] implementation through support networks at the regional and subregional levels;
- (g) Making greater use of available guidance materials and resources and to adapt them to specific national circumstances;
- (h) The need for greater efforts to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss in a more integrated and holistic manner, including by implementing packages of actions composed of legal or policy frameworks, socioeconomic incentives, public and stakeholder engagement, monitoring and enforcement, and avoiding addressing related issues in isolation of one another;
- (i) The need to broaden political and general support for implementation to ensure that all levels of government and stakeholders across society are aware of the multiple values of biodiversity [, including existence values,] and related ecosystem services;
- (j) The need for partnerships at all levels to leverage broad-scale actions to garner the ownership necessary to ensure the mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors of government, society and the economy and to enable synergies in the national implementation of the various multilateral environmental agreements;
- (k) The need for greater support of technical and scientific cooperation among Parties and capacity-building;
- (l) An overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding.

]

Item 9. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework

9 A. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The Conference of the Parties is expected to review the draft framework with a view to adopting a final version on the basis of recommendation 5/- of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

9 B. Monitoring frameworks for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The following is taken from recommendation 24/2 of SBSTTA. The tables of annex I have been developed by the Executive Secretary on the basis of the technical reviews mandated by recommendation 24/2.

[The Conference of the Parties

[1. *Adopts* the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in annex I of the present decision;]

2. *Decides* to use the period from [2011-2020], where data is available, as the reference period, unless otherwise indicated, for reporting and monitoring progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, [while noting][and recognizes] that baselines, conditions and periods used to express [different responsibilities,] desirable states or levels of ambition in goals and targets should, where relevant, take into account [historical trends,][historic loss,] current status, and future scenarios of biodiversity [, including available information on the pre-industrial period];

3. *Also decides* to consider a review of the monitoring framework in order to finish its development at its sixteenth meeting, and thereafter keep the monitoring framework under review, as appropriate;

[4. *Further decides* that the headline indicators will be used [in global assessments] to monitor progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, complemented, as appropriate, by the component and complementary indicators;]

[5. *Also decides* that the headline indicators [should] [will] be used by [all] Parties in their national reports for reporting on their implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, where technically feasible and as [appropriate][applicable][and in accordance with Article 20][and encourages the establishment of mechanisms to build capacity in developing countries to support filling monitoring and reporting gaps;]

[6. *Encourages* all Parties to use the headline indicators in national planning processes, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans [or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity] and other national planning processes [as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances;]]

[7. *Invites* Parties to [adapt and] use the list of component and complementary indicators in their national planning processes [as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances] and in their national reports for reporting on their progress in implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in line with Article 26 of the Convention, [as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances;]]

8. [*Recognizes* the value of aligning][*Further invites* Parties to align] national monitoring with the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting statistical standard in order to mainstream biodiversity in national statistical systems and to strengthen national monitoring systems and reporting [as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances];

9. [Encourages] [urges] Parties [, pursuant to article 20,] and invites other Governments, the Global Environment Facility, the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other relevant organizations [and those invited to be part of the technical expert group on indicators] to support national, regional and global biodiversity monitoring systems;

[10. Invites the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant organizations to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

11. Decides to establish an ad hoc technical expert group, with a time-bound mandate until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present decision;

12. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review outcomes of the ad hoc technical expert group and complete the scientific and technical review of the monitoring framework and report their findings for subsequent consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

13. Decides to consider the requirements for further work to fully implement and review the effectiveness of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at its sixteenth meeting;

14. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the ad hoc technical expert group, and subject to the availability resources, to convene moderated online discussions on the monitoring framework;

[15. Requests the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions to continue the development of and operationalization of indicators related to traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples and local communities and report on this work to the Parties and for the Secretariat to make information available on progress and outcomes to the ad hoc technical expert group [and other relevant working groups];]

16. Requests the Executive Secretary [subject to the availability of resources], in collaboration with relevant partners:

(a) To [make available] [facilitate the development of] guidance on capacity-building and development to support Parties in implementing the monitoring framework, taking into account the special needs, circumstances and priorities of developing countries, [in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition], in compiling and using the headline indicators, and component and complementary indicators when relevant, including in their national reports, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other national planning processes;

(b) To facilitate the use of relevant tools, including the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT), to facilitate national reporting and the sharing of information between multilateral environment agreements.

17. Invites the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation, with the support of the Secretariat and subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a set of complimentary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the global biodiversity framework aligned with the final post-2020 global biodiversity framework, other relevant decisions adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well as previous experiences with the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as described in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the 2020 Plant Conservation Report, to be considered by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body following the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex I

MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. The monitoring framework is composed of three [four] groups of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

(a) **Headline indicators**[, as well as other global scale indicators collated from binary reporting through national reports]¹² (contained in Table 1): a minimum set of high-level indicators, which capture the overall scope of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be used for planning and tracking progress as set out in decision 15/-. They are nationally, regionally and globally relevant indicators [validated by Parties]. These indicators can also be used for communication purposes;

(b) **Component indicators** (contained in Table 2): A list of optional[, multidimensional] indicators that together with the headline indicators would cover all components of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the global, regional, national and [subnational] levels;

(c) **Complementary indicators** (contained in Table 2): a list of optional [, multidimensional] indicators for thematic or in-depth analysis of each goal and target which may be applicable at global, regional, national, and [subnational] levels;

[1 bis] [(d)] [The monitoring framework [can][will] be supplemented by [additional] national [and subnational] indicators.]

2. The indicators in the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should meet, or be able to meet by 2025, the following criteria:

(a) The data and metadata related to the indicator are publicly available;

(b) The methodology underpinning the indicator is either published in a peer reviewed academic journal or has gone through a scientific peer review process and has been validated for national use;

(c) The data sources and indicators should be compiled and regularly updated with a time lag of less than five years between updates, if possible;

(d) There is an existing mechanism for maintaining the indicator methodology and/or data generation, including, for example, by a member of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, an intergovernmental organization or a well-established scientific or research institution, including providing nationally applicable guidance on the use of the indicator;

(d) *alt.* Indicators should be able to detect trends relevant to the components of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(e) When possible, indicators are aligned with existing intergovernmental processes under the United Nations Statistical Commission, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics or the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. Additionally, an effort was made to utilize the existing work on essential biodiversity variables under the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network.

3. Headline indicators use methodologies agreed by Parties and are calculated based on national data from national monitoring networks and national sources, calculated at a national level, recognizing that in some cases this may need to draw on global dataset and if national indicators are not available then the use of global indicators at a national level must be validated through appropriate national mechanisms. These indicators would allow for consistent, standardized and scalable tracking of global goals and targets.

4. To facilitate the compilation and use of these headline, component and complementary indicators at the national level[, enabled by effective national biodiversity monitoring systems and other information systems,] capacity and development activities, technology and other support will be required. [The Secretariat together with organizations

¹² The Headline indicators are included in Table 1a. The Expert workshop on the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in Bonn (see <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/ID-OM-2022-01>) recommended a set of global indicators collated from responses to a list of yes/no questions be collected via national reports. They would be used in addition to the headline indicators to track global level progress towards the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. They are included in Table 1b.

identified in the indicator metadata sheets as data providers, such as the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and others, would be invited to provide guidelines and information for the design and implementation of national monitoring systems to support the collection of data and the calculation of headline indicators.] [In this way, developing country Parties would effectively use the headline indicators, as well as component and complementary indicators, supported by the effective provision of adequate means of implementation, in line with the provisions of the Convention, including the establishment of mechanisms to increase the capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation to fill monitoring gaps.]

5. In order to maximize uptake and minimize the reporting burden, the proposed list of headline indicators comprises a small number of indicators which are intended to capture the overall scope of a goal or target in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The headline indicators may not capture all components of a goal or a target but for analytical purposes can be complemented, as appropriate, with the component and complementary indicators.

Table 1a

HEADLINE INDICATORS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

A. Draft Goal/ Target	B. Headline indicator¹³	C. Assessment¹⁴
A	A.1 Red List of Ecosystems	1
	A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems by type	2
	A.3 Red List Index	1
	A.4 Living Planet Index	2
	A.5 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500	2
B	B.1 Functions and services provided by ecosystems, by service type	2
	B.2 Ecological Footprint	2
C	C.1 Indicator on monetary benefits received tbc	3
	C.2 Indicator on non-monetary benefits tbc	3
D	D.1 Official development assistance for biodiversity (SDG 15.a.1)	1
	D.2 Public [funding] [expenditure] and private [funding] [expenditure] on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems [as well as development and access to innovation, technology transfer and research on innovation]	3
1	1.1 Percent of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans	3
2	2.2 Area under restoration	3
3	3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMS, by effectiveness, KBAs & ecosystems	1
4	4.1 Green Status of Species Index	2
5	5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	1
6	6.1 Number of invasive alien species introduction events	1
7	7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential (SDG 14.1.1a)	1
	7.2 Pesticide environmental concentration ¹⁵	2
8	8.1 Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience Index (BERI)	2
9	9.1 Benefits from the use of wild species	3
	9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional employment	3
10	10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	1

¹³ The metadata for each headline indicator, which contains detailed information on the methodology, entities involved in the development of the indicator, plans for future development of the indicator and national uptake of the indicator is contained at <https://www.post-2020indicators.org/>. This website is being updated based on the Expert workshop on the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in Bonn (see <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/ID-OM-2022-01>).

¹⁴ The assessment was conducted by the Expert workshop on the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in Bonn (see <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/ID-OM-2022-01>). The assessment is as follows: 1: Broad support for inclusion as a headline indicator and meets the assessment criteria (methods, data available, etc); 2: Support for inclusion as a headline indicator, but does not currently meet all the assessment criteria and further development necessary (i.e., less relevant when nationally disaggregated, lack of agreement on the methodology, lack of national capacity to monitor the indicator, lack of data in some countries, etc.); 3: Fills a key gap in the headline indicators but needs development. Priority for development. (e.g., Goal C)

¹⁵ Proposed wording and adjusted rating based on inputs from technical experts on pesticides.

A. Draft Goal/ Target	B. Headline indicator ¹³	C. Assessment ¹⁴
	10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management (SDG 15.2.1 sub-indicator 4. (Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan) and sub-indicator 5. Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme)	1
11	11.1 Regulatory functions and services provided by ecosystems, by service type	2
12	12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all (built from SDG 11.7.1)	2
13	13.1 Indicator on operationalization of Target 13	3
14	14.1 Indicator on extent of implementation toward Target 14	3
15	15.1 Indicator on disclosures of risks and opportunities from businesses	2
16	16.1 Ecological footprint	2
	16.1alt Global environmental impacts of consumption	2
17	17.1 Indicator on operationalization of Target 17	3
18	18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	2
	18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity, that are redirected, repurposed or eliminated	3
19	19.1 Official development assistance for biodiversity (SDG 15.a.1)	1
	19.2 Public [funding] [expenditure] and private [funding] [expenditure] on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems [as well as development and access to innovation, technology transfer and research on innovation]	3
20	20.1 Indicator on biodiversity information and monitoring, including traditional knowledge [with FPIC][and scientific knowledge], for management	3
21	21.1 Indicator on implementation of Target 21	3
	21.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure (SDG Indicator 1.4.2)	2
22	22.1 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure (SDG Indicator 1.4.2)	2

Table 1b

**GLOBAL SCALE INDICATORS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK
COLLATED FROM BINARY (YES/NO) REPORTING FROM COUNTRIES THROUGH NATIONAL
REPORTS**

1. Draft Goal/ Target	2. Global indicator derived from binary reporting
B	B.b.1 Number of countries with national constitution or legislation recognizing and implementing and monitoring a right to a healthy environment.
6	6.b.1 Number of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species
8	8.b.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications that reflect biodiversity
13	13.b.1 Number of countries that have operational legislative, administrative or policy frameworks which related to target 13
14	14.b.1 Number of countries with national targets for integrating biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts
15	15.b.1 Number of countries taking legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure target 15 is achieved
16	16.b.1 Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to SCP (SDG Indicator 12.1.1)
17	17.b.1 Number of countries with capacity and measures in place related to target 17
22	22.b.1 Number of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

Table 2

INDICATORS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Draft Goal/Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
A	A.1 Red List of Ecosystems A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems by type A.3 Red List Index A.4 Living Planet Index A.5 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500	Ecosystem Intactness Index Ecosystem Integrity Index Species habitat Index Biodiversity Habitat Index Protected Connected (Protconn) index Parc connectedness EDGE	Forest area as a proportion of total land area (SDG indicator 15.1.1) Forest distribution Tree cover loss Grassland and savannah extent Mountain Green Cover Index Peatland extent and condition Permafrost thickness, depth and extent Continuous Global Mangrove Forest Cover Trends in mangrove forest fragmentation Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time (SDG indicator 6.6.1) Trends in mangrove extent Live coral cover Hard Coral cover and composition Global coral reef extent Global Seagrass Extent (Seagrass Cover and composition) Global saltmarsh extent Kelp canopy extent Macroalgal Canopy Cover and Composition

¹⁶ Component indicators should be applicable at the national scale, and provide measures in the broad sense, of the specific elements of the proposed goal/target. Component indicators are based on the indicators included in [recommendation SBSTTA 24/2](#) and views of experts at the Bonn workshop (see above), and technical review of the availability and applicability of the indicators proposed during SBSTTA-24 provided by UNEP-WCMC. In some cases, where the component indicator proposed at SBSTTA-24 no longer provides a measure of the proposed goal or target, there is a proposal to move the indicator to complementary level or to a different draft goal or target.

Draft Goal/Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			Cover of key benthic groups Fleshy algae cover Wetland Extent Trends Index Change in the extent of inland water ecosystems over time Change in the extent of water related ecosystems (SDG Indicator 6.6.1) Forest Fragmentation Index Forest Landscape Integrity Index Biomass of selected natural ecosystems Biodiversity Habitat Index Global Vegetation Health Products Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience Index (BERI) Relative Magnitude of Fragmentation (RMF) Ecosystem Intactness Index Biodiversity Intactness Index Ocean Health Index Extent of physical damage indicator to predominant seafloor habitats physical damage Wetland Extent Trends Index River Fragmentation Index Dendritic Connectivity Index Percentage of threatened species that are improving in status according to the Red List Number of threatened species by species group Wild bird index Mean Species Abundance (MSA) Species Protection Index

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator ¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			<p>Changes in plankton biomass and abundance</p> <p>Fish abundance and biomass</p> <p>Genetic scorecard for wild species</p> <p>Species richness/Changes in local terrestrial diversity (PREDICTS)</p> <p>Marine species richness</p> <p>Comprehensiveness of conservation of socioeconomically as well as culturally valuable species.</p> <p>Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities (SDG 2.5.1)</p> <p>Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, extinction</p> <p>Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals)</p> <p>CMS Connectivity Indicator</p> <p>Species Status Index</p> <p>Intact Wilderness</p> <p>Expected Loss of Phylogenetic diversity (IPBES)</p> <p>Proportion of populations maintained within species</p> <p>Free flowing rivers</p>
B	<p>B.1 Functions and services provided by ecosystems, by service type</p> <p>B.2 Ecological Footprint</p> <p><i>“Binary” indicator:</i></p>	<p>Red List Index (for utilized species)</p> <p>Living Planet Index (for used species)</p>	<p>Expected loss of Phylogenetic Diversity (IPBES phylogenetic diversity indicator)</p> <p>Red List Index (pollinating species)</p> <p>Green status index (pollinators)</p> <p>Air quality index</p> <p>Air pollution emissions account</p>

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
	<i>B.b.1 Number of countries with national constitution or legislation recognizing and implementing and monitoring a right to a healthy environment.</i>		Zoonotic disease in wildlife Climatic impact index Ocean acidification (SDG 14.3.1) Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (SDG indicator 6.3.2) Eflow index Change in the quality of inland water ecosystems over time Change in the quality of coastal water ecosystems over time Level of erosion Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (SDG indicator 11.5.1) Intact wilderness Biofuel production Maximum fish catch potential Population involved in hunting and gathering Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale Forestry Production & Trade (Wood Fuel) Trends in the legal trade of medicinal plants Visitor management assessment Number of formal and nonformal education programmes transmitting spiritual and cultural values in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Draft Goal/Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			<p>Number of mixed sites (having both natural and cultural Outstanding Universal Values), cultural landscapes (recognized as combined works of nature and people) and natural sites with cultural values including those supporting local and indigenous knowledge and practices inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves</p> <p>Index of Linguistic Diversity - Trends of Bilingual diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages</p> <p>Index of development of the standard - setting framework for the protection and promotion of culture, cultural rights and cultural diversity</p> <p>Cultural vitality index</p> <p>UNESCO Culture 2030 (multiple indicators)</p> <p>Processes and tools to monitor the implementation of a right to a healthy environment (e.g. Included in NBSAPs and reported in national reports</p> <p>Red List Index (for internationally traded species)</p>
C	<p>C.1 Indicator on monetary benefits received (tbc)</p> <p>C.2 Indicator on non-monetary benefits (tbc)</p>		<p>Number of users that have provided information relevant to the utilization of genetic resources to designated checkpoints</p> <p>Total number of internationally recognized certificates published in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of checkpoint communiqués published in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance for non-commercial purposes</p>

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
D	<p>D.1 Official development assistance for biodiversity (SDG 15.a.1)</p> <p>D.2 Public [funding] [expenditure] and private [funding] [expenditure] on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems [as well as development and access to innovation, technology transfer and research on innovation]</p>		<p>Finance mobilized for capacity-building</p> <p>Financial and technical assistance provided in dollars (including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation)</p> <p>Finance mobilized for promoting the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of technology</p> <p>Number of scientists per population</p> <p>Joint scientific papers published (in Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)) by sector</p> <p>Nationally maintained research vessels</p> <p>Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology</p> <p>Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study</p> <p>Global imports of information and communication technology (ICT) goods as presented by bilateral trade flows by ICT goods categories</p>
1	1.1 Percent land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans	Priority retention of intact / wilderness areas	<p>Number of countries using natural capital accounts in planning processes</p> <p>Percentage of spatial plans utilizing information on key biodiversity areas</p> <p>Habitat patches located within marine protected areas or integrated coastal zone management (ICZM)</p> <p>Other spatial management plans (not captured as ICZM or marine spatial planning in 14.2.1)</p> <p>Number of countries using ocean accounts in planning processes</p>

Draft Goal/Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (SDG indicator 6.5.2) Percent of total land area that is under cultivation Extent of natural ecosystems by type Number of countries implementing national legislation, policies or other measures regarding FPIC related to conservation” would work here for IPs (not necessarily LCs), if ‘spatial planning’ was substituted for conservation. Ecosystem Integrity Index
2	2.2 Area under restoration	Extent of natural ecosystems by type	Habitat distributional range Index of Species Rarity Sites, High Biodiversity Areas, Large Mammal Landscapes, Intact Wilderness and Climate Stabilization Areas Increase in secondary natural forest cover Annual Tropical Primary Tree Cover Loss Forest Landscape Integrity Index Global Ecosystem Restoration Index Free flowing rivers Percentage of cropped landscapes with at least 10 % natural land Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience Index (BERI) Priority retention of intact / wilderness areas Status of Key Biodiversity Areas Biodiversity Habitat Index Red List Index Red List of Ecosystems Living Planet Index

Draft Goal/Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			Species habitat Index
3	3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMS, by effectiveness, KBAs & ecosystems	Protected area coverage of key biodiversity areas (SDG 14.5.1, 15.1.2 and 15.4.1) Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) ProtConn Protected Area Connectedness Index (PARC-Connectedness) Red List of Ecosystems	Protected area downgrading, downsizing and degazettement (PD) Status of key biodiversity areas IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Number of hectares of UNESCO designated sites (natural and mixed World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves) Protected area and OECM management effectiveness (MEPCA) indicator Protected Area Isolation Index (PAI) Protected Areas Network metric (ProNet) The number of protected areas that have completed a site-level assessment of governance and equity (SAGE) CMS Connectivity Indicator Extent to which protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) cover Key Biodiversity Areas that are important for migratory species Coverage of Protected areas and OECMS and traditional territories (by governance type) Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) Percentage of biosphere reserves that have a positive conservation outcome and effective management Extent of indigenous peoples and local communities' lands that have some form of recognition

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			Species Protection Index Number of countries implementing national legislation, policies or other measures regarding FPIC related to conservation
4	4.1 Green Status of Species Index	Red List index Living Planet Index The proportion of populations within species with a genetically effective population size > 500 Number of plant and animal genetic resources secured in medium or long-term conservation facilities Trends in effective and sustainable management of human-wildlife conflict and coexistence	Species threat abatement and restoration metric Changing status of evolutionary distinct and globally endangered species (EDGE Index) Percentage of threatened species that are improving in status. Number of CMS daughter agreements Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk extinction Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals)
5	5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	Red List Index for used species Living Planet Index for used species Sustainable use of Wild Species	Sustainable watershed and inland fisheries index Red List Index (for internationally traded species and for migratory species) Marine Stewardship Council Fish catch Total catch of cetaceans under International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling By catch of vulnerable and non-target species Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (SDG indicator 14.6.1). Proportion of legal and illegal wildlife trade consisting of species threatened with extinction Illegal trade by CITES species classification Number of countries incorporating trade in their national biodiversity policy

Draft Goal/Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			<p>The conservation status of species listed in the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved</p> <p>Implementation of measures designed to minimize the impacts of fisheries and hunting on migratory species and their habitats</p> <p>Number of MSC Chain of Custody Certification holders by distribution country</p> <p>Trends of trade and commercialization in biodiversity-based products that is sustainable and legal (in line with BioTrade Principles and/or CITES requirements)</p>
6	<p>6.1 Number of invasive alien species introduction events</p> <p><i>“Binary” indicator:</i></p> <p><i>6.b.1 Number of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species</i></p>	<p>Rate of invasive species impact and rate of impact</p> <p>Rate of invasive alien species spread</p>	<p>Number of invasive alien species in national lists as per the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species</p> <p>Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas (in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species)</p> <p>Red List Index (impacts of invasive alien species)</p>
7	<p>7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential (SDG 14.1.1a)7.2 Pesticide environmental concentration</p>	<p>Fertilizer use</p> <p>Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated (SDG 6.3.1)</p> <p>Floating plastic debris density [by micro and macro plastics] (SDG 14.1.1b)</p> <p>Red List Index (impact of pollution)</p>	<p>Trends in Loss of Reactive Nitrogen to the Environment.</p> <p>Trends in Nitrogen Deposition</p> <p>Municipal solid waste collected and managed (SDG 11.6.1)</p> <p>Hazardous waste generation (SDG 12.4.2)</p> <p>Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including microplastics and on the seafloor</p> <p>Index of coastal eutrophication; (b) plastic debris density</p>

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			Red List of Ecosystems Underwater noise pollution Name, amount/ volume/ concentration of highly hazardous pesticides by type (per land/marine area)
8	8.1 Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience Index (BERI) <i>“Binary” indicator:</i> <i>8.b.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications that reflect biodiversity</i>	Total climate regulation services provided by ecosystems by ecosystem type (System of Environmental Economic Accounts) Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 which include biodiversity (based on SDG 13.2.1)	Above-ground biomass stock in forest (tonnes/ha) National greenhouse inventories from land use and land use change Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (SDG indicator 13.1.3) Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications (SDG indicator 13.b.1) Index of coastal eutrophication (SDG 14.3.1)
9	9.1 Benefits from the use of wild species 9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional employment	Number of people using wild resources for energy, food or culture (including firewood collection, hunting and fishing, gathering, medicinal use, craft making, etc.) Red List Index (species used for food and medicine) Living Planet Index for used species Sustainable use of Wild Species	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (SDG indicator 14.4.1) Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (SDG indicator 14.6.1) Number of MSC Chain of Custody Certification holders by distribution country Spawning stock biomass (related to commercially exploited species) Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities (SDG indicator 2.5.1)

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/ forestry enterprise size (SDG indicator 2.3.1)
10	10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management (SDG 15.2.1 sub-indicator 4. (Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan) and sub-indicator 5. Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme)	Area of forest under sustainable management: total forest management certification by Forest Stewardship Council and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status (SDG indicator 2.3.2)	Agrobiodiversity Index Changes in soil organic carbon stocks Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals) Red List Index (pollinating species) Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area
11	11.1 Regulatory functions and services provided by ecosystems, by service type	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (SDG indicator 11.5.1) Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services) (SDG indicator 3.9.2) Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (SDG 11.6.2) Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (SDG 6.3.2)	Air emission accounts Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management (SDG indicator 6.b.1) Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG indicator 6.1.1) Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (SDG indicator 3.9.1) Level of water stress (SDG 6.4.2)
12	12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all (built from SDG 11.7.1)	Recreation and cultural ecosystem services provided	
13	13.1 Indicator on operationalization of Target 13 <i>“Binary” indicator:</i>	Number of permits or their equivalents for genetic resources (including those related to traditional knowledge) by type of permit	Total number of transfers of crop material from the Multilateral System of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) received in a country

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
	<i>13.b.1 Number of countries that have operational legislative, administrative or policy frameworks which relate to target 13</i>		<p>Total number of permits, or their equivalent, granted for access to genetic resources</p> <p>Total number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance published in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of countries that require prior informed consent that have published legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of countries that require prior informed consent that have published information on ABS procedures in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits (SDG Indicator 15.6.1)</p> <p>Estimated percentage of monetary and non-monetary benefits directed towards conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p>
14	<p>14.1 Indicator on extent of implementation toward Target 14</p> <p><i>“Binary” indicator:</i></p> <p><i>14.b.1 Number of countries with national targets for integrating biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts</i></p>	<p>Indicator based on Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosures</p> <p>Number of countries with Implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SDG 15.9.1b)</p>	<p>Human Appropriation of Net Primary Production (HANPP)</p> <p>[Number of countries with] Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting [(SDG 15.9.1b)]</p> <p>CO2 emission per unit of value added (SDG indicator 9.4.1)</p> <p>Change in water-use efficiency over time (SDG indicator 6.4.1)</p>
15	15.1 Indicator on disclosures of risks and opportunities from businesses		Species threat abatement and restoration metric

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
	<p><i>“Binary” indicator:</i></p> <p><i>15.b.1 Number of countries taking legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure target 15 is achieved</i></p>		Ecological footprint
16	<p>16.1 Ecological footprint</p> <p><i>“Binary” indicator:</i></p> <p><i>16.b.1 Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to SCP (SDG Indicator 12.1.1)</i></p> <p>16.2 Global environmental impacts of consumption</p>	<p>Food waste index (SDG 12.3.1b)</p> <p>Material footprint per capita (SDG 8.4.1/12.2.1)</p>	<p>Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessments (SDG 4.7.1)</p> <p>Recycling rate</p>
17	<p>Indicator on operationalization of Target 17</p> <p><i>“Binary” indicator:</i></p> <p><i>17.b.1 Number of countries with capacity and measures in place related to target 17</i></p>		<p>Number of countries that have the necessary biosafety legal and administrative measures in place</p> <p>Number of countries that implement their biosafety measures</p> <p>Number of countries that have the necessary measures and means for detection and identification of products of biotechnology</p> <p>Number of countries that carry out scientifically sound risk assessments to support biosafety decision-making</p> <p>Number of countries that establish and implement risk management measures</p> <p>Percentage of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety implementing the relevant provisions of the Protocol</p>

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			<p>Number of countries with legal and technical measures for restoration and compensation</p> <p>Percentage of Parties to the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol</p> <p>Number of countries with systems in place for restoration and compensation of damage to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity</p> <p>Number of countries that carry out scientifically sound risk assessments to support biosafety decision-making</p> <p>Number of countries that establish and implement risk management measures</p> <p>Number of countries with mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of and access to information on potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health</p>
18	<p>18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use</p> <p>18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity, that are redirected, repurposed or eliminated</p>		<p>Number of countries with biodiversity-relevant taxes</p> <p>Number of countries with biodiversity-relevant charges and fees</p> <p>Number of countries with biodiversity-relevant tradable permit schemes</p> <p>Trends in potentially environmentally harmful elements of government support to agriculture (producer support estimate)</p> <p>Trends in the number and value of government fossil fuel support measures</p> <p>Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) (SDG indicator 12.c.1)</p>

Draft Goal/Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
<p>19</p>	<p>19.1 Official development assistance for biodiversity (SDG 15.a.1)</p> <p>19.2 Public [funding] [expenditure] and private [funding] [expenditure] on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems [as well as development and access to innovation, technology transfer and research on innovation]</p>	<p>Revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments</p>	<p>Amount of funding provided through the Global Environment Facility and allocated to the biodiversity focal area (decision X/3)</p> <p>Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation</p> <p>as a proportion of total domestic budget SDG Indicator 17.3.1</p> <p>Amount and composition of biodiversity-related finance reported to the OECD Creditor reporting system</p> <p>Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries</p> <p>Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries (SDG indicator 17.19.1)</p> <p>Amount of biodiversity-related philanthropic funding</p> <p>Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology</p> <p>Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies (SDG indicator 17.7.1)</p> <p>Number of countries (and number of instruments) with payments for ecosystem services (PES) programmes</p> <p>Number of countries that have (a) Assessed values of biodiversity, in accordance with the Convention, (b) Identified and reported funding needs, gaps and priorities (c) Developed national</p>

Draft Goal/ Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			financial plans for biodiversity; (d) Been provided with the necessary funding and capacity building to undertake the above activities
20	20.1 Indicator on biodiversity information and monitoring, including traditional knowledge [with FPIC][and scientific knowledge], for management	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessments (SDG 4.7.1)	<p>Growth in number of records and species in the Living Planet Index database</p> <p>Growth in marine species occurrence records accessible through OBIS*</p> <p>Proportion of known species assessed through the IUCN Red List.</p> <p>t20.4. Number of assessments on the IUCN Red List of threatened species</p> <p>World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) bio-literacy survey (Biodiversity literacy in global zoo and aquarium visitors)</p>
21	21.1 Indicator on implementation of Target 21 21.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure (SDG Indicator 1.4.2)		<p>Percentage of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups</p> <p>Number of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG indicator 5.c.1)</p> <p>Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure tenure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure</p> <p>Number of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control</p>

Draft Goal/Target	Headline indicator <i>Global indicator derived from binary reporting (in italics)</i>	Component indicator¹⁶	Complementary indicator
			<p>Number of protected areas that have completed a site-level assessment of governance and equity (SAGE)</p> <p>Trends in number of environmental human rights defenders killed annually, disaggregated by country, gender; number of indigenous environmental human rights defenders kill</p>
22	<p>22.1 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure (SDG Indicator 1.4.2)</p> <p><i>“Binary” indicator:</i></p> <p><i>22.b.1 Number of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control</i></p>	<p>Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments (SDG indicator 5.5.1)</p> <p>Indicator on national implementation of the gender plan of action</p>	<p>Percentage of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups</p> <p>Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure (5.a)</p> <p>Number of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment (SDG indicator 5.c.1)</p> <p>Number of protected areas that have completed a site-level assessment of governance and equity (SAGE)</p>

[Annex II]

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON INDICATORS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators will work:
 - (a) To identify detailed metadata [and information] including [as appropriate, reference periods and] global baselines, prioritizing first headline indicators (according to the criteria identified in the annex to document CBD/-)[then component and complementary indicators] of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account existing methodologies and standards which have been developed, including the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting developed under the auspices of the Statistical Commission;
 - (b) To provide technical advice and develop guidance on addressing gaps in the monitoring framework, prioritizing headline indicators, and in the implementation of indicators for the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including advice on the use of harmonized and agreed indicator definitions, best practices for monitoring and national data sharing, and scientific and technical advice on the improvement of indicators or the addition of new indicators in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including indicators relevant to stakeholders;
 - (c) To provide technical advice on remaining and unresolved issues relating to the post-2020 monitoring framework, as outlined by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, and to prioritize work on the following elements leading up to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
 - (i) Conduct a full assessment of headline, component and complementary indicators;
 - (ii) Explore methods for the implementation of indicators in national planning and reporting;
 - (iii) (List to be determined based on progress achieved by the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties).
 - (d) To provide guidance to Parties on ways to fill temporal and spatial data gaps, including through the use of big data, including citizen science, community-based monitoring and information systems, remote sensing, modelling and statistical analysis, and other forms of data and other knowledge systems, recognizing the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties to develop and access information tools;
 - (e) To provide advice on the existing capacity, gaps and needs in terms of capacity development, technology transfer and financing needs related to the monitoring of the global biodiversity framework in consultation with the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation.¹⁷
2. The group will take into account:
 - (a) Previous work and experience under the Convention and other relevant programmes of work concerning indicators and monitoring;
 - (b) Statistical standards and development under the intergovernmental forum of the Statistical Commission;
 - (c) Previous work and experience with other relevant global, regional and national monitoring frameworks, multilateral environment agreements, and knowledge systems;
 - (d) Recent developments and information on issues related to the indicators, their metadata and baselines.
3. The Group will be composed of 30 technical experts nominated by Parties, including experts on statistics and experts in relevant social and natural sciences, and up to 15 representatives nominated by observer organizations and other relevant organizations. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will select experts from the nominations submitted by Parties and organizations with due regard to representation of different areas of technical expertise, while recognizing the need for expert knowledge of biodiversity, and ensuring expertise on freshwater, marine and coastal ecosystems, also taking

¹⁷ Pending adoption of the decision under agenda item 13A.

into account geographical representation, and the representation of indigenous peoples and local communities, major stakeholders and rights holders' groups, gender balance and the special conditions of developing countries, archipelagic States, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition.

4. The Group will nominate two co-chairs from among the selected experts.

5. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be invited to participate in the group ex officio.

6. The Group may also invite other experts, as appropriate, from national Governments, [subnational and local governments,] the United Nations and other international organizations, civil society, youth, women's groups, indigenous peoples and local communities, including representatives from the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, academia and the private sector to contribute their expertise and experiences on specific issues related to the terms of reference of the Group.

7. The Group will primarily conduct its work electronically and [subject to the availability of resources,] will also meet physically, if possible, meeting at least twice during the intersessional period.

8. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group should be established and start its work immediately after approval by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at meetings held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

]

9 C. Communication strategy

The following is taken from recommendation 3/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties

Welcomes the framework for a communications strategy to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as annexed to the present recommendation.

Annex

FRAMEWORK FOR A COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

I. BACKGROUND

1. In decision [14/34](#), the Conference of the Parties decided that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be accompanied by an inspirational and motivating 2030 mission as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision “Living in harmony with nature”, which would be supported by a coherent, comprehensive and innovative communication strategy.
2. The present document sets out the communications strategy for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It is meant to complement the framework for a communications strategy approved in decision [XIII/22](#). [The present version is based on a draft reviewed by the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA-IAC), and by communications experts participating in the “Biodiversity Communications Flotilla”, including representatives of a variety of stakeholders in the biodiversity policy area.]
3. [The document begins with a short presentation of the relationship between behaviour change and communication and an outline of the elements of the strategy.] The final strategy will be adjusted in accordance with the final agreed text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the relevant decision of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Subsequently, the strategy will be kept under review as further described in section III.

II. COMMUNICATION, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND AWARENESS [AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE]

4. The importance of communication and awareness for the achievement of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity was highlighted in Aichi Biodiversity Target 1: “By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.” As mentioned in *Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA): A Toolkit for National Focal Points and NBSAP Coordinators*,¹⁸ public awareness is “a first step in developing understanding and concern, to help people know of the issue, to make the issue part of the public discourse or put the issue on the agenda”. In turn, education “develops understanding, clarifies values, develops attitudes of concern for the environment and develops the motivation and skills to act for the environment”.
5. There is obvious evidence of progress over the course of the decade 2011-2020, as reported, for instance, in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and in the awareness tracker of “On the Edge Conservation”.¹⁹ Other recent reports and initiatives also show increases in awareness:

(a) The “Biodiversity Barometer” of the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) found that, in the core group of countries surveyed (Brazil, France, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America), in 2020, 78 per cent of respondents said that they had heard about biodiversity, up from 67 per cent in 2010;²⁰

¹⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/cepa/toolkit/2008/doc/CBD-Toolkit-Complete.pdf>.

¹⁹ <https://ontheedge.org/impact/sentiment-tracker>.

²⁰ <http://www.biodiversitybarometer.org/#uebts-biodiversity-barometer-2020>.

(b) The recent “Eco-Wakening” report by *The Economist Intelligence Unit*²¹ shows a dramatic rise in the number of people concerned about nature loss, with the most dramatic growth in concern occurring in emerging and developing economies;

(c) A report produced by Ipsos MORI for the Global Commons Alliance²² shows that three in four people (73 per cent) in G20 countries agree that Earth is approaching potentially abrupt or irreversible tipping points because of human action and that three in five people (58 per cent) are very concerned or extremely concerned about the state of the planet.

6. The rate of the increase identified in these reports is heterogeneous and not monitored in all countries. This apparent increased awareness has also not translated into actions sufficient to reverse biodiversity loss, as evidenced by the failure to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The changes in societal patterns and human behaviour required to solve the challenge of biodiversity loss make it necessary for this increase in awareness to be matched by actions by all people, be they decision makers in the policy domain, investors, consumers, businesses, citizens, educators or others.²³

[7. Research has shown that human behaviour is embedded in a complex system of intra- and interpersonal, social, experiential, emotional, physical, technical, and political influences. They determine people’s ability to make daily decisions and act for biodiversity, by defining the boundary conditions of possible behaviours and by providing the assignment of meaning and cultural impact to behavioural patterns.

8. Extensive scientific evidence²⁴ now shows that predominantly addressing problem awareness in communication campaigns is of minor relevance to creating willingness to act and behaviour change, when compared to other psychological variables. Being aware of the problem of biodiversity loss is not sufficient. Theory about the promotion of pro-environmental behaviour views actions as the result of rational choices aimed at maximizing personal benefits, or as pro-social acts guided by the activation of personal or social norms. In this perspective, any interventions that aim to promote pro-environmental behaviours need to address multiple determinants, especially attitudes, personal moral beliefs and social norms, as well as perceived behavioural control.

9. Behavioural change is best understood as a process of individuals passing through several stages: taking a decision to act sustainably, preparing for such action, carrying it out, and then making it a habit.²⁵ Psychological variables of attitude, social and personal norms as well as perceived behavioural control are key elements of the communication needed in order to foster successful progression through the stages of change and implementation of new, sustainable behaviour.]

10. In order to foster passage through these stages and achieve sustainable lifestyles, as well as continued adherence to practices that support them, supporting mechanisms, including communication, must be differentiated for each stage and for specific target-groups and their life circumstances (for example youth, political decision makers, the socially weak and high-income earners). In general, communication could be used to more effectively strengthen the interlinkages between biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to highlighting the importance of addressing the social, economic and environmental dimension. This has implications for any communications strategy in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

11. The communications strategy will need to raise awareness [but will also need to have an impact on intentions and planning]. The strategy needs to be designed in such a way to build up content gradually and allow data sharing among people deploying the strategy in the short term, while developing ongoing research and evaluation in the medium and long term. This process should focus on better understanding of social actors, their intentions, attitudes

²¹ https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/an_ecowakening_measuring_awareness_engagement_and_action_for_nature_final_may_2021_.pdf.

²² <https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/global-commons-survey-attitudes-transformation-and-planetary-stewardship>.

²³ Klöckner, C. A. (2019). “Making people change - strategies and new pathways for pro-environmental communication in the preservation domain”. In: Reese, G., Römpke, A.-K., Mues, A. W. and Bockmühl, K. (Eds.), *Green Ways – Perspectives of Environmental Psychology Research*. BfN-Skripten, 529 (pp. 21–28). Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany.

²⁴ See document CBD/SBI/3/INF/48.

²⁵ See Bamberg, S. (2013). Changing environmentally harmful behaviors: A stage model of self-regulated behavioral change. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 34, 151–159.

and norms as well as their beliefs, perceptions and choices. This understanding should be used to monitor success and adjust the strategy as time goes on.²⁶

12. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework provides an occasion for renewed and updated communication, building on the achievements of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and in the context of the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. Communications management will also require an ongoing understanding and evaluation of the state of achievement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [as well as recalling the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity, and the increasing recognition of the role of nature for climate adaptation and mitigation.] This process will facilitate the creation of content for the communications strategy, while providing continuity and support to ongoing initiatives and to the monitoring of results.

III. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

13. The strategy is meant to be used for communications efforts by the Executive Secretary, and to support communications efforts by all others, including Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders, United Nations system actors and others:

(a) By providing a structure for coordination and collaboration among relevant actors; increased and magnified effectiveness is the goal;

(b) As initial guidance to inform the development of specific strategies and action plans at the global, regional, national and subnational levels, by political decision makers, social entrepreneurs, businesses, citizens, youth, and by indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate;

(c) To promote awareness in support of conservation, sustainable use, equitable sharing of benefits, and transformative change towards [the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature] [Mother Earth];

14. The communications strategy will need to be implemented and further developed in a participatory, iterative and flexible manner, assisted by experts in communication [and behavioural change] including a strong participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth. Its further development should be led by advice and consultations at the international level, led by the Executive Secretary, which then inform further consultations. Throughout the consultations, the active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, education experts, youth, and representatives of various socioeconomic and sociocultural backgrounds is important, as is the need to ensure the full incorporation of intra- and intergenerational, intercultural and gender considerations. At the global level, immediate to long-term adjustments of the strategy will be coordinated through an open-source coordination body, outlined below.

15. The global strategy will be kept under review by the Conference of the Parties, [informed by advice from the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, and others, including the Communications Division of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Department of Global Communications.]

16. The terms of reference for such a review would be as follows:

(a) An initial workshop, to be held after the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to elaborate the final details of the global strategy;

(b) A biennial evaluation of the activities that have been carried out, seeking to identify best practices, changes in awareness, impact and effectiveness, to be reviewed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

(c) Identification of new areas for communication and learning, or the need to adjust existing strategies;

(d) Track communication, education and awareness-raising activities against progress on targets, goals and the 2030 mission;

(e) Identification of new actors or partners to be approached;

²⁶ Williamson, K., Bujold, P. M., and Thulin, E. (2020). Behavior Change Interventions in Practice: A synthesis of criteria, approaches, case studies and indicators. Rare Center for Behavior & the Environment and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. <https://behavior.rare.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Behavior-Change-Interventions-in-Practice-final.pdf>.

(f) Identification of resource needs.

17. [Parties should start implementing the elements of the global biodiversity framework relating to communication without delay and in line with decision 15/-.²⁷ This could be done by integrating communications components in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) while updating them in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, or develop dedicated national/regional communications strategies. Consideration should be given to including national communication efforts and results in future versions of the national reports] / [Parties are invited to create national versions of the strategy as soon as it is adopted by the Conference of the Parties. These strategies could include tools and activities to support the goals below.]

18. Table 1 outlines some of the timelines for activities under the strategy.

Table 1. Timeline for activities

<i>Date</i>	<i>Executive Secretary</i>	<i>National level</i>
As soon as possible, following the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	[Convene CEPA-IAC [and relevant actors] to update the present strategy for consideration by SBI-4 and create further guidance for the national, subnational and local levels] Create website Convene informal coordination mechanism for regular coordination Communicate a voluntary guidance document	[Encourage][consider the creation of] national and subnational partnerships to deliver strategy activities. [Invite Parties as appropriate to integrate relevant actions from the communications strategy in their planning and reporting mechanisms]
2022-2024	Create international partnerships in support of the strategy	
By SBI-4, to be negotiated at the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting (2024) ²⁸	In collaboration with CEPA-IAC and other relevant actors, review and report on activities and their impact, and further update the strategy, if needed	[Invite Parties, as appropriate, to integrate relevant actions from the communications strategy in their planning and reporting mechanisms.]
By SBI-5, to be negotiated by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting (2026)	In collaboration with CEPA-IAC and other relevant actors, conduct mid-decade review and report on activities and their impact, update the communications strategy based on advice from the Conference of the Parties	Provide mid-decade report on activities, if appropriate during the biennium, and share relevant information through the CHM, national Bioland CHM sites and adjust as appropriate. [Invite Parties, as appropriate, to integrate relevant actions from the communications strategy in their planning and reporting mechanisms.]
By SBI-6, to be negotiated by the Conference of the Parties at	In collaboration with CEPA-IAC and other relevant actors, review and report on activities and their impact,	[Invite Parties as appropriate to integrate relevant actions from the communications strategy in their

²⁷ Decision based on the recommendation on item 9.

²⁸ Tentative dates, to be determined by the Conference of the Parties.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Executive Secretary</i>	<i>National level</i>
its eighteenth meeting (2028)	and update the communications strategy based on advice from Conference of the Parties	planning and reporting mechanisms.]
By SBI-7 to be negotiated by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting (2030)	Create final report on activities [and changes in the perception of biodiversity conservation to contribute to the second stocktaking]	[Invite Parties, as appropriate, to integrate relevant actions from the communications strategy in their planning and reporting mechanisms.]

IV. GOALS

19. Communication, education and awareness-raising efforts in the context of this strategy need to support actions throughout the whole-of-society towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Overall, the strategy is meant to not only support the realization of the 2030 mission, but also of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

[20. According to the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3) “Outreach, awareness and uptake of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by all stakeholders is essential to effective implementation, including by:

(a) Increasing understanding, awareness and appreciation of the [different visions and approaches to achieve sustainable development and the multiple values of biodiversity, including the associated systems of knowledge,[and cosmobiocentric] values and approaches used by indigenous peoples and local communities;

(b) Raising awareness of all actors of the existence of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and progress made towards their achievement;

(c) Promoting or developing platforms and partnerships, including with media and civil society, to share information on successes, lessons learned and experiences in acting for biodiversity.”]²⁹

21. Within this context, the following are the main goals:

Goal A

Increase understanding, awareness and appreciation of the [different visions and approaches to achieve sustainable development and the] multiple values of biodiversity, including the associated systems of knowledge, including [cosmobiocentric] values and approaches used by indigenous peoples and local communities

22. This goal continues to support the work conducted under Aichi Target 1 during the previous decade but has important distinctions. [The deliberate inclusion of the associated knowledge, values and approaches of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as other knowledge systems, also expands the range of discussions and potential actions. This goal will require some of the following activities to support its realization:]

[(a) Baseline research and monitoring of changes to awareness and attitudes, using a common data framework and references. This includes support to research programmes that outline the different values of biodiversity;]

(b) Raising awareness of the different visions and approaches to achieve sustainable development, including [the 2050 Vision of Living in harmony with Nature] / [Living Well in Harmony with Mother Earth]

(c) [Promote respect for] / [Promotion of] [cosmobiocentric] approaches of indigenous peoples and local communities to live in harmony with Nature;

(d) Creation of awareness-raising campaigns that show the values of biodiversity;

²⁹ These paragraphs will need to be aligned with the final agreed text of the relevant decisions of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

- (e) Products and research that integrate and communicate the values of biodiversity represented in the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (f) Support to media and film projects that create multimedia stories and narratives about biodiversity and its values;
- (g) Development and/ or distribution of education content to education institutions to help spread the values of biodiversity;
- (h) Revision of education curricula to include biodiversity values and the importance of a reconnection with nature;
- (i) Promotion of reconnection with nature through formal and informal education, in line with SDG 4.7 and 12.8 to promote sustainable lifestyles and ensure that people have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Goal B

Raise awareness among all actors of the existence of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and progress made towards their achievement

23. Awareness-raising needs to be linked to transformations of intentions and actions. The goal mandates a broad range of communications actions to support visibility of the global biodiversity framework at all levels, and its relevance to all stakeholders. It also supports ongoing efforts to show progress, and to highlight implementation that provides inspiration for further action towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.
24. Communications also need to promote additional actions related to those goals and action targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework where there has not been sufficient progress. Communications should promote positive results-driven action by supporting efforts in a positive way, offering cautions as to the consequences of failure, or demonstrating ways in which action in other domains can be emulated to produce progress towards the mission.
25. [The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity needs to provide transparent and regular updates on progress according to the headline and other indicators in the monitoring framework, both through the central portal, linked to the clearing-house mechanism and the communication platforms of the Convention, subject to available resources.]

Goal C

Develop and promote platforms and partnerships, including with media, educators and civil society, to share information on successes, lessons learned and experiences in acting for biodiversity

26. Data on these should be made available in a format that can be easily accessed by media and educators, both traditional and online, and then processed for media articles and educational resources. Partnerships with media outlets and educators that are experts in this regard are important ways forward. Data sources and the rationale for all indicators should be easily available and explained in both technical and non-technical ways and linked to the monitoring framework.
- [27. Communications related to the monitoring element should have a reporting period on an annual or biannual basis, linked to the International Day for Biodiversity, [and the International Day of Mother Earth (April 22)] or some other suitable event. Forthcoming editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* should also be prepared and launched with this need to communicate implementation in mind.]
28. Other actors should be encouraged to publish reports that support lessons learned or successes, where appropriate in coordination with the Executive Secretary.
- [29. To develop annual joint communication actions with the Harmony with Mother Earth Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly of the United Nations under the approach of living in harmony with Mother Earth in order to enhance the outreach and visibility of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.]
30. Collaboration is needed to promote and develop ways to integrate biodiversity into the education system in order to equip and empower learners with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to act for biodiversity and the planet, building on synergies with SDG 4.7 and SDG 12.8. This can be done by creating and promoting “learning ecosystems” connecting families, schools, community actors, public such institutions as zoos, aquariums, museums, botanical gardens, libraries, and businesses and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which allow for direct translation of biodiversity awareness and knowledge into action on the ground.

31. It is also possible to promote personal and societal transformative action in learners of all ages by providing them with the tools to design new sustainable systems and ways of living. Educational work needs to be coordinated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to assist in engagement with educators in formal, informal and non-formal settings.

Goal D

Demonstrate the relevance of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to poverty eradication, climate change, land degradation, human health, human rights, equity and sustainable development

32. Communication efforts will show the interlinkages between biodiversity and a variety of key issues:

(a) The Sustainable Development Goals. The close linkage of the Convention and its post-2020 global biodiversity framework with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³⁰ will be an important point for realizing synergy in messaging. The close alignment of these two agendas will make this a more straightforward effort, highlighting the importance of sustainable use and of access and benefit-sharing for poverty eradication efforts;

(b) It will be important to develop messaging on the relationship between climate change and biodiversity. This will also include ecosystem-based approaches to climate change, [Mother Earth-centred actions, collective action including those by indigenous and local communities] and the ways in which there may be synergies between implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and of commitments adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. [Such messages should underline the interdependence of the problem and of the solutions, most notably the fact that, given that climate change is one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss, nature may play an important role in both climate mitigation and adaptation, and resilience;]

(c) Similarly, the strategy will need to show how the work under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework contributes to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Links with land degradation neutrality as well as the goals of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will be highlighted.

33. The importance of marine and coastal areas will also need to be captured, including synergy with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development³¹ and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

34. Human health and biodiversity also represent a key area in which the contribution of implementation of the framework needs to be highlighted. Taking into account health-biodiversity linkages, including the contribution of the One Health approach and other holistic approaches.

[35. The linkage of these issues with human rights is another area for messaging, linking to Human Rights Council resolution 48/13, which proclaimed the right to a healthy environment. The specific work of the Special Rapporteur on biodiversity and human rights can be a basis for messages.]

[36. Integration with rights of Mother Earth and Earth jurisprudence enforcing rights of Mother Earth is also important.]

V. AUDIENCES

37. Given the global audience for the Convention, it is important to identify audience segments and to link communications with each of these to the different goals of the strategy and design messages accordingly, taking into account cultural differences in terms of tone and visuals. For the audience groups below, it is important to note that they will be both audiences receiving messages and groups that transform and/or transmit messages to other subsidiary target groups.

38. Note that some of these audiences are multipliers of the messages and will need to adapt the strategy to their needs. Other audiences are the objects of communications activities.

A. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements

39. The Convention is implemented at the national level by national Governments, and therefore the work of the Executive Secretary for this audience is to provide tools for use by focal points to the Convention and its Protocols as they develop their strategies to reach out to ministries and government departments and build regional or national

³⁰ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

³¹ See General Assembly resolution 72/73, para. 292.

communication and education coalitions. This is to ensure mainstreaming biodiversity into the work of other sectors, including formal, non-formal and informal education.

40. Subnational governments, cities and other local authorities that plan, coordinate, regulate, monitor and enforce patterns of production and consumption, will need to deliver on the biodiversity targets set out in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It is at the local level where subnational governments and other local authorities, including cities have the demonstrated capacity to undertake implementation and ensure transformative change. They are both an important audience, but also essential transmitters of information to their residents.

41. Parties should shape national versions of communication and education activities to support access to information and awareness that is consonant with the policies needed to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the national level. Therefore, all the messaging and structure will need to be aligned with national priorities. [Political coalitions such as the Leaders Pledge for Nature, the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and the Global Ocean Alliance could develop joint communication actions and possible regional cooperation.]

B. Specialized audiences of the Convention

42. While Parties are the primary focus of the Convention, there are a number of other actors and stakeholders that provide supportive roles to Parties, or also have a role to play in implementation of the Convention. Because these actors are not Parties, communications addressed to them will have a different character. At the same time, when these actors carry out supportive activities at the national or regional level, they may be included in these campaigns.

43. United Nations system partners that are involved in the work of the Convention, as well as other regional organizations, are also important. These actors will not only transmit the work of the Convention to others, but also will use the opportunity to promote their own work and its relevance to the sustainable development agenda. Lessons are to be learned from previous United Nations campaigns such as #GenerationRestoration, #CleanSeas, #DontChooseExtinction, etc. The United Nations Department of Global Communications will be invited to create a biodiversity communications group, which will work with the Executive Secretary, to coordinate communications across the system. The Communications Division of UNEP will also be invited to create a dedicated communications focal point. UNESCO will be invited to contribute its expertise in education, science and culture.

44. Multilateral environmental agreements, both those directly related to biodiversity, and those that deal with other issues, will be important multipliers and places for coordination. To this end, the Joint Liaison Group, and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions³² should be invited to ensure that communication is a permanent item on their annual agendas and focal points should be named.

45. Natural history and science museums, botanical gardens and national protected areas systems, and zoos and aquariums are other groups whose work is key to the Convention, both in terms of specific conservation actions, research and in raising awareness about biodiversity. [Large associations, such as the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), and the European Network of Science Centres and Museums (ECSITE), among others, will be invited to coordinate communications. The Global Coalition “United for Biodiversity” coordinated by the European Commission since March 2020 is bringing together all these institutions and organizations and is also open to world research centres and universities, natural reserves and protected areas, and museums of any category, such as art, architecture or history museums, to gather all world institutions showing the importance of nature for humanity.]

46. Large international NGOs that have national chapters are also important stakeholders for work. They can retransmit the messages of the strategy and can provide models of reference for promoting good practices related to conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits. The Secretariat and the Parties to the Convention have an extensive history of working with such organizations.

47. The finance and business communities are extremely important audiences to target with communications efforts. As important users of biodiversity and ecosystem services whose operations have direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity, the ability of business to support sustainable consumption and production will be crucial for achievement of the goals of the Convention. In this context:

³² The Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention, the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Whaling Commission.

(a) The linkage of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use for environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria is important;

(b) A strong basis for communication is the business and financial case for biodiversity action;

(c) The role of business as a user of genetic resources in the context of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing is also an important element;

[(d) Existing business-led initiatives, business associations, coalitions and networks, such as the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, Business4Nature, Finance for Biodiversity and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, will be key multipliers to reach out to these audiences.]

48. Global, regional and national organizations that are dealing with or responsible for education and learning, like environmental education, education for sustainability, nature education, education for conservation and sustainable use, and global education, play a key role in learning. Therefore, education organizations, from schools to universities, but also permanent and continuing education institutions, authorities and decision makers are relevant stakeholders in achieving the goals of the Convention.

C. Indigenous peoples and local communities

49. It is very important to work with indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure communication of their role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, [following cosmobiocentric approaches] and to show how their activities contribute to the implementation of the Convention and other biodiversity-related conventions based on their own systems of knowledge. In this regard, communication should enable indigenous peoples and local communities to share their perceptions of [Mother Earth] nature and to highlight their traditional knowledge and practices related to the conservation of biodiversity in the context of regional and national implementation of the Convention.

50. The work of indigenous peoples and local communities should also be seen as an important source for practices and educational approaches for the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use, and the equitable sharing of benefits. In this regard, communication should seek to celebrate, promote and communicate [cosmobiocentric approaches], traditional systems of knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the local, national, regional and global levels, [and the importance of the recognition of the rights of Mother Earth]. This should be done in coordination with indigenous peoples and local communities representatives and through consultation with the view of obtaining prior and informed consent, free, prior and informed consent, or approval and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, and with respect for the terms of use for all traditional knowledge and practices.

51. In this regard, the global and national strategies should work to develop components of this strategy, including tools and messages that can be translated into local languages and contexts.

D. Women

52. As women are key stakeholders in both conservation and sustainable use of resources, special focus should be made in mainstreaming gender in all engagements. The work in the communication strategy should complement and draw upon the post-2020 gender plan of action under the Convention on Biological Diversity according to decision 15/–, The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) is an important actor with which collaboration and coordination can be undertaken at the international level. Gender considerations need to be mainstreamed in all materials and messages.

E. Youth

53. Youth, including their organizations and representatives, are both key audiences and powerful partners in creating and delivering the activities of a communications strategy. These important actors can be reached via work through United Nations system-wide activities related to youth, including YOUNGO; through the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and its national chapters, and through other initiatives, such as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the United Nations Secretary-General Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.

F. The public

54. While it is true that the audience for communications is a global one and should encompass everyone, it is also clear that the notion that a single public to whom all messages could be directed is overly simplistic and hides some important differences between audience segments. The so-called “public” is a number of different audience

segments distinguished by country, culture, gender, socioeconomic level, education, experience, age, and languages, each requiring a targeted approach.

55. The most important segmentation for the public remains at the national level. An understanding of biodiversity, environmental functions and ecosystem services and their relevance to the general public is very much shaped by national and subnational circumstances and national “narratives” about people and nature and how biodiversity provides them with values. Therefore, attempts to engage the public need to be crafted at the national level, based on an overarching narrative.

56. Important ways to reach the public are through awareness campaigns, education and the media – radio, television and print forms, and social media in particular. In this way, the media should be seen as a multiplier and a channel, as is indicated below.

57. It is important to involve the arts and cultural sector, to stimulate new forms of creativity and human imagination that can promote the kind of transformational change needed. Art and new cultural paradigms can become powerful tools for the transformation of intentions.

G. The media

58. The varied platforms, organizations and representatives of the media are key. Media from all regions must be addressed. The large “wire services,” national newspaper chains, and large media conglomerates need to be engaged. Media partnerships should be explored at the international and national levels. The work of such partnerships could include creation of a package of regular news features and capsules; and creation of a shared library of “B-roll” footage, with open-source rights.

59. Engagement with journalist associations that focus on biodiversity and other environmental issues should be a priority, including the Earth Journalism Network and the Society of Environmental Journalists. In working with journalists, particular emphasis should be given to working with journalists that represent indigenous peoples and local communities, youth and women.

60. In addition to news organizations, work with film and television production organizations should be explored. Work should be done to encourage the production of films for television and streaming platforms that highlight the different issues under the global biodiversity framework. In exchange for coverage, agencies can be given freedom to use branding from the global biodiversity framework. Important global production houses, such as Amazon, BBC Natural History, Disney Nature, Icon Productions, National Geographic and Netflix, should be explored. In addition, regional production houses should be approached, among others.

61. Film festivals should be encouraged around the world. Jackson Wild (formerly the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival), the International Wildlife Film Festival and Wildscreen could have films about the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Other international and regional film festivals in all United Nations regions should be encouraged to create categories of films relating to action that support nature. The possibility of holding a film festival at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties should be considered. A film festival to coincide with the annual celebrations of the International Day for Biodiversity should also be considered.

VI. BRANDING

62. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be accompanied by a clear global brand that is extendable to other contexts (national, subnational, local), with easy terms for use and licensing. Branding can be presented according to the dimensions of brand voice, identity, promise, values, targeting and positioning, as shown in table 2.

Table 2. Elements for branding

Voice	The post-2020 global biodiversity framework is the effort and wishes of the global community to realize a future of life in harmony with nature.
Identity	The visual look, including palette, logo, fonts and visual rules will need to reflect the voice, the variety of life, and include human representations and align with cultural preferences. The identity should be used throughout the period of implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Promise	The 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the 2030 mission represent the promise of the brand.
Values	The brand values will reflect the objectives of the Convention, and the principles of the United Nations.
Targeting	As the overall reach of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is global, there will need to be specific articulations of the brand for different audiences.
Positioning	The post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be presented as a framework relevant to multiple initiatives on biodiversity, supportive of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the biodiversity-related conventions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

63. The creation of the brand will be done after the negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework have finished. It will be led by the Executive Secretary, in consultation with CEPA-IAC, the United Nations Department of Global Communications, the UNEP Communications Division, and the open-source coordination mechanism articulated below. A marketing company with global reach should be contracted to assist in this.

VII. OPEN-SOURCE COORDINATION MECHANISM, AND CHANNELS AND MULTIPLIERS

64. While the broad outlines of the strategy will be kept under review as per the terms of reference outlined in section III above, implementation of the communications strategy at the global level will best be realized through an open-source coordination mechanism. Such a mechanism needs a low cost of participation, with members free to participate in some elements and not others. The principle of open source should govern the products shared by the group, with inclusivity, transparency and neutrality as important elements.

65. Participation in the mechanism will be voluntary, open to all actors who commit to transparent participation and adherence to the principle of open-source work, and who will contribute to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Representatives of national and subnational governments are encouraged to participate, as will representatives of intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other civil society actors, business, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women. The mechanism will not have formal decision-making power.

66. At the national level, Parties will be free to create mechanisms as appropriate. These mechanisms should be inclusive and transparent and should ensure the full and effective participation of all relevant actors and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, and women.

A. Social media

67. The strategy will need to take advantage of existing social media and new technologies. An exhaustive list of the technologies to use is not appropriate, given that the platforms for these vary across regions and that the pace of change in the field of social media is such that certain platforms are rendered irrelevant over time. Nevertheless, implementation of this strategy should seek to incorporate the most up-to-date platforms and technologies, including through corporate partnerships. The security of data, and protection of all rights to privacy of users, as covered in different legislation, needs to be taken into account.

68. A list of agreed hashtags and common tagging words needs to be created, for each platform, to properly aggregate conversations in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These should be aligned with the messaging house, outlined above, and translated into other languages. This list should be created by the first coordination meeting, immediately after the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

69. Partnerships with social media organizations, such as Google, Meta, WeChat, Weibo, Twitter and LinkedIn, should be secured, with the goal of highlighting the messages and progress of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in campaigns and other promotions.

B. Events

70. Events represent important communications opportunities, where messages can be disseminated to a variety of audiences, in a setting which is usually media-rich and of interest to a variety of communities. These include meetings of the following:

- (a) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (c) The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
- (d) The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO;
- (e) The Conference of the Parties to the other biodiversity-related conventions;
- (f) The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
- (g) The United Nations General Assembly;
- (h) The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
- (i) [The IUCN World Conservation Congress];
- (j) The United Nations Environment Assembly;
- (k) The World Economic Forum;
- (l) The G7 and G20;
- [(m) Regional events on environmental themes and regional information bulletins.]

71. National events that may be related to the biodiversity agenda, but are distinct from it, represent important communications opportunities as well. National cultural celebrations or celebrations of independence could also be used to show the linkages of biodiversity with national identity.

72. International days of the United Nations and others also represent important events during which the work of the Convention can be noted and celebrated. For these international days, messaging should be aligned in a way that shows how implementation of the Convention can contribute to the goals for each day. Some of the most important days to consider include the following: World Wetlands Day, World Wildlife Day, World Water Day, International Day of Forests, International Women's Day, World Health Day, Earth Hour, Oceans Day, Earth Day, Mother Earth Day, Earth Overshoot Day, World Environment Day, World Day to Combat Desertification, World Cities Day, World Soil Day and World Food Day.

73. The International Day for Biological Diversity, on 22 May of each year, should also be an extremely important event for any communications. Guided by the theme determined by the Executive Secretary, national-level actors should use the day as an opportunity to articulate national visions and responses.

C. Champions, Messengers of Peace and Goodwill Ambassadors

74. A programme of "Champions for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework" should be created that celebrates successes and inspiring actions in support of the framework. The Champions programme should have awards, for example for individuals, youth, organizations, businesses, and governments. The programme would declare awards annually on the International Day for Biodiversity. A sponsor which could offer financial resources for the award should be identified, as should a global media partner. The prizes would be awarded according to the recommendations by a panel that includes representatives of UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNDP, IPBES, the World Economic Forum, [WWF and IUCN], as well as the Executive Secretary, among others. Nominations would be delivered to the Executive Secretary.

75. The United Nations should be requested to create a Messenger of Peace for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and also name Goodwill Ambassadors for each of the United Nations regions to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These Ambassadors will provide support and messages for the global biodiversity framework. [Funding will be voluntary contributions from Parties and other interested actors.]

D. Website in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

76. A dedicated website should be established, with a unique URL and identity, consistent with the branding above. This would be different from the main website of the Convention with the aim of reaching a global audience.

[The focus of such a website would be on capturing audiences at every stage of self-regulated behaviour change models and directing them to the resources most suitable to their individual journey, wherever they may be located. It would be tightly integrated with matching social-media campaigns. It would also allow for narrowing down information to that of specific countries.]

77. This would require early and ongoing focus on search engine optimization, accessibility, social media campaigns alignment, analytics, and bidirectional interoperability with other information sources both within the Convention (main Convention website, national and central clearing-house mechanisms, and others), through InforMEA, and with both institutional and thematic partners. Country-specific mailing lists may need to be developed.

78. The website can also serve as the media hub for reusable media material, including both public and partner-only resources. Such resources can also include links to exhibitions of museums, botanical gardens and zoos and aquariums

VIII. KEY MESSAGING

79. Messaging for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework needs to be consistent with previously developed messaging, in line with decision XIII/22. This includes the messaging for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, [nature-based solutions], the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, The United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the conclusions of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* and the overall messaging for the Convention.

80. Messaging needs to be evidence-based and scientifically credible, drawing among others upon the work of IPBES and its global assessments, among others. It also needs to be consistent with different knowledge systems, including the relevant traditional knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities.

81. Messages need to be adapted and translated into local languages, with resources made available for this purpose.

82. Communicating the importance of transformative [and behaviour] change [and awareness] will be a key element. [In order to foster behaviour change, key messages will take into account scientific evidence, and will address norms, attitudes, perceived behavioural control, and behavioural intentions.]

83. Elements for messaging will be the following:

(a) Overall, messages should communicate general elements about the connections of people to biodiversity and show how people are connected to biodiversity in almost all aspects of their lives;

(b) Messages should promote immediate action to halt the loss of biodiversity, and encourage action by stakeholders in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a means to achieve this goal;³³

(c) The messages should also highlight the longer time horizon, including the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity,³⁴ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [and the time-bound targets of the climate process;]

(d) [The importance of reducing inequalities, applying a human-rights based approach as important conditions for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;]

(e) Messages should also link the goals of the framework with specific national development priorities, as well as with the important roles of local and subnational governments in delivering said priorities, demonstrating how achieving sustainable development at the national level requires integration of biodiversity into these activities;

(f) Specific messages and campaigns should be sensitive to the values of the target audience and should express biodiversity and actions to conserve and sustainably use it in the context of these values. Therefore, audience research is a key element to any message customization

(g) Messages need to be translated into local languages, including a sensitivity to the social and cultural context in which local languages are embedded;

³³ This text will need to be aligned with the final agreed language from the COP 15 decision on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

³⁴ Conference of the Parties, decision [X/2](#).

- (h) Messages need to be gender-inclusive and in line with the principles of the gender plan of action;
- (i) The message structure presented in table 3 below is meant to suggest the direction of messages. An overall umbrella set of messages which could apply to public mobilization and advocacy campaigns, is suggested to be used by all actors;
- (j) Sector-specific messages will be tailored for specific audiences. These will be developed by organizations which are engaged with these sectors;
- (k) The messaging structure will also pursue the principle of “open source” campaign, which maintains core messaging, but also permits different organizations to customize this under their own brand. These messages are also meant to have an iteration designed for national and subnational levels;
- (l) After the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary will hold a [meeting] [workshop] with CEPA-IAC and other relevant actors to create detailed top-level messages and guidelines for the creation of messages. Parties will be invited to provide comments on the messages;
- (m) Parties, subnational governments, cities and local governments and other relevant organizations are invited to hold national workshops for the creation of messages.

Table 3. Themes for messaging

Top-line message: By acting for nature/biodiversity, we can all create a fairer, healthier and more sustainable world		
General theme	Public message	Policy message
We need to halt biodiversity loss and ensure sustainable development for all	TBD	TBD
Nature/biodiversity is essential for our survival on the planet. It matters for our prosperity, happiness and well-being and for sustainable development	To be determined (TBD)	TBD
Nature/biodiversity has intrinsic value as well as multiple other values	TBD	TBD
The nature/biodiversity [and climate crisis] pose[s] [an existential] [a] threat to humankind [and need to be addressed urgently and in a coherent manner]	TBD	TBD
[Bio-innovation holds the key to support poverty eradication efforts]	TBD	TBD
Protecting nature should leave no one behind	TBD	TBD
The world needs to cooperate to tackle the loss of nature	TBD	TBD
Action for people underpins action for biodiversity	TBD	TBD
Plans to affect the future of our planet need to be fair, inclusive and equitable	TBD	TBD
The systems we use to run our economies and societies [need transformational change to avoid] are pushing nature/biodiversity to the brink	TBD	TBD

Top-line message: By acting for nature/biodiversity, we can all create a fairer, healthier and more sustainable world		
General theme	Public message	Policy message
Our [current] [broken] relationship with nature/biodiversity [creates higher risk of pandemic spillover to people] [can increase the emergence of infections of diseases of zoonotic origin]	TBD	TBD
Immediate action is required to protect the [present and] future health of our people and planet	TBD	TBD
We are all accountable for our actions to protect the planet	TBD	TBD

IX. MEASURING PROGRESS

84. The assessment of progress for the strategy needs to be linked with progress in achieving the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as traditional metrics for reach and impact. Assessment also needs to capture important value changes over time and to assess progress towards [access to relevant information and awareness] [behaviour change] and willingness to act for biodiversity on the national and global level.

A. Campaigns, and media reach

85. At the global level, partners to the coordination mechanism should report results of campaigns, and media reach (including social media reach), to the Executive Secretary. An aggregator tool, resembling that created at <https://www.cbd.int/article/people-for-our-planet-aggregator>, can capture initiatives.

86. At the national level, Parties to the Convention should also gather the above data and [report this to the Executive Secretary, and also] include this in their national reporting.

B. Linkage with the targets

87. The strategy will communicate progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework using the agreed upon set of indicators under the monitoring and reporting framework. Innovative and multi-channel ways of communicating the information will be developed, with modalities suitable for different Parties.

88. Reports by other bodies and organizations should also provide additional outreach on progress. The WWF *Living Planet Report*, the publications of the World Economic Forum, the *Human Development Report* published by UNDP, and the UNEP *Global Environment Outlook* could all devote issues, during the period of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to results under the framework.

X. RESOURCES

89. Resources will be needed to support the Executive Secretary and at the national level, with an important focus on the needs of developing countries, especially small island developing States and economies in transition. The level required will be determined as the communications strategy is further elaborated. [Resources needed will include the following:

(a) The Executive Secretary will require human resources in the communications unit to support the strategy, as well as annual sums to support the production of information materials. These will be resources in excess of existing staffing levels at the secretariat;

(b) The United Nations Environment Assembly may wish to approve an envelope of funds for use by UNEP divisions, including the Communications Division, to support UNEP contributions to the strategy. Resources devoted to World Environment Day and to the *Global Environment Outlook* should also be mobilized, where appropriate, in support of the strategy;

(c) The United Nations Department of Global Communications may wish to mobilize a communications team in support of the strategy, aligned with the resources for the Sustainable Development Goals;

[(d) National Governments may wish to allocate a budget envelope in support of the strategy at national level, as part of national implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;]

(e) Interested private sector actors, NGOs, civil society actors and other entities, such as the United Nations Foundation, could consider creating funds to support the strategy and create voluntary mechanisms for this. Marketing and other media organizations could consider contributing pro bono work, where appropriate;

[(f) The Global Environment Facility should be invited to provide support for implementation of the strategy at the national level with priority accorded to developing countries, especially [land-locked and] small island developing States and economies in transition.]]

9 D. Gender Plan of Action

The following is taken from recommendation 3/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XII/7 and IX/24, welcoming earlier versions of a gender plan of action for the Convention,

Recognizing the importance of advancing efforts to achieve gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment to ensure the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Also recognizing that the full and effective participation and leadership of women in all aspects of Convention processes, particularly in policy and action at national and local levels, is vital for achieving long-term biodiversity goals and the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature,

1. *Adopts* the gender plan of action contained in the annex;
2. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, and relevant organizations to implement the gender plan of action to support and advance gender mainstreaming and gender responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
3. *Invites* relevant organizations of the United Nations family and other international organizations and initiatives to support coherent gender responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, through identifying synergies and drawing on relevant experience from related processes;
4. *Urges* Parties and invites where appropriate, relevant organizations to incorporate the gender plan of action in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to include gender-specific indicators in the development of national indicators, collecting data disaggregated by sex, age and other demographic factors and gender indicators, where possible;
5. *Invites* Parties to implement the gender plan of action in synergy with gender plans or strategies developed under other relevant multilateral environmental agreements or related multilateral processes, as appropriate;
6. *Encourages* Parties to submit information on efforts and steps taken to implement the gender plan of action in their national reporting, including sex-disaggregated data;
7. *Also encourages* Parties to appoint and provide support for a national gender and biodiversity focal point for biodiversity negotiations, implementation and monitoring;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, to facilitate outreach and capacity-building and development activities with a view to exchanging experiences, good practices, and lessons learned, to support the implementation of the gender plan of action;
9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, based inter alia on the information received pursuant to paragraph 6 above and with the support of relevant partners, to undertake a mid-term review of implementation of the gender plan of action, identifying progress, lessons learned, and further work to be undertaken for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fifth meeting;
10. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility³⁵ and relevant bilateral and multilateral funding organizations to provide technical and financial support as well as capacity-building and development, for implementation of the gender plan of action;

³⁵ Invitation to the Global Environment Facility to be added in the relevant decision.

11. *Invites* Parties to increase representation of women in their delegations to meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to achieving gender balance, including through requests for support for participation through the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ), where applicable;

12. *Also invites* Parties, and relevant public and private entities, to increase the gender responsiveness of biodiversity capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, provision of financial resources, and other means of implementation, with the aim of strengthening the support for the full and effective participation of women and girls.

Annex

GENDER PLAN OF ACTION

I. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the gender plan of action is to support and promote the gender responsive-implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The plan will also support a gender responsive approach to applying the implementation mechanisms associated with the framework.

II. MODALITIES

2. The implementation of the gender plan of action and its proposed expected outcomes, objectives, and actions,³⁶ are based on the following modalities:

(a) Maximizing synergies between gender equality and the conservation, sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources considering also the consequences of climate change and land and sea-use change as drivers of biodiversity loss. Recognizing the links between gender equality and key environmental concerns, the implementation of the gender plan of action aims to mainstream gender and contribute to maximizing synergies between these areas, towards meeting shared objectives and supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(b) Ensuring coherence and coordination with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals include gender equality as both a standalone goal and critical cross-cutting component, and emphasize the indivisibility of the different goals and targets. The gender plan of action is intended to complement and support the implementation of the different Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the biodiversity agenda and the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) Applying a human rights-based approach to advancing gender equality in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, [and recognizing that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights]. International human rights instruments and mechanisms, including the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the committee of experts it establishes, offer critical guidance for gender responsive environmental action that benefits both people and planet;

(d) Addressing the intersecting ways in which gender inequalities may be amplified for women and girls in all their diversity. Women and men and boys and girls around the world experience marginalization in different, multiple and intersecting ways depending on their ethnicity, social status, caste, sexual orientation [and gender identity,] age, and environment, among other factors. Recognizing the structural barriers and power imbalances that hamper inclusiveness of the whole of society, the implementation of the gender plan of action will take an intersectional approach, prioritizing the needs and interests of all women and girls, with particular attention to those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The implementation of the gender plan of action will also seek to ensure the engagement of men and boys, to ensure a collaborative and supportive approach towards achieving gender equality in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

(e) Ensuring meaningful and effective engagement and empowerment of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities. Indigenous women and girls and those from local communities are

³⁶ These modalities are put forward as measures to ensure the effective implementation of the gender plan of action. As the plan is intended to enable the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the modalities put forward may also be considered relevant to the implementation of the framework.

integrally involved in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and yet continue to face discrimination and remain marginalized in decision-making processes, access and ownership over resources including land, and in the receipt of benefits associated with [biological and] genetic resources [and ecosystem services]. As such, it is proposed that implementation of the gender plan of action include a focus on empowering and supporting the meaningful, informed and effective engagement of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities to address their rights, needs and interests, and to recognize and value their traditional knowledge, innovations, practices, technologies and cultures and their related rights in support of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and in the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

3. For readability, individual references to women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities, and [women and girls in all their diversity,] are not included in each of the statements put forward below. The gender plan of action includes a focus on supporting the effective engagement of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities, and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in all actions. The references to “women and girls” in the expected outcomes, objectives and actions should thus be understood to include women and girls in all of their diversity, including from indigenous peoples and local communities and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. When consulting women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities it should be done under the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

4. The gender plan of action contains three expected outcomes, under which are grouped a series of indicative objectives and actions and associated deliverables and timelines, as provided in the table below. The expected outcomes, objectives and actions of the gender plan of action are put forward with the aim of supporting the achievement of all the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in a gender responsive manner, recognizing that effective action on biodiversity requires all members of society to be fully engaged.³⁷

5. The indicative actions are intended to guide efforts to achieve the objectives of the plan, through a variety of measures directed at developing capacity and knowledge, preparing and applying guidance and relevant recommendations, fostering engagement, and facilitating and strengthening financing, among others. These actions are proposed as areas for which particular attention is needed, recognizing that other actions may be required both to complement and further define the efforts to achieve the associated objectives at national, subnational, as well as regional and international levels. Possible deliverables and proposed timelines are put forward to guide the implementation of the different actions.

6. The process for developing a gender plan of action is based on the understanding that all relevant actors have a role to play in implementing the Convention and supporting the objectives of gender mainstreaming. Taking a gender-responsive approach to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Convention entails a participatory, inclusive process. As such, Parties, together with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, international and United Nations system entities, indigenous peoples and local communities, women’s groups, youth, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders are invited to support the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the gender plan of action.

³⁷ CBD/SBI/3/INF/41.

Annex

GENDER PLAN OF ACTION: OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, DELIVERABLES, TIMELINES AND ACTORS

A. Objectives	B. Indicative actions	C. Possible deliverables	D. Proposed timelines	E. Responsible actors	Row number
Expected outcome 1: [All genders,] in particular women and girls, have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention					1
1.1 Increase women and girls' [rights to ownership and control over land and natural resources and access to water,] to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	Compile baseline data and research on the relationship between conservation interventions, sustainable use and women and girls' [rights to ownership and control over land and natural resources and access to water,] and prepare guidance for national-level action	Baseline data, research and guidance on women and girls' [rights to ownership and control over land and natural resources and access to water] in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use made available to Parties for SBI-4	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Parties	2
	Take measures to update national legislation so that women and girls have equitable access to ownership and control over biological resources, as well as land and waters	Created or updated legislation that provides equal rights of access, ownership and control of land and waters for women and men	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations	3
	Support women's organizations and networks to have equal opportunities to lead or participate in decision-making on policies relating to the three objectives of the Convention, including related to land and waters, land tenure and property reforms through inter alia, consultation of women, in accordance with national law, and the provision of financial support	Consultations that included effective engagement of women and girls' organizations/networks; Financial and other relevant support provided to women and girls' organizations/networks to strengthen their capacity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations	4
1.2 Ensure equal access for women and girls to resources, services and technologies to support their	Conduct participatory assessments with baselines to identify gender gaps and effective measures to enable equal access to resources, services and	Assessments undertaken and compilation shared through	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations	5

A. Objectives	B. Indicative actions	C. Possible deliverables	D. Proposed timelines	E. Responsible actors	Row number
engagement in the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (including financial services, credit, education, training and relevant information among others)	technologies relevant for the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	side events and on webpages of the Convention		<i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat	
	Take targeted measures to facilitate equal access of women to financial services and credit, and of women and girls to education, training, information, among other relevant resources, services and technologies relevant for their engagement in the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources	Initiatives/programmes established or enhanced to facilitate equal access of women to financial services and credit, and of women and girls to training, information and other relevant measures	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat	6
	[Adopt specific measures to respect, preserve and maintain the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as their corresponding rights relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity]	[Assessment and case studies undertaken on specific measures and policies to respect, preserve and maintain traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities]	<i>[Timeframe:</i> 2030]	<i>[Leading:</i> Parties, IPLCs, relevant organizations, the research community, Secretariat]	
1.3 Ensure gender equitable access in relation to access and benefit-sharing instruments, as appropriate	Develop, test and promote relevant methodologies to mainstream gender perspectives in access and benefit-sharing instruments, as appropriate	Guidance on mainstreaming gender in relation to access and benefit-sharing instruments made available to Parties	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Relevant organizations, the research community, Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> Parties	7
1.4 Promote women's empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities in biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors, that support sustainable management and production practices	Conduct assessments on gender roles across biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors to determine gender gaps and make use of assessments already undertaken in this regard	Assessments and case studies inform decision-making and are shared through webinars and side events	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Private sector, Parties, relevant organizations	8

A. Objectives	B. Indicative actions	C. Possible deliverables	D. Proposed timelines	E. Responsible actors	Row number
	Implement supportive interventions to promote women's empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities in biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors that support sustainable management and production practices	[Capacity-building and development workshops and training sessions carried out for women focused on empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities relevant to biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors]	<i>Timeframe:</i> [Ongoing]	<i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat <i>Leading:</i> Private sector, Parties, relevant organizations	9
1.5 Identify and eliminate, prevent and respond, to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence in particular in relation to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders and park rangers	Develop and deploy data, tools, and strategies, to understand and address gender-based violence and biodiversity linkages, including with a focus on the protection of women environmental human rights defenders, to support biodiversity policy and programming development and implementation	Data and/or knowledge products, campaigns, tools, webinars, on the links between gender-based violence and biodiversity, produced and made available to Parties and stakeholders	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Relevant organizations, Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> Parties	10
	Effective measures are taken to eliminate, prevent and respond, to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence in particular in relation to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders and park rangers	[Case studies are compiled and shared on implementing measures to eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence related to control, ownership, and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders and park rangers]	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026]	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations, the research community]	

A. Objectives	B. Indicative actions	C. Possible deliverables	D. Proposed timelines	E. Responsible actors	Row number
Expected outcome 2: Biodiversity policy, planning and programming decisions address equally the perspectives, interests, needs and human rights of [all genders,] in particular [of] women and girls					11
2.1 Increase opportunities and strengthen the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women at all levels of action, engagement and decision-making related to the three objectives of the Convention	Convene an expert group meeting, including women environmental human rights defenders, to develop guidance and recommendations to aimed at eliminating gender disparities in the participation and leadership of women and decision-making related to the three objectives of the Convention	Report of Expert Group meeting and recommendations made available to Parties and stakeholders	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations, Parties	12
	Apply guidance and recommendations to ensure women's informed and effective participation and equal leadership in governance bodies at all levels related to the three objectives of the Convention	Data/information on women's participation and leadership in biodiversity-related governance bodies are included in national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations	13
2.2 Enhance the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through the engagement of women's groups and women delegates	Support capacity development in leadership, negotiation, and facilitation for women delegates, including through webinars and in-session training, through remote and in-person modalities	Webinars, in-session training, active engagement of representatives in the Friends of Gender Equality Group under the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations	14
	Ensure gender expertise included in all advisory and expert bodies under the Convention on Biological Diversity	Gender experts/women's group representatives are included in all advisory and expert bodies/meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat	15
	Undertake assessments to determine measures to enable women's meaningful, informed and effective participation in the new programme of work on	Measures to enable women's meaningful, informed and effective participation and gender considerations are incorporated in the new	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024	<i>Leading:</i> Indigenous peoples and local communities,	16

A. Objectives	B. Indicative actions	C. Possible deliverables	D. Proposed timelines	E. Responsible actors	Row number
	Article 8(j) and analyse gender considerations to be addressed in this work programme	programme of work on Article 8(j)		Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat	
2.3 Integrate [human rights][women’s rights] and gender equality considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)	Provide capacity-building and development opportunities for governments at all levels and other relevant stakeholders on gender responsive development, planning, implementation, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of NBSAPs	Capacity-building and development initiatives undertaken, templates, guides and toolkits developed	<i>Timeframe:</i> [Ongoing] ³⁸	<i>Leading:</i> Relevant organizations, Parties, Secretariat	18
	Appoint national gender-biodiversity focal points to support knowledge exchange, sharing experiences and best practices, peer-to-peer learning, mentoring and coaching	National gender-biodiversity focal points nominated, learning activities conducted, recommendations for support prepared, and an awareness raising/knowledge sharing plan developed	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024	<i>Leading:</i> Parties <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations	19
	Engage all relevant stakeholders, particularly women’s groups, gender institutions and gender experts and indigenous peoples and local communities, in the process of developing and updating NBSAPs and related biodiversity policies, plans, and strategies at all levels	Gender responsive NBSAPs	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations	20
Expected outcome 3: Enabling conditions are created to ensure gender responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework					21
3.1 Develop national capacity to produce and use gender and biodiversity data, including relevant data disaggregation (e.g. sex, age,	Build knowledge and capacity of national statistical offices to ensure the systematic collection of sex disaggregated biodiversity data and the development and use of relevant gender-specific indicators	Training tools developed and capacity development support provided, available data disaggregated by sex	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations	22

³⁸ As per decision under item 9

A. Objectives	B. Indicative actions	C. Possible deliverables	D. Proposed timelines	E. Responsible actors	Row number
ethnicity and other demographic factors)	Share sample indicators, data, best practices and relevant guidance on developing and monitoring data disaggregated by sex and other demographic factors, per sector	Webinars, in-session workshops, prepare report highlighting best practices	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, Secretariat, relevant organizations	23
3.2 Strengthen the evidence base, understanding and analysis of the gender-related impacts of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of women and girls as agents of change in achieving its goals and targets, including insights from traditional knowledge of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities	Undertake research and analysis, and collect and apply information and data, including gender-differentiated traditional knowledge, on the gender-differentiated impacts of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of women and girls as agents of change	Information materials, available data sources/databases, reports and compilation documents shared through webinars, side events at meetings of Convention bodies, social media and on gender webpages of the Convention	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat	24
3.3 Support access to information and public participation of women and girls' organizations, networks, leaders and gender experts in the resourcing, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	Organize capacity-building and development workshops and prepare guidelines to enhance the capacity of women and girls' organizations, networks and gender experts to support planning, implementation and reporting on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related activities, including integration of gender considerations into all biodiversity programming at all levels	Capacity-building and development workshops undertaken, and guidelines prepared Reporting on capacity-building and development initiatives and engagement of women's organizations, networks and gender experts included in national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026 <i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Parties <i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat	25
3.4 Ensure coherent gender responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, through identifying synergies and drawing on	Promote gender-biodiversity linkages in relevant tools, information and activities of United Nations and international processes, and undertake joint	Relevant linkages with United Nations and international processes promoted, joint activities, including high-level events	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, United Nations and	26

A. Objectives	B. Indicative actions	C. Possible deliverables	D. Proposed timelines	E. Responsible actors	Row number
relevant experience from related United Nations and international processes	activities with Rio conventions, United Nations and international gender partners	at major international meetings		international partners	
	Establish coordination mechanisms among women and girls' organizations/networks, ministries or other institutions responsible for gender and those responsible for the environment, relevant focal points, and local partners to strengthen coherent programming on gender and biodiversity-related issues	National-level gender-biodiversity/environment working groups/coordination mechanisms established, reports on progress provided; In-session workshop / side event to exchange experiences and discuss gaps, challenges	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations	27
3.5 Ensure that national reports and submissions under the Convention on Biological Diversity provide information on the implementation of the gender plan of action and gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	Identify and compile best practices, lessons learned and gaps in gender responsive implementation, monitoring and reporting, with the engagement of women's organizations and networks, and gender experts	Best practices, lessons learned and identified gaps presented in in-session meetings or side events and shared on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, women's groups/-networks, relevant organizations, Secretariat	28
	Use gender-specific indicators and data disaggregated by sex in reporting on progress towards implementation of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and report on progress in implementation of the gender plan of action	National reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity include reporting on implementation of the gender plan of action and include gender-specific indicators and sex-disaggregated data	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties	29
	Integrate reporting on women's and girl's contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and on the mainstreaming of gender considerations into NBSAPs, including their implementation, budgeting and reporting, in existing national reporting mechanisms	National reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity include reporting on women's and girl's contributions to the conservation and sustainable	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations	30

A. Objectives	B. Indicative actions	C. Possible deliverables	D. Proposed timelines	E. Responsible actors	Row number
		use of biodiversity, and on the mainstreaming of gender considerations into NBSAPs, including their implementation, budgeting and reporting			
3.6 Allocate adequate human and financial resources to support rights-based gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including by tracking and reporting resource allocations for gender initiatives, and applying gender-responsive budgeting	Raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting gender responsive approaches to biodiversity-related policies, plans, strategies and action, including good practices to facilitate access to finance for grass-roots women's organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities	Webinars, communication materials, in-session workshops	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024, 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations	31
	Establish targeted funding programmes or budget lines to support gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the gender plan of action	Targeted funding programmes and budget lines	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund	32

1

Item 10. Enhancing integration with respect to provisions related to Article 8(j) and related provisions

10 A. Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities

The following is taken from recommendation 11/2 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions

A. Ways and instruments for achieving full integration of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and its Protocols, with full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and aiming at enhancing efficiencies, coherence and coordination

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision V/16, in which it established the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, and decision X/43,³⁹ in which it revised the multi-year programme of work for 2010-2020,

Recognizing the need for a more holistic, forward-looking and integrated programme of work, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals,⁴⁰ the Paris Agreement⁴¹ and the post-2020 arrangements for the Convention,

Building on the composite report on the status and trends of traditional knowledge and the voluntary guidelines, standards and other tools already developed by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and adopted by the Conference of the Parties,⁴²

Emphasizing the need for the effective implementation in accordance with national legislation and circumstances and international obligations, as appropriate, of the voluntary guidelines and standards related to Article 8(j) and related provisions at the national level in order to build on the progress made towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and to contribute to the corresponding elements in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

1. *Decides* to develop a new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, on the basis of annex I and annex II⁴³ to the present decision;

2. *Also decides* to keep under review the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions as needed, and reprioritize elements and tasks, in order to ensure a programme of work, supportive of a human rights approach and coherent with the priorities of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which takes into account developments in other relevant international forums and organizations;

3. *Encourages* Parties, according to national legislation, to increase efforts to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities as on-the-ground partners in the implementation of the Convention, including by recognizing, supporting and valuing their customary laws,

³⁹ In [decision X/43](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised multi-year programme of work on Article 8(j), retiring completed or superseded tasks 3, 5, 8, 9 and 16.

⁴⁰ See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

⁴¹ See United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, twenty-first session, decision 1/CP.21 ([FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#)).

⁴² See [decision VII/16](#).

⁴³ As requested by the Working Group, annex II will be peer reviewed, and the results will be made available to the ad hoc technical expert group established by paragraph 7 of the present draft decision.

collective actions, including their efforts to protect and conserve lands and waters that they traditionally occupy or use towards the goals of the Convention, and engaging them, as appropriate, in the preparation of national reports, in the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and in the process for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for the Convention;

4. *Requests* Parties and other Governments to report on the implementation of the new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, including the application of the various voluntary guidelines and standards developed under the aegis of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, through national reports, and to relevant subsidiary bodies, in order to determine progress made;

5. *Invites* Parties, as per decision X/40 B, paragraph 7, to consider designating national focal points for Article 8(j) and related provisions in support of existing national focal points, to facilitate and disseminate culturally appropriate communications with indigenous peoples and local community organizations, and to promote the effective development and implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions;⁴⁴

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to strengthen and support the network of national focal points on traditional knowledge and on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, enabling them to play a key role at the national level in such areas as (a) national and subnational arrangements for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, (b) national arrangements for the protection, preservation and promotion of traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use, with the “prior informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement” of the holders of that knowledge, (c) facilitating the input of indigenous peoples and local communities into the drafting of national reports, and (d) promoting capacity-building for indigenous peoples and local communities at the national and local levels, on issues related to the Convention;

B. Institutional arrangements for indigenous peoples and local communities

7. [*Recalling* decision 14/17, requests the Executive Secretary to convene an ad hoc technical expert group on indigenous peoples and local communities and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, subject to availability of financial resources, which shall meet prior to the twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, with terms of reference as contained in annex III to the present decision, to provide advice on the further elaboration of the new programme of work and the mandate and modus operandi of the [working group] [subsidiary body] [integration into the subsidiary bodies] on Article 8(j) and related provisions;]

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with relevant organizations, to support the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group as outlined in paragraph 7;

9. *Decides* to continue the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties [with the intention to establish a permanent institutional arrangement on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to be decided on at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties];

10. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its twelfth meeting to further elaborate the new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc technical expert group.

⁴⁴ As of June 2019, 38 countries have designated a national focal point on traditional knowledge.

Annex I

DRAFT OBJECTIVES, GENERAL PRINCIPLES, AND ELEMENTS OF WORK FOR THE NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION RELATED TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES 2020-2050

I. OBJECTIVE

1. The objective of this programme of work is to promote, within the framework of the Convention, a just implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions at the local, national, regional and international levels and to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and levels of its implementation, ensuring an ongoing recognition of the unique association that indigenous peoples and local communities have with the Convention and its Protocols.

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2. Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in all stages of the identification and implementation of the elements of the programme of work. Full and effective participation of women of indigenous peoples and local communities in all activities of the programme of work.

3. Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be valued, given the same respect and considered as useful and necessary as other forms of knowledge. **[Genuine collaborations and co-production of knowledge in ways that respect the knowledge generation processes and the integrity of each knowledge system should be promoted. The inclusion of knowledge from the diversity of knowledge systems and practices should be mainstreamed in the development and implementation of biodiversity policies.]**

4. A holistic approach consistent with the spiritual and cultural values and customary practices of the indigenous peoples and local communities **recognizing the connection to [their territories]** and their rights, in accordance with relevant national legislation, to have control over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

5. The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in an equitable way.

6. Access to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices held by indigenous peoples and local communities should be subject to “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement” of indigenous peoples and local communities, depending on national circumstances, and on a fair and equitable share of benefits arising from the use and application of such knowledge, innovations and practise based on mutually agreed terms and in accordance with domestic law.

7. The implementation of the new programme of work on Article 8(j) will be monitored continuously through the indicators for status and trends in traditional knowledge,⁴⁵ adopted under the earlier programme of work, and their further operationalization will also be continued under the renewed joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant bodies.

Annex II

DRAFT POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF THE NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION RELATED TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

I. SUSTAINABLE USE

[To promote the sustainable use of biological diversity, including the customary sustainable use of wildlife and traditional food production practices and agriculture systems

Suggested activities:

⁴⁵ The adopted indicators for traditional knowledge are: trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities (decision X/43); trends in linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages (decisions VII/30 and VIII/15); trends in the practice of traditional occupations (decision X/43); trends in which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through their full integration, safeguards and full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan.

- 1.1 Develop voluntary guidelines to incorporate customary sustainable use practices or policies, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities as appropriate, into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- 1.2 Develop voluntary guidelines to promote and strengthen community-based initiatives that support and contribute to the implementation of Article 10(c) and enhance customary sustainable use of biological diversity.
- 1.3 Identify and promote best practices (e.g. case studies, mechanisms, legislation and other appropriate initiatives).
- 1.4 Develop proposals to support indigenous peoples and local communities in on-farm and in situ conservation.
- 1.5 Develop communication, education and public awareness materials on the value and contributions of indigenous, local and traditional food systems, and on these systems and their products and their advantages for human health and biodiversity.
- 1.6 In accordance with national legislation and international obligations, encourage indigenous peoples and local communities to register their existing practices with the appropriate international mechanisms and initiatives, such as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as the programmes implemented by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Satoyama Initiative, to assist in transmission to future generations in appropriate and respectful ways.
- 1.7 Develop guidance to promote indigenous concepts of diverse agroforestry systems in areas adjacent to protected areas.]

II. CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

[To promote and support the conservation, protection and restoration of biological diversity by indigenous peoples and local communities

Suggested activities:

- 2.1 Develop voluntary guidelines, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities to strengthen the policy framework for community-based conservation, protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities, such as indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) or traditional sacred sites.
- 2.2 Develop voluntary guidelines to facilitate, as appropriate, the integration of ICCAs into national networks of protected areas by appropriately recognizing ICCA territories and strive for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in protected area management.
- 2.3 Develop voluntary guidelines to promote and support, subject to national legislation, traditional land-use change and land tenure by indigenous peoples and local communities and identify and promote best practices (e.g. case studies, mechanisms, legislation and other appropriate initiatives) and their implementation.
- 2.4 Promote indigenous peoples and local communities, without formal access to land, to partner in the conservation, protection and restoration of biodiversity.
- 2.5 Develop voluntary guidelines to operationalize the indicator on land-use change and land tenure⁴⁶ in the lands and waters of indigenous peoples and local communities, traditionally used or occupied as appropriate, including by mapping existing ICCAs, documenting legislation and recognition of indigenous peoples land tenure rights and collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities contributing to the protection of biodiversity, and report on progress made.]

III. SHARING OF BENEFITS FROM GENETIC RESOURCES

[To promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources associated with traditional knowledge

Suggested activities:

- 3.1 Develop voluntary guidelines and mechanisms to support Parties as appropriate, in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from

⁴⁶ References to “land” include both lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous peoples and local communities.

their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities through capacity-building (regarding prior and informed consent (PIC), mutually agreed terms (MAT), and equitable sharing of benefits and biocultural community protocols as well as through legal, policy, or technical assistance, in accordance with national legislation.

- 3.2 Promote and strengthen programmes aimed at valorization of genetic resources associated with traditional knowledge.
- 3.3 Promote and support programmes aimed at ensuring the development of databanks/databases on the use of genetic resources associated with traditional knowledge.
- 3.4 Promote programmes that encourage collaboration and partnerships between indigenous peoples and local communities and the users of genetic resources associated with traditional knowledge.
- 3.5 Identify opportunities for capacity development for indigenous peoples and local communities and for dialogue with external stakeholders, taking into account the cultural and organizational contexts, and adjusted to *sui generis* governance structures.
- 3.6 Identify opportunities for capacity development for indigenous peoples and local communities, and create platforms for information exchange between indigenous peoples and local communities and Parties, as well as for dialogue with external stakeholders.]

IV. KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE

[To support the transmission of traditional knowledge and ensure that traditional knowledge and other knowledge systems are valued equally

Suggested activities:

- 4.1 Develop proposals to support indigenous peoples and local communities, to strengthen the transmission and use of traditional knowledge, including by enabling them to explore collection, recording, documentation, storage and ways and means for the dissemination of indigenous and local knowledge, through secure indigenous knowledge systems' documentation centres, and strengthen the use and transmission of traditional knowledge to future generations, including for the goals of the Convention and to contribute to other international processes, with "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent", or "approval and involvement" of indigenous peoples and local communities depending on national circumstances.
- 4.2 Promote the Joint Programme of Work (CBD, UNESCO, IUCN and partners) on the Links Between Biological and Cultural Diversity (nature and cultures).
- 4.3 Promote the inclusion of traditional knowledge and indigenous and local knowledge systems as equally valid in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
- 4.4 Develop voluntary guidelines to promote the mainstreaming of inclusion of traditional knowledge, as an equally valid part of the broader mainstreaming of biodiversity across society and sectors of production, as well as other relevant global processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals.]

V. PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES, INCLUDING THROUGH APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS, AND FURTHER ADVANCEMENT OF ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS

- [5.1 In accordance with national legislation and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities to promote the application, and monitoring of the following:
 - (a) The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities;⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Adopted in [decision VII/16](#).

- (b) The Tkarihwaié: ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities;⁴⁸
- (c) The Global Plan of Action on the Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity;⁴⁹
- (d) The Mo'otz kuxtal⁵⁰ Voluntary Guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation, or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities⁵¹ for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge;⁵²
- (e) The Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity.⁵³

Consider the promotion of other principles, standards and guidelines within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- 5.2 Promote the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, as appropriate, emphasizing the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and taking into account the special role of gender in the generation, transmission and protection of traditional knowledge, in accordance with national realities, circumstances and capacities.⁵⁴
- 5.3 Explore, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and appropriate agencies, ways to recognize, support and promote, as appropriate, traditional land tenure and secure land tenure for indigenous peoples and local communities.⁵⁵
- 5.4 Explore, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and appropriate agencies, ways to promote a human rights-based approach in conservation efforts.
- 5.5 Explore, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and appropriate agencies, ways to protect environmental defenders from arbitrary persecution, through appropriate mechanisms at the national and international levels.⁵⁶
- 5.6 Building on the guidelines and standards⁵⁷ aimed at the national level, the previous work on *sui generis* systems, and taking into account the safeguards framework, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, to develop a comprehensive safeguards framework (decisions XII/3 and 14/15) for indigenous peoples and local communities and the promotion and management of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components with the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.]

⁴⁸ Adopted in [decision X/42](#).

⁴⁹ Adopted in decision XII/12 [B](#), contained in the annex.

⁵⁰ Meaning “roots of life” in the Mayan language.

⁵¹ The use and interpretation of the term “indigenous peoples and local communities” in these Guidelines should refer to [decision XII/12 F](#), paragraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c).

⁵² Adopted in [decision XIII/18](#). The adoption of the Mo'otz kuxtal voluntary Guidelines has also advanced the work being pursued by the Working Group on *sui generis* systems for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities by highlighting the potential role of community protocols and procedures for access to traditional knowledge.

⁵³ Adopted in decision 14/2.

⁵⁴ See decision XII/7.

⁵⁵ References to “traditional tenure” include lands and waters.

⁵⁶ See Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/EarlyWarningProcedure.aspx>

⁵⁷ List of adopted guidelines and standards.

VI. FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- 6.1 Facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity including through implementing the enhanced participation mechanisms used by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and by maintaining the voluntary fund funding mechanism to support their effective participation in meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols.
- 6.2 Parties, according to the national legislation, to promote full and effective participation and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the development of national reports, and in the development, revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and to strengthen partnerships with indigenous peoples and local communities, recognizing their collective actions, for implementation of the Convention.
- 6.3 Collaborate with other relevant global processes, including but not limited to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with its recently established Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, as well as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- 6.4 Report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on matters falling within the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity in accordance with the [system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).
- 6.5 Explore, in collaboration with Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities and other engaged actors, how the methodological guidance for identifying, monitoring and assessing the contribution of the collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities, through the resource mobilization reporting framework, can best be applied, including the use of qualitative values and methods as requested by the Conference of the Parties in [decision 14/16](#);
- 6.6 Explore ways and means, partnerships and opportunities to mobilize financial resources for on-the-ground implementation of the Convention by indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as to contribute to other international processes.]

[Annex III]⁵⁸

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON THE POST-2020 NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION RELATED TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

1. The ad hoc technical expert group on the post-2020 new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities shall:
- (a) Further elaborate possible elements, tasks and actors of a new post-2020 programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities based on annexes I and II of the present recommendation, as well as the results of the peer review referred to in recommendation 11/2 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions ensuring alignment with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (b) Elaborate options for institutional arrangements and their modus operandi that would allow for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention, including information on legal, organizational, and financial implications of each option and taking into consideration the rules of procedure of the Convention;

⁵⁸ Annex III is bracketed pending resolution of paragraph 7 of the draft decision.

(c) Prepare a report on the outcomes of its work for consideration by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its twelfth meeting.

2. The ad hoc technical expert group will be constituted according to the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, adjusted to ensure full participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, including three experts per region nominated by Parties, two representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities from each of the seven geocultural regions recognized by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well no more than six other organizations.]

10 B. In-depth dialogue on the thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues

The following is taken from recommendation 11/1 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the in-depth dialogue on the topic “contribution of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, and cultural diversity to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” conducted by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its eleventh meeting,

Recognizing that the contribution of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in addressing global biodiversity loss is fundamental to achieve the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature,

Also recognizing that embracing the vision of the Convention requires embracing cultural diversity and acknowledging the intimate relationship between nature and people,

Further recognizing that diverse accumulations of knowledge, including intergenerational language transmission, can provide human and ecological systems with greater adaptive capacity to cope with current and future disturbances and strengthen economic, social and ecological resilience,

Recognizing the importance of the three objectives of the Convention for biocultural diversity,

1. *Invites* Parties to acknowledge, encourage and incorporate the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities through their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and their collective actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as, more broadly, the links between biological and cultural diversity, in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

2. *Also invites* Parties to fully integrate considerations, adopted voluntary guidelines and principles regarding the links between cultural and biological diversity in their national implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, according to national legislation;

3. *Decides* that the topic for the in-depth dialogue to be discussed at the twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions will be: “the role of languages in the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices”.

**10 C. Recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

The following is taken from recommendation 11/4 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the note by the Executive Secretary,⁵⁹

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations emanating from the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to inform the Permanent Forum of developments of mutual interest;

2. *Welcomes* the invitations of the Forum to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to:

(a) A study on the contributions of indigenous peoples to the management of ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity;

(b) A set of actions and commitments in relation to conservation and human rights in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) A comparative legal study that analyses the rights of indigenous peoples and the emerging rights of local communities;

3. *Decides* to take the results of these activities under consideration in the development of its new programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions from the perspective of the relevance of the knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to contribute to the above-mentioned activities, to provide information to the Forum about these and other relevant activities of the Convention, and to carry out commitments to indigenous peoples, in accordance with the Secretary General's system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ [CBD/WG8J/11/6](#).

⁶⁰ [E/C.19/2016/5](#) and [Corr.1](#).

Item 11. Digital sequence information on genetic resources

The Conference of the is expected to consider a draft decision prepared by the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its fifth meeting, taking into account recommendations 3/2 and 4/2 of the Working Group as well as the information provided in document CBD/WG2020/5/3.

Item 12. Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism

12 A. Resource mobilization

The following is taken from recommendation 3/6 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the [provision and] mobilization of financial resources from all sources [[and the provision of new and additional financial resources for implementation in developing countries] [, of [reducing,] [phasing out,] or redirecting [financial flows][expenditures] harmful for biodiversity,]] and of aligning [all] financial flows [with the three objectives of the Convention] for the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,[in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention,] [Article 25 of the Nagoya Protocol and Article 28 of the Cartagena Protocol,]

[*Acknowledging/recognizing* the Nagoya Protocol and other access and benefit-sharing frameworks as mechanisms whose effective implementation will allow the mobilization of resources towards countries that provide genetic resources and towards their indigenous peoples and local communities, who are providers of traditional knowledge,]

[*Reaffirming* the commitment of Parties to meet the obligations set out in the provisions of Article 20 of the Convention and in accordance with the Rio Principles,]

[*Emphasizing* that any new and innovative funding mechanisms are supplementary and do not replace the financial mechanisms established under the provisions of Article 21 of the Convention,]

Recalling Article 20 of the Convention as the basis for [providing and] mobilizing resources from all sources and the relevance of Article 11 in this regard, for the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and recognizing the need for enhanced international cooperation and for transformative, inclusive and equitable action across economies and society in this regard, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals [as well as the commitment of each Party, in accordance with its capabilities [and national circumstances], financial support and incentives for national activities intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, and of developed country Parties to provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed full incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of this Convention],

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the mobilization of financial resources from all sources and making the resources available in a timely manner, for the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

[*Acknowledging* the interlinkages and possible cross-fertilization between certain elements of the resource mobilization component as proposed by the Panel of Experts and the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming developed with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming,]

[*Noting*][*Recognizing*] the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming for strengthening resource mobilization and the effective and efficient use of [financial] resources, in order to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

[*Recognizing* the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming for [the adequate valuation of ecosystem services] [economic systems and financial markets to more appropriately value and protect natural capital,]] [and [for a sustainable] [to build ecosystem resilience into the economic] recovery after the pandemic], [while acknowledging the specific financial, capacity and technology gaps faced by developing countries to support mainstreaming policies,]

Stressing the importance of [biodiversity mainstreaming and] resource mobilization to build ecosystem resilience to support the [sustainable, inclusive, and equitable] [economic] recovery after the pandemic,

[*Underlining* the potential contribution of implementing Article 11 of the Convention, on incentive measures, for the mobilization of financial resources,]

Reiterating the important role of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as a basis for identifying national funding needs and priorities, and for the effective and efficient mobilization of [financial] resources from all sources in accordance with national circumstances and priorities [and in line with Article 20 of the Convention and principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development], including, as applicable, for the implementation of the protocols under the Convention, and for the synergistic implementation of other biodiversity-related conventions,

Recalling that Parties are invited to prepare national finance plans or other similar planning instruments, in the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with sub-goal 2.2 of the strategy for resource mobilization adopted by decision IX/11, [highlighting the need for further discussions on possible elements to be considered under their preparation,]

[*Welcoming* that the preparation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar planning instruments will be supported by the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility under its Strategy and Programming Directions,]⁶¹

Recognizing the need for effective partnerships and collaboration among all relevant actors, and for strengthening partnerships with businesses and the financial sector for mobilizing resources and to align financial flows with the mission of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Cognizant of the opportunities for harnessing synergies among the Rio conventions, including synergies related to the mobilization and use of resources for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Germany for providing financial support to the work of the Panel of Experts on resource mobilization, and for hosting the Thematic Workshop on Resource Mobilization for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which was held in Berlin from 14 to 16 January 2020;

2. [*Takes note of*] [*Appreciates*] the final report of the Panel of Experts, which provides an assessment of the resources from all sources needed for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the other reports of the Panel of Experts, considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting; [and notes [with concern] that multilateral international financial flows for biodiversity represent a [significantly small] fraction of total global biodiversity finance;] [and notes that [therefore] redirecting resources harmful to biodiversity, generating additional resources from all sources and enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use, are [essential] elements of resource mobilization;]

3. *Takes note* of the final analysis of financial reporting frameworks received by Parties, prepared by the Executive Secretary;⁶²

4. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made both by developed country and by developing country Parties[, as well as Parties with economies in transition [and small island developing States] [and centres of origin of genetic resources]], in implementing the strategy for resource mobilization and the targets for resource mobilization adopted under Aichi Biodiversity Target 20;

5. [*Recognizes* that, despite the progress made, there is a considerable and persistent funding gap for the effective implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and that more efforts will be required in order to [provide and] mobilize resources [from all sources][, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention] [and principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development], in a manner commensurate with the level of ambition of the [implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity]

⁶¹ Paragraph to be kept in abeyance pending adoption of the GEF-8 Strategy and Programming Directions.

⁶² The Executive Secretary will prepare the report in line with established practice, based on submissions by Parties, for information of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

framework [and with the incremental costs that developing countries will need to meet for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework];

6. *Also recognizes* the ongoing need of developing countries for other means of implementation, including technical [and financial] support and capacity-building, including to undertake domestic action to mobilize resources and monitor and report thereon;

[7. *Affirms* that developed countries' adequate and sustainable funding support are the main sources for implementation of the Convention;]

[8. *Decides* to maintain the eligibility of all developing countries for biodiversity financial support;]

[Process to update annexes of decisions I/2 and VIII/18

9. *Recalls* Article 20.2 of the Convention, which provides the mandate to establish, periodically review and, if necessary, amend the list of developed country Parties and other Parties which voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties, the latest update of which is provided in the annex to decision VIII/18;

10. *Notes* with concern that the list of Parties which voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties has not been reviewed since 2006;

11. *Affirms* the importance of burden-sharing among all constituents and expanding the donor base to increase financial resources from all sources, consistent with decision 14/22;

12. *Notes* the increasing role and importance of public and private financial institutions, philanthropic organizations and the private sector in helping to fulfil the objectives of the Convention, as part of a growing commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes their support of developing country Parties in the implementation of the Convention, as a complement to the continuing efforts of developed country Parties;

13. *Decides* to:

(a) Review the annex to decision VIII/18 at the upcoming fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to modernizing and updating the list so it reflects current realities and recognizes the assistance being provided by a number of Parties and entities that are not listed in the annex, and to welcome the contributions of these and all Parties and entities that have capabilities and willingness to help achieve the objectives of the Convention;

(b) Review the eligibility criteria provided in decision I/2, annex I, with a view to ensuring that resources are provided to countries that require the most urgent assistance, especially noting the specific needs and special situation of least developed countries, small island developing States, countries with arid and semi-arid zones, and coastal and mountainous areas; and requests the Executive Secretary to develop elements to update such criteria for consideration at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the most recent criteria used by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, World Bank);]

Successor to the current strategy for resource mobilization

Option A

[14. *Adopts*] [*Takes note* of] the [successor to the current] strategy for resource mobilization, contained in annex I to the present recommendation[, taking into account national circumstances;]

15. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to take the [successor to the current] strategy for resource mobilization into consideration as a flexible framework guiding implementation of the

resource mobilization target(s) of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework[, in accordance with national circumstances];

16. *Invites* relevant international organizations and initiatives to support the implementation at all levels of the [successor to the current] strategy for resource mobilization;

17. [*Invites*][*Encourages*] relevant bilateral and multilateral funding organizations as well as the Global Environment Facility to provide technical and financial support as well as capacity-building, for implementation of the [successor to the current] strategy for resource mobilization in developing countries and countries with economies in transition as well as small island developing States, [in accordance with national [needs,] circumstances and priorities]];

Option B

[14. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to provide recommendations on the revision of the current strategy for resource mobilization based on the elements contained in annex I to the present recommendation and submissions provided by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and initiatives;

15. *Decides* to revise the current strategy for resource mobilization at its sixteenth meeting based on the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to facilitate the timely implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

16. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, as well as relevant international organizations and initiatives to make submissions to the Executive Secretary on the revision and their past experience with the current resource mobilization strategy with a view to its revision to facilitate the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile and synthesize all submissions received and prepare a draft successor to the current strategy for resource mobilization for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting].

National finance plans

18. *Invites* Parties to develop, update and implement national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments, based on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to identify available [and potential] national and international resources [from all sources] and financial gaps and constraints and/or the cost of implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to [ensure] [mobilize] adequate and timely [mobilization of] international and national financial resources for the effective [national] implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework[, taking into account Article 20.4 of the Convention];

Option A

[19. *Encourages* developed country Parties to reflect in their national finance plans or similar instruments, their financial contribution to the implementation of the Convention, in developing country Parties;]

Option B

[19. [*Encourages*] [*Invites*] developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so to [consider] [reflect] [disclose in their relevant financial planning and reporting instruments] in relevant planning instruments [in their national finance plans or similar planning instruments, [and/or the cost of implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans,] [the percentage of gross domestic product they intend to affect as financial contribution to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,]] their financial contribution to developing country Parties [and Parties with economies in transition,] for their implementation of the Convention, including their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in recipient country

Parties[, consistent with [Article 20] [Articles 20(2) and 20(3)] of the Convention] [and decision XIII/21];]

[20. *Encourages* developing country Parties, as appropriate, to provide information in their national finance plans, on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support needed and received to implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;]

21. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of relevant and interested international organizations and initiatives, including the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, to provide financial and technical support and capacity-building for interested countries in the development, updating and implementation of national finance plans for biodiversity, and for the refinement of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative methodology;

22. *Invites* the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant and interested international organizations and initiatives to continue and expand their support to the development, updating and implementation of the finance plans referenced in the previous paragraph, including by providing technical guidance in accordance with the national circumstances and capacities of the implementing Parties [and in line with their public policies];

23. [*Invites*] [*Requests*] the Global Environment Facility to support the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar planning instruments to support efforts by [eligible] [recipient] [developing] countries [and countries with economies in transition] to mobilize resources at the domestic level in support of the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the global biodiversity framework;

[24. *Urges* Parties to allocate and disburse resources [from any source] in a strategic and targeted manner, orienting them towards achieving [the commitments and goals established in] their national biodiversity strategies and action plans[, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention];]

Synergies among conventions

25. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recent programmatic initiatives of funds such as the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Green Climate Fund, and the Global Environment Facility as well as other bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms, to harness synergies in project development and financing for the purpose of the objectives of the Rio conventions and [global] biodiversity/related Conventions and agreements;

26. *Encourages* the funds and funding mechanisms mentioned in the previous paragraph to continue and intensify their work with a view to generating and increasing biodiversity co-benefits [to contribute to closing the biodiversity financing gap] [through complementary, coherent and collaborative interventions that generate greater impact as well as to enhance efforts to simultaneously tackle biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation][as well as to enhance efforts address multiple environmental objectives, consistent with national priorities];

Supportive action on scaling and aligning incentive measures as per Article 11 of the Convention⁶³

[27. [*Takes note [with appreciation]* of][*Appreciates*] the work of the Environmental Policy Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to support countries in scaling up and aligning incentives, in particular on guidance to identify and assess [incentives, including] subsidies harmful to biodiversity, on tracking economic instruments and finance for biodiversity, and on aligning national budgets with climate, biodiversity and other environmental objectives, as well as the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on fiscal reform for sustainable agriculture, and [encourages][invites] the organizations to continue and further intensify this work [, in particular to provide

⁶³ The rest of the text (paragraphs 26 to 40 and annex I) were not discussed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting.

guidance on the elimination of subsidies harmful to biodiversity] [, in accordance with the rights and obligations of Parties under other relevant international agreements];]

[28. *Invites* the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, in collaboration with other interested and relevant organizations and initiatives, as well as the Executive Secretary, and in line with the guidance of the Environmental Policy Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, to develop a methodology to evaluate the impact and efficiency of the positive and harmful incentives provided to different sectors associated with the management of biodiversity, with a view to reforming the incentives that are ineffective, inefficient and/or contradictory, to eliminate the harmful, and promote the positive ones;]

[29. *Invites* the BIOFIN Initiative to develop a methodology for the evaluation of positive and harmful incentives in different sectors, with a view to eliminating the harmful ones and promoting the positive ones, in line with guidance from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and also for the analysis of improvement in efficiency, efficiency and transparency in resources use, and for the promotion of synergies between the financing for climate change, the Sustainable Development Goals, and biodiversity;]

Financial reporting

[30. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to establish a technical expert group with terms of reference adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the successor financial reporting framework for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;⁶⁴]

[31. *Decides* to [develop], [with a view to] [and] [consider] [adopt[ing]], at its sixteenth meeting, an updated and streamlined [and more efficient] financial reporting framework, [fully aligned with the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its resource mobilization component,] taking into account [the analysis and recommendations of the panel of experts] and, as appropriate, making use of, existing international statistical frameworks and reporting frameworks[, including those referred to in paragraphs 32 and 33 below], and requests the [Executive Secretary] [Subsidiary Body on Implementation] to develop a draft of this framework [for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation] at its fourth meeting;

32. [*Invites*] [*Encourages*] Parties to consider reporting, or strengthen reporting, as applicable, of their domestic biodiversity-related expenditures under existing international statistical frameworks[[, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities], such as (a) the Government Finance Statistics (expenditures by functions of government) maintained by the International Monetary Fund, (b) the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [and] (c) the framework for environmental expenditure accounts of the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), operated by Eurostat and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development[, and (d) the Creditor Reporting System of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development] [, and to provide the Executive Secretary with information on such reporting activities];]

[33. *Invites* Parties and other Governments that are members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to consider further strengthening, as appropriate, the reporting of the international biodiversity-related financial flows that they have provided for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to the Creditor Reporting System of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, taking into account the Rio marker methodology and its further refinements[, in particular with a view to the measurement and reporting of the biodiversity-relevant share of multilateral core contributions][[, as well as relevant information from multilateral development banks, and to provide the Executive Secretary with information on such reporting activities];]

⁶⁴ The Executive Secretary will prepare the terms of reference for the proposed ad hoc technical expert group for possible consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

[34. *Invites* relevant Parties that are non-members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to consider reporting, on a voluntary basis and as applicable, the international biodiversity-related financial flows that they have provided for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to the Creditor Reporting System of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, taking into account the Rio marker methodology and its further refinements [as well as relevant information from multilateral development banks];]

[35. *Invites* relevant Parties that are developed countries and other Governments to further strengthen the reporting of international biodiversity-related financial flows that they have provided for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including in their national reports;]

[36. *Invites* the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, the United Nations Statistics Division, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and other relevant and interested institutions, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, to further develop, building on existing statistical frameworks and classifications, methodologies for expenditures related to biodiversity as well as associated reporting;]

37. *Invites* [multilateral][all] development banks and other interested funding institutions [, with a view to enhancing the transparency of financial flows that support achieving the three objectives of the Convention], to develop and apply a common methodology, [consistent with the Rio marker criteria of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development,] to identify and report investments in their portfolio that [substantially] contribute to [the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems,] [achieving the three objectives of the Convention], taking into account [other] relevant international [guidance and good international practice][agreements and the specific challenges faced by developing countries to access financial flows];

38. *Invites* the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to continue improving, as appropriate, the Rio marker methodology[and supporting countries' reporting against the biodiversity marker[, including supporting them to address current gaps in coverage, such as those related to multilateral international financial flows for biodiversity, [and to the tracking of private flows];]]

Strengthening partnerships

39. *Encourages* financial [and productive] sector institutions, including businesses [and regulatory agencies], with the support of relevant international organizations and initiatives[, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the Finance Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme]: (a) to assess and disclose their biodiversity impacts, dependencies, and risks, [in line with [relevant international agreements and, as appropriate,] recent work on nature-related financial disclosures]; (b) [to take action][to internalize the positive externalities of nature in the form of ecosystem services into production models so that investment in biodiversity conservation becomes a rational (for-profit) decision for industries to take action on biodiversity conservation] to [at least] [progressively] decrease [and eliminate] negative impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity of investments in their portfolios [and support sustainable business models to foster the sustainable use of biodiversity]; and (c) to develop and apply tools for biodiversity financing with a view to increasing the amount of dedicated biodiversity finance [and foster the implementation of innovative financial mechanisms, such as payments for ecosystem services schemes][; (d) to address the consequences of the residual negative impacts on biodiversity that cannot be otherwise mitigated;][e) to eliminate incentives that are harmful for biodiversity and promote incentives that are positive for biodiversity;] [(f) to align all financial flows with the mission of the framework];

Supportive activities of the Executive Secretary

[40. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources[, to collaborate with relevant organizations and initiatives with a view to facilitating and supporting the work referenced in the previous paragraphs and, in particular]:

(a) To further collaborate with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant and interested organizations and initiatives to facilitate and support the work referenced in paragraphs 18 to 22 above;

(b) [To collaborate with relevant organizations and initiatives to improve reporting of biodiversity-related funding under existing international statistical reporting frameworks and classifications, as per paragraphs 36 to 38 above, with a view to developing options for a simplified and more effective [and transparent] financial reporting framework;

(c) [To collaborate with a wider[range of [relevant actors, including] financial institutions, including development banks and businesses in the financial sector, [companies and philanthropic organizations,] [as appropriate and in accordance with existing rules and regulations,] to support the implementation of the [successor to the current] strategy for resource mobilization in their own activities, as per paragraph 39 above;]

(d) To continue and intensify collaboration with relevant organizations and initiatives with a view to further promoting supportive action on scaling and aligning incentive measures in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, as per paragraph 27 above;

(e) To continue and intensify collaboration with relevant bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms with a view to further catalysing synergies in project development and financing for the purpose of the objectives of the Rio conventions [and the Sustainable Development Goals];

[(f) To prepare a report on the relationship between public debt, austerity measures and the implementation of the Convention, with a view to removing specific impediments to the implementation of the Convention];

(g) To prepare a progress report including recommendations on the above-mentioned activities for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting.]

*****Additional elements on resource mobilization***

- *Global biodiversity fund*

Decides to establish the Global Biodiversity Fund and designate the Global Biodiversity Fund as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention, with arrangements to be concluded between the Conference of the Parties and the Fund at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to ensure that it is accountable to and functions under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing country Parties, in accordance with the terms of reference as agreed upon under annex II.

- *Placeholder for the elaboration of potential new funds and new functions to support the financial mechanism*

This is a placeholder for the elaboration of potential new funds and new functions to support the financial mechanism. We recognize the need for new financial resources to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The framework needs financial mechanisms that can support increased ODA flows, increased domestic resource mobilization, leverage private sector funding. Since the adoption of the Convention, the world has developed new financing tools to enhance public and private finance such as blended finance, credit enhancement mechanisms, green banks, and green bonds, as well as emerging practices on nature-related risk disclosure and public funding backed de-risking tools to leverage private sector funding. We have seen the emergence of new public and public-private instruments like the Green Climate Fund, the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund. We would like to ensure that the resource mobilization

* The paragraphs under this section were inserted at the request of the co-chairs of the contact group on item 6 in order to capture ideas expressed by Parties with regard to resource mobilization for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These should be considered as placeholders to allow these issues to be further discussed in preparation for and during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

text has a placeholder so that we can elaborate new and innovative functions to support the funding of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

- *Payment for environmental services schemes*

Recognizes that payments for environmental services⁶⁵ schemes are an effective and efficient mechanism to support and stimulate the adequate monetary valuation of conservation, restoration, management and sustainable use activities that enhance the provision of ecosystem services⁶⁶ and to engage indigenous peoples and local communities and the private sector, among other relevant stakeholders, and calls upon Parties to develop payments for environmental services schemes, among other innovative financial mechanisms, in line with national circumstances and priorities and consistent with relevant international obligations, to generate new and additional resources for the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

- *Global Environment Facility*

Recalls that the Global Environment Facility is the institutional structure entrusted with the operation of its financial mechanism, in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention;

- *Task Force for Nature Related Financial Disclosures*

Recognizes that the Taskforce for Nature Related Financial Disclosures is an emerging risk management and disclosure framework for organizations to report and act on nature-related risks, and encourages Parties to ensure that companies, investors and lenders take steps to adequately account for nature-related risks and opportunities in their decisions.

- *Multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism*

Determined to enhance access and benefit-sharing provisions and systems in order to contribute to an ambitious and transformative resource mobilization strategy for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Further determined to create a practical system to ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge,

Decides, in the exercise of their sovereign rights over genetic resources, to establish a multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism, to operate as follows:

- (a) Each developed country Party shall, in accordance with Articles 20 and 15.7 of the Convention, take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to ensure that 1 per cent of the retail price of all commercial income resulting from all utilization of genetic resources, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources or digital sequence information on genetic resources is shared through the multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism to support the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, unless such benefits are otherwise being shared on mutually agreed terms established under the bilateral system;
- (b) All monetary benefits shared under the multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism shall be deposited in a global biodiversity benefit-sharing fund operated by the Global Environment

⁶⁵ “Environmental services are human activities especially designed for contributing to the maintenance, recovery and/or improvement of ecosystem services, implemented in accordance with a standardized monitoring method, and not aimed at producing any commercial goods or services”. Proposed definition for further discussions.

⁶⁶ “Ecological processes or functions having monetary or non-monetary value to individuals or society at large. These are frequently classified as (1) supporting services such as productivity or biodiversity maintenance, (2) provisioning services such as food, fiber or fish, (3) regulating services such as climate regulation or carbon sequestration and (4) cultural services such as tourism or spiritual and aesthetic appreciation”. Fifth Assessment Report Final. Glossary – IPCC. “The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. According to the original formulation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, ecosystem services were divided into supporting, regulating, provisioning and cultural”. The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Annex I, Glossary – IPBES.

Facility, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, and this global fund shall also be open for voluntary contributions from all sources;

- (c) The global biodiversity benefit-sharing fund shall be used, in an open, competitive, project-based manner, to support on the ground activities aimed at the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, in line with the ecosystem-based approach, carried out by indigenous peoples, local communities and others, in pursuit of spending priorities identified from time to time by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services through scientific assessments.

Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with all Parties and the Global Environment Facility, to prepare options for national legislative, administrative or policy measures to implement the multilateral benefit-sharing system and to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

- *Mother Earth centred actions*

Recognizing that principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities are key cornerstones of the Convention of Biological Diversity and that provision of new and additional finance is required to meet the needs of developing countries, including the appropriate access to relevant technologies, taking into account the importance of cosmobiocentric approaches of living well in harmony with Mother Earth to contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Prioritizes the provision of financial resources for implementation of “Mother Earth-centred actions” as interventions to protect, govern and manage sustainably systems of life and ecosystems through the implementation of integrated and participatory actions to achieve a complementary and harmonic relationships between human beings, nature and all living beings in the totality of Mother Earth, providing benefits and happiness for all life forms without commodification of nature’s environmental functions, promoting transformative changes in human societies towards living well in harmony with Mother Earth, while achieving socioeconomic and environmental challenges in the context of the Rio conventions and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In particular, the prioritization for the provision of finance will be targeted to the following actions:

- (a) Recognition of Mother Earth as a living being and subject of law;
- (b) Development of policy instruments for protecting, managing and restoring nature without the commodification of its environmental functions;
- (c) Integration of the cosmobiocentric vision of indigenous peoples of living in harmony with Mother Earth in countries’ policies, programmes and projects;
- (d) Facilitates the epistemological parity between western-world modern science and eastern-world ancestral science strengthening inter-scientific dialogue among them;
- (e) Promotion of economic growth along with mechanisms of reciprocity for wealth redistribution, avoiding individuals’ economic accumulation and inequities;
- (f) Development of educational process related to the living well in harmony with Mother Earth civilizational horizon;
- (g) Interventions for the promotion of respect to all forms of life on the planet, avoiding artificial and synthetic life and transhumanism;
- (h) Promotion of peoples and nature’s communities of life for the peaceful coexistence of all living beings in the totality of Mother Earth;
- (i) Implementation of actions for strengthening the role indigenous peoples and local communities, women, girls and youth in the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(j) Implementation of joint mitigation and adaptation actions linked to sustainable development and poverty eradication, contemplating equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and non-market approaches to address climate crisis;

(k) Promotion of sustainable patterns of consumption and production, being aware of the limits of Mother Earth;

(l) Development of jurisdictional, integrated and socioecological approaches for the management of ecosystems, including protection of environmental functions, sustainable production systems and eradication of poverty;

(m) Enhancement of the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the management of systems of life and ecosystems, recognizing social, economic, juridic, political and cultural plurality, among other aspects.

Requests the financial mechanism of the Convention, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility as well as other bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms, among other sources, to urgently provide financial and technical support as well as capacity-building for the full and effective implementation of “Mother Earth-centered actions”, as referred to above, as a contribution to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Requests developed countries, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to provide necessary finance for the implementation of “Mother Earth-centred actions”, commensurate to the needs of interested developing countries.

Invites interested countries, to include and implement “Mother Earth-centred actions” in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, recognizing the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, girls and youth.

Invites relevant international organizations and initiatives to support the implementation at all levels of “Mother Earth-centred actions”.

Requests the Executive Secretary to establish an ad hoc technical expert group with terms of reference adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to support enhancing and scaling-up financing and implementation of “Mother Earth-centred actions” at the national, regional and global levels, based on learning experiences and good practices, and provide a draft decision for approval by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

**** End of the section providing additional elements on resource mobilization ***]*

Annex I

DRAFT RESOURCE MOBILIZATION COMPONENT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

DRAFT [ELEMENTS OF A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO THE CURRENT] STRATEGY FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

I. THE URGENCY

1. Biodiversity is in decline globally and is declining more rapidly than at any other time in human history. This is occurring in all regions and is happening at the level of genes, species and ecosystems. Despite projections of some local increases in species richness and ecosystem productivity, the overall effect of global changes on biodiversity is projected to be negative, with adverse impacts on human socioeconomic well-being and health.

2. The *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in 2019 stressed the need for urgent action to address in an integrated manner the drivers of biodiversity loss, as well as those of climate change and land degradation. Pathways need to be developed for living in harmony with nature; this includes making changes in global financial and economic systems towards a globally sustainable economy and ensuring the full implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the three objectives of the Convention. Mobilizing resources from all sources in a manner

commensurate with the ambition of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [and achieving a substantial increase in resources for developing countries, in line with Article 20 of the Convention and principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,] is a critical precondition for its effective implementation.

3. The present [successor to the current] strategy for resource mobilization aims to assist the Parties to the Convention, with the support of relevant organizations and stakeholders, in developing and implementing their national biodiversity finance plans, with a view to collectively achieving the targets for resource mobilization of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and mobilizing adequate and predictable financial resources to support the achievement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework[,] [and] the three objectives of the Convention[, and, as applicable, the Protocols under the Convention].

4. The strategy considers the full range of funding sources. [It is geared towards implementation during an initial period up to 2030][It will apply from its adoption up to 31 December 2030], in accordance with the timeline of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

II. MISSION

5. Resource mobilization [from all sources] is essential for achieving the objectives of the Convention and for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework effectively. Meeting the resource mobilization targets of the framework will be necessary for other targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be met.

6. [Effective resource mobilization requires transformative, [participatory,] inclusive and equitable change across economies and society.] A strategic approach to resource mobilization [thus] consists of three crucial components:

[(a)][b] Reducing or redirecting resources causing harm to biodiversity;

[(b)][a] Generating additional resources from all sources to achieve the three objectives of the Convention [and its Protocols][, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention];

(c) Enhancing the effectiveness[,] [and] efficiency [and transparency] of resource use.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

7. Two cross-cutting issues are highly relevant to resource mobilization activities. First, [in line with the Sustainable Development Goals,] the requisite transformative change referenced above must be inclusive and equitable. [Second, mainstreaming within the finance sector, in government budgets and policies, and national development plans is fundamental to reduce biodiversity loss, ensure co-benefits and increased resources for biodiversity, and achieve greater policy coherence and resource efficiency.] [Second, there are important linkages, and significant potential for cross-fertilization, to activities aimed at the mainstreaming of biodiversity across governments, economies and society, the associated targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the indicative guidance provided in the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming and its action plan.] [At the same time, potential linkages between resource mobilization efforts and biodiversity mainstreaming will require a comprehensive and balanced assessment of the specific financial, capacity and technology gaps faced by developing Parties to access financial flows and support long-term mainstreaming policies.]

8. All societal actors have a role to play in resource mobilization, including inter alia: (a) national and subnational governments put in place enabling policies, capacities and financing mechanisms, both domestic and international; (b) businesses and the finance sector scale up and increase the biodiversity-positive impact of investments [and support sustainable business models and the sustainable use of biodiversity] while reducing harmful [investments][expenditure]; and (c) international development [finance] [agencies and banks, and philanthropic foundations] provides finance, technical support, and capacity development. [In addition, the important [financial and] non-financial resource contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, acting as biodiversity stewards, as well as those of civil society, need to be fully recognized [and their capacity and empowerment to participate in decision making should be strengthened].⁶⁷

9. In implementing the goals below, special consideration should be paid to the following guiding principles [and approaches]:

[(a) Mobilize new and additional resources, including from new sources;]

⁶⁷ See the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, and strategy area III of the long-term approach to mainstreaming (CBD/SBI/3/13).

- (b) Be results-oriented;
- (c) Promote efficiency, and effectiveness [and transparency];
- (d) [Ensuring predictable commitment of resources];
- (e) Build partnerships and synergies;
- (f) Support [successful] innovations;
- (g) Strengthen capacity and governance;
- (h) Raise awareness;
- (i) [Ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities,] [Take into account] gender, youth, [indigenous peoples and local communities,] and socioeconomic perspectives;
- (j) Take into account synergies in programmes and financing among conventions, in particular climate co-benefits[, as appropriate];
- [(k) Ensure human rights approach to the provision of ecosystems services;]
- [(l) Strengthen environmental governance;]
- [(m) Ensure safeguards in biodiversity finance mechanisms.]

IV. STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

10. The third report of the Panel of Experts on resource mobilization (CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.3) provides further action-oriented guidance and good practice examples on how to implement the strategic goals and headline actions below.

[Goal: Alignment of financial flows

The goal is overarching and seeks to enable the alignment of all financial flows with a pathway consistent with a biodiversity net-positive development to ensure the increased resilience of people and nature and to ensure the availability of sufficient resources for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The strategic goals 1-3 below all support the achievement of this overarching goal.

Overarching goal

All financial flows are consistent with a pathway towards a biodiversity net-positive development ensuring the increased resilience of people and nature.]

[Strategic goal 1][Strategic goal 2]

Reduce or redirect resources causing harm to biodiversity

11. The goal seeks to [address the main drivers of biodiversity-harmful activities and investments][ensure that biodiversity, and the services it provides, are appropriately factored into policies and relevant sectors,] through[, as appropriate,] the use of standards and guidelines, and regulatory and economic instruments[, taking into account the wide range of sustainable approaches to address harmful impacts on biodiversity and recognizing that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution]. It requires avoiding, scaling back and redirecting expenditures that are harmful for biodiversity, including but not limited to harmful subsidies[, in line with the rights and obligations of Parties under other relevant international agreements]. This will in turn reduce the need for additional resources to conserve and restore biodiversity, and to use it in a sustainable manner, and is thus a key complement to goal 2 below. Envisaged headline actions are:

- 1.1 Review government budgets, in all [relevant] sectors and at all levels, [as appropriate,] with a view to [at least] avoiding or minimizing [net] harm to biodiversity and ecosystems [and people];
- 1.2 [Eliminate][Reduce], phase out, or reform incentives, including subsidies, that are harmful to biodiversity[, ecosystems and people]; develop and scale disincentives for actions that are harmful to biodiversity, and develop[, promote,] and scale positive [economic and regulatory] incentives to encourage biodiversity-positive actions, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, and taking into account national socioeconomic conditions;

1.3 Identify and [incorporate][internalize] biodiversity impacts, dependencies and risks into the strategies, operations, and processes of the finance sector [and other productive sectors that rely on the provision of ecosystem services or/and that generate important impacts on nature,] with a view to [at least] avoiding or minimizing [net] harm to biodiversity and ecosystems [and people] caused by investment decisions [and support sustainable business models and foster the sustainable use of biodiversity];

1.4 Identify and incorporate biodiversity impacts, dependencies and risks into business models, operations and practices, with a view to [at least] avoiding or minimizing harm to biodiversity and ecosystems [and people] [and foster the sustainable use of biodiversity];

1.5 Identify and incorporate biodiversity impacts, dependencies and risks into strategies, operations and processes of international development finance actors, with a view to [at least] avoiding or minimizing [net] harm [to biodiversity, ecosystems and people] caused by development finance, including climate finance[, as appropriate];

1.6 Take measures, including legislative or regulatory measures, as appropriate, that support alignment of financial flows [and production models] with biodiversity policy objectives;

[1.7 Design and implement a strategy aimed at high-level decision makers at the ministries of finance to communicate or “make the case” on the social benefits across different sectors of investing in biodiversity].

[Strategic goal 2][Strategic goal 1]

Generate additional resources from all sources to achieve the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

12. Generating new and additional international and domestic resources from all sources, private and public, remains a fundamental part of resource mobilization, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention. Scaling up resources includes increasing flows that are directed primarily towards [biodiversity] [the three objectives of the Convention], as well as identifying and increasing biodiversity co-benefits from funding intended primarily to achieve other objectives[, as appropriate]. In order to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its resource mobilization targets effectively, envisaged headline actions are to be taken in a commensurate manner. They are:

2.1 Increase [the provision of predictable resources from developed countries to meet the incremental cost of implementing the global biodiversity framework in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as other] direct and [indirect] biodiversity-related international [finance] [financial flows] [for developing countries and countries with economies in transition], [to support the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention] [including through [nature-based solutions in] climate and other development finance [, as appropriate]];

[2.2 Increase biodiversity co-benefits from relevant development finance, as appropriate.]

2.3 Increase domestic public biodiversity-related expenditure, [both direct and indirect];

2.4 [Increase private investment in [biodiversity-positive projects][projects that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity], including by identifying and addressing barriers for investors[, start-ups] and project developers][, and additionally through investments in science, research, and technology to transform their production models and practices in order to reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity]. [Identify and address barriers of investment into biodiversity-positive projects for private sector investors and project developers, with a view of increasing the overall level of investment in such projects];

[2.5 Enhance the [implementation][terms] of agreements related to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilization [for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity][, in particular the Nagoya Protocol]];

[2.6 Promote the bioeconomy as a strategy for moving towards a sustainable use model and speed up the decarbonization of national economies].

Strategic goal 3

Enhance the effectiveness[,] [and] efficiency[, and transparency] of resource use

13. Effective resource mobilization requires recognizing the importance of inter alia: (a) sound [, equitable,] [and transparent] governance and planning [, including full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth]; (b) capacity-building; (c) the creation of [platforms and] partnerships; (d) effective design and uptake of international development finance; and (e) effective monitoring, reporting and review of results[;

and (f) identifying synergies with other Conventions and across the public and private sector]. These [elements of an enabling [environment] [actions] seek to ensure that mobilized resources are used wisely, and support efforts to reduce or redirect resources causing harm to biodiversity. [Envisaged headline actions are] [Possible activities to improve the enabling environment are inter alia]:

3.1 Review and improve, as needed [and as appropriate], [equitable] governance and planning processes within the public sector [and with the private sector];

3.2 Create effective partnerships and associated platforms to support policy coherence, shared learning, and the development and application of [joint] [participatory, conflict-based, collaborative] approaches, including [with the private sector,]with indigenous peoples and local communities, [with vulnerable groups,] and with civil society;

3.3 Enhance capacity-building, technical assistance and technological cooperation [and technology transfer] [on a sustained [and predictable] basis];

3.4 Enhance the [predictability] [effectiveness [and] [,]efficiency][, and transparency] of the [flow][mobilization] and uptake of international [and domestic] [development][public and private] finance;

3.5 Improve monitoring[, reporting, accountability and transparency] processes for resource mobilization.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

14. The effective implementation of the [successor to the current] strategy for resource mobilization will require an unremitting effort by Parties, other Governments and all relevant stakeholders at all levels. Political will and commitment to better recognize the importance of biological diversity in sustainable development need to be reinforced in order to achieve the resource mobilization targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework[, as a critical precondition to implementation of the framework as a whole][, as well as for the effective implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans at the national level].

15. The [successor to the current] strategy for resource mobilization [will][shall] assist [countries][Parties] in developing a national biodiversity finance plans in support of national implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework[and its global targets for resource mobilization]. Their development and implementation should involve key stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, [vulnerable groups], businesses and the financial sector, and [international development finance][organizations providing domestic and international support for the implementation].

Option A

[16. The Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will keep the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization under review, based on reports by Parties and relevant organizations and initiatives, and compiled and analysed by the Executive Secretary, as appropriate.]

Option B

[16. The Conference of the Parties, based on recommendations by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, will revise the strategy for resource mobilization at its sixteenth meeting, based on these draft elements and submissions by Parties as well as relevant organizations and initiatives. The submissions will be compiled and synthesized by the Executive Secretary and provided as an input for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting.]

[Annex II

(As referred to in the section providing additional elements on resource mobilization)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FUND

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 21 of the Convention,

Recognizing the urgency of halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity worldwide and the need of adequate and predictable financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in developing countries Parties,

Committing to the successful implementation of the global biodiversity framework,

1. Emphasizes that the Global Biodiversity Fund will be guided by the principles and provisions of the Convention and decides that the Global Biodiversity Fund will be governed and supervised by a Board that will have full responsibility for funding decisions;

2. Decides that the Board will have 24 members, composed of an equal number of members from developing and developed country Parties and that representation from developing country Parties will include representatives of relevant United Nations regional groupings and representatives from small island developing States and least developed countries;

3. Decides to provide guidance to the Board of the Global Biodiversity Fund, including on matters related to policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria and matters related thereto, taking into account the Board's annual reports to the Conference of the Parties on its activities;

4. Requests the Board to operationalize the Fund in an expedited manner;

5. Requests the Board to balance the allocation of the Global Biodiversity Fund resources between the three objectives of the Convention, including inter alia by supporting projects that enhance the provision of ecosystem services and stimulating the development of payments for environmental services schemes in recipient countries;

6. Also requests the Board to develop a transparent no-objection procedure to be conducted through national designated authorities, in order to ensure consistency with national biodiversity strategies and plans and a country driven approach and to provide for effective direct and indirect public and private sector financing by the Global Biodiversity Fund. Further requests the Board to determine this procedure prior to approval of funding proposals by the Fund;

7. Stresses the need to secure funding for the Global Biodiversity Fund, to facilitate its expeditious and transparent operationalization, and requests the Board to establish the necessary policies and procedures, which will enable an early and adequate replenishment process and facilitate subsequent replenishments;

8. Decides that the Fund will have a streamlined programming and approval process to enable timely disbursement and that the Board shall develop simplified processes for the approval of proposals for certain activities, in particular small-scale activities;

9. Decides that the Fund will adopt a system of country allocations, with a view to ensuring greater predictability, transparency and country ownership in the allocation and programming of resources, taking into account global benefits for biodiversity;

10. Decides that decisions of the Board will be taken by consensus of the Board members and that the Board will develop voting procedures for adopting decisions in the event that all efforts at reaching consensus have been exhausted, ensuring that each Board Member shall be entitled to one vote;

11. Decides that the Board in carrying out its functions will develop mechanisms to draw on appropriate expert and technical advice, including a scientific and technical advisory body to the Fund, which shall provide objective, strategic scientific and technical advice on the Fund policies, operational strategies, programmes and projects and contribute to ensuring the scientific soundness and technical quality of the Fund projects. Decides that the composition of the scientific and technical advisory body shall reflect geographical and gender balance and that procedures for project clearance, approval or endorsement shall be fully transparent, with a view to ensuring the accountability of members of the advisory body and allowing for the timely and expeditious implementation of the Fund projects;

12. Invites developing country Parties, through their constituencies, to submit their nominations for the members of the Board to the interim secretariat by 31 November 2022, with the 12 seats for developing country Parties to be distributed as follows: (a) three members and alternate members from the Asia-Pacific States; (b) three members and alternate members from the African States; (c) three members and alternate members from the Latin American and the Caribbean States; (d) one member from Least Developed Countries; (e) one member from small island developing Countries; (f) one member from other regional groups;

13. Further requests the Board to establish the independent secretariat of the Global Biodiversity Fund in the host country in an expedited manner as soon as possible;

14. Recognizes the need to facilitate the immediate functioning of the Global Biodiversity Fund and ensure its independence, requests the Executive Secretary (jointly with the Global Environment Facility secretariat) to

take the necessary administrative steps to set up the interim secretariat of the Global Biodiversity Fund as an autonomous unit within the premises of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity without undue delay after the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties so that the interim secretariat can provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the Board until the independent secretariat of the Global Biodiversity Fund is established;

15. Decides that the interim arrangements should terminate no later than the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

16. Also decides that the interim secretariat shall be fully accountable to the Board and shall function under its guidance and authority, and that its head shall report to the Board;

17. Urges the Board to move promptly to appoint the head of the interim secretariat;

18. Decides that the criteria for the selection of the head of the interim secretariat shall include, inter alia, expertise in the design or management of funds, relevant administrative and management experience, experience in or working with developing countries, and policy expertise;

19. Requests the interim secretariat to make arrangements for convening the first Board meeting by 30 January 2023;

20. Welcomes the offers made by _____ to host the first and second meetings of the Board respectively, and invites Parties to host subsequent meetings;

21. Invites Parties to make financial contributions for the start-up of the Global Biodiversity Fund, including administrative costs of the Board and its interim secretariat, contributing inter alia to implementing Target 19 of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

22. Welcomes the generous offers of the _____ to contribute to the start-up cost of the Global Biodiversity Fund.]

12 B. Financial mechanism

The following is taken from recommendation 3/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. Paragraphs 3 and 4 come from the request in paragraph 7 (a) and (b) of the recommendation. Paragraphs 6 to 16 are reproduced from document CBD/COP/15/10, except for the second part of paragraph 9, which comes from paragraph 4 of recommendation 3/7.

The Conference of the Parties is expected to prepare additional guidance for the financial mechanism taking into account recommendations from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, as well as decisions of the Conference of the Parties on various relevant agenda items

The Conference of the Parties,

[Reaffirming the importance of the full application of provisions of Article 21 and access to the financial mechanism for all eligible Parties for the full implementation of the Convention.]

Recalling Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention, providing that the Conference of the Parties shall review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

Reaffirming the commitment of the Conference of the Parties to periodically review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in implementing the Convention in the memorandum of understanding with the Council of the Global Environment Facility contained in decision III/8,

Reaffirming also decision XI/5, paragraph 7, on the quadrennial arrangement for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

Recalling decision 14/23, paragraph 13, regarding the terms of reference for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting,

Reaffirming the importance of the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, strategies and programmes,

[1. *Welcomes* the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;]⁶⁸

[2. *Takes note* of the [importance of realistic] assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in document CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.2/Rev.1 and the summary provided in annex III to the present decision;⁶⁹]

3. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols an explanation of how the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, through the elements of its programming directions is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and to [each 2030 target[, milestone] and 2050 goal of] the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [and its monitoring framework] [, taking into account the priorities and needs identified by recipient countries];

[4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support Parties in their effort to enhance policy coherence as part of biodiversity mainstreaming to facilitate the implementation of the post2020 global biodiversity framework.]

⁶⁸ A preliminary report was made available to the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (see para. 1 of SBI recommendation 3/7). A final report will be made available to part II of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

⁶⁹ The executive summary is available in CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.2/Rev.1 and the full report is available in CBD/SBI/3/INF/44.

[5. *Adopts* the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the eighth replenishment period (July 2022 to June 2026) of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contained in annex I to the present decision;]

6. *Welcomes* the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and notes that its associated programming directions and strategy, including for the biodiversity focal area, have taken into account the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

7. *Urges* relevant Parties to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Global Environment Facility and related agencies, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the relevant integrated programmes and the country engagement strategy for the eighth replenishment period, promoting the involvement of biodiversity-related conventions at national level, and to promote synergies and complementarities with other relevant financial instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, towards the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

9. *Adopts* the consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II A to the present decision, decides to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism and *also adopts* additional guidance to the financial mechanism contained in annex II B to the present decision;⁷⁰]

10. *Decides* to adopt, at its sixteenth meeting, a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to inform the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030);

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare elements of a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to prepare proposals for a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

13. *Adopts* the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, as contained in annex II to the present decision;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure completion of the assessment according to the terms of reference, in time for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

⁷⁰ Additional guidance will be developed by the Conference of the Parties as well as the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and to the Nagoya Protocol.

15. *Invites* developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to identify related national funding priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs that could be considered as eligible for funding under the financial mechanism specifically for the period July 2026 to June 2030, and submit the results to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in funding needs assessments;

16. *Invites* the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30 and paragraph 10 of decision XIII/21, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting;

[17. *Further adopts* the terms of reference for the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism contained in annex III to the present decision, and requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the report on the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism to be prepared three months in advance in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.]

Annex I

FOUR-YEAR OUTCOME-ORIENTED FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMME PRIORITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD (2022-2026) OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND

Objective

1. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities provides guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the eighth replenishment period (GEF-8), 2022-2026, and is within the context of the GEF mandate to provide resources to achieve global environmental benefits and the mandate provided to the GEF by the Conference of the Parties. It utilizes the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Convention's Protocols to set priorities for the financial mechanism. In particular, the goals[, milestones] and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provide direction for the outcomes of this four-year framework[, bearing in mind that GEF-8 and GEF-9 will together cover the expected eight years to the 2030 deadlines of those [milestones and] targets, while recognizing that the three objectives of the Convention should be considered [in a balanced manner] by the GEF when designing and implementing biodiversity strategy and programming directions].

2. In that regard, it is envisaged that following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the conclusion of the GEF-8 replenishment under their respective processes, the GEF will include in its report to the Conference of the Parties an explanation on how GEF-8, through the elements of its programming directions, is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and to [each 2030 target [, milestone] and 2050 goal of] the post-2020 global biodiversity framework[and its monitoring framework] [, taking into account the priorities and needs identified by recipient countries].

3. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities recognizes that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is [an overarching framework] of [high] relevance to all biodiversity-related conventions and [agreements, and] seeks to promote the implementation of complementary measures that may enhance programmatic synergies and efficiencies, among the Convention, its Protocols and other biodiversity-related conventions [and agreements], relevant to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and mandate of the Global Environment Facility.

Elements

4. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2022–2026 consists of the following elements to which effective implementation support is to be provided [through a specific dedicated window]:

- (a) The post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including its goals[, milestones] and targets which define the outcomes being sought;
- (b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);
- (c) National biodiversity finance plans;
- (d) The [balanced] implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;

(e) The implementation support mechanisms adopted under the Convention associated with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to: mobilizing sufficient-resources [from all sources] towards implementing the framework and achieving its goals and targets; mainstreaming; capacity building and development; generation, management and sharing of knowledge for effective biodiversity planning, policy development and coherence, decision-making and implementation; and technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation. In particular:

- (i) The resource mobilization strategy;
 - (ii) The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development beyond 2020;
 - [(iii) The long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity;]
 - [(iv) The updated plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity, and;]
 - [(v) The gender plan of action for the post-2020 period.]
- (f) The mechanisms for planning, reporting, monitoring, [stocktaking], assessment and review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (g) The enabling conditions outlined in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework required for its implementation;
- (h) The implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030) and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030);
- (i) The guidance to the Global Environment Facility on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting, contained in appendix I;⁷¹

*Additional strategic considerations*⁷²

5. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should support the rapid and effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [by contributing to resource mobilization from all sources,] including through increased GEF funding [, which is adequate, predictable, sustainable, timely and accessible] and through allocations dedicated to the biodiversity focal area and co-benefits for biodiversity across other focal areas and global programmes, including integrated programmes [, recognizing the need for streamlined programming and approval process to enable timely disbursement of resources]].⁷³

6. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize the contribution of multi-country, regional, transboundary and global projects, to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including to the implementation of global initiatives adopted under the Convention and its Protocols, and multi-country, regional, transboundary and global initiatives that leverage contributions from biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.

7. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize that the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements in the context of national biodiversity priorities and strategies will contribute to the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals[, milestones] and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

8. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

[9. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should be developed in a fully transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to [identifying the priority needs of recipient countries and] ensuring that projects to be

⁷¹ To be added following its adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fourth meeting.

⁷² Additional elements could be added in the light of the conclusions of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework[, such as global biodiversity impact fund].

⁷³ Such support under GEF-8 would build upon support being provided under GEF-7.

funded by the GEF during its 8th replenishment in recipient Parties are to be developed on a [context-specific and] country-driven basis.]

10. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should [strive to] promote agreed global environmental benefits [and development pathways that are nature-positive, carbon-neutral and pollution-free], including through coherence and synergies among the GEF integrated programmes and focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change (both mitigation and adaptation), and chemicals and waste, and within the context of country-driven programmes and priorities.

[11. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote and implement, as appropriate, [the ecosystem approach⁷⁴,] [[nature-based solutions as defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session⁷⁵], [as they are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, and which address social, [human health, food security], economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively[, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits, [respecting indigenous peoples and local communities and human rights,]]] [as well as living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth as defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session⁷⁶]]].]

12. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote, synergies, cooperation and complementarity in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity with those of the other conventions served by GEF, as well as with other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, recognizing the important contributions that these instruments can make to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and vice versa.

[13. [During the GEF-8 period, GEF should further interact and cooperate with multilateral development banks and other public and private financial institutions to integrate the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the contributions of the other biodiversity-related conventions within their activities and report on funding contributing to their implementation.] / [During the GEF-8 period, the GEF can further interact with all GEF agencies, especially multilateral development banks, and reach out broadly to private sector to raise awareness on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to enhance information sharing on funding that contribute to its implementation.]]

14. The GEF-8 outcome and impact indicators and associated monitoring processes should be effectively used to assess the contribution of the GEF-8 to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, the Protocols of the Convention, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework[, including through measuring the co-benefits for biodiversity across all relevant GEF activities].

[15. The GEF in its eighth replenishment period should explore ways to improve the access to funding for all recipient countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), [and for indigenous peoples and local communities][[and to significantly improve access to funding to those countries that are most vulnerable, including the LDCs and SIDS,] which have limited access to external capital, technical capability and inability to self-fund, and may have a particular need for support in the post-pandemic environment].]

16. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote engagement with recipient countries to support national resource mobilization and the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans.

17. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy, programming directions and policy recommendations should reinforce the GEF's efforts to mobilize and engage with different stakeholders including the private sector.

[18. To improve its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering sustainable results during the GEF-8 replenishment period, the GEF should continue to improve its policy framework regarding governance and the standards its implementing partners are held to.]

⁷⁴ Defined in [decision V/6](#)

⁷⁵ Resolution UNEP/EA5/L9/REV.1 adopted at UNEA 5.2

⁷⁶ Resolution 1/10. Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, [UNEP/EA.1/10](#)

Annex II A

CONSOLIDATED PREVIOUS GUIDANCE ON THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM (2022, THIRD EDITION)

1. Guidance to the financial mechanism should be incorporated into a single decision, including the identification of priority issues which will provide support for cross-cutting issues and capacity-building, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in a manner that: (a) is transparent; (b) allows participation; and (c) allows full consideration of its other decisions.⁷⁷

2. Guidance to the financial mechanism, for a specific replenishment period, consists of a consolidated list of programme priorities that defines what to be financed, and an outcome-oriented framework, taking into account the strategies and plans under the Convention and its Protocols, and associated indicators. With a view to further streamlining guidance to the Global Environment Facility, proposed new guidance for the financial mechanism will be reviewed to avoid or reduce repetitiveness, to consolidate previous guidance where appropriate and to prioritize guidance in the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.⁷⁸

A. Policy and strategy

3. Financial resources should be allocated to projects that fulfil the eligibility criteria and are endorsed and promoted by the Parties concerned. Projects should contribute to the extent possible to build cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels in the implementation of the Convention. Projects should promote the utilization of local and regional expertise. The conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components is one of the key elements in achieving sustainable development and therefore contributing to combating poverty.⁷⁹

B. Programme priorities

4. The Global Environment Facility should provide financial resources to developing country Parties, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries and the small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, for country-driven activities and programmes, consistent with national priorities and objectives and in accordance with the following programme priorities, recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries, and taking fully into consideration all relevant decisions from the Conference of the Parties.⁸⁰

Article 1. Objectives

5. Projects that utilize the ecosystem approach, without prejudice to differing national needs and priorities which may require the application of approaches such as single species conservation programmes.⁸¹

Ecosystem Restoration

6. Ecosystem restoration activities, as well as monitoring processes as appropriate, and integrated where relevant into programmes and initiatives for sustainable development, food, water and energy security, job creation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty eradication;⁸²

Ecosystem resilience and climate change

7. Ecosystem resilience and climate change:⁸³

(a) Capacity-building with the aim of increasing the effectiveness in addressing environmental issues through their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention

⁷⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 52

⁷⁸ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 53, and 14/23, paragraph 2

⁷⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 1

⁸⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 2

⁸¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 3

⁸² Decisions XIII/21, paragraph 24, and XIII/5, paragraph 4

⁸³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 4.

on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, inter alia, by applying the ecosystem approach;

(b) Developing synergy-oriented programmes to conserve and sustainably manage all ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands and marine environments, that also contribute to poverty eradication;

(c) Country-driven activities, including pilot projects, aimed at projects related to ecosystem conservation, restoration of degraded lands and marine environments and overall ecosystem integrity that take into account impacts of climate change.

Marine and coastal ecosystems

8. Marine and coastal ecosystems:⁸⁴

(a) Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity under threat, and implement the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(b) Country-driven activities aimed at enhancing capabilities to address the impacts of mortality related to coral bleaching and physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs, including developing rapid response capabilities to implement measures to address coral-reef degradation, mortality and subsequent recovery;

(c) Implementation of training and capacity-building and other activities related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs);

(d) Support for capacity-building in order to further accelerate existing efforts towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.

Forest biological diversity

9. Projects focusing on the identified national priorities, as well as regional and international actions that assist the implementation of the expanded work programme on forest biological diversity considering conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from genetic resources in a balanced way, underscoring the importance of ensuring long-term conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing of native forests, and the use of the clearing-house mechanism to include activities that contribute to halting and addressing deforestation, basic assessments and monitoring of forest biological diversity, including taxonomic studies and inventories, focusing on forest species, other important components of forest biological diversity and ecosystems under threat.⁸⁵

Inland water ecosystems

10. Projects that assist with the implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and which help Parties to develop and implement national, sectoral and cross-sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, including comprehensive assessments of the biological diversity of inland waters, and capacity-building programmes for monitoring the implementation of the programme of work and the trends in inland water biological diversity and for information gathering and dissemination among riparian communities.⁸⁶

Arid and semi-arid areas

11. Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in arid and semi-arid areas, including the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.⁸⁷

⁸⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 5.

⁸⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 6.

⁸⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 7.

⁸⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 8.

Mountainous areas

12. Projects which promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountainous areas.⁸⁸

Agricultural biodiversity

13. Projects which implement the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity.⁸⁹
14. National and regional projects that address the implementation of the Plan of Action 2018-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators;⁹⁰

Article 5. Cooperation

15. Consideration of establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 based on voluntary contributions.⁹¹

Article 6. General measures for conservation and sustainable use

National biodiversity strategies and action plans

16. Review, revision, updating, and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.⁹²
17. Development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the strategy and targets for resource mobilization agreed to in decision XII/3.⁹³

Mainstreaming and integration

18. Further development of approaches on the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes.⁹⁴
19. Country-driven projects that address cross-sectoral mainstreaming.⁹⁵

Article 7. Identification and monitoring

20. Development and implementation of national biodiversity targets, indicator framework, and monitoring programmes.⁹⁶

Article 8. In situ conservation

Area-based conservation

21. Community conserved areas, national and regional systems of protected areas, further development of the portfolio on protected areas towards comprehensive, representative and effectively managed protected area systems addressing system wide needs, country driven early action activities of the programme of work on protected areas to enable its full implementation, projects that demonstrate the role-protected areas play in addressing climate change, and address the long-term financial sustainability of protected areas, including through different mechanisms and instruments.⁹⁷

⁸⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 9

⁸⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 10

⁹⁰ Decision 14/6, paragraph 7

⁹¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 11

⁹² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 12

⁹³ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 25, and XIII/1, paragraph 20

⁹⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 13

⁹⁵ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 28, and XIII/3, paragraph 112

⁹⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 14

⁹⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 15; XIII/21, paragraph 26, and XIII/2, paragraph 11

Diversity of species and genetic resources

22. Projects that promote the conservation and/or sustainable use of endemic species;⁹⁸
23. Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020;⁹⁹
24. National and regional taxonomic capacity-building activities for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and project components that address taxonomic needs in the achievement of the Convention's objectives;¹⁰⁰

Invasive alien species

25. Projects that assist with the development and implementation, at national and regional levels, of the invasive alien species strategies and action plans, in particular those strategies and actions related to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems, capacity-building to prevent or minimize the risks of the dispersal and establishment of invasive alien species, improved prevention, rapid response and management measures to address threats of alien invasive species.¹⁰¹

Article 8(j) and related provisions

26. Inclusion of perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women, in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services;¹⁰²
27. Implementation of programmes and projects that strengthen the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, advance community conservation, promote customary sustainable use of biological diversity;¹⁰³
28. Raising awareness and building capacity relevant to the implementation of the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent”, depending on national circumstances, or “approval and involvement”, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.¹⁰⁴
29. Raising awareness and to building capacity relevant to the implementation of the guidelines (Mo'otz Kuxtal voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge), and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, for fair and equitable benefit-sharing.¹⁰⁵

Article 9. Ex situ conservation

Article 10. Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

30. Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines at the national level to ensure that the use of biological diversity is sustainable.¹⁰⁶

⁹⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16

⁹⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16

¹⁰⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16

¹⁰¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16; 14/11, para. 14

¹⁰² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 17

¹⁰³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 17

¹⁰⁴ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 29

¹⁰⁵ Decision XIII/18, paragraph 10

¹⁰⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 18

31. Sustainable tourism that contributes to the objectives of the Convention.¹⁰⁷

Article 11. Incentive measures

32. Development and implementation of innovative measures, including in the field of economic incentives and those which assist developing countries to address situations where opportunity costs are incurred by local communities and to identify ways and means by which these can be compensated.¹⁰⁸

Article 12. Research and training

33. Project components addressing targeted research which contributes to conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components including research for reversing current trends of biodiversity loss and species extinction.¹⁰⁹

Article 13. Public education and awareness

34. Development and implementation of communication, education and public awareness priority activities at the national and regional levels.¹¹⁰

Article 14. Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

Article 15. Access to genetic resources (Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing)

National measures

35. Projects that support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements;¹¹¹

Capacity-building

36. Building the capacity to develop, implement and enforce domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components¹¹², including through:

(a) Identification of relevant actors and existing legal and institutional expertise for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;

(b) Taking stock of domestic measures relevant to access and benefit-sharing in light of the obligations of the Nagoya Protocol;

(c) Development and/or amendment of access and benefit-sharing legislative, administrative or policy measures with a view to implementing their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol;

(d) Establishment of ways to address transboundary issues;

(e) Establishment of institutional arrangements and administrative systems to provide access to genetic resources, ensure benefit-sharing, support compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms and monitor the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, including support for the establishment of check points;

¹⁰⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 19

¹⁰⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 20

¹⁰⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 21

¹¹⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 22

¹¹¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and 14/23, paragraph 11

¹¹² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

37. Supporting the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development in support of the implementation of the Protocol.¹¹³

Capacity on mutually agreed terms

38. Building the capacity to negotiate mutually agreed terms to promote equity and fairness in negotiations in the development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing agreements, including through enhanced understanding of business models and intellectual property rights;¹¹⁴

Endogenous research capabilities

39. Building the capacity of Parties to develop their endogenous research capabilities to add value to their own genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources through, inter alia, technology transfer; bioprospecting and associated research and taxonomic studies; and the development and use of valuation methods;¹¹⁵

Indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders

40. Addressing the capacity needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders; in particular projects that would:¹¹⁶

(a) Encourage their participation in legal, policy and decision-making processes;

(b) Assist in building their capacity related to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, such as through the development of community protocols, model contractual clauses and minimum requirements for mutually agreed terms to secure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;

Clearing-House

41. Enabling Parties to actively participate in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and use the best available communication tools and Internet-based systems for access and benefit-sharing;¹¹⁷

Awareness raising

42. Raising-awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and related access and benefit sharing issues, notably through the development and implementation of national and regional awareness-raising strategies;¹¹⁸

National reporting

43. Making financial resources available to assist Parties in preparing their national report;¹¹⁹

Regional cooperation

44. Issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including regional cooperation projects, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and harnessing associated synergies;¹²⁰

¹¹³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

¹¹⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

¹¹⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

¹¹⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

¹¹⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and 14/23, paragraph 7(b)

¹¹⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

¹¹⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and XIII/21, paragraph 38, 14/23, paragraph 10

¹²⁰ Decision 14/23, paragraph 7(a)

Article 16. Access to and transfer of technology

45. Preparation of national assessments of technology needs for implementation of the Convention, and promotion of access to, transfer of and cooperation for joint development of technology,¹²¹

Article 17. Exchange of information

Article 18. Technical and scientific cooperation

46. Strengthening biodiversity information systems such as, inter alia, training, technology and processes related to the collection, organization, maintenance and updating of data and information, and building capacity for the clearing-house mechanism, such as training in information and communication technologies and web content management that enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fully benefit from modern communication, including the Internet.¹²²

Article 19. Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits (Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)

National measures

47. Ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress;¹²³

48. Development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in particular biosafety legislation¹²⁴, including those Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol;¹²⁵

Detection and identification

49. Identification of living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health;¹²⁶

50. Regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons;¹²⁷

Risk assessment and risk management

51. Building, consolidating and enhancing sustainable human resource capacity in risk assessment and risk management¹²⁸ in the context of country-driven projects;¹²⁹

Socioeconomic considerations

52. Capacity-building on socioeconomic considerations;¹³⁰

Unintentional release

53. Capacity-building to take appropriate measures in cases of unintentional release of living modified organisms;¹³¹

¹²¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 24

¹²² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 25

¹²³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

¹²⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

¹²⁵ Decision 14/23, paragraph 8(a); XIII/21, paragraphs 33 and 36

¹²⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

¹²⁷ Decision 14/23, para. 9

¹²⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26, and XIII/21, paragraph 35

¹²⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

¹³⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

¹³¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

Public awareness

54. Enhancing capacity for public awareness, education and participation regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including for indigenous peoples and local communities;¹³²

55. Effective implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, in the context of relevant project activities and within its mandate;¹³³

Clearing-house

56. Public participation and information sharing, and use of the Biosafety Clearing-House;¹³⁴

Capacity-building

57. Further implementation of the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building;¹³⁵

Reporting

58. National reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.¹³⁶

Compliance

59. Implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol.¹³⁷

Regional cooperation

60. Projects and capacity-building activities on issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including regional cooperation projects, such as those using regional and subregional networks to build capacity for the detection of living modified organisms, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and harnessing associated synergies.¹³⁸

Article 20. Financial resources

61. Development and implementation of country-specific resource mobilization strategies.¹³⁹

Article 21. Financial mechanism

Access modalities

62. To consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional national agencies from developing countries, based on its own experiences, including the conclusions of this assessment, and taking into account the experience of other international financial instruments with relevant access modalities;¹⁴⁰

Gender

63. To include gender in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services;¹⁴¹

¹³² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

¹³³ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 34

¹³⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26; XIII/21, paragraphs 30 and 31; 14/23, paragraph 7(b)

¹³⁵ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 32

¹³⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26; 14/23, para. 8(b)

¹³⁷ Decision 14/23, para. 8(c)

¹³⁸ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 36(b); 14/23, para. 7(a)

¹³⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 27

¹⁴⁰ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 4

¹⁴¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

Project procedures

64. To further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, more transparent and more country-driven;¹⁴²
65. To further simplify and expedite procedures for approval and implementation, including disbursement, for GEF-funded projects, based on a flexible and national demand driven approach, and avoid additional and lengthy processes;¹⁴³
66. To develop policies and procedures that fully comply with the guidance from the Conference of the Parties in a straightforward and timely manner;¹⁴⁴
67. To increase its flexibility to respond to the thematic longer-term programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;¹⁴⁵
68. To improve project information system, including through data sets and web-based data tools, to increase the accessibility of project information and allow for better tracking against the guidance from the Conference of the Parties;¹⁴⁶
69. To consider the benefits to Parties, particularly small island developing States, of an appropriate balance between national and regional projects in the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties;¹⁴⁷

Catalytic role and co-financing

70. To mobilize co-financing and other modes of financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, and apply co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient Parties to access GEF funds;¹⁴⁸
71. To support diffusion, and facilitate replication and scaling-up, of new and innovative financing mechanism initiatives that have proved to be successful;¹⁴⁹
72. To consider joint financing, in partnership with other international financial instruments, of projects designed to achieve the objectives of more than one Rio convention¹⁵⁰;
73. To enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing new and additional financial resources while not compromising project goals;¹⁵¹

Incremental costs

74. To apply in a more flexible, pragmatic and transparent manner the incremental cost principle;¹⁵²

Sustainability

75. To promote exchange of experience and lessons learned in addressing sustainability of funded projects on biological diversity;¹⁵³

¹⁴² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁴³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁴⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁴⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁴⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁴⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁴⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28; XIII/21, paragraph 21

¹⁴⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁵⁰ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 17

¹⁵¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁵² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁵³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

76. To further improve the sustainability of funded projects and programmes, including sustainable financing of protected areas;¹⁵⁴

Country ownership

77. To promote genuine country ownership through greater involvement of participant countries in GEF-funded activities;¹⁵⁵

78. To promote utilization of regional and local expertise and be flexible to accommodate national priorities and regional needs within the objectives of the Convention;¹⁵⁶

79. To encourage collaboration at national level between national focal points for the Convention, for related environmental agreements and for the Global Environment Facility, including through the projects supported by the Facility, and including through regional and national workshops for the focal points;¹⁵⁷

Compliance and collaboration of agencies

80. To promote efforts to ensure that the implementing agencies fully comply with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria of the Conference of the Parties in their support for country-driven activities funded by the Global Environment Facility;¹⁵⁸

81. To undertake efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the process of cooperation and coordination between the implementing agencies with a view to improving the processing and delivery systems of the Global Environment Facility, and to avoid duplication and parallel processes;¹⁵⁹

Partnership

82. To continue to improve the efficiency and accountability of the Global Environment Facility partnership;¹⁶⁰

Monitoring and evaluation

83. To Consult with the Executive Secretary in relevant review processes undertaken by the Global Environment Facility that affect the financial mechanism of the Convention;¹⁶¹

84. To include in its monitoring and evaluation activities the assessment of the compliance with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the Conference of the Parties;¹⁶²

85. To elaborate and transmit to the Conference of the Parties, well-summarized evaluation products and full evaluation reports relevant to biological diversity and to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;¹⁶³

86. To include in its regular report findings, conclusions and recommendations of all relevant evaluations of the GEF Evaluation Office;¹⁶⁴

¹⁵⁴ Decision 14/23, para. 12(c)

¹⁵⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28; XIII/21, paragraph 6

¹⁵⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁵⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁵⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁵⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁶⁰ Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(d)

¹⁶¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁶² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁶³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁶⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

Efficiency

87. To continue support for national implementation activities under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in an efficient manner, with a view to enabling Parties to enhance progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020;¹⁶⁵

Small grants programme

88. To continue expansion of the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility to other developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States;¹⁶⁶

Currency risks

89. To consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20 of the Convention;¹⁶⁷

Integrated approach

90. To continue to improve the design, management, and performance of the sixth-replenishment Integrated Approach Pilots, the seventh-replenishment impact programmes, other programmatic approaches, and multi-focal area projects in addressing drivers of environmental degradation;¹⁶⁸

91. To continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15;¹⁶⁹

Conflict resolution

92. To promote awareness to the existing processes under the Conflict Resolution Commissioner to address complaints related to the operations of the financial mechanism;¹⁷⁰

Article 22. Relationship with other international conventions

93. Projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements;¹⁷¹

Article 26. Reports

94. Preparation of the future national reports,¹⁷² in a timely and expeditious manner;¹⁷³

C. Eligibility criteria

Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁷⁴

95. Only developing countries that are Parties to the Convention are eligible to receive funding upon the entry into force of the Convention for them. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, projects that seek to meet the objectives of conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components are eligible for financial support from the institutional structure.

¹⁶⁵ Decision 14/23, paragraph 6

¹⁶⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

¹⁶⁷ Decision XIII/21, paragraphs 18, 19 and 20

¹⁶⁸ Decision 14/23, para. 12(a)

¹⁶⁹ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 3; 14/30, paragraph 14; XIII/24, paragraph 7

¹⁷⁰ Decision 14/23, para. 12(b)

¹⁷¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 29

¹⁷² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 30

¹⁷³ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 27; XIII/27, paragraph 4; 14/27, paragraph 3(a)

¹⁷⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 31-32

96. The Global Environment Facility continues to provide financial resources to Parties with economies in transition for biodiversity-related projects.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹⁷⁵

97. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility.

98. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national biosafety frameworks and the development of national biosafety clearing-houses and other necessary institutional capabilities to enable a non-Party to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing¹⁷⁶

99. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, which are Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility in accordance with its mandate.

100. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national measures and institutional capabilities in order to enable them to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment, accompanied by indicative activities and expected milestones, shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

D. Reporting from the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties

Timing

101. The report from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties should be made available three months prior to an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well as with updates as appropriate, and in accordance with rules 28 and 54 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary should make it available in all six official languages of the United Nations.¹⁷⁷

Preliminary draft

102. The Global Environment Facility should make available a preliminary draft of its report to the Conference of the Parties, particularly focusing on the response of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties, to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the report will be formally considered, with a view to promoting effective and timely consideration of the information provided in the report.¹⁷⁸

Comprehensiveness and conciseness

103. The Global Environment Facility should explore ways to balance the comprehensiveness and conciseness of the report of the Global Environment Facility, acknowledging the need to demonstrate progress in programming resources towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 33-34

¹⁷⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 35-36

¹⁷⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 37

¹⁷⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 40

¹⁷⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 41

Results-based reporting

104. The Global Environment Facility should improve results-based reporting on the total contribution of the Global Environment Facility to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the Facility's contribution to incremental-cost financing and leveraging co-financing.¹⁸⁰

Report on four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities

105. The Global Environment Facility should report on its implementation of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities and how it responds to the individual elements.¹⁸¹

106. The Global Environment Facility should include information regarding the individual elements of the consolidated guidance, in particular the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties¹⁸²;

Reporting on needs assessment results

107. The Global Environment Facility should indicate in its report to the Conference of the Parties, how it plans to respond to the report on the determination of funding requirements, pursuant to paragraph 5.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding.¹⁸³

108. The Global Environment Facility will in its regular report to the Conference of Parties indicate how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to the previous assessment by the Conference of the Parties.¹⁸⁴

Transparency

109. The Global Environment Facility, in response to the concerns of the Parties on transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects, should include in its report to the Conference of the Parties, information regarding paragraph 3.3(d) of the Memorandum of Understanding¹⁸⁵;

Safeguards

110. The Global Environment Facility should inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms;¹⁸⁶

Co-financing

111. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding progress in implementing the new co-financing policy in its report to the Conference of the Parties;¹⁸⁷

Agencies

112. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies in its report to the Conference of the Parties¹⁸⁸

E. Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

113. The review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism will be conducted every four years and this review should coincide with the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 38

¹⁸¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 39

¹⁸² Decision XIII/21, paragraph 5

¹⁸³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 42

¹⁸⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 47; XIII/21, paragraph 15

¹⁸⁵ Decision XIII/21, paragraphs 22 and 23

¹⁸⁶ Decision 14/23, paragraph 3; 14/15, paragraph 6

¹⁸⁷ Decision 14/23, para. 12(e)(i)

¹⁸⁸ Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(e)(ii)

¹⁸⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 43

F. Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

114. The updated list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2 of the Convention, is contained in the annex to decision VIII/18.¹⁹⁰

115. The developed country Parties and others are invited to increase their financial contributions through the financial mechanism during the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.¹⁹¹

116. The Global Environment Facility is urged, in the process of replenishment, to give due consideration to all aspects of the needs assessment report on the levels of funding for biodiversity.¹⁹²

G. Inter-Secretariat cooperation

117. Participation of a representative of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility is requested in respective meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel on a reciprocal basis.¹⁹³

118. The Executive Secretary should promote, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, exchange of experience and good practice in financing for biological diversity.¹⁹⁴

119. The Executive Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility should continue to strengthen inter-secretariat cooperation and collaborate with the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility and the Global Environment Facility agencies.¹⁹⁵

120. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;¹⁹⁶

121. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with agencies associated with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account the need to promote greater synergies between the Global Environment Facility and other financing mechanisms.¹⁹⁷

Annex II B

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

[to be completed]

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SIXTH REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

Objectives

1. In accordance with Article 21, paragraph 3, and building upon the experience of the past five reviews, the Conference of the Parties will undertake its sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism at its sixteenth meeting and take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism as necessary. For this purpose, effectiveness will include:

¹⁹⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 44

¹⁹¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 45

¹⁹² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 46, 48; XIII/21, paragraph 16; 14/23, paragraph 1

¹⁹³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 49

¹⁹⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 50

¹⁹⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 51

¹⁹⁶ Decision 14/23, paragraph 18

¹⁹⁷ Decision 14/23, paragraph 19

(a) The conformity of the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism, with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The effectiveness of the financial mechanism in providing and mobilizing financial resources to enable developing country Parties [, in particular least developed country Parties and small island developing State Parties,] [and Parties with economies in transition]] to meet the agreed [full] incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols and to benefit from its provisions, taking into account the need for predictability, adequacy and timely flow of funds;

(c) [The effectiveness of mobilizing financial resources from all sources to support national implementation[, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans,] of the Convention and its protocols] The efficiency of the financial mechanism in providing and mobilizing financial resources, as well as, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the activities financed by its resources, as appropriate;

(d) The effectiveness of catalysing and enhancing national implementation measures for achieving global biodiversity goals and targets, including those that relate to the Protocols;

(d) bis. The efficiency and effectiveness of the activities funded by the Global Environment Facility on the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of its three objectives, as well as, as applicable, of the Protocols under the Convention, taking into account the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;

[(e) The effectiveness of playing a leading role in international biodiversity financing;]

[(f) The efficiency and effectiveness of supporting implementation of [relevant] sustainable development goals that contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols;]

(g) The efficiency and effectiveness of processes and procedures for the deployment of resources for programmes;

(h) The effectiveness and efficiency in supporting the objectives of the Convention and its protocols in synergy with implementation of other pertinent multilateral environmental agreements, in a manner that is consistent with the mandates of respective multilateral environmental agreements.

Methodology

2. The review will cover all the activities of the institutional structure operating as the financial mechanism, in particular for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022.

3. The review shall draw upon, inter alia, the following sources of information:

(a) Reports prepared by GEF, including its reports to the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Reports of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office that relate to GEF biodiversity activities, including its seventh comprehensive study (OPS7), as well as relevant assessments by the GEF agencies and other partners including the most recent audit reports and management responses related to GEF projects;

(c) Information provided by Parties regarding the financial mechanism, through national reports and other submissions, responses to surveys and interviews;

(d) Information provided by indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and relevant stakeholders related to GEF-funded projects.

Criteria

4. The effectiveness and efficiency of the financial mechanism shall be assessed taking into account, inter alia:

(a) The actions taken by the GEF in response to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The extent to which eligible countries [that are in compliance with GEF policies and procedures] receive [timely, adequate and predictable] funds to meet the agreed [full] incremental cost [to them] of implementing measures that fulfil the obligations under the Convention and its protocols, [that/and] generate global environmental benefits;¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁸ Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, September 2019.
<http://www.thegef.org/publications/instrument-establishment-restructured-gef-2019>.

[(c) Views of Parties as to the performance and conditions for the [outcome of GEF projects and] provision of GEF resources, including effectiveness and efficiency of access modalities and competence and capacity required to use these modalities];

(d) Percentage of recipient countries that have received financial support from the financial mechanism to implement global biodiversity goals and targets, including those related to the Protocols of the Convention;

[(e) Percentage of the global biodiversity goals and targets that have been financed by the financial mechanism;]

[(f) Percentage of biodiversity funding through the financial mechanism [in international biodiversity financing;]

(g) Trend in co-financing [and non-grant financing] in the biodiversity area enabled by the financial mechanism;

[(h) Trend in financing global, regional and subregional biodiversity projects under the financial mechanism;]

[(i) Trend in project[/programme] financing taking into consideration synergies among conventions that have designated the GEF to operate their financial mechanism;]

(j) Trend in project financing targeted at biodiversity-related conventions and agreements taking into consideration synergies between them[/GEF and other financial mechanisms];

(k) Trend in timeframes for project development and resource disbursement, [including time between the approval of the concept notes (PIF) and the first disbursement];

(l) Trend in project financing targeted at [and projects with positive impacts on] indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

(m) [Trend in the number of capacity-building activities to raise awareness and enable Parties and stakeholders to access to GEF financing], [including information events on the financial mechanism organized for the Parties and stakeholders of the Convention and its Protocols;]

[(n) Trend in project financing leading to high sustainability or durability ratings and results achieved from GEF supported biodiversity programming in relation to expected results planned by the GEF through this programming;]

Procedures for implementation

5. Under the authority of the Conference of the Parties and in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary will[, subject to the availability of resources,] contract an experienced independent evaluator to undertake the review, in accordance with the above objectives, methodology and criteria.

6. The evaluator will undertake such desk studies, questionnaire survey, interviews, and field visits, as may be required, and collaborate with the GEF and its Independent Evaluation Office, if necessary, for the implementation of the review, and prepare a compilation and synthesis of the information received.

7. The draft synthesis report and recommendations of the evaluator will be made available to GEF for its review and comments. Such comments will be included in the documentation and identified by source.

8. Based on the synthesis report and recommendations of the independent evaluator, the Executive Secretary will prepare, in consultation with GEF, a draft decision on the sixth review of the financial mechanism, including specific suggestions for action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism if necessary, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to provide its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

9. The Executive Secretary will submit all the relevant documents to Parties at least three months prior to the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FULL ASSESSMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS FOR THE NINTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND

Objective

1. The objective of the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference is to enable the Conference of the Parties to make an assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols over the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and determine the amount of resources needed, in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 1 and decision III/8.

Scope

2. The assessment of funding needs for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols should be comprehensive and primarily directed towards assessing total funding needs required to meet the agreed full incremental costs of measures that developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition that are eligible for GEF support may implement, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in order to fulfil their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols for the period July 2026 to June 2030.

Methodology

3. The funding needs assessment should take into account:

- (a) Article 20, paragraph 2, and Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (b) Guidance to the financial mechanism from the Conference of the Parties which calls for future financial resources;
- (c) All obligations under the Convention and its Protocols and relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) The information communicated to the Conference of the Parties in the national reports and, information provided by the Parties through the financial reporting framework;
- (e) Rules and guidelines agreed by the Council of the Global Environment Facility for determining eligibility for funding of projects;
- (f) National strategies, plans or programmes developed in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention;
- (g) Experience to date, including limitations and successes of projects funded by the Global Environment Facility, as well as the performance of the Facility and its implementing and executing agencies;
- (h) Synergies with other GEF-funded Conventions;
- (i) Synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions;
- (j) The strategy for resource mobilization and its targets;
- (k) The report of the Panel of Experts on Resource Mobilization concerning estimation of resources needed for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (l) National biodiversity strategies and action plans, where available;
- (m) Progress made on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation).

Procedures for implementation

4. Under the authority and with the support of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary shall contract a team of three or five-experts, subject to the availability of resources, with equal representation from developing country Parties and developed country Parties, and one from international non-governmental organizations, to prepare a report on the full assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period July 2026 to June 2030, in accordance with the above objective and methodology.

5. In preparing the assessment report, the expert team should undertake such interviews, surveys, quantitative and qualitative analyses, and consultation, as may be required, including:

(a) Compilation and analysis of the needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including country-specific resource mobilization strategies, prepared by GEF-eligible Parties pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention;

(b) Review of reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 26 of the Convention to identify funding needs in fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention;

(c) Estimated financial implications of guidance to the financial mechanism from the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Experience to date in the provision of funds by the financial mechanism for each replenishment period;

(e) Compilation and analysis of any supplementary information provided by GEF-eligible Parties on their funding needs for the implementation of their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols.

6. The Global Environment Facility and the Executive Secretary shall conduct a review of the draft assessment reports of the expert team to ensure accuracy and consistency of data and approach as specified in these terms of reference.

7. The Executive Secretary shall ensure that the assessment report of the expert team will be distributed to all Parties one month before the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

8. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting should consider the expert team's assessment report and make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

9. The Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth meeting, will take a decision on the assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund, and communicate the results to GEF accordingly.

Consultation process

10. In preparing the assessment report, the expert team should consult widely with all relevant persons and institutions and other relevant sources of information deemed useful.

11. The expert team should design a questionnaire on funding needs for the period July 2026 to June 2030, in consultation with the Secretariat and GEF, and circulate it to all developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, and include the results in the assessment report.

12. Interviews and consultation meetings should be organized with participation of relevant key stakeholders, including major groups of Parties, the Convention Secretariat, as well as the secretariat, the Independent Evaluation Office and the agencies of GEF.

13. As far as possible, the expert team should endeavour to undertake regional and subregional consultations, taking advantage of regional and subregional workshops organized by the secretariats of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility during the study period.

14. The approaches to assessing the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols should be transparent, reliable and replicable, and demonstrate clear incremental cost reasoning in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2, taking into consideration information gathered from other international funds serving conventions and information submitted by Parties in the application of the concept of incremental costs as well as current rules and guidelines of the Global Environment Facility as approved by the Council of the Global Environment Facility.

15. On the basis of experience with the preparation of the current needs assessment report, the expert team will make recommendations to the Executive Secretary for the elements and modalities of an online system to facilitate submissions by relevant Parties for future needs assessments.

16. The expert team should address additional issues that may be raised by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation during its consideration of the assessment report at its fourth meeting.

Item 13. Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation and knowledge management and communication

13 A. Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation

The following is taken from recommendation 3/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XIII/23 and 14/24,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by Parties, other Governments, the Global Environmental Facility, relevant organizations and other stakeholders for capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation activities to assist developing country Parties, Parties with economies in transition, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth,

Reaffirming the need to promote strategic and coherent approaches to capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation in supporting the implementation of the Convention and its protocols,

Underscoring, the critical importance of capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer for the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Recognizing that many Parties, in particular developing country Parties, might not yet have the necessary capacities to fully implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and related decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting and further highlighting the need for enhanced cooperation to address these capacity gaps,

Noting that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and related decisions are to be implemented in accordance with national priorities and capabilities,

Taking note of the final report on the implementation of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and the lessons learned,¹⁹⁹

Taking note of the summary of the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity held on 30 September 2020,²⁰⁰

Welcoming partnerships and commitments among organizations to support capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation for the implementation of the Convention,

Acknowledging the importance of increasing the provision and mobilization of resources [from all sources] for the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework including its monitoring framework, in particular for capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation for all Parties, in particular developing country Parties, and recalling Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, as well as taking into account decision 15/-- on resource mobilization and 15/-- on the financial mechanism.

Recalling decisions 14/24 B, XIII/23, XIII/31, XII/2 B, X/16, IX/14, VIII/12 and VII/29 regarding technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer,

Reaffirming that technical and scientific cooperation is essential to the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

¹⁹⁹ CBD/COP/15/INF/5.

²⁰⁰ See <https://www.un.org/pga/75/united-nations-summit-on-biodiversity-summary>.

Acknowledging the close interlinkages between technical and scientific cooperation and the other means of implementation and the need for Parties to consider them as a package and not in isolation,

Taking note of the progress report on technical and scientific cooperation, including the achievements made under the Bio-Bridge Initiative, presented in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/18,

Taking note of the results of the review of technical and scientific cooperation programmes contained in document CBD/COP/15/--;²⁰¹

A. Capacity-building and development

1. [Adopts] the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support priorities determined by Parties [in particular those captured] in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contained in annex I to the present decision;²⁰²

2. [Welcomes] [Takes note of] [the capacity-building action plan] for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Supplementary Protocol,²⁰³ which has been developed to be complementary to the long-term strategic framework referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. Takes note of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol,²⁰⁴ and welcomes decision NP-4/-- requesting the Executive Secretary to prepare its revision in line with the long-term strategic framework referred to in paragraph 1 above;

4. Urges Parties and invites other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, the capacity-building task force of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, to use [the guidance provided in the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development] as a flexible framework in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their capacity-building and development initiatives and programmes supporting the achievement of the vision, mission, goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

[5. Urges Parties and invites Governments [to put in place enabling environments (including relevant policies, legislation and incentives, [and sufficient funding]) to promote and facilitate capacity-building and development at various levels, [according to national legislation] in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention;]

6. Invites biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and processes to consider the long-term strategic framework when designing their capacity-building and development strategies, action plans, work programmes and mechanisms, as appropriate, to foster synergies and avoid duplications;

[7. Invites Parties, [in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention] as well as other Governments, and all relevant organizations [in a position to do so], to provide financial and technical support [from all sources] to enable all developing country Parties, including in particular [least developed countries, small island developing States], and Parties with economies in transition, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, including women's and youth organizations, to design and implement capacity-building and development programmes aligned with the long-term strategic framework [and in accordance with national priorities and legislation];]

²⁰¹ Prepared pursuant to SBI recommendation 3/3, para. 2.

²⁰² The long-term strategic framework is further elaborated in document [CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1](#).

²⁰³ See CBD/SBI/3/18.

²⁰⁴ See CBD/SBI/3/16.

[8. *Invites* the [governing bodies of the] [secretariats of the] biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, in collaboration with governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, and other relevant organizations and stakeholders, to prepare, immediately following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, thematic capacity-building and development action plans for specific targets or groups of related targets, and to develop dedicated global, regional and subregional programmes to implement those thematic plans, in line with the long-term strategic framework and the Convention's post-2020 gender plan of action, as appropriate;]

[9. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to identify and prioritize capacity-building and development needs, including with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and relevant stakeholders, and to integrate capacity-building and development components in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans while updating them in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and/or develop dedicated biodiversity capacity-building and development action plans, as appropriate;]

[10. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to institutionalize and deliver capacity-building and development interventions as part of their regular policies, plans and programmes, as appropriate;]

[11. *Also urges* Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, [in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention], to allocate [additional] financial resources to support biodiversity capacity-building and development, taking into account the priority needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and/or national capacity-building and development strategies as well as those identified by indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations;]

[12. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to include biodiversity capacity-building and development, [as appropriate], in relevant development cooperation frameworks, partnerships and programmes;]

[13. *Invites* Parties in accordance with Articles [14], 16, 18 and [19] to enhance and support capacity-building cooperation activities, especially in developing countries, for the implementation of the Convention and its protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account synergies between capacity-building and technology transfer, technical and scientific cooperation and effective participation in biotechnological research;]

14. *Invites* universities and other academic institutions to develop and integrate into their curricula specialized and transdisciplinary academic courses and programmes and/or expand and strengthen existing ones, generate and share new knowledge, and implement continuing education programmes to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

15. *Invites* relevant organizations and regional and subregional bodies, including regional economic integration organizations, to promote sharing of expertise and information, to strengthen existing regional and subregional support networks or establish new ones as appropriate, to provide, upon request, assistance to enable national and subnational government institutions, local authorities and non-government actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, within the respective regions or subregions to strengthen their capacities, while also mobilizing and fostering effective use and retention of the capacities developed;

**[16. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Management Group, in collaboration with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, to designate a biodiversity capacity-building and development task team to foster United Nations system-wide synergy, coherence and effectiveness in the provision of capacity-building and development support and guidance for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,[in line with the proposed United Nations common approach to integrating biodiversity and [nature-based solutions] for sustainable development into United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery²⁰⁵.;]

[17. *Invites* regional teams of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the United Nations regional commissions to initiate and facilitate the coordination and synergistic implementation of capacity-building and development interventions in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

[18. *Also invites* United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Teams, in consultation with the United Nations Inter-agency Support Group (IASG) on Indigenous Issues and other relevant United Nations agencies, to integrate biodiversity capacity-building and development into country-level United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks to support national implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Sustainable Development Goals;]

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To promote awareness of the long-term strategic framework [including through the creation of a specific section in the clearing-house mechanism and linked to the technical and scientific cooperation website] [including through the creation of a dedicated web page] as part of the Secretariat's capacity-building and development portal;

(b) To [develop and] make available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and the clearing-houses of the Protocols [additional] [existing] [guidance on] capacity-building and development, including [new and innovative tools], methods and case studies on good practices and lessons learned that can assist Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in their capacity-building and development efforts [and to monitor and receive new and updated tools, methods, and cases studies as necessary];

[(c) To review the capacity and technology absorption and sustaining abilities of small island developing States and develop specific tools, methods and identify lessons on maintaining absorbed capacities and technologies;]

[(d) To enable Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, and other relevant organizations to prepare, immediately following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, thematic capacity-building and development action plans for specific 2030 targets or groups of related targets, as appropriate, [and taking into account needs and gaps previously identified and decided by Parties with special consideration for the development of an island biodiversity capacity-building and development action plan];]

[(e) To support and advise Parties to integrate capacity-building and development components into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;]

**[(f) To invite the United Nations Environment Management Group, in collaboration with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, to designate a biodiversity capacity-building and development task team to foster United Nations system-wide synergy, coherence and effectiveness in the provision of capacity-building and development support and guidance for the implementation of the post-

* Some Parties noted that the Conference of the Parties cannot directly invite the United Nations Environment Management Group and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to do something since they are composed of secretariats of other conventions or bodies. It was proposed that the Executive Secretary should invite them instead. If this proposal is accepted, then this paragraph would be deleted here and its content moved to paragraph 19, as a new sub-paragraph 19(f) below.

²⁰⁵ See General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) and [CEB/2021/HLC/CP41/CRP.2](#).

** This sub-paragraph would be deleted if the proposal made with respect to paragraph 16 above is not accepted.

2020 global biodiversity framework in line with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system];

[(g) To develop, in collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, complementary indicators and a methodology for measuring progress in the achievement of the long-term strategic framework goals and for enabling Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, to monitor, assess and report on capacity-building and development at the national level, in line with the indicators to be adopted under the relevant target²⁰⁶ of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

[(h) To convene, in collaboration with partners, [a workshop on capacity-building and development] [the first biodiversity capacity-building and development forum], to facilitate networking and share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in capacity-building and development for biodiversity, [in parallel] [back-to-back] with [the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties][twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice], [and to facilitate the participation and inclusion of the perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth];]

[(i) To prepare updates on the status of the long-term strategic framework for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;]

[(j) To undertake, in collaboration with other biodiversity-related conventions and partners, a review of the long-term strategic framework in 2025 [in conjunction with the mid-term review and global stocktake of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework] to assess its use by Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, and other relevant stakeholders and, if necessary, propose updates to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness;]

[(k) To commission an independent evaluation of the long-term strategic framework in 2029 and submit a report to facilitate its review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties in conjunction with the review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

B. Technical and scientific cooperation

[20. *Adopts* the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework contained in annex II below;]

21. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to recognize the important role of and promote science, technology, innovation and other knowledge systems in supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework towards achieving the 2050 Vision of "living in harmony with nature";

22. *Reminds* Parties, pursuant to decision XIII/23, paragraph 6, to identify and communicate their biodiversity-related technical and scientific needs and requests for assistance, and *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to register as providers of technical assistance and offer support to address the needs identified by Parties through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism and the clearing houses of the protocols to facilitate capacity building and development and technical and scientific cooperation;

23. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to put in place enabling environments (including relevant policies, legislation and incentives) to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation with other Parties, in particular developing country Parties, including through joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention [in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention], ensuring full and effective participation of indigenous people and local communities, women and youth;

²⁰⁶ Target 19 in the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/3/3). The number of the target may change as the negotiations proceed.

[24. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, in collaboration with relevant partners and financial institutions to promote, facilitate and support the development of biodiversity-related technologies and innovations, including biotechnology, as well as locally designed solutions and indigenous technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their [free,] prior and informed consent [or approval and involvement], [subject to mutually agreed terms, as applicable] [in accordance with national legislation and international obligations], including through [existing] incubator programmes relevant to the objectives of the Convention [in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention], and to increase technology transfer for all Parties, in particular for developing country Parties;]

25. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take practical steps to promote and strengthen relevant networks of institutions and communities of practice to facilitate the exchange of biodiversity-related information, experiences, skills and technical know-how, among others, through networks of national and regional clearing-house mechanisms;

26. *Takes note* of the outcomes and key messages of the fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science;²⁰⁷

27. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant stakeholders to develop solutions, based on innovative technologies embedded in local contexts, to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and address the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, and to scale them up at the national, regional and subregional levels;

[28. *Decides* to establish an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation, to provide strategic advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III below;]

[29. *Also decides*, in light of the advantages, disadvantages and costs presented in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/16, to pursue [option B] [a hybrid of] [options A and B] [options B and C] of the institutional mechanisms to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation proposed in section IV of annex II below, whereby a global technical and scientific cooperation support centre would work together with a network of regional support centres, other relevant organizations, and indigenous peoples and local communities;]

[30. *Decides* in the interim to strengthen and upscale the Bio-Bridge Initiative for the coming biennium, subject to the availability of resources, and urges Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to scale up financial, technical and human resources to further promote technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, at the global, national, regional, and subregional levels, taking into account the results of the terminal evaluation of phase I of the Initiative;]

**[31. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to consider proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation, including establishment or designation of the necessary institutional mechanisms and the criteria and modalities for the selection of entities and organizations to implement the mechanisms on the basis of the options contained in section IV of annex II, taking into account the analysis presented in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/16 and the results of the review, and make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;]

[32. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to establish, in collaboration with relevant organizations [and indigenous peoples and local communities], the global technical and scientific cooperation support centre for biodiversity to catalyse, facilitate and enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, [ensuring equitable geographic coverage,] to support [the

²⁰⁷ See CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/28.

** This alternative paragraph may be considered as a fall-back option if the review process cannot be completed before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the] achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²⁰⁸] [in line with Articles 16, 18 and 19 of the Convention,] drawing on the lessons learned from, and maximizing synergies with [other technology transfer initiatives and mechanisms, including] the Climate Technology Centre and Network [, the BIOPAMA Regional Observatories and Reference Information Systems, the technology facilitation mechanism under the 2030 Agenda, WIPO GREEN, and others, and to clearly define the costs of the centre in order to mobilize the necessary funds for its operations];]

[33. [*Decides*][*Proposes*] that the core functions of [the global support centre and] the regional support centres and organizations, will be [carried out in coordination with the Secretariat and in line with the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:]

[(a) To promote and facilitate, [on a demand-driven basis,] technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties, [especially from developed country Parties to developing country Parties,] [to support the implementation of [the Convention and] the post-2020 global biodiversity framework], [including through joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of this Convention];]

[(b) To provide a “one-stop service centre” for Parties to biodiversity-related conventions [and other multilateral environmental agreements,] indigenous peoples and local communities, [women’s and youth organizations,] and other relevant stakeholders to access technical and scientific knowledge, expertise, tools and other resources, [taking into account the science, technology and innovation capability gaps identified by Parties, especially developing country Parties];]

[(c) To provide [Parties, especially developing country Parties,] access to information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovations [and effective participation in biotechnological research];]

[(d) To mobilize resources to provide punctual and targeted support for small-scale projects and activities to address specific identified technical and scientific needs;]

[(e) To facilitate matchmaking between [developing country] Parties with specific needs and [developed country] Parties or organizations in a position to provide assistance in response to the priority needs identified;]

[(f) To catalyse and support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of technical and scientific cooperation projects and programmes [that][in order to]:

- (i) Promote and incubate international and regional cooperation and partnerships using a programmatic approach;
- [(ii) Facilitate the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies and innovative [national, regional and] local solutions, including [those of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their [free,] prior and informed consent,] through scalable initiatives;]
- [(iii) Facilitate access to and utilization of available scientific knowledge, information and data, as well as indigenous and traditional knowledge, subject to [free], prior and informed consent;]

[(g) To strengthen capacities [,with an emphasis on innovation,] of regional and national centres to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation;]

[(h) To facilitate knowledge sharing and organizational learning [through appropriate tools, means and methodologies];]

²⁰⁸ See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

[(i) To identify, collate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned regarding biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation, [and effective participation in biotechnological research];]

[(j) To maximize synergies and collaborate with other technology transfer initiatives and mechanisms;]

[(k) To perform such other activities as may be necessary;]

[34. *Also decides* that the global support centre shall begin its operations as soon as possible;]

[35. [*Requests*][*Invites*] the Global Environment Facility to support eligible activities [of the global technical and scientific cooperation support centre for biodiversity [and, as appropriate,][as well as] of the regional support centres and organizations] [contributing to both technical and scientific capacity-building and development at global, regional and national levels, as appropriate, including activities] [referred to in paragraph 30 above];]

[36. *Invites* [developed country] Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, [and other stakeholders] [in a position to do so] to provide financial, technical and human resources to support the global technical and scientific cooperation support centre for biodiversity [and, as appropriate,][as well as] activities of the regional support centres and organizations referred to in paragraph 30 above, [in line with Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention, while noting that this support does not in any way replace their commitments under Article 20 of the Convention];]

37. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in collaboration with [Parties,] relevant partners, [the global support centre and regional support centres], other organizations [and indigenous peoples and local communities];

[(b) To communicate to the global technical and scientific cooperation support centre the priorities established by Parties regarding capacity-building and development;]

[(c) To be actively involved in coordinating a harmonized approach in the delivery of the proposed support tools;]

(d) To maintain synergy and collaboration with biodiversity-related conventions, [the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,] and relevant organizations, initiatives and networks, [including the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and others with technical and scientific expertise, technologies and information, and/or] that are involved in biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation;

[(e) To maintain active communication with Parties and relevant stakeholders with a view to keeping them and the public informed of the achievements of the technical and scientific cooperation support activities;]

[(f) To organize, in collaboration with [partners][relevant organizations] [and indigenous peoples and local communities], [biodiversity] science forums, technology and innovation expos, round tables and other events to showcase cooperation initiatives, technologies and opportunities;]

(g) To compile relevant information related to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in the field of biological diversity [for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention] and to make it available to Parties through the clearing-house mechanism, in line with the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

[(h) To perform such other activities as may be necessary to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

(i) To prepare relevant documents and reports on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer for consideration by [the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fifth meeting and] the Conference of Parties [at its seventeenth meeting] [and its subsidiary bodies];

[(j) To submit a report on the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation for peer review by Parties and for subsequent consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held prior to the sixteenth Conference of the Parties.]

Annex I

LONG-TERM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development is intended to guide the capacity-building and development efforts of government and non-government actors,²⁰⁹ including indigenous peoples and local communities, in support of [priorities determined by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the implementation of] the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It seeks to catalyse institutionalized capacity-building and development interventions that are robust, coordinated and delivered in a holistic and complementary manner and promote coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of capacity-building and development efforts at all levels through strategic, coordinated and harmonized approaches.

2. The study carried out to provide the knowledge base for the framework²¹⁰ noted that capacity-building and development efforts, especially in developing countries, are fragmented and undertaken in silos, largely through externally funded short-term projects. Many countries have not yet adopted systemic, long-term and institutionalized approaches to capacity-building and development. Capacity-building and development interventions are often implemented in an ad hoc manner and not as part of coherent long-term programmes, and without an adequate enabling environment. Consequently, many have not succeeded in bringing about the desired changes in a sustainable manner. The strategic framework aims to help address these shortcomings.

3. In this strategic framework, capacity is described as “the ability of people, organizations and societies as a whole to achieve the biodiversity-related goals and action targets”, and capacity-building and development is understood as “the process whereby people, organizations and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time to achieve positive biodiversity results.”²¹¹ Capacity-building and development is considered at three levels: the enabling environment, organizational and individual levels.

II. STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND OUTCOMES

A. Overall vision and theory of change

4. The long-term vision of this strategic framework is that by 2050 all societies will be fully empowered and effectively living in harmony with nature. The medium-term vision is that by 2030 governments and relevant non-government actors will have the requisite capacities to effectively and sustainably contribute to the achievement of the goals and 2030 targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols.

5. The overall goal is to support ongoing development and strengthening of the capacities necessary for the achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This calls for enhancing the coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of capacity-building and development initiatives at all levels and ensuring alignment with relevant initiatives supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. These changes

²⁰⁹ In this framework, government actors include, as appropriate, government institutions at national and subnational levels. The term “non-government actors” includes United Nations organizations and programmes, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, community organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, faith-based and religious groups, women’s and youth organizations, non-governmental organizations, media, the scientific community, and private sector entities such as private financial institutions, businesses, industries, insurers, producers and investors.

²¹⁰ A report of the study is available as information document [CBD/SBI/3/INF/9](#).

²¹¹ Adapted from the definition given in UNDG “Capacity building and development: UNDAF Companion Guidance” 2017 available at <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/capacity-development-undaf-companion-guidance>.

can only be achieved by having in place effective, agile and continuously learning organizations²¹² supported with [sufficient] appropriate financial, technical and human resources.

6. The long-term strategic framework, similarly to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, is underpinned by a theory of change, which is elaborated and visualized in figure 3 of document CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1.²¹³ The theory of change outlines the intended pathways of change in capacity, the underlying assumptions and the anticipated high-level changes/outcomes. The purpose of the theory of change is to ensure that relevant actors are conscious of the causal relationships, the change pathways, the expected changes/capacity results, and the important contextual factors and underlying assumptions.

B. Capacity results

7. The strategic framework establishes indicative high-level and long-term capacity-building and development results relevant to [the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and] the achievement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework goals and targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (see Box 1). Government and relevant non-government actors are also encouraged to set capacity-building and development targets at various levels and clearly include them in relevant documents, such as national biodiversity strategies and action plans, programme strategies and plans. Capacities can be categorized as “functional” capacities (cross-cutting skills needed to get things done and not associated with any one particular sector or theme); and “technical” capacities (associated with specific areas of expertise, sectors or themes).

Box 1. Expected capacity results

Long-term, high-level outcomes

- Successful implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans [and, if appropriate, their development]
- Achievement of 2030 targets and 2050 vision of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- Biodiversity mainstreamed throughout sectors and society
- [Substantial increase in access to and transfer of technology and in effective participation in scientific and technical cooperation, particularly for developing countries]

Medium-term outcomes

- Sound enabling frameworks and institutional arrangements support achievement of national biodiversity strategies and action plans
- Strategic partnerships and learning networks enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use efforts along with the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources
- High-quality programmes and projects that are technically sound, have realistic and achievable plans, address gender and youth considerations, and embed monitoring
- Effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and learning processes embedded into projects and programmes from the start, to support evidence-based decision-making at all levels
- Reinforcing mechanisms, incentive structures and investments ensure utilization and retention of capacity of all types at all levels

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

8. Governments and non-governmental actors [including indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant international organizations,] are encouraged to apply the following overarching guiding principles, [in support of priorities for capacity-building and development determined by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans], which, if applied, would contribute to more effective and sustainable capacities to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

- (a) Inclusive analysis of existing capacities and needs is essential to ensure effective interventions;

²¹² An organization can become a “learning organization” by applying existing internal knowledge and learning from past experiences and lessons with the aim of improving its performance (e.g. see <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/wbs/conf/olkc/archive/olk4/papers/villard.pdf>).

²¹³ The development of this theory of change took into account the technical guidance provided as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/theory-change-undaf-companion-guidance>.

- (b) Country ownership and commitment should be cornerstones for capacity-building and development actions;
- (c) Strategic and integrated system-wide approaches to capacity-building and development should be promoted;
- (d) Interventions should be designed and implemented according to recognized good practice and lessons learned;
- (e) Gender and youth perspectives should be fully integrated into biodiversity capacity-building and development efforts taking into account the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action;
- (f) Monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks should be incorporated into capacity-building and development strategies, plans and programmes from the start.

IV. KEY STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

9. Government and non-government actors are encouraged to adopt, as appropriate, the strategies below to enhance capacity-building and development initiatives in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and ensure alignment and synergy with the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant national and global processes. Each country should decide which strategies to apply, taking into account its needs, circumstances and local contexts:

(a) *Institutionalize capacity-building and development*: Ensure that capacity-building and development interventions are planned and delivered as an integral part of the institutions' broader corporate strategic plans, ongoing human resources and organizational development and knowledge management, organizational learning, mentorship and peer-to-peer support, nurturing of communities of practice, and systematic sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned;

(b) *Integrate long-term capacity-building and development into national biodiversity strategies and action plans*: Integrate capacity-building and development components into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and similar strategic documents or develop dedicated national capacity-building and development action plans, as appropriate,²¹⁴ to identify the core capacity-building and development needs, goals, targets and milestones and foster their alignment with the strategic framework, alongside initiatives on related Sustainable Development Goals. This would help ensure that capacity-building and development for biodiversity is planned strategically and streamlined into national development investments and budgeting processes; [These plans are encouraged to include plans on youth engagement and capacity-building and development and integrate inter-generational initiatives;]

(c) *Increase focus on life-long learning*;

(d) *Align biodiversity capacity-building and development with broader cross-sectoral plans and programmes*: Apply the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to national implementation proposed in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to galvanize capacity-building and development for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the biodiversity goals and targets. Focal points of the Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, and representatives of line ministries and sectors should adopt a road map for alignment and coordinated action. The United Nations Country Teams should also play a key role in promoting integrated programming and coordination of capacity-building and development as part of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks;²¹⁵

(e) *Undertake measures to fully utilize and retain existing capacity*: Undertake context-specific assessments and stocktaking processes to identify existing capacity, and the obstacles preventing its utilization and retention. Likewise, identify and promote incentives that will help retain and fully utilize existing capacity and minimize not only loss of expertise and institutional memory, but discontinuity of partnerships/relationships built;²¹⁶

(f) *[Develop thematic and regional [or subregional] capacity-building and development action plans and programmes*: It is recommended that, following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

²¹⁴ At least 30 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have prepared biodiversity capacity building and development strategies or plans, either as a chapter or section within their NBSAP or as stand-alone documents: <https://www.cbd.int/cb/plans/>.

²¹⁵ Capacity building and development is one of the core outcome areas of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), renamed United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework by General Assembly resolution 72/279, in a number of countries, as demonstrated by the example of Bhutan (https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_70552.html).

²¹⁶ As cited in the UNDP publication [Incentive Systems: Incentives, motivation and development performance](#).

thematic capacity-building and development strategies or action plans be developed to support the achievement of the respective targets or groups of related targets. Parties, other governments, biodiversity-related conventions, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in a position to do so should, as appropriate, consider developing dedicated regional, subregional, national and subnational capacity-building and development action plans and programmes across multiple thematic sectors, with specific capacity targets and indicators];

(g) *Promote partnerships and networks for implementation [and learning]:* Establish and strengthen partnerships for effective mobilization of capacities and resources; the sharing of existing knowledge, expertise and technologies; and implementation of medium to long-term capacity-building and development programmes on specific issues related to the post-2020 targets, in line with national priorities;

(h) *Enhance synergies between capacity-building and development efforts of relevant processes:* Enhance synergies with the capacity-building and development initiatives of biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and the Sustainable Development Goal implementation processes at the global, regional and national levels. At the national level, the focal points of relevant conventions and processes, and of funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, should consider establishing a mechanism to foster integrated and/or coordinated planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation, as appropriate;

(i) *Promote North-South cooperation* to support capacity-building and development of developing countries, with a view to addressing institutional and technical constraints that could undermine access to and transfer of technology, access to scientific and technical cooperation and the effective participation in biotechnological research, [in line with Articles 16, 18 and 19 of the Convention]. This could include joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

(j) *Promote South-South and triangular cooperation* to support capacity-building and development of developing countries that have common challenges and share similar characteristics (e.g. economic and social conditions and language), [as a complement for North-South cooperation]. This could include sharing of knowledge, expertise, technologies and resources and establishment of regional nodes, networks or centres of excellence;

(k) *Engage the private sector:* Engage the private sector, proactively and as appropriate, in the development of national capacities, as many technical and financial resources and relevant expertise and technologies lie in the hands of private entities. In doing so, ensure transparency and accountability. Also strengthen the capacity of small and medium enterprises to address biodiversity-related issues;

(l) *Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building and development interventions:* Develop and implement adaptive management systems for monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity capacity-building and development efforts, to assess whether the intended capacity results are achieved in an impactful and sustainable manner, to identify and correct mistakes, and to capture and share good practices and lessons.

V. MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

A. Governance and coordination mechanisms

10. [There is a need for mechanisms that could provide strategic leadership and foster coordinated capacity-building and development action for biodiversity at the global, regional and national levels. Specifically, the roles of such mechanisms may include: (a) enhancing synergy, by facilitating inter-agency coordination and cooperation among relevant organizations, initiatives, and funding agencies; [(b) providing strategic guidance, advice and support to government and non-government actors]; (c) promoting strategic and coherent approaches to capacity-building and development; (d) fostering partnerships and multi-stakeholder initiatives; (e) identifying opportunities to mobilize additional resources for biodiversity capacity-building and development efforts; and (f) proposing innovative ideas to improve and advance the implementation of the strategic framework.]

11. At the global level, the above roles could be accomplished through [for example]:

(a) [The establishment of a new high-level biodiversity capacity-building and development committee or a broader inter-agency implementation support committee²¹⁷;]

²¹⁷ [The implementation support committee would provide advice and strategic guidance on all the means of implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management, resource mobilization and others.]

(b) [The establishment of a biodiversity] capacity-building and development [committee under the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation mentioned in annex III below];

(c) [The designation of a biodiversity capacity-building and development task team under existing mechanisms such as the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) or the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)].²¹⁸

12. At the regional level, biodiversity capacity-building and development coordination and coherence could be achieved with the support of the United Nations regional economic commissions and the regional teams of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG);

13. At the country level, coordination of biodiversity capacity-building and development could be done through the national biodiversity committees or similar mechanisms and facilitated through the United Nations Country Teams, within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the country.

14. [In addition, an informal biodiversity capacity-building and development forum could be established and convened periodically on a rotational basis by different biodiversity-related conventions to bring together government and non-government actors to network and share experiences, good practices and lessons learned.]

B. Mutual supportiveness between various implementation strategies and processes

15. This long-term strategic framework should be synergized with the other means of implementation and enabling conditions for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (including technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and resource mobilization), the long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and with the mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation.

C. Resource mobilization for capacity-building and development

16. [There is a need to mobilize [human and] [financial] resources [from all sources] to support national capacity-building and development and help create an enabling environment. The [provision of financial resources in line with article 20 and the] Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (BIOFIN) could support countries to include options to mobilize resources for capacity-building and development in their national resource mobilization strategies]*.

D. Regional and global support networks

17. Existing regional and global support networks should be strengthened, [or established], to provide, upon request, capacity-building and development support to national government institutions, subnational governments, local authorities and non-government actors within the respective geographic regions or subregions.

E. Enhanced review mechanisms

18. [The enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanism should consider the capacity-building and development dimension. The guidelines for national reporting by governments should also include provisions for reporting on capacity-building and development and provide opportunities for countries to share experiences and lessons learned. The national biodiversity strategy and action plan review and revision process and the voluntary peer review of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan implementation should also include a review of the capacity-building and development strategies and approaches].

F. Outreach and dissemination of the framework

19. A campaign targeting various stakeholders and actors will be undertaken to raise awareness of, and support for, the long-term strategic framework. Key partners and stakeholders will be invited to support the implementation, including through alignment of their capacity-building and development actions with the framework, [elaboration of thematic action plans], and establishment of coalitions and communities of practice. A dedicated web portal within the clearing-house mechanism will be created and linked to the websites of biodiversity-related conventions and organizations to share information about the framework and the activities and experiences of various actors.

G. Reporting and review of the framework

20. [The long-term strategic framework is intended to be a living document. It will be reviewed periodically and, if necessary, updated to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness and use by government and non-government

²¹⁸ The EMG (<https://unemg.org/>) or BLG (www.cbd.int/blg/) could include on the task team senior representatives of relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, donors and academia.

* Will be updated in the light of the outcomes of the negotiations on resource mobilization.

actors. A first review will be carried out in 2025 and an independent evaluation will be undertaken in 2029, to coincide with the review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Reporting on its application and the lessons learned by governments will be done through national reports; and reporting by non-government actors will be through voluntary submission of reports and case studies to the Secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and processes].

21. [A set of headline indicators for capacity-building and development will be included in the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. [A complementary set of indicators and a methodology for measuring progress towards the achievement of the strategic directions proposed in the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development could be prepared with the support of experts and made available immediately following the adoption of the strategic framework]. Government and non-government actors could also adapt and use the complementary indicators to monitor, assess and report on their capacity building and development efforts at the subnational, national and regional levels. [The information generated from the monitoring and capacity-building and development assessments processes at the national and regional levels should inform the periodic review and update of the framework].]

[Annex II

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

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 18(1) 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 the appropriate international and national channels.

2. [Various provisions of other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements require Parties to promote technical and scientific cooperation.] [In addition, the preamble of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) recognizes that international cooperation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora. Article 2 of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals [, as well as Article 5 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands,] require[s] Parties to promote, cooperate in and support research relating to migratory species. Several articles of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture stress the importance of international cooperation. Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention states that each State Party will do all it can, including with international assistance and cooperation, to ensure the identification, protection and conservation of its cultural and natural heritage.]

II. GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A. Goal and objectives

3. The overall goal of the proposals is to promote and facilitate cooperation among Parties and relevant organizations to enable them to effectively utilize science, technology, and innovation to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The specific objectives are:

(a) To enhance local, national, regional and international capacities in relation to science, technology and innovation by means of human resource and institutional capacity-building and development;

(b) To enable technology horizon scanning, assessment, monitoring, and judgement on the appropriate technologies;

(c) To promote and facilitate the development, transfer and use of appropriate technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies subject to prior informed consent, as applicable;

(d) To promote and encourage joint research, cooperation and collaboration in the use of scientific advances and good practices in research;

(e) To promote the development, implementation and scaling up of appropriate and responsible innovative solutions;

(f) To facilitate access to and exchange of relevant technical and scientific data, information and knowledge.

B. Guiding principles

4. Technical and scientific cooperation initiatives (activities, projects and programmes) would be guided by the following principles:

(a) *Demand-driven*: Initiatives should be started at the request of Parties and relevant institutions and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in response to their needs and in accordance with national legislation;

(b) *Flexibility*: Initiatives should 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*: Measures should be taken to ensure that the initiatives achieve the intended results on time and with the least possible resources;

(d) *Efficacy*: Measures should be taken to ensure that the initiatives generate the desired changes while taking into account the potential interconnections and unintended impacts, and that results can be monitored, assessed and evaluated;

(e) *Tailored*: Initiatives should be adapted to local conditions and circumstances, also taking into account cultural and other considerations, to foster buy-in and uptake, ownership, and sustainability at the local level;

(f) *Programmatic*: Delivery should be done through sustained long-term engagement and in a holistic and integrated manner, whereby various interventions (activities, projects and other initiatives) unified by an overarching vision and common objectives, are interconnected to achieve larger-scale and sustained impact that is more than the sum of its components;

(g) *Synergistic*: Initiatives should be implemented in a collaborative, interlinked, complementary and mutually supportive manner to achieve enhanced impact in supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at all levels and across conventions, processes and sectors;

(h) *Multi-stakeholder engagement*: Initiatives should actively engage relevant societal actors, institutional partners and providers of technical assistance, including (i) indigenous peoples and local communities and their networks; (ii) multidisciplinary research and professional networks; (iii) civil society, including youth networks; (iv) academic and scientific institutions; (v) the private sector; (vi) subnational, national and regional governmental institutions; (vii) national and international non-governmental organizations, including organizations engaging in citizen science; (viii) bilateral and multilateral institutions; and (ix) funding institutions;

(i) *Mutual respect*: Initiatives should adhere to the principles of mutual respect and equality and mutual benefit, under a human rights approach, including respect for diverse knowledge systems including the knowledge and experience of practitioners, and of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(j) *Respect for regulatory requirements*: Initiatives should adhere to appropriate and proportionate safeguards and comply with the legal and regulatory requirements of collaborating countries;

(k) *Continuous learning*: Initiatives should incorporate provisions for continuous education and learning opportunities, including interdisciplinary education in the research and development of new and emerging technologies, as a part of the long-term programmatic approach to strengthen the technical knowledge of the recipients;

(l) *Participation*: Initiatives should seek to maximize participatory approaches, recognizing the value of drawing on diverse perspectives, including those from outside the technical and scientific realm;

(m) *Precaution*: Initiatives should operationalize the precautionary approach as set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols as a balance against risks arising from new technological threats;

(n) *Free, prior and informed consent*: Initiatives should respect the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities when considering the introduction, dissemination or use of innovations that may potentially impact their rights, traditional practices and territories;

(o) *Liability and redress*: Initiatives should take into account the requirement for ensuring liability and redress, as well as options for recall in the event the introduction or use of innovations cause unexpected or unanticipated adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

III. MAIN FOCAL AREAS

5. 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 generation and use of relevant scientific and analytical information and facilitate science-policy dialogue to support evidence-based policies, actions, tools and mechanisms, based on or informed by the best available science;

(b) *Technology*: Horizon scanning, technology assessment, development, transfer, promotion, monitoring, governance, and use of appropriate technologies, including biotechnology, existing know-how of relevant sectors and indigenous and traditional technologies and knowledge, to scale up solutions;

(c) *Innovation*: Promotion of appropriate, supportive and socially responsible innovation, in line with the needs of people and the environment.

IV. OPTIONS FOR INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AND MODALITIES

6. Enhanced technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will require an effective governance structure, efficient operational mechanisms, transparent processes and procedures based on a synergistic approach, and adequate financial and human resources.

7. 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, whose establishment is to be considered 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 annex III.

8. Possible options for operational institutional mechanisms to facilitate and enhance technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework 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 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with partners.]

Option A: Global technical and scientific cooperation support centre

9. 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 on Biological Diversity. 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 and hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

10. Criteria for selecting the host institution for the centre would be considered and approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. The Conference of the Parties may, for example, require that any organization or consortium wishing to host such a global support centre should have:

(a) Demonstrated ability to provide technical advice and support to Parties in planning and implementing country-led projects and/or programmes;

(b) Broad experience in the areas of work undertaken by Parties in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols;

(c) Capacity to mobilize resources for technical scientific cooperation programmes;

(d) Appropriate policies, procedures and other institutional mechanisms and demonstrated ability in place to manage multiple complex projects and programmes;

(e) Active networks of collaborators, including institutions working at both the global and regional levels on biodiversity-relevant issues;

(f) Experience of working with other biodiversity-related conventions, intergovernmental processes, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and other stakeholders.

11. The global support centre would have a mandate to mobilize resources to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer 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, including 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 a broader pool of institutional knowledge and technical expertise;

(b) *Promote network development and partnership-building by:*

(i) Catalysing and strengthening international and regional technical and scientific cooperation networks and partnerships, including regional technology assessment platforms, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, and others;

(ii) Promoting the use of relevant communities of practice, including the NBSAP Forum, the Global ABS Community, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), the Sub-Global Assessment Network and others;

(iii) Promoting the sharing of relevant and appropriate biodiversity research data, including through platforms that facilitate systematization and data backup in an open-source setting, provide adequate protection against exploitation and appropriation, and respect principles of free, prior and informed consent; and developing safeguards against misuse and extractive data mining by or commercial or other data aggregators;

(iv) Further improving biodiversity monitoring through cooperation with, inter alia, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON);

(v) Improving the governance, fair acquisition, coordination, delivery and controlled use of biodiversity-related Earth observation data and related services;

(vi) Strengthening long-term field monitoring programmes for biodiversity through cooperation, exchange of experiences, methodology transfer and data-sharing;

(vii) Identifying, publicizing and linking centres of expertise;

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

(i) Providing information and guidance regarding technical and scientific cooperation, with a view to facilitating access to technical expertise and know-how;

(ii) Mobilizing technical assistance through matchmaking between requesting Parties, based on self-identified needs, and Parties and/or relevant institutions and stakeholders in a position to assist;

(iii) Promoting partnerships and joint ventures to accelerate the development and diffusion of appropriate technologies and equitable scalable solutions;

(iv) Promoting the engagement of all sectors, including the private sector, in the development and application of innovative solutions, while ensuring that such engagement does not overshadow, marginalize or take advantage of the actions of the public sector and communities;

(d) *Provide project, research and development, and technology support services:* to assist with the implementation of technical and scientific cooperation projects in order to:

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

(ii) Strengthen the organizational capacities of national and subnational scientific institutions to conduct relevant research by facilitating partnerships with counterpart organizations in other countries, joint research projects, and exchange of experts and staff;

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

- (iv) Identifying, mapping and publicizing existing relevant technologies with a view to facilitating their accessibility and utilization;
 - (v) Identifying, mapping and publicizing impactful innovations with a view to facilitating their implementation and scaling up;
 - (vi) Supporting the establishment or strengthening of 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;
 - (vi) Organizing technology and innovation fairs and expos to showcase cutting-edge technologies and solutions;
 - (vii) Facilitate access to and utilization of scientific knowledge, information, and data, as well as indigenous and traditional knowledge;
- (e) *Facilitate information-sharing* through the identification and submission to the clearing-house mechanism of relevant information, success stories, exemplary cooperation projects (bright spots), case studies, and best practices, in line with the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including information on results of technical and scientific research, relevant training and technical assistance programmes, and funding mechanisms;
- (f) *Promote capacity-building and development in areas related to technical and scientific cooperation* by:
- (i) Supporting Parties to develop and implement enabling and synergistic policies, regulatory frameworks, institutional arrangements and incentives to catalyse and scale up innovation;
 - (ii) Strengthening the organizational capacities of scientific institutions, including through educational programmes, exchange of experts and mentoring of young scientists;
 - (iii) Facilitating 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, modern biotechnology, DNA technologies, gene editing, synthetic biology, digital sequence information, status assessments for species and ecosystems, identification of spatial biodiversity priority areas, and others;
 - (iv) Facilitating the provision of guidance material on social and ethical matters related to science and technology;
 - (g) Perform such other activities as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

12. The global centre would work under the strategic guidance of the Conference of the Parties and would take into consideration the advice and recommendations of the above-mentioned Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. The centre would submit progress reports on its activities to the Conference of the Parties through the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 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.

13. 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

14. 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, as well as capacity to mobilize resources for technical scientific cooperation projects and programmes in their respective regions.

15. Criteria for selecting the host institutions for the centres would be considered and approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. The Conference of the Parties may, for example, require that any organization or institution wishing to host such a centre should have:

- (a) Demonstrated ability to provide technical advice and support to Parties in planning and implementing country-led projects and/or programmes;
- (b) Broad experience in the areas of work undertaken by Parties in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols;
- (c) Capacity to mobilize resources for technical scientific cooperation programmes;
- (d) Appropriate policies, procedures and other institutional mechanisms and demonstrated ability in place to manage multiple complex projects and programmes;
- (e) Active networks of collaborators, including institutions working at regional and subregional levels on biodiversity-relevant issues;
- (f) Experience of working with other biodiversity-related conventions, intergovernmental processes, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and other stakeholders.

16. 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. They would also collaborate with and support any existing regional technology assessment platforms that engage a range of stakeholders in a participatory approach to horizon scanning, technology assessment, monitoring, capacity-building and development, citizen science and other activities to support responsible research and innovation.

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

18. The regional support centres would require dedicated resources for their 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 regional centres with funding to enable them 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 C: Technical and scientific cooperation support through Secretariat-coordinated programmes

19. 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 relevant partners and initiatives. Each programme would implement targeted interventions. The Secretariat would submit progress reports to the Conference of the Parties, which would take into consideration the guidance of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. The functions of the different programmes would vary on the basis of the priorities and requirements of Parties.

20. The Secretariat would also continue to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation through partnership agreements and collaborative programmes with various partners and initiatives, including research and academic institutions, United Nations agencies, and international organizations and networks.

21. To play the above roles more effectively 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 for technical and scientific cooperation, as well as for core activities. At present, the functions related to technical and scientific cooperation are largely performed by project staff funded by the Republic of Korea through the Bio-Bridge Initiative. The current funding commitment for the Bio-Bridge Initiative is scheduled to end in 2020.

V. ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION

22. In line with Article 24 of the Convention, the Secretariat of the Convention will:

- (a) Prepare or submit, as appropriate, relevant documents and reports on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer (Articles 16-18 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 component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (c) Maintain active communication with Parties and stakeholders involved or interested in technical and scientific cooperation;
- (d) Coordinate, as appropriate, with biodiversity-related conventions, relevant Parties' agencies, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and other relevant networks and initiatives with technical and scientific expertise and/or involved in technical and scientific cooperation;
- (e) Co-organize with partners biodiversity science forums, technology and innovation expos and other events on the margins of international meetings;
- (f) Perform such other activities as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

VI. MONITORING AND REVIEW

23. The present proposals will be reviewed periodically and, if necessary, updated to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness in supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. A first review will be carried out in 2025 and an independent evaluation will be undertaken in 2030, together with the review of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The reviews will be based on the information provided by Parties in their national reports and on voluntary reports and case studies provided by non-government actors to the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and processes.

24. Indicators to monitor progress on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, including the utilization of science, technology and innovation, will be included in the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. A complementary set of indicators and a methodology for measuring progress could be prepared with the support of experts and practitioners and made available for use, as appropriate, by government and non-government actors at the subnational, national and regional levels. The periodic review and update of the proposals will be informed by information generated from the monitoring process, which may be communicated through the Parties' national reports and the voluntary reports by non-governmental actors.]

Annex III

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

A. Background

1. Article 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires Parties to promote international technical and scientific cooperation with other Parties, in particularly developing country Parties, 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. [Other articles of the Convention, such as Article 15.6 on scientific research based on genetic resources, Article 16 on access to and transfer of technology, Article 17 on exchange of information, and Article 19 on biotechnological research, are of relevance to technical and scientific cooperation. Article 19 also requires Parties to provide for the effective participation in research activities, especially developing country Parties, which provide genetic resources for such research.]
3. In decisions, VII/29, VIII/12, IX/14, X/15, X/16, XII/2 B, 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.

4. In decision 14/24 B, 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.

B. Purpose

5. The Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation will provide advice and guidance to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant bodies and stakeholders on ways and means to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, capacity building and development, knowledge management, and the clearing-house mechanism in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in line with the three objectives of the Convention, [in a balanced manner]. 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 address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps of developing countries, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;]

(c) Measures to enhance collaboration with other relevant international agreements, processes and organizations with respect to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer initiatives, [especially for developing country Parties];

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

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

(f) Development and implementation of tools and mechanisms for promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation, [distribution of benefits from the access to genetic resources,] capacity building and development and knowledge management, including science, [biotechnology] research and traditional knowledge, [systems], [taking into account the specific needs of developing country Parties] [as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth];

(g) 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;

(h) Potential opportunities for mobilizing technical and financial resources to promote and sustain technical and scientific cooperation activities on a long-term and predictable basis;

(i) Identification, mapping and promotion of existing collaboration activities, [including those related to the most recent technological developments];

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

C. Membership

7. The Informal Advisory Group will be composed of experts nominated by Parties, with due regard to equitable regional representation and gender balance, including experts [nominated by][from] indigenous peoples and local communities, [women and youth,] [small islands], and relevant organizations. The number of experts from organizations will not exceed the number of experts nominated by Parties. The membership will reflect a balanced representation of experts on matters regarding the three objectives of the Convention. 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 development, 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.

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

9. 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.

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

D. Modus operandi

11. The Informal 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. [Between the face-to-face sessions,] the Advisory Group may work remotely via electronic means, as appropriate.

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

13. [The Informal Advisory Group will support the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [in their work in identifying indicators for capacity building and development][on the identification of existing capacity, gaps and needs in terms of capacity building and development, technology transfer and financing needs related to the monitoring of the global biodiversity framework.]

14. The Informal Advisory Group members shall not receive any honorarium, fee or other remuneration from the United Nations. However, costs for the participation of Advisory 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.

15. The Informal Advisory Group will elect two co-chairs and a rapporteur to serve for a [two][three]-year period.

16. The working language of the Informal Advisory Group will be English.

13 B. Knowledge management

The following is taken from recommendation 3/10 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [14/25](#), [XIII/23](#) B, [XIII/18,] [XII/2](#) B and [XI/2](#),

Also recalling the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,²¹⁹

Emphasizing the critical importance of easy and timely access to quality data, information and knowledge in supporting the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

[1. *[Welcomes] [Adopts] [Takes note of] the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework contained in the annex below;]*

2. *Urges Parties, [according to their capabilities,] and invites other Governments, biodiversity-related conventions and relevant organizations, including local actors, communities and institutions to implement the strategic actions outlined in the knowledge management component, complementary to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation, with a view to enhancing the generation, collection, organization, easy and timely access to and effective utilization of data, information and knowledge to support the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans;*

[3. *Urges Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations in a position to do so, to provide financial, technical and human resources support to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to implement the strategic actions outlined in the knowledge management component, as a key component for the successful implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans;]*

4. *Invites [biodiversity-related conventions,] organizations, networks, processes and initiatives supporting the generation, discovery, capture, management and use of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge to contribute to the establishment of a global biodiversity knowledge network, [through][including] the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, based on existing knowledge management [networks,] organizations, initiatives and processes to, among other things, promote and facilitate coordination, collaboration, interconnection and networking among them with a view to making biodiversity data and information and knowledge more readily available and accessible for biodiversity planning, policy and decision-making, implementation, monitoring, reporting and review;*

5. *Takes note of the outcomes and key messages from the virtual sessions of the Fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the Eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science, in particular the Round Table on Biodiversity Monitoring and Data;*

6. *Urges Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to [support and] establish[, as appropriate, effective] [well-resourced] biodiversity [and other related] observation networks and information facilities, supported by data-sharing policies, associated capacity-building and guidance, to underpin the generation of the information needed to implement and track the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;*

7. *[Takes note] [Welcomes] the Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the European Commission to develop a global Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity²²⁰ notably for tracking progress on targets and goals[, in coordination*

²¹⁹ See decision [XI/2](#), para. 11, and [UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31](#).

²²⁰ https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/biodiversity_en

with interested Parties and regional intergovernmental organizations, along with a process of transferring technologies and capacities to developing country Parties,] and invites [interested Parties and the global Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as appropriate, in particular [for developing countries Parties and any other Parties] [Parties in need of support],] and stakeholders to assist in the further development of this global Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity;

8. [Takes note of][Welcomes] the Data4Nature initiative²²¹ and consequently invites Parties, non-Parties, funding agencies, development banks and other relevant stakeholders to take biodiversity into account when developing environmental and social impact assessments and share the biodiversity data from the assessments through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility;

9. [Takes note of][Welcomes] the global partnership PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet,²²² which supports implementation through knowledge generation, management and sharing for effective biodiversity planning, policy development, decision-making, implementation, transparency and responsibility;

[10. Welcomes the establishment of the Amazon Regional Observatory (ARO) of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organizations (ACTO), which includes information and data for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and invites donors and multilateral organizations to provide international cooperation for strengthening these initiatives as well as other relevant knowledge platforms;]

11. Takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,²¹⁹ and the draft elements of a post-2020 work programme for the clearing-house mechanism, outlined in the note by the Executive Secretary;²²³

12. Decides to extend the work programme of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2021-2030 and to update it in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and relevant decisions [of the Conference of the Parties][at its next meeting], the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, [the resource mobilization strategy,] and the enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanism, [as well as the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation];

13. Requests the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation,²²⁴ as per its mandate, to provide the Executive Secretary with advice on the development and implementation of the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

14. Urges Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, as appropriate, to continue providing financial, technical and human resources support to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to strengthen their national clearing-house mechanisms, and to develop or upgrade their national clearing-house mechanism websites using the Bioland tool[, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities and circumstances];

15. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

[(a) To [support][facilitate, in collaboration with] Parties and partner organizations, in the [national] implementation of the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

²²¹ <https://www.gbif.org/data4nature>

²²² <https://panorama.solutions/en>

²²³ CBD/SBI/3/8.

²²⁴ See [CBD/SBI/3/7](#), annex III.

(b) To continue to [support][facilitate] the efforts of Parties to establish, sustain and further develop their national clearing-house mechanisms, including through:

- (i) Further development of the Bioland tool in response to the needs of Parties and users and relevant technological developments;
- (ii) Development of training and guidance material on the use of the Bioland tool in collaboration with Parties and users;
- (iii) Development of guidance for the national focal points to the clearing-house mechanism on the coordination of activities related to the clearing-house mechanism at the national level to support effective implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (iv) Development of Bioland instances for Parties that have not yet established a national clearing-house mechanism website, using the information provided on the respective country profile pages on the Convention website, for their review and further development;
- (v) Continuation of the award for national clearing-house mechanisms until 2030.

(c) To further develop the central clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management, communication and enhanced planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and review processes;

(d) To continue collaboration with relevant initiatives, organizations and networks supporting the generation, capture, management and effective use of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge, among others United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation and Monitoring Centre, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) and the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT);

(e) To [leverage][promote the use of] relevant digital technologies to, among other things, assist Parties [and regional intergovernmental organizations] in the improvement of national capacities for the discovery, collection, analysis, aggregation, storage, accessibility, searchability, visualization and exchange of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge, as appropriate;

(f) To prepare, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation,²²⁵ a proposal for an updated work programme for the clearing-house mechanism, aligned with the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and relevant decisions, and submit the proposal for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and approval by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(g) To submit a first progress report on the above activities for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting.

Annex

**[KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY
FRAMEWORK**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decision [14/25](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop, in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committees to the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM), the Biosafety Clearing-House and

²²⁵ Established in decision 15/--

the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, a knowledge management component as a part of the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

2. Various provisions and decisions of biodiversity-related conventions and processes recognize the critical importance of information and knowledge management to the achievement of their objectives.²²⁶ The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, included Goal E: to enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building.²²⁷ It also included Target 19 that “by 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.”

3. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 recognized that achievement of its goals and targets would require enhanced support mechanisms, including the generation, use and sharing of knowledge, and noted that, collectively, Parties and stakeholders have a wealth of experience, good practice cases, tools and guidance and that there is additional useful information beyond this community. It thus called for the establishment of a biodiversity knowledge network, including a database and network of practitioners, to bring together this knowledge and experience and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism.

4. The fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* noted that significant progress has been made since 2010 in the generation, sharing and assessment of knowledge, information and data on biodiversity, with big-data aggregation, advances in modelling and artificial intelligence opening up new opportunities for improved understanding of the biosphere. However, major imbalances remain in the location and taxonomic focus of studies and monitoring. Information gaps also remain in the consequences of biodiversity loss for people, and the application of biodiversity knowledge in decision-making is limited.²²⁸

5. During the meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and in the associated regional and thematic consultations, knowledge management has been identified as one of the critical means for the successful implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, together with resource mobilization, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and communication.

6. The present document outlines elements of the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and possible strategies to operationalize it. Section II provides an introduction and a conceptual framework for the knowledge management component, section III outlines the rationale, objectives and expected impact of the knowledge management component; section IV presents strategies to enhance knowledge management in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and section V describes possible options for an implementation framework.

A. *Rationale for the knowledge management component*

7. Knowledge management is one of the key strategic means of implementation that will underpin the achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Easy and timely access to the best available, fit-for-purpose biodiversity data, information and knowledge assets is critical for effective planning, policy formulation, decision-making and implementation. However, many Governments and organizations still face several challenges in implementing effective processes and initiatives for knowledge management. In many countries, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, data, information and knowledge on biodiversity that policymakers, practitioners, indigenous peoples and local communities, and scientists require is limited. Moreover, much of what is available is fragmented, difficult to find, or inaccessible.

8. An expert meeting convened by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 10 to 12 April 2018, to advance understanding of the need to base development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on available evidence noted, among other things, that there is significant data, information and knowledge available, but it is often not readily accessible to those who could use it to good effect. Some of the reasons for this situation are journal paywalls, confidentiality, or simply not knowing it exists or not knowing how to use it. Participants underlined the need to facilitate “discovery” of relevant data, information and knowledge from all sources and to

²²⁶ Examples include Articles 17 and 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Article 14 of the Nagoya Protocol, Articles VI and VIII of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Articles 3 and 6 of the Ramsar Convention, and Article V of the Convention on Migratory Species.

²²⁷ Decision X/2.

²²⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/>

facilitate its use. They also highlighted the potential value of developing a knowledge generation or research strategy to clearly identify the knowledge needed to support implementation of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Finally, the experts underscored the need to include evidence from different knowledge systems, in particular traditional knowledge systems, in any knowledge generation or research strategy if it is to be effective.²²⁹

9. The knowledge management component seeks to address some of the above issues, including the barriers that prevent the effective utilization of existing biodiversity data, information and knowledge, by leveraging existing biodiversity knowledge management initiatives and networks, bridging the gaps that prevent their full usage and enhancing coordination and collaboration among them. Such efforts call for recognizing and optimizing the contributions of various government and non-government institutions, regional and international organizations, researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders involved in biodiversity knowledge management.

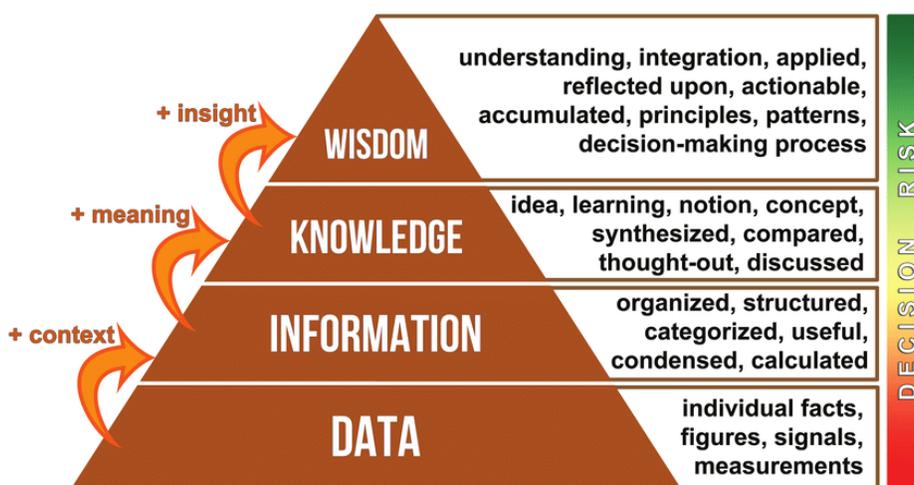
B. Scope of the knowledge management component

10. In the context of this component, knowledge management encompasses a range of processes, strategies and practices through which biodiversity knowledge, information and data are generated, discovered and collected, organized/curated, stored, shared and used/applied to achieve biodiversity-related objectives and outcomes. Such objectives may include informed policy development, decision-making, planning and implementation or ongoing organizational learning through the collection and sharing of best practices and lessons learned from past activities in order to inform or improve future activities.

11. The knowledge management component uses the following working descriptions based on the Data, Information, Knowledge and Wisdom (DIKW) hierarchy²³⁰ (see figure 1 below):

- (a) Data are raw figures, facts or products of observations which often have no meaning on their own until they are organized, processed and interpreted;
- (b) Information can be referred to as data that is organized, structured, processed and contextualized, thus making it meaningful, useful and relevant for a specific purpose or context;
- (c) Knowledge refers to information that is transformed through cognitive processing, reflection and application resulting in awareness or understanding by individuals or communities for a specific purpose or within a given context. Knowledge can be gained through learning, experience or practice;
- (d) Wisdom relates to human intuition and insight based on repeated application of knowledge and years of experience. Wisdom is often codified into beliefs, traditions, philosophies and principles. Most of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities could be considered “wisdom”.

Figure. The Data, Information, Knowledge and Wisdom (DIKW) Pyramid



²²⁹ See “Effective use of knowledge in developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” ([CBD/SBI/2/INF/33](#)).

²³⁰ Source: Rowley, J. 2007. “[The Wisdom Hierarchy: Representations of the DIKW Hierarchy.](#)”

Source: Luis O. Tedeschi, ASN-ASAS Symposium: Future of Data Analytics in Nutrition: Mathematical modelling in ruminant nutrition: approaches and paradigms, extant models, and thoughts for upcoming predictive analytics. *Journal of Animal Science*, vol. 97, Issue 5, May 2019, pp. 1921–1944, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jas/skz092>.

12. From the above definitions, it is clear that the knowledge management component encompasses, data management, information management and other related disciplines and practices, such as records management, document management, and content management. While these terms are sometimes used interchangeably, it is important to recognize that, in the context of this component, all these activities are constituent elements that contribute to different stages of the knowledge management cycle.

13. The knowledge management component complements strategies and mechanisms already in place or in the process of being developed to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These include the framework for a global communications strategy, the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, the proposals to enhance technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation.

14. This component covers various types of data, information and knowledge relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, ranging from scientific, technical, technological, legal and policy data and information to implementation-related information and knowledge, including case studies on experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biodiversity policies, plans and programmes. It also includes the decisions, recommendations and official documentation created by biodiversity-related conventions, other Rio conventions and related processes.

15. The knowledge management component seeks to enhance interoperability, accessibility and use of relevant information and knowledge management systems, tools and mechanisms to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These include but are not limited to the systems of biodiversity-related conventions, including the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, the Ramsar Sites Information Service, and the CITES Trade Database.²³¹ Others include the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA),²³² the Species Information Service of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),²³³ the United Nations Biodiversity Lab,²³⁴ the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GDPAME), the registry of territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCA Registry)²³⁵ and others.²³⁶

16. The knowledge management component also proposes actions to foster coordination, collaboration and complementarity between various initiatives and institutions supporting the generation, capture, management and use of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge and encourage global data providers to support national stakeholders and national statistical systems, which are key to national monitoring. These include: the United Nations Environment Programme’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the task force on knowledge and data under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Encyclopedia of Life (EOL), the International Barcode of Life Initiative (iBOL), the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA), the Data and Reporting Tool (DaRT), the Knowledge Hub of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Statistics Division’s Open Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Data Hub. These and other initiatives and institutions are described in information document CBD/SBI/3/INF/13.

C. Pillars of the knowledge management component

17. The knowledge management component comprises four pillars:

²³¹ <https://www.cbd.int/chm/>; <http://bch.cbd.int/>; <https://absch.cbd.int/>; <https://rsis.ramsar.org/>; and <https://trade.cites.org/>

²³² <https://www.informea.org>

²³³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/assessment/sis>

²³⁴ <https://www.unbiodiversitylab.org/>

²³⁵ See: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/>; <https://pame.protectedplanet.net> and <https://www.iccaregistry.org/>

²³⁶ These and other sources are identified in the “Compendium of guidance on key global databases related to biodiversity-related conventions” developed by UNEP-WCMC, available at <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources-and-data/biodiversitysynergies>.

(a) *People*: This includes various actors (creators, custodians, managers, curators and users of biodiversity knowledge), who are the foundation of the knowledge management component. Their roles, responsibilities and expectations need to be clarified. It is also important to promote and nurture a culture of knowledge sharing and to recognize and reward knowledge champions;

(b) *Processes*: This includes the processes, procedures and policies guiding knowledge generation, capture, management, sharing and utilization. This also entails vision, leadership and oversight, alignment of knowledge management with goals and provision of the required resources;

(c) *Technology*: Technology plays a key role in delivering and supporting knowledge management services. This includes technological tools, systems²³⁷ and platforms that enable relevant actors (the people) to collect, analyse, organize, store, retrieve and share knowledge related to biodiversity;

(d) *Content*: This entails the scope of the biodiversity knowledge content and how it is managed — the taxonomy and metadata, the tools and templates, and the analysis and validation (for quality assurance), the cataloguing, tagging and indexing, digitization and organization of the information and knowledge resources to facilitate easy search and retrieval.

18. The above four pillars are interdependent and need to be addressed in a balanced and complementary manner. Knowledge management will not be effective if only the technology aspects are addressed and not the process and people-related aspects. The knowledge management component will be closely linked to biodiversity monitoring information systems and the enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanism of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to facilitate the achievement of the targets. It will also promote a whole system approach, including raw data, such as satellite data and citizen science, processed and geospatial data, such as land cover maps, the algorithms needed to process data, indicator data, analysis and predictive analytics and insights, and publications.

II. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

19. This knowledge management component is intended to guide knowledge management by the biodiversity community in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The proposed actions will be implemented and coordinated, as appropriate, by government and non-government actors, including Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions and processes, the Convention secretariats, partner organizations and other stakeholders. The component seeks to enhance the sharing of data, information and knowledge across biodiversity-related conventions and organizations.

20. The overall goal is to facilitate and support effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through enhancing the generation, collection, organization, sharing and utilization of relevant data, information and knowledge by the global community. This would require building a culture of knowledge sharing and fostering collaborative networks and online communities of practice. It would also require analysing, sharing and leveraging experiences and lessons learned from various biodiversity knowledge management initiatives. In addition, national planning and the monitoring of national plans and commitments is essential for identifying where action is needed. The knowledge management component should directly contribute to the monitoring of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and ensure that data and indicators are at the centre of national reporting.

A. *Specific objectives*

21. The specific objectives of the knowledge management component are to enable government and non-government actors to have easy and timely access to quality data, information and knowledge to do their work and also enable the biodiversity information providers to collaborate, share and harness the information together across various platforms, treaties and related processes by:

(a) Creating enabling environments and mechanisms for improved generation, management, sharing and utilization of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge;

(b) Leveraging existing relevant biodiversity knowledge management systems, initiatives and networks through coordinated and collaborative multi-stakeholder processes;

(c) Improving discoverability and accessibility of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge across multiple sources;

²³⁷ These technologies could include web content management systems, electronic document and records management systems, collaboration tools, search engines, classification tools, and portals, as well as libraries and information centres.

- (d) Encouraging and enabling relevant stakeholders to participate in biodiversity knowledge sharing- processes and networks;
- (e) Strengthening the capacities of relevant stakeholders to access and utilize existing biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge at the national, regional and international levels;
- (f) Facilitating monitoring and assessment;
- (g) Promoting national and global data sharing and dialogues, as well open data, open metadata and quality assurance;
- (h) Enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate more coordinated national reporting.

22. These objectives are complementary to those set out in the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development (CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1), the proposals for enhancing technical and scientific cooperation (CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.2) and proposals for an enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanism of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/11).

B. Expected outcomes and milestones

23. The implementation of the knowledge management component is expected to result in:
- (a) Increased availability and accessibility of relevant data, information and knowledge at all levels;
 - (b) Increased uptake and utilization of data, information and knowledge to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
 - (c) Increased capacity of Governments and relevant stakeholders to capture, manage and utilize biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge;
 - (d) Increased number of active biodiversity knowledge management support networks and communities of practice;
 - (e) Enhanced real-time access to data and information for national planning and reporting in the context of biodiversity-related conventions and for global reviews, including in the context of IPBES;
 - (f) Increased information sharing across biodiversity-related conventions and organizations.
24. Ultimately, it is expected that the above improvements will enable Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and all stakeholders, as appropriate, to:
- (a) Improve implementation and decision-making through more effective use of available data, information and knowledge;
 - (b) Increase efficiency by accessing and leveraging previous work rather than repeating it, and learning from the experiences of others;
 - (c) Reduce inefficiencies in service delivery by getting the information needed in a timely manner or by reducing the amount of time spent searching for information;
 - (d) Improve communication and professional and organizational development by increasing learning across governments and organizations;
 - (e) Facilitate innovation by leveraging existing knowledge resources to create new products.

III. STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

25. This section outlines broad categories of strategies to be undertaken by Parties, relevant organizations and convention secretariats, as appropriate, to enhance the following stages of the knowledge management cycle in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The key specific strategic actions to facilitate the implementation of this component, including the proposed timeframes and an indicative list of lead implementers of the respective actions are presented in annex I. The proposed strategic actions are grouped under the following stages of the knowledge management cycle: knowledge generation and synthesis; knowledge discovery and collection; knowledge organization and sharing; use/application of knowledge; and knowledge audit and review to identify knowledge gaps and improve national planning and priority setting, while considering global priorities.

A. Promoting knowledge generation and synthesis

26. Knowledge generation and synthesis encompass the creation and advancement of new knowledge and the building of an evidence base, primarily through research and academic initiatives, as well as analysis of information provided by Governments, relevant organizations and other sources. Examples of organizations and processes contributing to the generation and synthesis of biodiversity-related information and knowledge include university research institutions, GEO-BON, IPBES,²³⁸ global assessments by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP-WCMC and others.

B. Facilitating knowledge discovery and collection

27. Knowledge discovery and collection are a critical element of this component.²³⁹ As knowledge generation grows and massive amounts of data, information and knowledge are stored in digital libraries and databases around the world, it becomes a challenge to identify and access them. There is a need to understand the breadth of what is being collected across the spectrum of sources and keep track of relevant sources. Some of the sources are publicly available while others are maintained as for-pay and/or private resources. There are a number of ongoing efforts to identify and compile existing sources of biodiversity data, information and knowledge, including those identified in the UNEP-WCMC compendia referred to above. Those efforts need to be broadened and expanded to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

C. Enhancing knowledge organization and sharing

28. The knowledge generated or collected must be organized, catalogued and mapped using appropriate metadata and descriptors for easy searchability, accessibility and retrieval. Key players, such as GBIF, GEO-BON, InforMEA and UNEP-WCMC, have developed standards that can be further elaborated and shared. Increasing access to information can be addressed by ensuring full and complete metadata tagging, including subject tagging of knowledge objects. Consistent use of shared terminology increases findability, as does full-text indexing. Increasing the interoperability of search systems and standardization and the use of common descriptors will allow for better findability of information.

29. While there are many existing collections of biodiversity data, information and knowledge, finding and sharing them remains difficult. In addition, not all information is made available in an open-access manner, making it difficult for all stakeholders, most especially for those in developing countries to access and use it. Further work is needed to make it easier for users to find and access available information and knowledge in comprehensible formats. The latter could be achieved by taking advantage of modern technologies to enhance data, information and knowledge integration and visualization of search results. Following international standards and best practices, biodiversity-related convention secretariats have developed a variety of “common formats” that are used to describe frequently collected information.

D. Promoting the effective use and application of knowledge

30. As noted above, collectively, Governments, organizations and other stakeholders have a wealth of biodiversity data, information and knowledge stored in databases, libraries and other repositories. However, this wealth of data is only of value if it is shared and effectively used to support biodiversity planning, policy development, decision-making, implementation, monitoring, review and reporting processes.

31. Various initiatives, such as IPBES and the Connect Project, have made progress in providing support for Governments and stakeholders to integrate biodiversity data into decision-making. The objective of the Connect Project is to ensure that biodiversity is taken into account in decision-making across government sectors by improving development decision makers’ access to and use of biodiversity information and embedding biodiversity information within national development decision-making processes. Such initiatives need to promote contextualization and utilization of existing information knowledge to support policy, planning, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

E. Conducting knowledge audits and reviews

32. Knowledge audits and reviews will be conducted periodically to assess how the knowledge management component is contributing to the achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

²³⁸ Some of the efforts are outlined in decision IPBES-7/1.

²³⁹ Knowledge discovery and collection involves searching, locating, identifying and acquiring data, information and knowledge.

to identify knowledge gaps and improve national planning and priority setting, while considering global priorities. Different methods, including the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis, will be used, as appropriate.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

33. The knowledge management component will be operationalized by Governments and relevant stakeholders in line with their strategic priorities to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Possible actions to facilitate the implementation of this component are presented in annex II. These build on the key actions for enhancing synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and international organizations in the area of information and knowledge management identified in decision [XIII/24](#). Those actions will be implemented in manner complementary to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation, the framework for a global communications strategy, the data strategy for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanism of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

34. Enhanced knowledge management will require effective collaboration, cooperation and coordination among Governments and relevant organizations in biodiversity data, information and knowledge processes. It may also require input and support from relevant institutional bodies and mechanisms to Governments and other key actors (including knowledge creators, managers, brokers, practitioners and users) involved. Such support could be provided, as appropriate, by:

(a) Existing advisory committees, such as the Steering Committee of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

(b) Advisory groups, such as the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation²⁴⁰ to be established pursuant to decision [14/24 B](#), paragraph 5;

(c) Informal networks, such as the Alliance for Biodiversity Knowledge,²⁴¹ which brings together stakeholders working on the collection, curation or sharing of biodiversity data, information and knowledge;

(d) The expanded Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) which will include more users and foster collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Commission;

(e) An informal coalition or partnership involving relevant organizations, such as UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), and GEO BON.

35. Relevant knowledge management organizations, initiatives and processes will be leveraged to support the effective implementation of the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. An interactive online database of such organizations, initiatives and processes will be established to help foster coordination, collaboration and complementarity in the generation, collection, management, sharing and use of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge.

V. MONITORING AND REVIEW

[36. The implementation of the knowledge management component will be monitored using the information provided by Parties in their national reports to the respective biodiversity-related conventions and by organizations through their voluntary submissions to the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions. A headline indicator for knowledge management will be included in the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and a complementary set of indicators which government and non-government actors can also adapt and use to monitor, assess and report on the outcomes and impact of their knowledge management efforts at the national and regional levels will be developed by the Secretariat in collaboration with experts and practitioners from Parties and relevant organizations. The information generated from the monitoring process will inform the review and updating of the knowledge management component, as appropriate, in 2030.]

²⁴⁰ See CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.2, annex II.

²⁴¹ <https://www.allianceforbio.org/>

Appendix I

STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Strategic area	Strategic action	Time frame ²⁴²	Potential contributors ²⁴³
A. Promoting knowledge generation and synthesis	(a) Identification of gaps in biodiversity knowledge and options for addressing them		
	(b) Expansion of collaboration among organizations and institutions to promote knowledge generation		
	(c) Enhancement of outreach to relevant research and academic communities and other institutions to encourage them to share relevant research data, information and knowledge		
	(d) Developing local and national capacity for knowledge generation through citizen science by incentivizing the collection of data, information and knowledge at the local level		
	(e) Enhancement of the use of all types of big data, including remote sensing and IoT, as well as ensuring data standards and sharing		
B. Facilitating knowledge discovery and collection	(a) Development or enhancement of web-based tools to identify and collect information and knowledge from various sources in an interactive, real-time and user-friendly manner ²⁴⁴		
	(b) Promotion of knowledge discovery tools and techniques, including data mining and machine learning tools, as appropriate		
	(c) Engagement of relevant stakeholders, including knowledge creators, brokers and users in implementing agencies, conservation organizations, academic institutions, and others at the national and subnational levels in the creation and collation of knowledge		
	(d) Identification, collection and sharing, where authorized, of traditional knowledge from indigenous peoples and local communities as well as women's knowledge, in an appropriate way and with clear acknowledgements of the source ²⁴⁵		
C. Enhancing knowledge organization and sharing	(a) Continued improvement of metadata quality, tagging and mapping of knowledge objects from biodiversity-related conventions through InforMEA and other sources to allow for increased findability		
	(b) Development, publicization and promotion of standards for metadata quality and tagging of biodiversity		

²⁴² The timeframe for the different strategic actions will be completed after discussions at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

²⁴³ This column will be completed after the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and following voluntary expressions of interest from relevant partner organizations to contribute to the agreed strategic actions.

²⁴⁴ These may include tools identified in the [UNEP-WCMC compendia](#).

²⁴⁵ The Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, and the IPBES task force on indigenous and local knowledge could play a role in this regard.

	information and knowledge resources to ensure quality and compatibility		
	(c) Improvement of interoperability of information and knowledge systems of biodiversity-related conventions and other information providers across the biodiversity community		
	(d) Promotion of outreach for and development of bioinformatics and descriptive metadata training modules, in conjunction with existing capacity-development projects and plans at the international, national and subnational levels, aimed at increasing related competencies		
	(e) Promotion of voluntary guidance to improve accessibility to biodiversity data, information and knowledge		
	(f) Strengthening the capacity of Governments to efficiently manage and share information and knowledge across conventions, among other things, through making use of tools, such as the Data Reporting tool (DaRT) and the adoption of coherent and synergistic approaches		
	(g) Development of more scalable biodiversity observation data that allows for both the unbiased aggregation of national data and disaggregation of global data utilizing common standards		
	(h) Provision of guidance to governments and non-government actors on how to incentivize the engagement of various actors in knowledge management, particularly to develop a better culture of knowledge sharing and application		
D. Promoting the effective use of knowledge	(a) Development of a change management strategy, including communication and marketing, to increase the uptake, utilization and application of existing biodiversity data, information and knowledge		
	(b) Promotion and facilitation of the sharing of experience in the use of information and knowledge, including through communities of practice		
	(c) Engagement of a broader range of stakeholders in the use of new knowledge sharing tools, including social media		
	(d) Creation of mechanisms and initiatives to facilitate ongoing dialogue between the research community and policymakers, decision makers and practitioners		
	(e) Establishment of linkages between scientific and citizens' networks and communication experts to enable the translation of scientific outcomes into knowledge products		
	(f) Promotion and facilitation of the use of biodiversity data, information and knowledge in the planning processes of other sectors and in a cross-departmental way within governments		
E. Conducting knowledge audits and reviews	(a) Undertaking periodic knowledge management surveys to assess, among other things, the types of information and knowledge they seek most frequently, the ease of access to the information they need, existing knowledge gaps, level of knowledge-sharing and the channels they prefer		

	(b) Analysis of major knowledge gaps and identification of options to address them		
	(c) Comprehensive review of the knowledge management component		

Appendix II

STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

Strategic area	Strategic action	Time frame	Contributors
A. Capacity-building in data, information and knowledge management	(a) Strengthen the capacity of relevant institutions in bioinformatics, information and knowledge management, including through education, training and mentoring of experts and young scientists		
	(b) Support Governments to put in place enabling policies and laws, institutional arrangements and incentives for knowledge management		
	(c) Provide information and guidance on knowledge management and national database development, and share experience in data access and use		
	(d) Support Governments and, in accordance with national legislation, relevant stakeholders, in accessing existing knowledge sources		
	(e) Undertake an analysis of gaps in existing information and knowledge management tools and approaches supporting biodiversity management efforts		
	(f) Undertake a gap analysis on national knowledge management expertise and needs, including capacity development on knowledge management in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as appropriate		
B. Network and partnership development	(a) Catalyse and strengthen international and regional networks on biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge management		
	(b) Promote collaboration in biodiversity data, information and knowledge-sharing, including enhancing harmonization and interoperability between relevant information systems initiatives		
	(c) Enhance biodiversity monitoring through cooperation to improve the acquisition, delivery and use of Earth observation data and related services		
	(d) Identify, publicize, link and strengthen centres of expertise, communities of practice and other knowledge sources		
	(e) Enhance outreach and collaboration among key stakeholders – academia, indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments and national Government institutions		
C. Identification and promotion of best practices	(a) Facilitate the sharing of relevant information, success stories and best practices in information and knowledge management		
	(b) Identify, map and publicize existing relevant biodiversity		

and resources	data, information and knowledge sources		
	(c) Identify, promote and facilitate the implementation and scaling up of innovative knowledge management tools		
	(d) Promote the use of relevant case studies on information management		

13 C. Communication

The following is taken from recommendation 3/18 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

[*The Conference of the Parties,*

1. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness²⁴⁶ until 2030, and extend its membership, [in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties,] to representatives nominated by Parties, considering regional balance, to indigenous peoples and local communities and ensure continued representation of youth organizations [and participants in the “Communications Flotilla”];²⁴⁷

2. *Also decides* that the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, subject to the availability of resources, will hold at least one [in-person] meeting during the biennium[, as well as virtual meetings, when needed];

[3. *Requests* the [Executive Secretary, with the support of the] Informal Advisory Committee on Communication Education and Public Awareness to [promote the use of] [draft] action-oriented key messages to inform and mobilize action from all actors, private and public for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;]

[4. [*Encourages*] [*Invites*] Parties and invites all stakeholders to use/share the communications messages through relevant [national]media channels and social media, especially action-oriented messages, in order to inform and mobilize action from all actors, private and public, and [to mobilize sufficient and predictable human and financial resources to carry out these tasks [in accordance with [national circumstances and]Article 20 of the Convention]]];]

[5. *Welcomes* the efforts by Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders to foster wide public support for a strong post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including through the global coalition of organizations, museums, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, national parks and protected areas, research centres and universities from around the world under the banner “United For Biodiversity;”]

[6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to work on the activities listed in the note by the Executive Secretary,²⁴⁸ in particular the annual celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity, the CEPA Fair, development of social media, and communication platforms for engagement with stakeholders and partners, and further develop these activities, in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, in particular to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

[7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to develop additional communication activities in coordination and complementarity with the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness, the outreach and awareness-raising provisions of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

²⁴⁶ Decision VII/24, paragraph 4(ii); decision VIII/6, para. 9.

²⁴⁷ The “Communications Flotilla” is understood to be an ad hoc informal group encompassing Parties to the Convention, United Nations agencies, secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, civil society organizations, youth, women and indigenous peoples and local communities that meets to share information and coordinate on communication and outreach issues relating to biodiversity and the Convention. Participation is open and voluntary, and discussions do not produce formal binding decisions.

²⁴⁸ CBD/SBI/3/9

the United Nations Decade on Restoration²⁴⁹ the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development²⁵⁰ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among other things;²⁵¹]

8. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, within available resources, in coordination with Parties and stakeholders, to support the range of communications activities needed for the following initiatives in the upcoming biennium:

(a) Implementation of the communications strategy, which is accompanying the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, developed pursuant to decision 14/34, as contained in [decision CBD/COP/15/--] [in particular key messages agreed by Parties];

(b) Update of the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness for the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Committee for Communication, Education and Public Awareness, and submit it to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(c) Corporate communications for the Secretariat, including resources to support a dynamic and growing use of social media, support for traditional media outreach, the continued work to redesign the website, and development of new and ongoing communications campaigns;

[9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to work with partners such as those in the “Communications Flotilla” and the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, stakeholders, relevant United Nations programmes and agencies, and multilateral environmental agreements, in view of awareness-raising and action-oriented communication, among other things;]

10. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a progress report on all these activities for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.]

²⁴⁹ See General Assembly resolution [73/284](#).

²⁵⁰ See General Assembly resolution [72/73](#).

²⁵¹ See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

Item 14. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

The following is taken from recommendation 3/11 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 6, 23, and 26 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions IX/8, X/2, X/10, XI/10, XIII/27, 14/27 and 14/34,

Further recalling decision 14/29, in which it recognized that implementation by Parties and underlying commitments needed to be strengthened to bring the global community on a path towards achieving the 2050 Vision laid out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,²⁵² emphasizing that national reports, provided for in Article 26 of the Convention, continue to be a core element for reviewing progress in implementation as part of the multidimensional review approach, and recognizing that elements of the multidimensional review approach under the Convention should be technically sound, objective, transparent, collaborative and constructive and aim to facilitate enhanced efforts by Parties,

Recalling that national biodiversity strategies and action plans are the main instrument for implementing the Convention at the national level and that national reports are the main instrument for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Noting with concern the limited progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and emphasizing the need to enhance implementation at all levels and by all sectors of society to achieve the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, [taking into consideration national circumstances],

[1. *Adopts* an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review with a view to enhancing implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, comprising [elements related to planning, reporting and review as well as stakeholder and non-State actor engagement and means of implementation];]

2. *Encourages* Parties to apply the adopted post-2020 gender plan of action in all aspects and at all scales of planning, implementation, reporting and review related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

Planning

[3. *Adopts* the guidance for revising and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in annex I [including the template [for [reporting] [communicating] on national targets];]

4. *Request* Parties to revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, following the guidance provided in annex I, aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [by COP-16] and urges Parties to submit them through the clearing-house mechanism [by COP-16];

[5. [*Requests*] [*Urges*] Parties to submit their NBSAPs through the clearing-house mechanism [by COP-16], or in the event that NBSAPs cannot be updated and communicated [in time for consideration[by COP-16,]] to communicate [report] national targets [and actions] [reflecting all the goals and targets of][related to] the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in a consistent format and in accordance with the reporting template provided in annex I, this should be a component of the NBSAP [or a standalone submission] in the event that the NBSAP is not to be updated [in time for consideration at [by COP-16]]];]

²⁵² Decision [X/2](#), annex.

[5alt. *Request* Parties to revise and update their national targets and corresponding implementation efforts within one year of COP-16 and requests Parties when updating their NBSAPs, communicating them through the clearing-house mechanism, or revising their national targets, to increase national ambitions and efforts as appropriate;]

[5alt2. *Requests* Parties, in the event that the NBSAP would not be updated and communicated through the clearing-house mechanism by COP-16, in accordance with the guidance and the template in annex I, to report national targets related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework within one year from the adoption of the global biodiversity framework, increasing national ambition and efforts in accordance with the template in annex I;]

6. *Encourages* all Parties to use the headline indicators, supplemented by component and complementary indicators and other national indicators in relevant national planning processes, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans, [taking into account the different visions and approaches of each country to achieve sustainable development] according to their national circumstances;

Reporting

[7. *Adopts* the guidelines for the seventh and eighth national reports contained in annex II, including the reporting template;]

8. *Requests* Parties to submit their seventh national report by [30 June 2024][30 June 2025] and their eighth national report by [30 June 2029], as per Article 26 of the Convention, including information on progress on implementation of the NBSAPs [and on all global goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework] using the template provided in [annex II] Error! Bookmark not defined. [subject to the revision of adequate financial resources provided by developed Parties in line with Article 20;]

9. *Encourages* Parties, [on a voluntary basis,] to collaborate, where appropriate, with other reporting processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals and [biodiversity related] multilateral environment agreement reporting by using a modular data reporting tool [such as DART];

[10. [*Requests*][*decides* that] all Parties [will][to] use headline indicators, as set out in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework adopted in decision 15/-, in their national reports [except for headline indicators that are not applicable at the national level], and supplemented, as appropriate, by optional component and complementary indicators also included therein and other national indicators [providing flexibility in the implementation of this paragraph to [developing] countries in light of their capacities];]

[11. *Decides* that [developed country] Parties shall provide information on financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building provided to developing country Parties under Articles 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of the Convention and decides that developed country Parties shall biennially communicate indicative qualitative and quantitative information related to the provision of financial resources to assist developing countries in meeting the incremental costs of implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including projected levels of financial resources to be provided to developing country Parties;]

Review

[12. *Decides* to undertake a global [review] [analysis] of the level of [achievement][collective ambition] [as expressed in NBSAPs] [on [national] targets, implementation, progress achieved, and on support being and to be provided by developed countries to developing countries] [, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention,] [as expressed in national targets in NBSAPs] [and supplemented by additional information as appropriate] [or separate from them] [and action][taking into account] [including] [as well as] voluntary commitments by non-state actors [avoiding double counting of efforts between Parties and non-State actors] towards the global goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and identify any gaps in [ambition] [means of implementation] for the consideration of Parties with a review [for enhancing ambition] [at COP-16 and updates every subsequent COP];]

[13. *Decides* to conduct a periodic [global biodiversity stocktake][intergovernmental dialogue], [including means of implementation,] of collective progress, based on national reports, in implementation of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in a comprehensive, and facilitative manner, [which should be followed by a ratcheting up of implementation,] based on the following sources:

- (a) [A compilation of] national reports;
- (b) Information contained in the NBSAP, [including analysis of ambition];
- [(c) Relevant analyses of ambition;]
- [(d) Review of progress based on NBSAPs;]
- (e) Information on the mobilization and provision of support for implementation [provision of finance and means of implementation in accordance with Article 20;]
- (f) Regional and subregional reviews;
- (g) Reports from voluntary country-by-country peer reviews [and expert reviews];
- (h) Relevant [intergovernmentally reviewed,] scientific assessments and reports, [considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice] including by those by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* as well as the knowledge of indigenous people and local communities;
- (i) [Reports of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;]
- (j) Headline, component and complementary indicators [reported by Parties, aggregated] at the global level, as appropriate, and other relevant sources of information;
- (k) Other relevant information to be decided at a later stage by the Conference of the Parties.]

[14. *Decides* to mandate the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to develop the concrete procedures for a [global biodiversity stocktake][review][intergovernmental dialogue] [to be undertaken according to the needs of reflecting on the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the CBD Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature] [for submission to [COP-16][COP-17] and to continue to prepare global stocktakes for every alternative COP thereafter].]

[15. Parties should *revise* or update their NBSAPs after each [periodic review][periodic global [biodiversity] stocktake] with a view to further enhancing their efforts to implement the global biodiversity framework and the Convention;]

15 *alt.* [Further requests Parties, in the event that the NBSAP is not further updated following the stocktake at COP-17 and communicated through the clearing-house mechanism in line with the guidance in annex I, to report in accordance with the template include in annex I, an update of the national targets and/or communicate corresponding implementation efforts within one year from COP-17, increasing the level of ambition and implementation as appropriate;]

[16. *Adopts* the modus operandi of the open-ended forum of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation contained in annex III, recognizing that it [will be conducted by Parties on a voluntary basis] complements the voluntary peer review included in the multidimensional review approach under the Convention referred to in decision 14/29;]

[16 *alt.* [Voluntary] Country-by-country peer [or expert] reviews of implementation [through][followed by] an open-ended forum [to share experience and lessons learned] which will provide every Party with the opportunity to participate at least [once] [twice] during the period 2021-2030 [in accordance with guidance adopted by COP [15][16]] [as well as Voluntary Peer Review to promote the sharing of experiences by Parties];]

[17. *Decides* to organize a high-level political segment as an element of the global [review][stocktake];]

[18. *Invites* Parties hosting future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to include, as part of their high-level segment, a high-level review of progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework];

[19. *Decides* that the headline indicators²⁵³ reported by Parties in the national reports will be used in [global assessments] [global [biodiversity] stocktakes] [global reviews] to monitor progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [, complemented, [by global indicators], as appropriate, [as well as] by the component and complementary indicators and the relevant indicators from the Sustainable Development Goal global indicator framework [this process should be developed progressively by Parties and taking into account the provisions and means of implementation, for strengthening the knowledge management capabilities of national systems of information];]

[20. *Decides* that the global stocktake referred to in paragraph X shall:

(a) Review the adequacy, effectiveness, transparency and predictability of means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation, for developing countries and assess the implementation of relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular Articles 16,18, 19, 20 and 21;

(b) Review the costs and resources needed to implement the goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF, taking into account the specific challenges and financial constraints faced by developing country Parties;

(c) Consider relevant information provided by developed country Parties related to public biodiversity finance referred to in paragraph X.]

Stakeholder and non-state actor engagement

21. [*Encourages*] [*Calls on*] Parties:

[(a) To include in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, relevant actions to implement commitments and recommendations under each of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to which they are a Party;]

(b) To facilitate, as appropriate, engagement with and coordination among focal points for other [multilateral environment agreements][biodiversity-related agreements] and the Rio conventions];

(c) To enable the full and effective participation and engagement of women, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, all levels of government and stakeholders from all other relevant sectors, in all levels of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan development and implementation as well as the preparation of seventh and eighth national reports and [in voluntary country-by-country peer [or expert review] processes];

(d) To further ensure consultations in order to obtain the prior and informed consent, free, prior and informed consent or approval and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities[, as appropriate and applicable,] in their engagement and participation in national biodiversity strategy and action plan development [and national targets] and related to measures that may affect them.

22. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to cooperate at the regional and international levels in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

23. *Recognizes* that other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements will contribute to the implementation with respect to relevant or corresponding elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework consistent with their mandates and priorities;

²⁵³ Refer to decision 15/-- on the monitoring framework under agenda item 9B.

[24. *[[Welcomes][Adopts]* the template for sharing [additional] voluntary non-State actor commitments that contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be included in the online platform for the in the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People in annex IV;

[25. *Invites* [as appropriate and applicable] indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, other multilateral environmental agreements, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, research organizations, the business and finance community and representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, [to integrate] to develop [,on a voluntary basis] commitments [on the NBSAPs] [consistent with NBSAPs] in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, [and] *[[using the template provided in annex IV,] [and] [to share] [to register]* them on the online platform for the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, [through a standardized reporting as appropriate] and [to report on their implementation] [to update information on progress made];]

Means of implementation

26. *[Invites][Requests][Decides that]* [developed country Parties] [and other][all] Parties in a position to do so] [to][shall] provide financial resources and other means of implementation, including capacity-building and development, technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation, to [enable][support] implementation [, especially for][by][developing country Parties [who need support in the light of their capacity]] of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework referred to paragraph X, [in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention];

[27. *Urges* developed country Parties to fulfil their commitments under Article 20 and 21;²⁵⁴]

28. *Invites* relevant international, regional, subregional or national organizations to support countries in the updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the preparation of national reports, including through the provision of relevant data, support for implementation of the monitoring framework and information and capacity development activities;

29. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the operationalization of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review set out in paragraph 1, including, as appropriate, by:

[(a) Supporting the use of the guidelines in annexes I, II, III and IV;]

[(a *alt*) Supporting the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the further development of the guidelines in annexes I, II, III and IV;]

(b) Further developing the online reporting tool for national reports on the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;

(c) Further developing the online decision-tracking tool;

(d) Further developing a mechanism for tracking commitments of non-State actors, including voluntary online reporting in accordance with the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People;

(e) Facilitating of the voluntary use of modular tools for data reporting [, such as the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT)];

[(f) Coordinating the preparation of [analyses of collective ambition and] global [reviews][stocktakes];]

²⁵⁴ To be aligned with the decision on item 12 (Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism).

(g) Coordinating and collaborating with [developed country Parties and] relevant partners to provide necessary capacity [building][development] and other support to [developing countries to] improve planning, monitoring, review and reporting.

[30. *Requests*] *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and its agencies to make [adequate] funds available in a timely and expeditious manner to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States as well as Parties with economies in transition, to support the updating or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as per the guidelines in [annex I] and to support the preparation of national reports as per the guidelines in [annex II,] so that Parties may begin implementation as soon as possible after the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;²⁵⁵

[31. *Welcomes* the financial and in-kind contributions [name of donors] to initiatives intended to contribute to the support of the updating or revision of NBSAPs and invites donors, Governments and multilateral and bilateral agencies to make funds to support planning, monitoring, review and reporting to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including for the development of national monitoring and information management systems.]

Annex I

DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR REVISING OR UPDATING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN THE LIGHT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the main vehicle for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level. They are expected to be a key component of the enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting, and review mechanism of the Convention for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The present document provides guidance on revising or updating NBSAPs in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This guidance is in line with Article 6 of the Convention and complements previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties on various aspects of NBSAPs (in particular decision IX/8, para. 8, and decision X/2, para. 3). This guidance also takes into account calls to integrate and mainstream biosafety and access and benefit-sharing in NBSAPs pursuant to relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.²⁵⁶

2. NBSAPs should be seen as an umbrella process under which all national targets and actions relevant to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework can be planned, implemented, monitored, reviewed and enhanced. NBSAPs are the main instrument through which Parties establish and communicate their national ambition to contribute to the achievement of global biodiversity goals and targets. They should involve and facilitate the engagement of all government sectors at all levels of government, and all stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth across society to ensure that targets, actions and expected outcomes are coordinated, that the concerns of different actors are addressed, and that their ownership and commitment towards implementation are attained. The NBSAP should promote synergies and planning across other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).²⁵⁷ Additionally, the NBSAP process should garner high-level political support, ensure interministerial coordination and vertical integration, and facilitate implementation. NBSAP revision or updating processes should be of a progressive nature, meaning that each NBSAP revision should be more ambitious than its predecessor.

3. Countries are encouraged to adopt the revised or updated NBSAPs as policy and/or legal instruments and to integrate them (or elements thereof) into broader strategies and plans, such as national sustainable development plans, national development plans, and poverty reduction strategies.

4. The NBSAPs should be considered living documents which can be revised or updated as needed without interrupting implementation. National implementation of the Convention should continue while Parties revise or update

²⁵⁵ To be aligned with the decision on item 12 (Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism).

²⁵⁶ Decision 14/31, decision CP-VIII/15, decision BS-VII/5, decision NP-I/6, decision NP-I/7, decision NP-I/8.

²⁵⁷ Note that a number of biodiversity-related MEAs have requested Parties to mainstream the implementation of their convention into the NBSAPs (e.g. resolution 8.18 of the Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar resolution XIII.5).

their NBSAPs to align them with the new global biodiversity framework. All efforts must be made to ensure this continuity, as not doing so may entail a loss of time for implementation.

Conditions for revised or updated NBSAPs

5. In accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, the revision and/or updating of NBSAPs, including the corresponding national targets, should be self-determined by each Party, recognizing the need for flexibility, particularly for developing country Parties.

6. With a view to addressing the specific challenges faced by developing countries and enhancing the transparency and responsibility regarding means of implementation, NBSAPs should:

- (a) Promote transparency, accuracy, completeness, consistency and comparability;
- (b) Ensure responsibility regarding the provision of means of implementation to developing countries, in line with the provisions of the Convention, in particular Articles 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21;
- (c) Provide flexibility to developing country Parties, taking into account their capacity, technical, technological and/or financial gaps;
- (d) Promote improved implementation and transparency over time, in a cooperative and flexible manner, avoiding placing undue burden on Parties.

Recommended common elements of post-2020 revised or updated NBSAPs

7. Revised or updated NBSAPs following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should contain the following set of minimum common elements in order to ensure their utility in the enhanced implementation, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism, while retaining their flexibility and their role as national implementation vehicles:

(a) National targets aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and communicated in a standardized format (see the template below): In the post-2020 period, Parties will be requested to set (or adjust) national targets as a contribution to the post-2020 global goals and targets. National targets should address each one of the targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and their alignment should be explicit, taking into account the provision of finance and means of implementation. Accordingly, some Parties may wish to distinguish those targets and actions that will be implemented with already identified resources from those which they will only be able to achieve or implement if additional resources become available. National targets may leverage commitments made under other intergovernmental processes, such as the other multilateral environmental agreements, including the Rio conventions.²⁵⁸ Parties should be ready to adapt or enhance their national targets as needed in the light of the results of the global reviews of implementation (“stocktakes”) (both of ambition and of implementation) without reducing the initial level of ambition;

(b) Concrete action plans: All NBSAPs should contain concrete actions planned to meet their national targets and contribute to the global goals and targets, including spatial, temporal and financial aspects, as appropriate. The NBSAPs should be developed in consultation with the actors responsible for implementation in order to secure their buy-in and engagement. The resources necessary for implementation, as well as financial gaps and constraints, should be identified through the development of a national biodiversity finance plan, or similar instrument. In the case of developed countries, this should also include the provision of finance and other means of implementation for developing countries according to Article 20 of the Convention;

(c) National monitoring, reviewing and assessment: While revising or updating the NBSAP, headline indicators as well as component, complementary and other national indicators where relevant should be used, taking into account national circumstances. The NBSAP should identify the relevant agencies responsible for collecting the data and compiling these indicators, any need for further development of such indicators, and any capacity development needs. The implementation of the NBSAP, including concrete actions taken and their impacts, progress towards national targets, and contributions towards global targets, should be regularly monitored and reviewed using these indicators. This review and assessment should feed into the seventh and eighth national reports (and national reports under the Protocols, where relevant), the global stocktake, and the country-by-country reviews. It should inform the

²⁵⁸ Examples include the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>) and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), and subnational and other actor commitments featured in the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, the Cities With Nature initiative, and the Business for Nature initiative, among others.

adaptation/enhancement of national targets and possible future revisions or updates of the NBSAP based on lessons learned and on the outcomes of the global biodiversity stocktake. National monitoring, review and assessment includes monitoring of the global targets which refer to or relate to topics addressed under specific obligations of developed countries vis-à-vis developing countries within the Convention, and use of indicators capturing the implementation of related provisions of the Convention and provision of support for developing country Parties.

Process and timeline for revising and/or updating NBSAPs in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

8. All Parties should revise and/or update their NBSAP to align it with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as soon as possible, but no later than the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

9. In order to minimize the time and resources required to revise or update NBSAPs, upon the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, Parties should assess their NBSAPs and their existing national targets to determine the extent to which they are already aligned with the new framework.²⁵⁹ This assessment should be completed within six months of the adoption of the new framework and should consider, according to national circumstances, elements such as implementation gaps, existing goals, targets and indicators, monitoring systems (including existing data and knowledge systems), sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, finance and other means of implementation, and an assessment of how stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth were involved in revision and implementation. This exercise will allow Parties to identify those aspects or components of their NBSAPs that need to be revised or updated in the light of the new framework.

10. Updated national targets in a standardized format should be submitted within one year of the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, using the template included at the end of this annex.²⁶⁰ This will allow for their use in a global review of the aggregate ambition in time for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In the cases where existing national targets are already aligned with the new framework, it will be sufficient to enter them into the template, link them to the new global targets, and explain their alignment. New national targets will also need to be linked to the global targets and their contribution explained. In the event that NBSAPs cannot be fully revised or updated, and submitted together with the national targets, they may be submitted in a second instalment by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

11. The concrete actions that are planned in order to achieve the national targets can be adapted/developed either at the same time as the targets or as a second step after they have been established. The development of these actions should go hand in hand with the identification of financing and capacity gaps and the development of national finance plans, or similar instruments, as well as capacity-building and development plans so that all planned actions have corresponding cost assessments, funding sources, and capacities needed identified.

12. The complete NBSAP, including national targets, actions and other components, should be submitted through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention no later than the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

13. Parties are encouraged to review, and as necessary revise or update, their national targets and actions after each periodic global review by the Conference of the Parties (“stocktake”) with a view to further enhancing their ambition and efforts to implement the global biodiversity framework and the Convention, and to revise or update their NBSAPs accordingly, where necessary.

14. Parties are encouraged to use a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to revise or update, implement and review their NBSAPs. They should develop, enhance and/or maintain a national coordination mechanism, including representatives of key government ministries and authorities (including at the subnational and local levels), national gender and biodiversity focal points, traditional knowledge focal points, national focal points for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio conventions and for the Sustainable Development Goals, representatives of national statistical institutes and other data holders, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, women’s groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, citizens at large, and stakeholders, taking into account, as appropriate, annex IV (on stakeholder and non-State actor engagement).

²⁵⁹ The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has made available, as of June 2022, Early Action Grants for developing country Parties to undertake this exercise. These grants are separate and additional to enabling activity support which is available to developing country Parties as part of the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.

²⁶⁰ An online tool, connected to the online national reporting tool, will be made available for this purpose.

15. The NBSAP should be mainstreamed with the national sustainable development plan, the national development plan, the poverty reduction strategy, and other relevant national cross-sectoral plans, and with subnational plans. This implies both that the NBSAP should integrate relevant actions that contribute to these plans and strategies, and that these plans and strategies should integrate relevant actions that contribute to the NBSAP and its national targets.

16. Synergies among the NBSAP and the planning and implementation mechanisms of the other biodiversity-related conventions, Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and the Sustainable Development Goals should be identified and utilized to maximize efficiency and coherence.

17. Information on commitments from non-State actors may be a useful source of information for revising or updating NBSAPs. Additionally, Parties may include these commitments in their national targets, or they could be maintained as separate commitments from actors beyond the national Government, as appropriate to national circumstances. Double counting of commitments from non-State actors should be avoided.

DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL TARGETS AS PART OF NBSAPS²⁶¹ TOWARD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

NATIONAL TARGETS			
National target 1 Full name/title of national target	Alignment with global targets	Degree of alignment	Notes
<p>_____</p> <p>—</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal D</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Global target 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Global target 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enabling conditions and/or other non-target elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework <i>(Please specify)</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ...</p>	<p><i>This table is to be repeated for each of the national targets.</i></p> <p><i>Please check all relevant national targets and indicate their degree of alignment with the global targets.</i></p> <p>High = covers all aspects of the global target;</p> <p>Medium = covers most elements of the global target;</p> <p>Low = covers at least one element of the global target</p>
	<p>Please outline the main policy measures or actions that will be taken to achieve this national target. <i>(optional)</i></p>		

²⁶¹ This information will be collected through the online reporting tool and it will also be utilized in the national reporting template.

NATIONAL TARGETS		
	<p>Indicators to be used to monitor this national target</p> <p><u>National indicators</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>...</p> <p><u>Headline indicators</u> <i>(drop-down menu of headline indicators for the global targets indicated above)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Component indicators</u> <i>(drop-down menu of component indicators for the global targets indicated above)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Complementary indicators</u> <i>(drop-down menu of complementary indicators for the global targets indicated above)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	
	<p>Baseline against which progress toward this national target will be measured</p>	
	<p>Resources for implementation</p> <p>Please indicate if the implementation/attainment of this national target is dependent on the provision/attainment of means of implementation or if this target is to be implemented with already-secured national or other resources.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dependent on additional funding</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Funding already secured</p> <p>Please explain briefly (optional)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My country can provide implementation support to other Parties for this global target.</p>	

NATIONAL TARGETS		
	Please explain briefly (<i>optional</i>)	
	<p>Links with non-State actor commitments</p> <p>Are there any overlaps or links between this national target and targets or commitments of subnational governments, or other actors beyond national Governments?</p> <p>If “Yes”, please indicate which commitment(s) and which actor(s).</p>	<p><i>This entry would be only for <u>joint activities</u> involving the national Government <u>and</u> others. This box would be used to reduce double counting.</i></p>

GLOBAL GOALS/TARGETS			
Global goals and targets	National target(s) contributing to this global target	Elements of the global targets addressed by national targets	Notes
Global target 1 (full name/title)	<i>(Automatically generated list from Party's input in the national targets table)</i>	<i>(Pre-populated list of main elements of the global target)</i> Please check all the elements of the global target that will be addressed by your country's national targets: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<i>This table is to be repeated for each global goal and target</i> <i>Response is required for each of the global targets</i>
	National ambition toward global target My country's national targets <input type="checkbox"/> Exceed <input type="checkbox"/> Equal <input type="checkbox"/> Do(es) not equal the ambition of this global target.		

Annex II

DRAFT GUIDANCE AND TEMPLATE FOR THE SEVENTH NATIONAL REPORT

- Parties are required by Article 26 of the Convention to submit national reports to the Conference of the Parties on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention. The seventh national reports are due by [30 June 2025].²⁶² Given the time required to prepare, approve and submit a national report, Parties are encouraged to start preparing their national reports well before the deadline.
- The seventh and eighth national reports should provide an assessment of progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including progress towards national targets in the NBSAP as revised or updated in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and Parties' contributions to progress in implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, using the most up-to-date data and information from appropriate sources, including headline indicators as well as component and complementary indicators, and other national indicators, where relevant. Other sources may include any recent reviews of national implementation or other national assessments, in particular any review of the implementation of NBSAPs, that provide a basis for developing national ambition or targets and/or revising or updating NBSAPs to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Parties could use information from earlier national reports as appropriate. The seventh national report may cover the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and existing NBSAPs, as the seventh national report covers the period prior to and after 2020. The template for the eighth national report will be adjusted, if needed, while ensuring maximum consistency with that for the seventh national report while benefiting from any lessons learned from the seventh national reporting cycle.

²⁶² This will be confirmed by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

3. Further to decision 14/27, in which the Conference of the Parties decided that the submission of the next reports under the Convention and its Protocols would be synchronized, Parties should involve the respective national focal points for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols (if different from the primary national focal point for the Convention) in the preparation of the national report. In addition, Parties are encouraged to involve relevant stakeholders in the preparation of their national report, taking into account their national circumstances. Parties are also encouraged to involve the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio conventions, as well as the national focal points for the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant international and regional conventions. Parties are further encouraged to use national reports, reviews or communications submitted under relevant conventions and in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals as important information for assessing progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

4. The actions taken by non-State actors will also contribute to implementation of national and global targets and, therefore, could be reflected in the national report where relevant and appropriate, including the voluntary commitments made in the context of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.

Structure and format of the seventh national report and use of the reports

5. The seventh national report format contains six sections:²⁶³

Section I	Executive summary of the report;
Section II	Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report;
Section III	Status of the revised or updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
Section IV	Assessment of progress towards the 2050 goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; ²⁶⁴
Section V	Assessment of progress towards national targets and contributions to progress towards the 2030 action targets; ⁴
Section VI	Conclusions on the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
Annex	Information as requested in related decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. ²⁶⁵

6. To facilitate the preparation of the seventh national report, each section of the report will use a standardized template that contains specific questions with a choice of possible answers or specific requests for substantive information. There is also space to provide narrative information to further substantiate the answers given in a focused and succinct manner. In addition, Parties are encouraged to provide links to relevant websites and publications where additional information, including metadata for indicators, may be found, reducing the need to include this information directly in the national report.

7. A resource manual will be prepared before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide further guidance and explanations on the use of the template and containing links to potential sources of information for the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports. Other supporting materials and tools will be developed or enhanced as needed before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to support the preparation of the report.

²⁶³ More sections may be added subject to a decision at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Parties could include, on a voluntary basis, in a separate section of this report, an assessment or a review of implementation carried out for national use. The template for the eighth national report may contain most of the sections presented here, with adjustments to some sections.

²⁶⁴ Note that reporting on the implementation of goal D and some targets will include detailed assessments of capacity, technical, technological, institutional and financial gaps and constraints and of support provided for the implementation of the Convention; however, gaps may also be covered in assessment of progress towards other goals and targets.

²⁶⁵ List of the information to be included in the seventh national report; the list will be updated for the eighth national report according to relevant decisions at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

8. The information contained in the seventh national report *will support a* midterm review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by the Conference of the Parties, *the revision or updating of the NBSAPs, and other relevant reviews and assessments.*

Use of indicators for monitoring and reporting

9. To facilitate global aggregation and analysis of progress, headline indicators, agreed in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, should, as far as possible, be used in national reports. Countries are also encouraged to use optional component and complementary indicators as referenced in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as well as other relevant national indicators, as appropriate. It should be noted that the inclusion of headline indicators is flexible in recognition of data gaps and specific contexts, particularly in developing countries.

Enhancing synergies in reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions and in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals

10. As indicated above, Parties are encouraged to involve the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, as well as the national focal points for the Sustainable Development Goals, when preparing the national report. Parties are also encouraged to use the clearing-house mechanism/Bioland tool. The voluntary Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (DaRT) developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is also available to Parties.

Submission of the report

11. To facilitate the preparation and submission of the seventh national report, the online reporting tool for the sixth national report will be further improved for use by Parties. The online reporting tool will be accessible on the clearing-house mechanism²⁶⁶ of the Convention and will allow multiple national authorized users to draft elements of the national report and submit them for review and internal approval before formal submission by a national publishing authority. The tool will allow Parties to submit parts of the national report as they are finalized or submit the entire report once all the sections are completed. The tool will also allow Parties to accept data on relevant headline indicators that are pre-filled from relevant regional/global data sets. For those Parties with limited Internet access or which prefer to submit their national reports in document form, an offline version of the reporting templates will be made available. If the national report is submitted in document form, it should be accompanied by an official letter or an email message from the national focal point for the Convention or a senior Government official responsible for the implementation of the Convention. Parties not using the online reporting tool may send their seventh national report to the main email address of the Secretariat (secretariat@cbd.int).

DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR THE SEVENTH NATIONAL REPORT

Section I. Executive summary of the report

Please provide an executive summary of the report by highlighting its key findings, including the main outcomes of implementation and key challenges encountered.

Summary of progress towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the 2050 goals and 2030 action targets	
Summary of the current status and trends of biodiversity in your country, in particular the main drivers of biodiversity decline or loss and changes or trends observed in the status and trends of biodiversity as a result of actions taken or progress made	
Key challenges encountered in implementation and steps to be taken to enhance implementation of the	

²⁶⁶ <https://chm.cbd.int>.

<p>post-2020 global biodiversity framework and NBSAP</p>	
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Section II. Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report

Please briefly describe the process undertaken for the preparation of this report (responses may include the following):

- Coordination mechanisms and methodology for data collection and validation employed (if applicable) as well as key challenges encountered;
- Consultations undertaken at various levels for preparing this report, involving and engaging various stakeholders taking into account national circumstances.

Section III. Status of the revised or updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

<p>Has your country’s revised or updated NBSAP been adopted as a policy or legal instrument?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In process <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>If you answered “No”, please indicate the anticipated date of adoption: _____</p>
<p>If you answered “Yes” above, please indicate the type of policy instrument your country’s revised or updated NBSAP has been adopted as.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Adopted through legislation or otherwise by parliament <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted by Council of Ministers, Office of the President/Prime Minister or equivalent whole-of-government body <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted by Ministry of Environment or other sectoral ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated into the poverty reduction strategy, sustainable development strategy, national development plan, and other related strategies or plans <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____</p>
<p>Please indicate the status of implementation of your NBSAP. (Provide an estimate of the percentage of NBSAP activities implemented)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> NBSAP on track to be fully implemented within its timeframe (80-100%) <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation has progressed significantly (60-80%) <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation is well underway (20-60%) <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation has started recently (1-20%) <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation has not yet started (0%)</p>

Section IV. Assessment of progress towards the 2050 goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Please provide an assessment of progress towards the achievement of the 2050 goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, using relevant headline and other indicators.

2050 goals	Summary of progress made in achieving the goal	Relevant national target(s) contributing to this goal (pre-populated from the submission of national targets) ²⁶⁷	Headline indicators	Other relevant national indicators (pre-populated from the submission of national targets)	Source of data for indicator(s) where needed												
Goal A			(Each headline indicator will be listed once agreed) <input type="checkbox"/> Use national data set <input type="checkbox"/> Use the available data (pre-populated data) <input type="checkbox"/> No data available <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant														
			<p>Example: Headline indicator A.0.1: Indicator name (unit of measure)</p> <p>Provide data or an application programming interface (API). The data table will be available in Excel. This table will be prepopulated with existing data, but is being provided below as an example. This section will be replicated for all indicators throughout the document.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>2000</td> <td>2001</td> <td>...</td> <td></td> <td>2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Value</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Footnotes:</p> <p><i>Other indicators can be added in the same format</i></p>				2000	2001	...		2022	Value					
	2000	2001	...		2022												
Value																	
Goal B			(Each headline indicator will be listed once agreed) <input type="checkbox"/> Use national data set														

²⁶⁷ The template for submission of national targets is contained in annex I to decision 15/-.

			<input type="checkbox"/> Use the available data (pre-populated data) <input type="checkbox"/> No data available <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant		
Goal C			(Each headline indicator will be listed once agreed) <input type="checkbox"/> Use national data set <input type="checkbox"/> Use the available data (pre-populated data) <input type="checkbox"/> No data available <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant		
Goal D			(Each headline indicator will be listed once agreed) <input type="checkbox"/> Use national data set <input type="checkbox"/> Use the available data (pre-populated data) <input type="checkbox"/> No data available <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant		
Please reflect on lessons learned in achieving these goals, including challenges encountered and different approaches that may be taken for further implementation					

Section V. Assessment of progress towards national targets and contributions to progress towards the 2030 action targets

Please use the following templates to report on progress in the implementation of your national targets and revised or updated NBSAPs in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and, on this basis, assess your national

contributions towards the achievement of the global targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Headline indicators agreed in the monitoring framework and other indicators and forms of assessment can be used for assessing progress towards national targets and the achievement of the global targets. The templates should be replicated as necessary.

V.1 Progress towards the global targets

Global target <i>(please indicate the global target)</i>	
National targets contributing to this global target <i>(pre-populated from the submission of national targets)</i>	
Please provide the national value of the headline indicator(s) related to the global target²⁶⁸	(Each headline indicator will be listed here once agreed) <input type="checkbox"/> Use national data set <input type="checkbox"/> Use the available data (pre-populated data) <input type="checkbox"/> No data available <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
Please provide the sources of data and references to metadata related to the headline indicator(s)	
Please provide a brief description of progress	
Please estimate the current level of your country's contribution towards the global target(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> On track to achieve target <input type="checkbox"/> Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate <input type="checkbox"/> No significant progress <input type="checkbox"/> Moving away from target <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown

V.2 Progress towards the national targets

National target <i>(pre-populated from the submission of national targets)</i>	
Please briefly describe the main actions taken to implement this national target	
Please indicate the current level of progress towards this national target	<input type="checkbox"/> On track to achieve target <input type="checkbox"/> Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate <input type="checkbox"/> No significant progress <input type="checkbox"/> Moving away from target <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Please provide component and complementary indicators and other national indicators used for assessing progress towards this national target <i>(pre-populated from the submission of national targets)</i>	<i>Provide tabular or graphic data or a hyperlink</i>

²⁶⁸ This will be pre-filled or pre-populated if any such data are available from relevant regional/global data sets.

<p>Please provide examples or cases to illustrate the effectiveness of the actions taken to implement this national target. If needed, provide relevant web links or attach related materials or publications.</p>	
<p>Please briefly describe how the implementation of this national target has contributed to progress in achieving related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets <i>(optional)</i></p>	
<p>Please provide a summary of progress towards this national target, including the main outcomes achieved, key challenges encountered, and different approaches that may be taken for further implementation.</p>	

Section VI. Conclusions on the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

In this section, countries are encouraged to provide an in-depth summary of the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the main outcomes achieved and major challenges encountered, particularly those related to capacity, technical, technological, institutional and financial gaps and constraints and support provided for implementation. Countries could refer to cross-cutting challenges affecting the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, or specific obstacles that have hindered progress. These challenges may include lack of adequate financial, human and technical resources, difficulties regarding interministerial/inter-agency cooperation and coordination, lack of timely and reliable access to knowledge, information and data, lack of scientific expertise to support project development and management, and lack of access to relevant technologies for implementation. Countries should try to avoid duplication if relevant information is covered in the above sections.

Please provide a summary of the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework including main outcomes achieved and major challenges encountered, particularly those related to capacity, technical, technological, institutional, and financial gaps and constraints and support provided for implementation.

Annex

Information as requested in related decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting

It is suggested that Parties annex information on the implementation of the following decisions²⁶⁹ adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting:

- (a) Strategy for capacity-building/development;

²⁶⁹ A list of decisions will be provided following their adoption.

- (b) Long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity;
- (c) Gender plan of action;
- (d) Strategy for resource mobilization.

Annex III

**MODUS OPERANDI OF THE OPEN-ENDED FORUM OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY
ON IMPLEMENTATION FOR COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY PEER REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION**

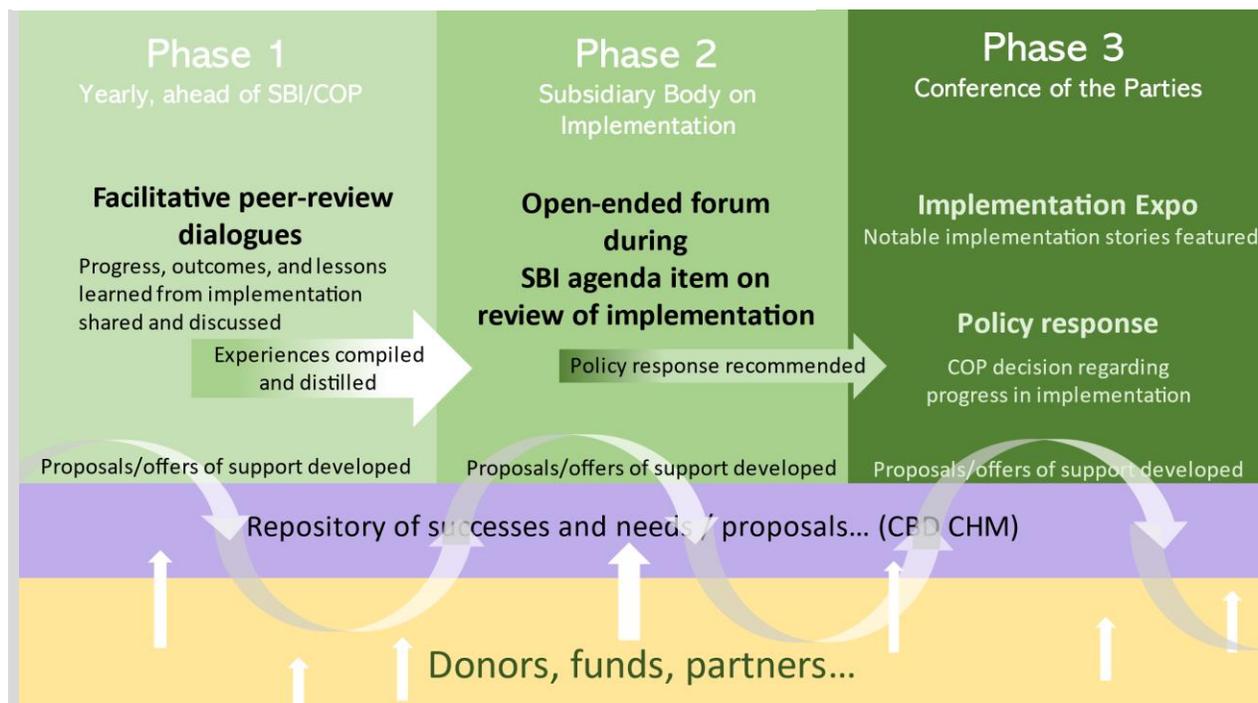
I. OBJECTIVES

1. The main objectives of the country-by-country peer review are:
 - (a) To establish the progress made by developed and developing countries and contribute to the review of implementation of the Convention, its Protocols, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the national level, as a complement to the aggregate review that would be undertaken through a global stocktake;
 - (b) To facilitate peer learning and knowledge/experience sharing among Parties regarding implementation of the Convention, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the national level;
 - (c) To foster implementation and facilitate the identification of strategic actions/solutions to overcome challenges in national implementation (i.e. through peer learning and discussion in a multilateral setting);
 - (d) To facilitate the identification of areas where enhanced support in the form of information/knowledge, expertise, capacity, resources, technologies or other means of implementation is needed;
 - (e) To increase transparency regarding actions undertaken by Parties and their effectiveness (outcomes, impacts, etc.);
 - (f) To identify gaps in finance and means of implementation, in particular for the conditional part of the national targets, which should be provided with international support through the entities and mechanisms of the Convention;
2. All Parties will be expected to take part in the country-by-country peer review of implementation, on the assumption that it will be facilitative, non-punitive, not overly burdensome, and will assist them to achieve the objectives of their own national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and will be supported by appropriate tools and guidance.

II. PROPOSED MODUS OPERANDI

3. It is proposed that the country-by-country review be conducted in three phases (see figure) during each biennium.

Figure. Schematic of country-by-country review



4. The first phase would consist of a series of facilitative peer-review dialogues²⁷⁰ in which a number of Parties²⁷¹ would each present on various aspects of the progress, outcomes and learnings of the implementation of their NBSAPs.²⁷² The dialogues would be held annually, starting in the intersessional period after the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and before the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with a view to all Parties having the opportunity to participate at least once during the decade. The dialogues would be structured taking into account the different challenges and means of implementation for developed and developing country Parties. The dialogues would include a discussion of successes and challenges in order to clarify as much as possible the contributing factors, the measures of success and the lessons learned in the case of the successes, and the possible strategic actions, solutions or support that could be useful in the case of the challenges. This would be an opportunity for in-depth discussions on the effectiveness of measures implemented at the national level to achieve the goals and targets of the global biodiversity framework, and an opportunity to present, and/or to develop, well-elaborated proposals for capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and/or other support as needed. Experiences would be compiled and summarized.

5. The second phase would consist of an in-session open-ended forum on review of implementation to be held during an agenda item on review of implementation to be included at each meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The first open-ended session would be held during the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body. All Parties, and observers, would have the opportunity to participate in the discussions. During the open-ended forum, the outcomes of the facilitative peer-review dialogues – an aggregate summary of the successes and challenges discussed – would be presented and discussed. The aggregate summary of successes and challenges, and the conclusion of the discussion during the open-ended forum, would be presented to the plenary of the Subsidiary Body under the agenda item on progress on implementation and would be made available for the Conference of the Parties.

6. The third phase of the country-by-country review would consist of an implementation exhibition to be held, either online or in person, on the margins of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties in the post-2020 period,

²⁷⁰ These dialogues and the implementation support forum proposed for phase 2 could be conducted virtually, in person or in hybrid form, subject to the availability of resources.

²⁷¹ The exact number of Parties to present at each dialogue would be determined depending on the number of dialogues that would be held each year in order to allow each Party to present once in the decade. Each dialogue would include a regionally balanced group of Parties who volunteer to take part in the dialogue.

²⁷² A guidance template could be developed to guide Parties' preparations.

featuring the implementation successes, and the challenges that have either been resolved or show promise of being resolved. An international panel of experts, including experts nominated by Parties, comprising members from developed and developing countries, considering a balanced representation by region, including indigenous peoples and local communities, would review the submissions to the exhibition and select cases which would be featured as notable stories and insights about implementation of the Convention. Awards could be attributed during the ministerial segment of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. These stories could also be submitted for consideration for related international biodiversity awards, such as the Equator Initiative and Midori Prize for Biodiversity.

7. All Parties would present their reviews to the facilitative peer-review dialogues at least once in the decade.

8. All Parties would use their national reports, or other related reports, such as national reviews of implementation of NBSAPs or related strategies or plans, as a basis for this country-by-country review. Those Parties that have undergone thorough environmental performance reviews in the context of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development or other forums, may present information prepared for or resulting from those processes so as not to duplicate efforts. No additional reports would need to be prepared for this purpose. Following the review, Parties would be invited to prepare and submit a short report, as a product of the review, setting out their own recommendations for their future improved tracking of progress in implementation towards their next review, to capture lessons learned.

9. For those Parties that would like to participate in a more comprehensive and in-depth review, the voluntary peer-review (VPR) process on NBSAP revision and implementation, already in place and recognized in decision 14/29, would continue to be available, on a voluntary basis, subject to the continued availability of resources. The countries that have gone through the VPR process would have the opportunity to present their successes and challenges, and lessons learned through the VPR, to the facilitative peer-review dialogues. As has been the usual practice, the review reports of the VPR processes would be presented to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties as information documents and their findings would also contribute to the aggregate summary of the facilitative peer-review discussions to be presented to the Subsidiary Body.

10. The country-by-country review process will be open to the full and effective participation and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities and all stakeholders in line with the stakeholder and non-State actor engagement section of the present decision.

11. The clearing-house mechanism of the Convention could support the country-by-country review by serving as a repository of successful implementation cases, review methodologies and effective progress communications that are presented and discussed, a repository of national review reports, and a repository of capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation and other specific needs expressed by Parties.²⁷³ Donors and partners could use the repository to better understand Party implementation support needs, and to tailor their support and respond to the needs.

12. The modus operandi of the country-by-country peer-review process will be kept under review by the Conference of the Parties, and modified as necessary, with a view to maximizing its effectiveness in achieving the stated objectives while maintaining a minimal burden on Parties.

13. The functioning of the country-by-country peer-review process will be subject to the availability of resources for its organization and coordination.

Annex IV

PROPOSED CORE REPORTING ELEMENTS FOR NON-STATE ACTORS

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUDING COMMITMENTS FROM NON-STATE ACTORS IN AN ENHANCED PLANNING, MONITORING, REVIEW AND REPORTING MECHANISM

1. The engagement of actors other than national Governments can facilitate the creation of new multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration, test innovative approaches, mobilize private finance, offer new knowledge, and raise interest among sectors traditionally impacting biodiversity loss to take on biodiversity commitments. To enhance responsibility and transparency, and provide visibility and encouragement, commitments from non-State actors should be aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The objective of responsibility and transparency measures

²⁷³ Similar functionalities already exist under the Bio-Bridge Initiative databases and matchmaking platform powered by the clearing-house mechanism. Such databases could be repurposed and broadened to include enhanced functionalities regarding the expressed capacity development needs, opportunities and matches, and multiple sponsors.

for commitments from non-State actors should thus include demonstrating how their commitments support and impact the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

2. To avoid heavy monitoring and reporting requirements, measures could build on existing data gatherers and providers, using agreed indicators to measure performance against the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

3. The collation of commitments from non-State actors should build upon the experiences under the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People (Action Agenda) with existing reporting processes for non-State actors, including sustainability standards, to reinforce alignments with the post-2020 goals, targets and indicators and assessments of the direct and indirect contributions to the post-2020 framework. The Action Agenda could also be used to incentivize existing commitments from non-State actors and to continue to provide a space for dialogue and exchange on collaborative initiatives, challenges and developments to reach the framework's goals and targets.

4. The following conditions are proposed so that biodiversity commitments and impacts from non-State actors can be analysed and accounted for in a manner that corresponds to the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in the context of an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting framework:

(a) Standardized guidelines and templates for reporting commitments which can be used to improve global-level analysis. This could also help facilitate access to information which can be used in national and regional analyses. In order to encourage participation in this process, the preparation and reporting of commitments should be as simple as possible, while also ensuring the commitments represent action;

(b) Developing and promoting the use of metrics for corporate and subnational and local authorities.²⁷⁴ This may include the identification and monitoring of dependencies and impacts on biodiversity by corporate and other entities;

(c) Encouraging non-State actors to submit commitments²⁷⁵ which outline actions that address one or more specific post-2020 target(s), after the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in order to align with the cycles of national planning and to facilitate the analysis of these commitments;

(d) Continuing to collate standardized commitments from non-State actors, and refining and enhancing interoperability, as needed, to expand the integrated search function under the Action Agenda and take measures to avoid double counting both with other non-State actors and between non-State actors and Parties;

(e) Promoting repositories or platforms to share information and successes, lessons learned and experiences, and to allow for adaptive learning in acting for biodiversity;

(f) Enhancing collaboration with related multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental sustainability processes working with non-State actors and multi-stakeholder initiatives, inter alia, to benefit from cross-thematic stocktakes and dialogues and to identify and promote sector-specific reporting.

5. Guidelines and templates for reporting commitments are being developed by the coalitions of non-State actors in collaboration with the Secretariat and should include the key elements below. This information could be used by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for global analysis and identification of gaps. In the event where Parties submit joint commitments with non-State actors, including subnational actors, appropriate measures would be taken to minimize double counting.

II. CORE REPORTING ELEMENTS FOR COMMITMENTS FROM NON-STATE ACTORS

Note: Reporting of non-State actors may occur via the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People (Action Agenda) or via reporting through a platform linked to the Action Agenda. The fields identified below represent a recommended minimum set of pieces of information which are needed in order to analyse the commitment in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including for global aggregation. Additional information may be included in the various reporting initiatives which go beyond this core set of information. Commitments which do not include this minimum information may still be included in various reporting initiatives; however, commitments without these core elements are not included in the enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism under the Convention.

²⁷⁴ For example, utilizing relevant the methodologies under the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN), the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and other methodologies

²⁷⁵ For actors who have already submitted their commitments as per decision 14/34, the Secretariat will facilitate measures to update their commitments on the online Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Organization (the name of the lead organization and the name of the person in charge of the organization).
2. Leadership: Is the commitment pledged at the head of organization level (yes/no).
3. Website, if available (the website address for the lead organization).
4. Name of focal point for the commitment in the organization (full name and email of focal point contact in the organization).
5. Email of focal point (email address for the focal point in the organization).
6. Location (where the organization's headquarters are located and/or the location on google maps).
7. Geographic scope (local, subnational, national, regional or multinational); list the location.
8. Type of organization (academic and research institute; private sector; indigenous peoples and local communities; nation-wide or regional initiative; non-governmental organization; philanthropic foundation; subnational or local government; regional organization; intergovernmental organization/initiative; women's organization; youth organization; other (please specify)).

COMMITMENT

9. Title (the title or name of the commitment/action).
10. Objectives of the commitment.
11. To which target(s) of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is the commitment aimed at contributing to, and to which national and/or global indicators does it correspond.
 - (a) Primary target (selection of the single most relevant target) and indicator.
 - (b) Other relevant targets (multiple targets possible) and indicator.
12. Coverage of the commitment (select a specific biome/ecosystem, region, country or group of countries).
13. Description (a short summary of the commitment, providing (a) an overview of scope of the actions proposed (for example in terms of the area and/or number of people targeted); (b) which drivers, indirect drivers or enabling conditions of biodiversity loss the commitment will seek to address; (c) its intended impacts or results towards the achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; (d) measures to enhance transparency and responsibility; and (e) how the commitment will be governed).
14. Expected impact or outcomes (including positive impacts as well as reduced negative impacts).
15. Theme(s) (ideally aligned with post-2020 global biodiversity framework).
16. Financing currently available for the commitment (optional).
17. Expected financing requirement (optional).
18. Type of governance model and the programmes put in plan to ensure compliance (optional).
19. Sustainable Development Goal(s) or other multilateral environmental agreement to which the commitment contributes (optional).
20. Partners (other organizations involved in the commitment), name and location.

PROGRESS TRACKING

21. Timeline (start and end dates for the commitment).
 - (a) Is this a one-time or recurrent commitment? If recurrent, indicate the duration.
 - (b) How do you plan to follow through on the commitments?
22. Key performance indicators (KPIs) or other indicators of measurable success (such as percentages, numbers or other quantitative pieces of information, noting links with the indicators of the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework when applicable).

23. Monitoring and reporting (indicate if monitoring and compliance arrangements are in place and the format, frequency and public availability of reporting):

(a) Link to monitoring report if available;

(b) Is there recognition, certification, or validation by the environmental authority or another recognized private type that can apply to the commitment (yes/no).

24. Potential measures to address challenges and opportunities in achieving effective implementation of the commitment and its contribution to targets and goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Item 15. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations
A. Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The following is based upon recommendation 24/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, with paragraphs 4, 5 and 8 updated in light of IPBES 8 and IPBES 9 and the information contained in the note prepared by the Executive Secretary (CBD/COP/15/13). Paragraph 9 of the draft decision in the SBI recommendation is replaced by the annex and subsequent paragraphs are renumbered accordingly.

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XII/25 and 14/36,

Also recalling that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice has systematically considered the assessment reports prepared by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which represent best available knowledge on the matter, and has provided pertinent recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, in line with the procedures established in decision XII/25,

[1. *Welcomes* the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030, adopted by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in its decision 7/1, noting with appreciation that the request of the Conference of the Parties set out in decision 14/36 has been met, and that work under the six objectives, including the three initial assessments set out in the work programme, are expected to contribute to and be essential for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

2. *Also welcomes* the ground-breaking efforts of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to advance the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge and diverse knowledge systems in all its assessments and other functions through the implementation of its approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services set out in annex II to decision IPBES-5/1, as well as its engagement with self-organized networks and organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders through the implementation of its stakeholder engagement strategy set out in annex II to decision IPBES-3/4, and invites the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to continue to strengthen these efforts in the implementation of the relevant objectives of the 2030 work programme;

3. *Further welcomes* the fact that the rolling work programme up to 2030 of the Platform includes objectives related to each of the four functions of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as well as strengthening communication and engagement of Governments and stakeholders and improvement of the effectiveness of the Platform, implemented in a manner whereby the objectives are mutually supportive;

[4. *[Takes note of][Welcomes]* the approval by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its eighth session, to undertake thematic assessments on the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (“the nexus assessment”), and on the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision (“the transformative change assessment”), and, at its ninth session, to undertake a methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people (“the business and biodiversity assessment”), as outlined in the respective scoping reports,²⁷⁶ and the important scientific contribution of these assessments for the implementation of the post-

²⁷⁶ The scoping reports are available in annexes I and II to decision IPBES-8/1 and annex II to decision IPBES-9/1, available at: <https://ipbes.net/documents-by-category/Decisions>

2020 global biodiversity framework, and invites Parties and relevant organizations to participate in the assessment through the formal review processes [to ensure that relevant information on concepts such as “nature-based solutions” and “One Health” is made available to assessment authors];]

[5. [Also takes note of][Welcomes] the approval by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its ninth session, of the summaries for policy makers of the Methodological Assessment of the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature, and of the Thematic Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species, and the acceptance of the chapters of the respective assessments including their executive summaries, and also takes note of the progress made in the preparation of the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control, and requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review the findings of those assessments and to provide recommendations relating to the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;]

[6. [Further takes note of] [Welcomes] the report of the expert workshop²⁷⁷ convened by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on biodiversity and pandemics,²⁷⁸ [and notes its relevance for the work of the Convention, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the work carried out under the Convention on the interlinkages between biodiversity and health];]

[7. [Welcomes] [Takes note of] the cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, [takes note with appreciation of the report²⁷⁹ of the co-sponsored workshop on biodiversity and climate change, noting the conclusions therein,] and, recalling decision 14/36, encourages the two bodies to continue and further strengthen their collaboration in a transparent and participatory manner, with a view to increasing coherence while avoiding duplication of work, and requests Parties to coordinate their work with the national focal points for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in relation to [with a view to supporting an integrated approach to] assessments on biodiversity and climate change;]

[8. Notes that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its tenth session will reconsider the requests, inputs and suggestions received in time for consideration at that session, including for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and for an assessment on ecological connectivity, as well as potential additional fast track assessments, and invites the Platform to consider the requests contained in the annex to this decision;

[9. Requests the Executive Secretary to regularly and systematically assess and report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on how to consider deliverables from all functions and processes of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the implementation of the Convention, including a forward schedule and regular agenda item in meetings of the Subsidiary Body;]

10. Also requests the Executive Secretary to identify views from Parties on how the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services could, within its defined

²⁷⁷ See <https://ipbes.net/assessing-knowledge>.

²⁷⁸ IPBES (2020). Workshop report on biodiversity and pandemics of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. IPBES secretariat, Bonn. <https://ipbes.net/pandemics>. This workshop report and any recommendations or conclusions contained therein have not been reviewed, endorsed or approved by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

²⁷⁹ IPBES/IPCC (2021) IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change. This workshop report and any recommendations or conclusions contained therein have not been reviewed, endorsed or approved by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

functions on producing further assessments, building capacity, strengthening knowledge and supporting policy, contribute to the review and monitoring process of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

[11. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to contribute to the work of the ad hoc technical expert group on indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;]

12. *Notes* the information contained in the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary,²⁸⁰ also notes the progress in a number of countries in elaborating national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, encourages all Parties and other Governments as well as subnational governments to carry out such national or subnational assessments, with the full engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, academia and business, adapting the process of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the local contexts, and so that these national or subnational assessments can be used as potential input to the rolling work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and urges Parties, and invites other Governments and organizations in a position to do so, to provide technical assistance, capacity-building and financial support, as appropriate.

Annex

**REQUESTS FROM THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR CONSIDERATION BY
THE PLENARY OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AT ITS TENTH SESSION**

Additional information to accompany these requests, as required by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, is provided in document CBD/COP/15/INF/7.

A. Request from the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding a second global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services

1. A second global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services should be prepared by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to:

(a) Support Governments and all stakeholders to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as its Protocols, related agreements and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a view to achieving the 2050 vision and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Support the Convention to assess progress in the achievement of the 2030 targets and towards the 2050 goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(c) Provide the scientific and technical basis for the follow-up to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, after 2030.

2. The second Global Assessment should be comprehensive, broadly similar in scope to the first Assessment but building upon it to avoid repetition or unnecessary duplication. It should address the three objectives of the Convention (conservation, sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources) in a balanced way. It should cover terrestrial, inland water and marine and coastal biodiversity.

3. The second Global Assessment should cover the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services / nature's contributions to people over the past, present and future, using quantitative and qualitative models and scenarios, in a consistent and seamless manner as far as possible. Where possible, information on past status and trends should cover pre-industrial time periods, and future status and trends should project to 2050 and 2100, drawing upon the IPBES assessment on scenarios and models and the latest advances in these fields. The assessment should make use of relevant indicators, including those adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2030 Agenda.

²⁸⁰ CBD/SBSTTA/24/8.

4. The second Global Assessment should address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity change, drawing upon all relevant IPBES assessments, including the nexus and transformative change assessments as well as relevant assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
5. The second Global Assessment should include regional, and where useful and feasible, subregional assessments, in a fully integrated manner, and also include illustrations at finer scales where useful and feasible, building upon the 2018 IPBES regional assessment reports where relevant and national assessments where available.
6. The second Global Assessment should incorporate the best available knowledge including indigenous and local knowledge and incorporate diverse values and multiple worldviews, taking into account, inter alia, the IPBES values assessment.
7. The second Global Assessment should address the knowledge gaps identified in the first assessment.
8. The second Global Assessment should be finalized for approval by the IPBES Plenary in the fourth quarter of 2028 (or in the first quarter 2029 at the latest).

B. Requests from the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding potential additional methodological and thematic assessments for inclusion in the rolling work programme of the Platform

The following fast-track methodological or thematic assessments should be considered by the Platform:

1. A fast-track methodological assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning to address land and sea use, and change of use:

(a) Such a methodological assessment would be directly relevant to the proposed targets 1, 2 and 3 of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and help to inform actions to address land and sea-use change, one of the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss and identify methods for integrating biodiversity considerations into spatial planning, across sectors and scales, including through approaches such as territorial planning and zoning, and other approaches aimed at avoiding or minimizing biodiversity loss (including ecosystem fragmentation) and promoting ecosystem connectivity. It should include participatory approaches with the full and effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(b) Such a methodological assessment would include approaches for the identification of areas for conservation, sustainable use and restoration, including through protected areas and other effective area-based conservations measures.

2. A fast-track methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services and tracking progress towards the goals and targets of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework:

(a) Such a methodological assessment would identify opportunities for the development of national biodiversity reporting, monitoring and assessment capacities, including development of the underlying biodiversity observation data and other data needed to monitor the framework, including from remote sensing, community-based monitoring and citizen science. Priority would be given to the needs to operationalize the headline indicators;

(b) Such a methodological assessment would directly support national and global efforts to monitor progress towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, help to build capacity in this respect in all countries, with particular focus on the needs of developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small island developing states, and help to create a functional and effective global biodiversity monitoring system.

3. A fast-track thematic or methodological assessment on pollution, its impacts on biodiversity and approaches to avoid, reduce and mitigate such impacts:

(a) Such an assessment would include approaches for the identification of the main sources of pollution that impact biodiversity and ecosystem services and of ways to avoid, reduce and mitigate such impacts. The assessment would focus on those sources of pollution that have the greatest impacts on biodiversity, including their cumulative and synergistic effects, that are not being addressed through other processes;

(b) Such a methodological assessment would be directly relevant to the proposed target 7 of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and help to inform actions to address pollution, one of the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss.

15 B. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

The following is taken from recommendation 3/12 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XIII/24 and 14/30,

[*Recognizing* the critical role of actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including restoration, for addressing multiple global crises, including biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution,]

Acknowledging the independent nature of the mandates of biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, emphasizing the need to fully observe their respective mandates and reaffirming that synergies in their implementation at the global, regional and national levels should be promoted on a Party-driven basis, in accordance with the priorities set out within each instrument and with national circumstances, capabilities and priorities,

Reaffirming the importance of enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives, including but not limited to biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, chemicals and waste conventions, and the Rio conventions, at the global, regional, subregional, national and subnational levels, in a manner respectful of their respective mandates,

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among all relevant conventions, organizations and initiatives to achieve the three objectives of the Convention and to implement and monitor progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in an effective and timely manner in order to achieve its targets, goals and its 2030 mission and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity,

Taking note of the work conducted by the United Nations Environment Management Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate system-wide attention to biodiversity and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Welcoming with appreciation the support provided by the Government of Switzerland for the organization of the consultation workshops of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Bern I and II) and welcoming the reports of both workshops,

Also welcoming with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of decisions XIII/24 and 14/30 with respect to enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, including in convening the Bern II workshop,

Further welcoming the contributions of other biodiversity-related conventions, multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes to the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including through their active participation in the “Bern process”,

Recognizing that relevant multilateral environmental agreements have specific contributions to make in implementing elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in line with their mandates,

Welcoming with appreciation the work conducted by other organizations to fulfil elements of decision 14/30, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the World Health Organization,

Also welcoming with appreciation, the work undertaken by the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation in promoting plant conservation and contributing to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity as described in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the 2020 Plant Conservation report,

Also welcoming the cooperative activities under the Rio conventions,

Recognizing the rolling work programme up to 2030 of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

Welcoming with appreciation the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly proclaiming the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and the contribution that this may provide to objectives of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

1. *Welcomes* the contributions of other biodiversity-related conventions, multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes to enhancing synergies in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

2. *Encourages* the strengthening of cooperation and synergies among relevant conventions and multilateral agreements by, as appropriate and in line with their respective mandates, legal authority and responsibilities, establishing or renewing cooperation frameworks such as the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention which is being updated in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

3. *Invites* the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to [formally endorse] the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through their own governance processes, as appropriate, in order to support its operationalization and contribute to the transparency and monitoring of progress in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by, among others, using synergetic modular reporting tools such as the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT);

4. *Also invites* the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular by further strengthening cooperation at the global level within their respective mandates and enhancing synergies among themselves, to encourage mutually supportive decisions, to align their own strategies with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to propose key issues for thematic discussions facilitated by the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, taking into account, where appropriate, the conclusions of the Bern II workshop included in document CBD/SBI/3/10 and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its work to enhance cooperation among the biodiversity-related related conventions and other relevant multilateral agreements, including their governing bodies;

5. *Invites* the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, as well as the informal advisory group on synergies, to enhance cooperation, reduce inefficiencies and facilitate synergies, between the heads of the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions, including through thematic consultations, on key issues for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to provide common messages or draft recommendations to their respective governing bodies to act upon;

[6. *Encourages* Parties to work together with all stakeholders to jointly implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support, at global, regional, subregional, national and subnational levels, across areas and sectors, through bilateral joint work programmes where appropriate, and through existing global, regional, subregional, national and subnational instruments, mechanisms and processes;²⁸¹]

[7. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, to support the Parties and secretariats of the biodiversity related conventions and agreements to continue to enhance synergies on key actions and priorities established by their Parties to be implemented at the national and regional levels;]

8. *Also invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the secretariats of the biodiversity related conventions and relevant partner organizations, to continue to facilitate

²⁸¹ The Conference of the Parties could consider the placement of such encouragement to stakeholders in its decision adopting the post-2020 global biodiversity framework or its decision concerning cooperation, or both, as appropriate

and implement key actions aimed to enhance synergies at the national and international levels outlined in decisions XIII/24 and 14/30, in particular regarding reporting and the use of supportive tools, such as DaRT, capacity-building and development, and facilitating linkages between relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

9. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to liaise closely with the Secretariats of the Rio conventions and relevant partner organizations in the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and to provide a report on its progress at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Management Group to facilitate United Nations system-wide coordination towards the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in a manner fully respectful of the mandates of different multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations;

11. *Urges* Parties, invites other Governments and invites non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, women's groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, among others, to reinforce actions to enhance synergies in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral agreements and initiatives at the national level, including through their national coordination, planning, review and reporting processes, including through existing common and voluntary reporting platforms such as DaRT, in line with options for action at the national level provided in decision XIII/24,²⁸² and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;

12. *Encourages* Parties to implement the Convention and other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral agreements to which they are party, in a complementary manner, including in reviewing and updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in order to enable the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

13. *Invites* the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation, with the support of the Secretariat, to prepare a set of complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework aligned with the final version of the framework, other relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, as well as previous experiences with the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as described in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the 2020 Plant Conservation report, to be considered by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice following the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To identify, develop and provide [any necessary guidance and] technical support that will help to encourage and assist other biodiversity-related conventions, multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations, and other relevant programmes in contributing to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and, in consultation with their secretariats, identify opportunities to cooperate with biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations specifically to help achieve the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and provide a list of relevant initiatives and action plans for review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;

(b) In consultation with Parties and the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes, building wherever possible on existing mechanisms, to continue to implement key actions outlined in decisions 14/30 and XIII/24 to

²⁸² Decision XIII/24, annex I

enhance synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and to cooperate with other relevant multilateral agreements at the international level, in a manner consistent with their mandates;

[(c) In consultation with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the informal advisory group on synergies, to [explore the usefulness] for a liaison mechanism among Parties to the various biodiversity-related conventions at an intergovernmental level to support cooperation in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and options for its establishment, including consideration of its mandate, structure and resource requirements, and to submit a proposal, which clearly explains the necessity and, if appropriate, the scope of each option, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;]

[(d) To continue working with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent on topics related to biodiversity and traditional knowledge;]

15. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, to advance, subject to the availability of resources, the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, where appropriate in cooperation with relevant initiatives of Parties, other Governments and other organizations, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and other mechanisms, as appropriate;

[16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the World Health Organization, subject to the availability of resources, with a view to facilitating, as appropriate, consideration of [timely] access to pathogens and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in its ongoing work on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.]

Item 16. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors

16 A. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors: Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity

The following is taken from recommendation 3/15 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

[The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 6 (b) of the Convention, which requires Contracting Parties to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies,

Reiterating the critical importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention, and the urgent need to mainstream biodiversity in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Emphasizing the importance of intensified mainstreaming action to achieve the transformational change needed in order to attain the 2050 vision, while acknowledging the specific challenges faced by developing countries in supporting mainstreaming policies and the need for adequate means of implementation and enhanced international cooperation,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Biodiversity Mainstreaming, as reflected in the progress report of the Executive Secretary to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting;²⁸³

2. *[Adopts][Takes note of][Welcomes]* the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity contained in the annex to the present decision as an important contribution to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

3. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, at all levels, as well as businesses, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders to use the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity as further voluntary guidance tool in implementing the elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to biodiversity mainstreaming, as appropriate;

4. *[Welcomes] [Takes note of] [Takes note with appreciation of]* the voluntary action plan for the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity,²⁸⁴ and encourages Parties and other Governments, at all levels, as well as businesses, research and development agencies, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and relevant stakeholders to take into account the catalogue of possible mainstreaming actions, in order to support the global biodiversity framework and its implementation, to be taken at all levels and across Governments, economic sectors and society and through the inclusion of those actions in their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as appropriate;

5. *Requests* Parties and invites other Governments at all levels to report their case studies, good practices, lessons learned, and other relevant experiences in implementing the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and its action plan, as part of their national reports and in the clearing-house mechanism, and requests the Executive Secretary to consider this information in upcoming editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, including, as appropriate, experiences of indigenous peoples and local communities, business and civil society organizations, as well as other stakeholders;

6. *Recognizes* the work of the Informal Advisory Group and its extended network and, building on their experience, advice and expertise, decides to establish an ad hoc technical expert group on the mainstreaming of biodiversity to advise the Parties, the Bureau and the Secretariat on the implementation and review of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity in support of the global

²⁸³ CBD/SBI/3/13.

²⁸⁴ [CBD/SBI/3/13/Add.1.]

biodiversity framework, and to report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting, including on:

- (a) Exchanging and analysing case studies, good practices and lessons learned on;
 - (i) Identifying priority mainstreaming actions in sectors with the most significant dependencies and impacts on biodiversity;
 - (ii) Ways and means to strengthen the participation, representation, and capacity of civil society in implementing mainstreaming actions;
 - (iii) Biodiversity metrics which can be used by businesses and other actors to support the setting of science-based targets;
 - (iv) [The needs, costs, benefits and approaches to implementing mainstreaming actions of developing countries, taking into account their specific financial, technical, technological and capacity gaps.]
- (b) Collaborating, as appropriate, with the ad hoc technical expert group on monitoring the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be established in accordance with paragraph 11 of the draft decision on scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines;²⁸⁵
- (c) Deepening joint collaborative efforts and synergies with the Rio conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions (multilateral environmental agreements), among other relevant conventions, and such treaties as the chemical conventions.²⁸⁶

7. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, subject to the arrangements in place for reporting, monitoring and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to undertake a mid-term review of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and the action plan in support of the global biodiversity framework, at one of its meetings prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,²⁸⁷ reviewing the progress made, challenges encountered, and lessons learned, taking into account the specific financial, technological and capacity gaps faced by developing countries in supporting mainstreaming policies, and identifying any need for further action on mainstreaming, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

8. *Invites* developed country Parties, and other Governments according to their capabilities, donors, as well as relevant organizations and initiatives, the private sector and multilateral development agencies, to provide financial support for the work of the ad hoc technical expert group on the mainstreaming of biodiversity;

9. *Invites* Parties and encourages other Governments, in collaboration with various sectors, to establish, or further strengthen, national, subnational, regional or global business and biodiversity partnerships as institutional partners for the implementation of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, building on the experience of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and the Global Business and Biodiversity Forum and associated instruments;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the biodiversity mainstreaming strategy of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and encourages relevant international organizations and initiatives, as well as global and regional multilateral development banks, to develop their mainstreaming

²⁸⁵ Currently [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2](#).

²⁸⁶ The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911); the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2244, No. 39973.); and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2256, No. 40214).

²⁸⁷ Consistent with paragraph 3 of CBD/SBSTTA/24/L3 on monitoring and review for the global biodiversity framework.

strategies and plans, and/or to strengthen their existing ones, in a manner consistent with the respective mandates and priorities;

11. [Welcomes][Takes note of] the work carried out on mainstreaming under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the support provided in this regard by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, encourages Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other stakeholders to step up their mainstreaming efforts, building on the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, and invites donors to support such activities;

[12. Requests the Global Environment Facility to strengthen mainstreaming in its future programming, and assist Parties in developing and implementing their mainstreaming actions aligned with revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, building on the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity in accordance with national priorities and circumstances ^[288].]

13. Takes note of the interim report prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre on building a common view among key stakeholders on the measurement, monitoring and disclosure of corporate impacts and dependencies on biodiversity,²⁸⁹

14. Invites the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and collaborating institutions to continue the work with a view to agreeing on a comparable set of measurements for businesses related to the three pillars of the Convention which can be integrated into corporate disclosure and reporting, in line with the set of headline indicators for the global biodiversity framework;

15. Invites business and financial institutions to develop their internal capacity and regulators to measure and integrate, as well as recognize the biodiversity risks, impacts and dependencies of their economic actions, and to provide measurable and verifiable and actionable information using internationally reliable standards for improved decision-making to mainstream biodiversity and the promotion of environmental (including biodiversity), social, cultural and governance standards as appropriate;

16. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To support the work of the ad hoc technical expert group on the mainstreaming of biodiversity as per paragraph 6 above and, in particular, to develop an overview of the status of implementation of the existing programmes of work as well as potential new programmes of work with potential partners, in consideration of the proposed action plan for the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity²⁸⁴ and the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;²⁹⁰

(b) To continue to cooperate and coordinate with the extended open consultative network of relevant organizations and initiatives working on various elements of the biodiversity mainstreaming agenda, relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions, the hazardous chemicals and wastes conventions, relevant international sectoral organizations and their programmes, other relevant processes, such as the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to continue organizing, in collaboration with relevant global, regional, and thematic organizations and other stakeholders, and in conjunction with capacity-building activities, the monitoring and review mechanism of the global biodiversity framework, and resource mobilization tasks and commitments, relevant workshops and forums for discussion and exchange of experiences with respect to mainstreaming of biodiversity in key sectors, further to decision 14/3, paragraph 19(g);

(c) To collaborate with the secretariats of other Rio and biodiversity-related conventions, the Biodiversity Liaison Group, the United Nations Environment Management Group, youth, women,

²⁸⁸ [This text will be forwarded to the appropriate agenda item: resource mobilization and the financial mechanism (item 6.)]

²⁸⁹ [UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre 2020. Biodiversity Measures for Business: Corporate biodiversity measurement and disclosure within the current and future global policy context.](#)

²⁹⁰ [CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1.](#)

indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant organizations and stakeholders to optimize synergies among similar initiatives related to mainstreaming and multi-stakeholder cooperation, to propose viable participatory methods, both those based on science, free of conflict of interest and under the precautionary approach, and those that include traditional knowledge, especially those related to the value that biological diversity has for indigenous peoples and local communities, with their consent, and to promote collaboration and conflict resolution among relevant stakeholders with a view to improving environmental governance around biodiversity conservation projects;

(d) To continue to promote and collaborate in the work on business metrics for biodiversity on the basis of existing as well as emerging tools and approaches, and on the definition of strategies for productive sectors in their business decisions in order to integrate biodiversity into their corporate accounting and decision-making frameworks, ensuring their supply chains are accounted for according to international standards and codes of conduct;

(e) To continue to promote, expand and provide support to the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and its national and regional partnerships, with a view to scaling up these partnerships, to further enhance their effectiveness as a mechanism for engaging businesses and exchanging pertinent experiences and best practices, including through the Global Forum on Business and Biodiversity as a multi-stakeholder platform for exchanges at all levels of governance and with relevant players, and to identify gaps, opportunities, challenges and lessons learned in mainstreaming;

(f) To strengthen the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda in order to encourage and catalyse commitments to concretely support the global biodiversity framework, the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, and sectoral and societal implementation of biodiversity mainstreaming policies, notably by creating coalitions and communities of practices;

(g) To submit a progress report on these activities, as well as on any other pertinent developments, and include proposals for undertaking the mid-term review of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, consistent with the arrangements in place for reporting, monitoring and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting.]

[Annex

LONG-TERM STRATEGIC APPROACH TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

Introduction

1. Despite the progress already made in the last decade, biodiversity decline and ecosystem degradation continue largely unabated and increasingly threaten sustainable development and human well-being. Profound changes are required to transform the mechanisms that steer development as well as business and investment decisions in order to integrate biodiversity into development, climate change mitigation and adaptation and economic sectors and strive towards [net] positive impacts on ecosystems and species. To achieve this, the multi-faceted values of nature need to be reflected in decision-making and actions across society, including in relevant areas and levels of government, business and finance. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in its Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, states:

*Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors.*²⁹¹

*[W]e must raise the level of ambition and political will for mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.*²⁹¹

2. Past decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on biodiversity mainstreaming (XIII/3 and 14/3) already highlighted the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into economic sectors and transversally across all levels of government. The present long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity establishes priorities for

²⁹¹ https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-02/ipbes_global_assessment_report_summary_for_policymakers_en.pdf.

action, based on scientific evidence of likely impacts and benefits in accordance with the national capacities and circumstances of Parties. It identifies key actors that should be engaged in implementing such actions and appropriate mechanisms to do so. The present long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity recognizes there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to implement mainstreaming policies and takes into account the specific financial, technical, technological and capacity gaps of developing country Parties to support mainstreaming policies. Thus, the present approach highlights synergies with discussions on resource mobilization, capacity building and technology transfer and calls for enhanced international cooperation and adequate means of implementation to maximize opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in particularly for developing countries.

3. The long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity should be kept under review by the Conference of the Parties and be flexible enough to respond to national circumstances and priorities, ensuring full consistency with other relevant international agreements and refraining from prejudging the outcomes of ongoing negotiations in other multilateral fora.

4. In *establishing priorities for action*, the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity will:

(a) Address the pressures on biodiversity and the indirect or underlying drivers of biodiversity decline, according to national priorities and capacities, in line with recommendations such as those from the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and from the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* [as well as the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlook*];

(b) Not duplicate but build on previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties relevant to mainstreaming, such as the existing thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work, as well as past decisions on mainstreaming, incentive measures, impact assessments, business engagement;

(c) Cross-reference in particular the resource mobilization component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with a view to (i) facilitating resource mobilization through mainstreaming action, (ii) generating and leveraging resources needed for mainstreaming action and (iii) building the collective capacity of CBD players to mainstream biodiversity;

(d) Support and build on existing international environmental agreements and approaches, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), and the experiences and good practices in implementing these other global policies.

5. In *facilitating monitoring and assessment*, the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity will:

(a) Provide a flexible and voluntary framework to support and facilitate definition and implementation of nationally determined priority mainstreaming actions and associated SMART targets, milestones and indicators;

(b) Support and integrate related work of the Convention on the goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines under review in the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

6. In order to facilitate the design and implementation of nationally determined priority mainstreaming actions, the voluntary action plan to the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity²⁹² will also reference useful mainstreaming guidance, tools, and good practice cases. The following strategy and action areas are particularly important as areas where a long-term strategic approach is required, but not limited to the areas indicated.

Strategy area I: Mainstreaming biodiversity across government and its policies

Headline Action 1: Fully integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values²⁹³ into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts,²⁹⁴ integrating spatial planning and applying the principles of the ecosystem approach.²⁹⁵

²⁹² CBD/SBI/3/13/Add.1.

²⁹³ See decision X/3, para. 9(b)(ii): the intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components.

²⁹⁴ Sustainable Development Goal 15.9, with an updated timeline (2030 instead of 2020).

²⁹⁵ See decision V/6. See also <https://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/>.

Rationale: Mainstreaming across governments and its policies will ensure that biological diversity is considered in all relevant policy areas of governments at all levels, in particular with regard to policies related to finance, economics, planning, development, poverty alleviation, reducing inequality and food and water security, promoting an integrated approach to health, research and innovation, scientific and technological cooperation, development cooperation, climate change and desertification, as well as policies related to key economic sectors, in particular those that relate to the IPBES approach for sustainability, possible actions and pathways,²⁹⁶ and nexus areas.²⁹⁷

Headline Action 2. Mainstream biodiversity in fiscal, budgetary and financial instruments, in particular by eliminating, phasing out and/or reforming incentives, including subsidies harmful to biodiversity in key economic sectors, by applying innovative technologies, and by developing and applying positive incentives for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national priorities and socioeconomic conditions.

Rationale: Ending or reforming incentives, including subsidies, that are harmful to biodiversity is a critical component of incentive alignment. There will be a need for financial provision to developing countries to fund the national implementation of positive incentives in the global South.

Strategy area II: Integrate nature and biodiversity into business models, operations and practices of key economic sectors, including the financial sector

Headline Action 3: Businesses in relevant economic sectors and at micro, small, and medium levels, and especially large and transnational companies, and those with the most significant impacts on biodiversity, actively transition towards sustainable and fair technologies and practices, including along their supply, trade and value chains, demonstrating decreasing negative and increasingly positive impacts on ecosystems and their services to people, biodiversity and human well-being and health, in a manner consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other international obligations.

Rationale: Integrating biological diversity, and ecosystem service values, into economic sectors enables the achievement of necessary changes in production and consumption, such as incorporating nature-based solutions to production chains, and the reduction of resource waste at all levels of production and consumption. Such transformative actions can be induced through financial and sectorial policies but can also be encouraged by engaging relevant businesses and their associations. Businesses, according to international standards, already account for the values, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity throughout their supply chains, and can adopt sustainable practices to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and can integrate sustainability information in their reporting cycle, according to agreed methodologies. They can also be partners in the design and implementation of positive incentive measures for biodiversity, using science-based and verifiable information on biodiversity in consumer and producer decisions, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, for example through the application of the mitigation hierarchy, certification, eco-labelling or B2B standards, as appropriate.

Headline Action 4: Financial institutions at all levels apply biodiversity risk and impact assessment policies and processes, having developed tools for biodiversity financing to demonstrate decreasing negative impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity in their portfolios and increasing amounts of dedicated finance, to support sustainable business models and foster the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Rationale: Financial flows need to be consistent with a pathway towards living in harmony with nature and redirected towards achieving the nature ambition. Public and private finance should be aligned more effectively with the three objectives of the Convention and seek to scale up resources to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and support local communities and the focus in the global framework should broaden from “also financing green projects” to “greening the financial system as a whole”.

Strategy area III: Mainstreaming biodiversity across society

²⁹⁶ IPBES *Global Assessment Summary for Policymakers*, pages 44-47, https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-02/ipbes_global_assessment_report_summary_for_policymakers_en.pdf

²⁹⁷ <https://ipbes.net/nexus/scoping-document>

Headline Action 5: People everywhere have relevant information, awareness and capacities for sustainable development and lifestyles that are in harmony with nature, reflecting the multi-faceted values²⁹⁸ of biological diversity and its components,²⁹⁹ and their central role in people's lives and livelihoods, and take gender-specific measurable steps towards sustainable consumption and lifestyles, taking into account individual and national socioeconomic conditions.

Rationale: Mainstreaming across society relates to the gendered impacts (positive and negative) which individuals and groups have on biodiversity, to the social and cultural benefits which ecosystems and biodiversity provide, as well as the spiritual and intrinsic values of biodiversity, which is of particular importance to indigenous peoples and local communities central to decisions taken about biodiversity, especially in their lands and territories. It also relates to the steps that can be taken, individually and collectively, to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, for instance by adopting or strengthening sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns that reduce ecological footprints. Mainstreaming can be achieved, for instance, by identifying gender-specific needs for and creating access to training, education and capacity-building on biological diversity to support participatory, inclusive and equitable decision-making processes, strengthening traditional knowledge systems, creating access to health education and the impacts of environmental stressors and benefits to health, and making use of evidence-based communication tools for public awareness.

]

²⁹⁸ The intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components; see decision X/9, para. 9(b)(ii).

²⁹⁹ Sustainable Development Goal 12.8, with amendment to reflect the role of biodiversity values and actions taken.

16 B. Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The following is taken from recommendation 3/14 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [X/22](#) and [XII/9](#),

Recalling the 2011-2020 Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity,³⁰⁰ adopted in 2010, and welcoming progress in its successful implementation,

Noting that, while responsibilities for implementation of the Convention rest with the Parties, there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the Convention,

Also noting that subnational governments, cities and other local authorities are a constituent part of many Parties and other Governments, and that the implementation and monitoring of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework needs to involve all levels of government as appropriate,

Recognizing the important role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as monitoring and reporting, mainstreaming, resource mobilization, capacity-building and communication, education and public awareness, social participation and public access to information,

[Acknowledging the importance of multi-stakeholder mechanisms and platforms to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that [provide for] [ensure] the representation of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, [and the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming and other related strategies, as called for in the Edinburgh Declaration,³⁰¹³⁰²]

[Recognizing that in the [post-COVID-19 recovery efforts] [post-COVID-19 world], the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities is even more important, so that [effective green responses, recovery and redesign approaches] [sustainable, inclusive and resilient actions in the context of the post-COVID-19 recovery] requiring collaborative action can be co-designed and rapidly implemented with respect to the competencies at each level of government, ensuring that such approaches apply and promote biodiversity in both cities and non-urban territories] and addressing the unique development challenges facing in particular developing countries, consistent with the New Urban Agenda³⁰³ adopted in Quito,

Recalling principle 2 of the Ecosystem Approach adopted in decision V/6,

1. *[Adopts] [Takes note of] [Endorses] the updated plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity, as set out in the annex, as a flexible framework to support Parties in accordance with national legislation;*

2. *[Invites Parties] [Urges Parties and invites other Governments] and relevant organizations [] to facilitate, as appropriate, the implementation of the updated plan of action referred to in paragraph 1, above, according to national legislation, including by:*

³⁰⁰ Decision X/22

³⁰¹ CBD/SBI/3/INF/25.

³⁰² Dependent upon the agreement of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

³⁰³ A/RES/71/256.

(a) Involving subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the revision, implementation and update of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, respecting the competencies of each level of government;

(b) Supporting subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to develop, implement and evaluate their local biodiversity strategies and action plans, in accordance with national biodiversity strategies and action plans and global commitments;

(c) Ensuring the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the mainstreaming of biodiversity, in line with the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision 15/--;

[(d) Allocating human, technical and financial resources, as appropriate, [consistent with Article 20 of the Convention], and in a manner supportive of principle 2 of the ecosystem approach,³⁰⁴ adopted in decision V/6;]

3. *Invites* Parties to communicate and report on the implementation of the updated Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity, as appropriate, in their national reports under the Convention;

4. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other stakeholders, including entities engaged in development finance, to invest resources, support technology and knowledge transfer, and build capacity, at the level of governance where they can be most effective;

5. *Urges* Parties to support subnational governments, cities and local authorities in strengthening their capacities to improve the implementation of the global framework;

6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to consider further expanding and strengthening its sustainable cities initiatives in its future replenishments, and piloting land- and seascape level initiatives targeted at subnational and local governance, infrastructure, biodiversity-inclusive spatial and land-use planning, and urban-rural linkages, in accordance with the priorities identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;³⁰⁵

[7. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fifth meeting to undertake a review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, on the basis of a report by the Executive Secretary, integrated with the regular review of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming.]

Annex

**PLAN OF ACTION ON SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER
LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY (2021-2030)**

A. Background

1. The Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (2021-2030) is intended to support Parties, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and their partners in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Plan of Action is intended to be implemented in accordance with national legislation. The elements contained in the updated Plan of Action have been identified through a series of consultations with Parties, subnational governments, cities and

³⁰⁴ Principle 2 of the ecosystem approach, adopted in decision V/6, is “Management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level.”

³⁰⁵ This paragraph, which addresses support from the Global Environment Facility, will eventually be reflected in a decision on the financial mechanism which will consolidate the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the Global Environment Facility.

other local authorities and their networks and stakeholders, including the “Edinburgh Process”, and culminating with the 7th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments.³⁰⁶

B. Objectives

2. The Plan of Action has the following objectives:

(a) To increase the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, to support the successful implementation of, and reporting on, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) To improve regional and global coordination and exchange of lessons learned between Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, regional and global organizations, United Nations and development agencies, academia, and donors on ways and means to encourage and support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to manage biodiversity sustainably, provide ecosystem services to citizens and integrate biodiversity concerns into urban and territorial planning and development;

(c) To identify, enhance and disseminate policy tools, guidelines, financial mechanisms or instruments, and programmes that facilitate subnational and local action on biodiversity and build the capacity of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to support their national Governments in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, with respect to the competencies of each level of government;

(d) To facilitate the development of awareness-raising programmes on biodiversity in line with communication, education and public awareness strategies.

C. Activities to engage subnational government, cities and other local authorities

3. The catalogue of activities, grouped into seven interrelated and complimentary action areas, presented below provides a framework based on which Parties, their subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and all stakeholders can develop their own actions to implement the Plan of Action. As such, any activity is offered as a complement to their post-2020 biodiversity strategies, action plans and targets. It is understood that activities will be implemented with respect to the competencies of each level of government and according to each Party’s national and subnational context and circumstances.

Action area 1

Development and implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans reflecting the involvement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities

(a) Involve subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the process to revise and update national biodiversity strategies and action plans, for alignment with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its subsequent implementation;

(b) Encourage subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to develop biodiversity strategies and action plans in harmony with national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Action area 2

Collaboration between levels of government, and mainstreaming

(a) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to improve harmonization of strategic planning, coordination and implementation between levels of government;

[(b) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to support the implementation of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming and its action plan;³⁰⁷]

(c) Engage the Advisory Committee on Local Governments and Biodiversity and the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity³⁰⁸ to provide input and support to the implementation of the Plan of Action from the point of view of local and subnational governments, cities and other local authorities.

³⁰⁶ This updated plan of action builds on the Plan of Action adopted in decision X/22.

³⁰⁷ Dependent upon the agreement of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

³⁰⁸ Referred to in paragraph 7 of the Plan of Action adopted in decision X/22, and paragraph 0 of the present Plan of Action.

Action area 3
Resource mobilization

- (a) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to support the application of principle 2 of the ecosystem approach in resource mobilization, where appropriate;³⁰⁹
- (b) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, to create enabling conditions for significantly increased private sector investment, and reforms that can introduce new revenue streams for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration at the subnational and local levels.

Action area 4
Capacity development

- (a) Support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in implementing capacity development and technology transfer initiatives that contribute to the implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Action area 5
Communication, education and public awareness

- (a) Support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in developing inclusive and action-oriented communication, education and public awareness, public access to information and participation initiatives at the subnational and local levels, reconnecting nature and people in and around cities and regions.

Action area 6
Assessment and improved information for decision-making

- (a) Invite the use of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity as a self-assessment tool for city and local governments to benchmark and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines;
- (b) Support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in co-producing data and gaining and also offering better access to data and scientific evidence and expertise to improve decision-making, enabled by improved capturing, analysis and reporting of local and landscape-based biodiversity data.

Action area 7
Monitoring and reporting

- (a) Encourage subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to use online commitment and reporting platforms, such as RegionsWithNature and CitiesWithNature,³¹⁰ where subnational governments can report on, and track progress against, their commitments to contributing to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (b) Involve subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the regular monitoring and review of progress against targets specified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) Include contributions made by subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- [(d) Coordinate inputs from subnational governments, cities and other local authorities on their contributions to achieving the objectives of the Convention and its protocols, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming for the purposes of the mid-term review, as set out in the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming.]

D. Implementation of the Plan of Action

- 4. Parties and other Governments are urged to implement the Plan of Action, as appropriate, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention and other key partners that convene subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, such as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Regions4 Sustainable Development (Regions4), the

³⁰⁹ Principle 2 of the ecosystem approach, adopted in decision V/6, is “Management should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level.”

³¹⁰ Linked with the CBD Action Agenda.

Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the European Union's Committee of the Regions, considering national priorities, capacities and needs.

5. Implementation of the Plan of Action will also be supported by the Global Partnership on Subnational and Local Governments for Biodiversity, an informal cooperative platform composed of United Nations agencies and programmes, academic networks and institutions, and networks of subnational governments, cities and local authorities, and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

6. The Advisory Committee on Local Governments and Biodiversity³¹¹ and the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity,³¹² will provide input and support to the Plan of Action from the points of view of cities and local authorities and subnational governments, respectively, in recognition of their critical, complementary and distinct role in the implementation of the Convention. Both committees, recognized in the Plan of Action endorsed through decision X/22, are open and free platforms with the sole objective of coordinating the contribution and participation of government at these levels in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. The Plan of Action recognizes the need to maintain flexibility in its approach to implementation in order to accommodate changing national, subnational and local priorities, as well as future decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

³¹¹ The current Terms of Reference for this Advisory Committee can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/subnational/partners-and-initiatives/global-partnership/advisory-committee-on-sub-national-governments>; however, they are currently being revised by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability acting as its Secretariat.

³¹² The current Terms of Reference for this Advisory Committee can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/subnational/partners-and-initiatives/global-partnership/advisory-committee-on-sub-national-governments>; however, they are currently being revised by Regions4.

Item 17. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

The following is taken from recommendation 3/13 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

A. Experience with concurrent meetings

Recalling decisions XII/27, CP-7/9 and NP-1/12, XIII/26, CP-8/10 and NP-2/12, 14/32, CP-9/8 and NP-3/10,

Having reviewed the experience in holding concurrently meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, using the criteria agreed earlier,

Taking into account the views of Parties and observers that participated in the concurrent meetings held in 2016 and 2018 as synthesized and presented in the notes by the Executive Secretary on the review of experience in holding concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and meetings of the Parties to the Protocols,³¹³

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the concurrent meetings were overall considered to have allowed for increased integration among the Convention and its Protocols, and improved consultations, coordination and synergies among the respective national focal points;

2. *Notes* that most of the criteria were considered as being met or partially met, and that further improvements in the functioning of the concurrent meetings are desirable, in particular to improve the outcomes and effectiveness of the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, in the concurrent meetings, and the importance, in particular, of ensuring adequate participation of representatives in meetings of the Parties to the protocols by making funding available for such participation, and, in this regard, recalls decision 14/37, paragraphs 36 to 46;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, to further improve the planning and organization of future concurrent meetings on the basis of the experience gained to date and the views expressed by Parties and observers;

B. Experience with virtual meetings

Recalling decision XII/29, paragraph 2, in which the Executive Secretary was requested to explore ways to increase the efficiency of meetings, including convening meetings through virtual means, and further developments in that regard,

Recognizing the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020, which rendered in-person meetings impracticable,

5. *Notes* the expeditious adjustments and arrangements made by the Secretariat, and the understanding and flexibility demonstrated by presiding officers and participants, which allowed the convening of a number of meetings and consultations in a virtual setting in response to the limitations caused by the pandemic situation, notwithstanding the inconveniences arising from such a setting, and the limitations that were agreed with regard to decision-making;

³¹³ See [CBD/SBI/2/16/Add.1](#) and associated information notes ([CBD/SBI/2/INF/1](#) and [INF/2](#)).

[6. *Agrees* that convening of formal meetings in a virtual setting, while important in terms of responding to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, does not set a precedent for the future organization of similar meetings under the Convention;]

[7. *Calls upon* Parties and observers to continue to participate in virtual and hybrid meetings that are held and encourages them to enhance capacities [and to make available technical and technological facilities] that are necessary for their representatives to participate in these meetings effectively;]

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to [compile] [and analyse] views from Parties, and relevant stakeholders, [and the experience and relevant studies available, especially within the United Nations system], in conducting virtual and hybrid meetings held in 2021 and 2022, [and prepare options for procedures for such meetings,] taking into account the specific challenges faced by delegations with network and connectivity problems, in particular by developing country Parties, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities and observers, and by those delegations from countries where meetings are scheduled at difficult times, [addressing issues about equity, participation and legitimacy]for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;

9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider the [compilation of views, analysis and options] referred to in paragraph 8 above and to make recommendations to the governing bodies of the Convention and the Protocols for consideration at their next meeting.

[C. Other areas to improve effectiveness

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with Parties, partners, stakeholders and relevant external experts, an analysis of options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including, inter alia, options to improve negotiating processes, to better follow-up on previous decisions, to benefit from innovations in decision-making methods and technologies, and to improve the engagement of observers in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to submit such analysis of options to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for its consideration at its fourth meeting.]

Item 18. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

The following is reproduced from document CBD/COP/15/15

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking into account the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting,

1. *Notes* that the Conference of the Parties will review progress in the implementation of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at each of its meetings to 2030, and decides that the development of further guidance for policy development and to support implementation should be based on the review of implementation as well as on new information that may become available including through scientific assessments;

2. *Takes note* of the preliminary list of issues to be addressed by meetings of the Conference of the Parties during the period 2022-2030 contained in the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary on the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2030 (CBD/COP/15/15);

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, to complete the list of issues in the annex, in light of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting as well as the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its tenth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing at its fourth meeting, to make it available through the Convention's website and to take into account the issues listed when preparing the agendas for relevant meetings under the Convention.

Item 19. Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of the status of implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on the basis of a report prepared by the Executive Secretary (CBD/COP/15/INF/3)

Item 20. Marine and coastal biodiversity

20 A. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

20A.1. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean

The following is taken from recommendation 23/4

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,³¹⁴ 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;³¹⁵

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](#).

³¹⁴ See decisions X/29, para. 36, and XI/17, para. 12.

³¹⁵ 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).³¹⁶
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.³¹⁷

Key to the tables

RANKING OF EBSA CRITERIA

Relevance

H: High

M: Medium

L: Low

∴ No information

CRITERIA

- **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

³¹⁶ For the report on the workshop, see CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/4.

³¹⁷ [United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1833, No. 31363.](#)

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](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/aa9a/bde9/eaf24f73bd471d64e8094722/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						
<p>1. Danish Skagerrak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 km² 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
<p>2. Danish Kattegat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 km². 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 seabirds, 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. <i>Haploopsis tubicola</i>, 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
<p>3. Cantabrian Sea (Southern Bay of Biscay)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is located in the south of the Bay of Biscay and is bounded by the parallels 43° 25'N and 45° 00'N and meridians 2° 10'W and 7° 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 	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						
<p>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.</p>							
<p>4. West Iberian Canyons and Banks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is located in waters surrounding Portugal and Spain. Its total area is 189,239 km² 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
<p>5. Gulf of Cádiz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (37° 00'N and 35° 56'N) and meridians (6° 00'W and 7° 24'W). 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. 	H	H	H	H	H	H	L
<p>6. Madeira – Tore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is bounded by the parallels 39°28'4.39"N and 33°31'17.04"N, and the meridians 13°31'12.88"W and 14°25'58.54"W. This area includes 19 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 km², 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

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
See the above key to the tables							
<p>7. Desertas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: This area includes the marine areas adjacent to the Desertas Islands. It has an area of 455 km² 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 (<i>Pterodroma deserta</i>). They also contain important reproductive and resting habitats for the endangered monk seal (<i>Monachus monachus</i>) in the form of pupping caves and resting beaches. 	H	H	H	H	-	-	-
<p>8. Oceanic Islands and Seamounts of the Canary Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is located in and around the Canary Islands, between the parallels 24°60'N and 32°27'N and meridians 20°96'W and 30°33'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 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. 	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
<p>9. Tropic Seamount</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, <i>Solenosmilia variabilis</i> 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 (<i>Poliopogon amadou</i>), 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
<p>10. Atlantis-Meteor Seamount Complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 km², with depths ranging from 265m (top of Atlantis seamount) to 4800m (bottom of Great 	H	H	H	H	M	H	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
See the above key to the tables							
<p>Meteor seamount). The area is bounded by the parallels 35°30'0,000''N and 29°12'0,000''N and meridians - 27°0'0,000''W and -31°30'0,000''W.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 km², 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. 							
<p>11. Ridge South of the Azores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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° C (Menez Hom and Saldanha) and 362° 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
<p>12. Graciosa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: This area encompasses the surrounding waters of Graciosa Island and two smaller islands: Baixo and Praia islets. It has an area of 277 km² 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 (<i>Hydrobates monteiroi</i>) and is also important for the breeding population of the Audubon's shearwater (<i>Puffinus lherminieri baroli</i>), 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 (<i>Hydrobates castro</i>), Cory's shearwater (<i>Calonectris borealis</i>), common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) and roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>). All of these species have low recovery rates and are highly sensitive to environmental degradation or depletion by human activity. 	H	H	H	H	-	-	-
<p>13. North Azores Plateau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	H	H	H	H	M	H	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
See the above key to the tables							
<p>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.</p>							
<p>14. Mid-North-Atlantic Frontal System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>15. Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: This area extends from 48°N and 55°188’N along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone occurs at 52°30’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 	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						
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.							
<p>16. Southern Reykjanes Ridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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. 	H	M	H	H	M	H	-
<p>17. Hatton and Rockall Banks and Basin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

20 A.2. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: further work

At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was unable to complete discussions on this matter. The Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate consultations among Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders, with a view to advancing discussions on this matter. Accordingly, an online forum was organized by the Secretariat from 14 to 21 September 2022, and the report is available as CBD/EBSA/OM/2022/1/1.

20 B. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was unable to complete discussions on this matter. The Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate consultations among Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders, with a view to advancing discussions on this matter. Accordingly, an online forum was organized by the Secretariat from 8 to 15 June 2022, and the report is available as CBD/MCB/OM/2022/1/1.

Item 21. Invasive alien species

The following is taken from recommendation 24/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with concern that invasive alien species is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss worldwide, as reported by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in its 2019 *Global Assessment Report*,

Noting the increasing volume of international consignments containing living organisms and propagules, as well as changes in trade patterns and consumer behaviour and habits,

Recognizing that anthropogenic changes in the environment, including climate change, land- and sea-use change, overexploitation and pollution, add further complexity and increased risk of biological invasions and consequent threats to biodiversity,

Emphasizing the need for increased collaboration among Parties, other Governments, subnational governments, where appropriate, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant organizations and all relevant sectors, including business,

Recalling decisions XII/16, XIII/13 and 14/11, and recognizing that voluntary guidance in relation to invasive alien species and trade in live organisms may also apply to e-commerce,

1. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species³¹⁸ and the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species including:³¹⁹

(a) Methods for cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis which best apply to the management of invasive alien species, and risk analysis on the potential consequences of the introduction of invasive alien species on social, economic and cultural values;

(b) Methods, tools and measures for the identification and minimization of additional risks associated with cross-border e-commerce in live organisms and the impacts thereof;

(c) Methods, tools and strategies for the management of invasive alien species as it relates to prevention of potential risks arising from climate change and associated natural disasters and land-use changes;

(d) Use of existing databases on invasive alien species and their impacts, to support risk communication;

(e) Additional advice and guidance on invasive alien species management.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to organize a peer-review process to solicit advice, pursuant to decision 14/11, on annexes I to VI below, taking into account the earlier decisions of the Conference of the Parties, [multilaterally agreed rules and specific circumstances in different regions,] to convene a moderated open-ended online forum on the results of the peer-review process and to make the outcomes available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, with a view to making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

[3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to more explicitly include diverse social and cultural values of biodiversity across communities at the national and/or subnational levels, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and the elderly, [noting the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

³¹⁸ CBD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/INF/1.

³¹⁹ CBD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/1/3.

regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services,³²⁰] and in accordance with the rights and obligations derived from relevant multilateral agreements, when assessing the costs, benefits and prioritization of management of invasive alien species, and to build on existing processes, and international and national best practices for engagement of relevant actors, in order to feed effectively into multi-criteria decision-making processes based on scientific evidence and risk assessments;]

4. *Welcomes* the inclusion of invasive alien species by the World Customs Organization in the Technical Specifications under its Framework of Standards on Cross-border E-Commerce;

5. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to develop national, regional or international open access portals or other websites directed to the general public, to raise cooperation, awareness and understanding of the threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and ecosystems, and offering practical help for identification and management of invasive alien species, as well as to enlist the help of the public in reporting occurrences, and in controlling and managing invasive alien species;

[6. *Reaffirms* that, when considering methods, such as engineered gene drives, to manage invasive alien species, the precautionary approach described in the preamble of the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol should be applied, recalling paragraph 11 of decision 14/19;]

7. *[Urges]/[Encourages]* Parties and other Governments to foster monitoring of the effects of large-scale changes of pathways and releases of alien translocated or captively raised populations of, for example, fish, trees and game species, on the genetic diversity of local native populations and their long-term ability to adapt to a changing environment, to take adequate actions to address any detrimental effects on native populations, and to share knowledge and best practices with other Parties, as appropriate;

8. *Invites* the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the World Customs Organization, the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Codex Alimentarius, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, within the scope of their respective mandates, to support the national implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with regard to targets and actions related to invasive alien species, including their monitoring and reporting;

9. *Notes* that the Economic and Social Council's Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods will consider including environmentally hazardous living organisms in chapter 2.9, class 9, of the United Nations *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods - Model Regulations*,³²¹ at its upcoming session, taking into account the risk of unintentional introduction of invasive alien species, including pathogens, in collaboration with the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and other experts;

10. *[Welcomes]/[Takes note of]* the ongoing work of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention)³²² on the subject of emerging infectious diseases caused by alien pathogens and parasites, as well as invasive alien species that may act as vectors or hosts of pathogens and parasites,³²³ in view of the growing threat that this presents to biodiversity, and invites Parties, other Governments and organizations to submit information to the Executive Secretary on experiences and relevant initiatives of horizon scanning, monitoring and managing emerging infectious

³²⁰ Approved by the IPBES Plenary in July 2022. <https://ipbes.net/the-values-assessment>

³²¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.19.VIII.1.

³²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1284, No. 21159.

³²³ See, for example, T-PVS/Inf(2019)18.

diseases affecting biodiversity [and, especially, the health of wild animals and plants, caused by alien pathogens or parasites and invasive alien species acting as vectors or hosts for pathogens or parasites];

[11. *[Welcomes]/[Takes note of]* the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control, expected to be published in May 2023;]

[12. *Invites* the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature to undertake assessments on the magnitude of the negative impacts from alien pathogens or parasites and invasive alien species that may transmit pathogens or parasites that may affect biodiversity and make the information available through the Global Invasive Species Database of the International Union for Conservation of Nature;]

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, [in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,] subject to the availability of resources:

[(a) To prepare a proposal to the Economic and Social Council's Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on a globally harmonized labelling system for consignments of environmentally hazardous living organisms or propagules, consistent and in harmony with international agreements and in consultation with the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and the Secretariat of the Sub-Committee, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

[(b) To collaborate with the World Tourism Organization, to consider joint efforts in addressing tourism as a major sector for introducing invasive alien species and the management thereof;]

(c) To continue collaboration with the International Plant Protection Convention, as well as other members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Species towards developing a globally harmonized and operational voluntary guidance on the [use and transport of sea containers]/[cleanliness of sea containers and their cargos];

(d) To continue and enhance collaboration with members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, including with a view to determining how approaches for the prevention, control and management of invasive alien species may be usefully applied to biological invasions of pathogenic agents, in particular zoonotic pathogens;

(e) To develop, on the basis of the national reports and in cooperation with the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and other relevant organizations, advice on the evaluation of existing capacity and needs for monitoring, preventing and controlling the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and their harmful effects to biodiversity, taking into account relevant multilateral instruments, and thereafter as relevant, update the online toolkit on invasive alien species of the Convention on Biological Diversity and develop additional training materials for such topics as management of priority species and pathways of introduction, identification and management of priority areas, as well as the application of international data standards in national and regional databases containing information on invasive alien species;

(f) To collaborate with members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and other relevant organizations, with a view to identifying gaps in knowledge, monitoring, and management of emerging infectious diseases affecting biodiversity and human health that relate to or are facilitated by invasive alien species, and to propose measures for mitigating and minimizing the negative effects on biodiversity and human health and preventing the further introduction and spread of relevant invasive alien species;

(g) To report the progress on the above to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex I

DRAFT METHODS FOR COST-BENEFIT AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS WHICH BEST APPLY TO THE MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (A))

1. Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 states the need for invasive alien species and pathways to be identified and prioritized and for priority species to be controlled or eradicated. The extended technical rationale for this target (CBD/COP/10/INF/12/Rev.1) includes the statement that “Given the multiple pathways for invasive species introductions and that multiple alien species are already present in many countries, it will be necessary to prioritize control and eradication efforts to those species and pathways which will have the greatest impact on biodiversity and/or which are the most resource effective to address.” Accordingly, a clear need exists to develop methods to prioritize invasive alien species and the active management thereof.
2. Established cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness methods are widely available and already in use in some regions to assist invasive alien species management decision-making, including prioritization. However, these existing analyses typically require detailed information, for example on costs, and may need technical expertise to apply. Including consideration of biodiversity, animal welfare and public acceptability in cost-benefit analyses can also be problematic as, although possible, these are often difficult to represent in simple financial terms.
3. The final decision to eradicate or manage an invasive alien species carries significant costs and risks. While these rapid methods may produce “short lists” of priority species to consider for management, more detailed pilot studies and economic assessments are recommended before commitments to management are made.
4. To support risk management, methods may be required when large numbers of species need to be rapidly assessed, where detailed information is often lacking and where non-monetary based inputs on social and cultural values are required.

A. Multi-criteria methods

5. Multi-criteria methods can be used in circumstances where more detailed, but data-hungry approaches, such as cost-benefit analysis, may be impractical. Multi-criteria methods provide a route to the rapid assessment of options and are already widely used to support invasive alien species decision-making – for example through the risk assessment process. There is scope to use multi-criteria methods more widely to support decision-making to answer questions such as how to prioritize species for management, when to choose between prevention, eradication or long-term management objectives, how to produce rapid assessments of large numbers of species, or how to compare the feasibility of different management options?
6. Multi-criteria decision-making is concerned with structuring and solving decision and planning problems involving multiple criteria. By breaking problems down into their different components they can be used to assess decisions in a transparent and rational manner, they can be rapidly applied to large numbers of cases, and by using expert opinion, or the knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities with their prior and informed consent, free prior and informed consent or approval and involvement, they can still be applied where published information is lacking. These modelling and methodological tools are designed to find optimal solutions to complex problems where assessment criteria or data are measured in different currencies.
7. Because multi-criteria approaches often operate in the absence of published data, this may raise concerns over the use of opinion or unsubstantiated information. The way in which multiple criteria are combined to support an overall conclusion can also be problematic and is often based on pragmatism rather than a validated approach. Nevertheless, multi-criteria methods and cost-benefit analysis benefit complement each other, for example an initial prioritization based on a large number of options may be undertaken using a multi-criteria approach, but the proposed priorities may then be more fully assessed using a more rigorous approach such as cost-benefit before resources are committed.

B. Advice for actions

8. A coordinated national, subnational and local response strategies should be developed to minimize incursions and impacts of invasive alien species, such as national, subnational and local invasive species strategies and action plans as a part of national, subnational and local biodiversity strategies and action plans. This could include strengthening and coordinating existing programmes, identifying and filling gaps with new initiatives, and building on the strengths and capacities of partner organizations, including academia and scientific institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth at the national, regional and local levels.

9. The best available prioritization methods should be applied to prioritize management of dispersal pathways of invasive alien species within as well as between countries, and for assessing feasibility and cost-effectiveness. These methods should be in a form compatible and complementary to existing approaches to risk assessment. Methods used for risk-prioritization of invasive alien species include cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness and risk analysis. However, the detailed information required to undertake cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses are often in short supply or uncertain, and these analyses require sufficient technical expertise. A number of science-based prioritization methodologies for invasive alien species, horizon-scanning, and impact and management for single or multiple types of invasive alien species have been developed by Parties or independent international science teams and are worth consideration by other countries.

10. Knowledge exchange should be promoted, as well as training and capacity-building to apply the best available prioritization methods consistently across environments.

11. The best available methods for prioritizing the invasive alien species to be managed and for assessing feasibility and cost-effectiveness, in a form compatible and complementary to existing approaches to risk assessment. Multi-criteria decision-making approaches should be used to support risk-based prioritization for management when information required to undertake cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis is lacking or uncertain.

12. States, sectoral authorities and organizations and subnational governments are encouraged to share information on their best practices regarding tools and technologies for the management³²⁴ of invasive alien species that can be implemented across sectors at all levels.

13. *Multi-criteria decision-making* approaches can be used, wherever possible, when applying risk analysis, cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses to support risk-based prioritization. Invasive alien species prioritized by actual or potential impacts using such rapid methods can then be considered in more detail to ensure that management, based on clear objectives, is indeed cost-effective and feasible. Multi-criteria decision-making can consider such aspects as effectiveness, practicality, feasibility, likelihood of success, cost, public acceptability, including to indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth of proposed actions as well as any unintended negative impacts of management alongside the risks and impacts posed by the targeted invasive alien species, in line with relevant multilateral agreements. These methods involve a structured process and can help resolve issues associated with decision-making and planning that involve multiple criteria and are designed to find optimal solutions to complex problems where assessment criteria or data are measured in different ways. They can also be used with expert elicitation when only incomplete or imprecise information is available.

14. Multi-criteria methods to support invasive species prioritization, risk management and decision-making need to be developed further. Opportunities for development include:

(a) There is considerable variation in the methods and approaches to prioritization and decision making used in different countries – reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of other approaches to this issue would be valuable;

(b) Risk management as part of a larger risk analysis process is widely used in other fields, such as plant health – increased dialogue with experts from these fields would help to develop best-practice;

(c) Other considerations will be needed when applying the approach to different management questions;

(d) Cases in which multi-criteria methods have been applied to invasive alien species management decision making are still limited – more trials and applications would help refine the approach;

(e) Where possible, published quantitative data should be used to underpin decision-making, in order to better identify and access key information.

15. It is suggested that guidelines be developed in order to more explicitly include social and cultural values when assessing the costs, benefits and prioritization of management. This could build on existing processes (for example, Socio-economic Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (SEICAT)) and international best practices on stakeholder engagement in decision-making. Decisions and risk analyses should be based on science and should follow international standards agreed under relevant international organizations, such as the agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, as appropriate.

³²⁴ This refers to the “application of measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate invasive alien species” (see [CBD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/1/2](#), para. 13(e)).

16. It is recommended that efforts be made to increase the accessibility of data and vocabulary on management activities across species and ecosystems to support evidence-based management prioritization and decision-making. This will be assisted by the creation of common approaches to sharing and reporting experience and information, common data formats that include information on the taxon, management objective, cost and/or effort, area covered and the outcome of management. To promote the production of prioritized lists for action, there is a need for knowledge exchange, training and capacity-building.

17. It is recommended that, in communicating risks associated with invasive alien species it be highlighted that these risks can affect biodiversity and the economy of indigenous regions/peoples and local communities as well as public health.

Annex II

DRAFT METHODS, TOOLS AND MEASURES FOR IDENTIFICATION AND MINIMIZATION OF ADDITIONAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE IN LIVE ORGANISMS AND THE IMPACTS THEREOF

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (B))

A. Suggested actions for national and/or subnational authorities/border agencies

1. Legislation and policy set by States

1. Investigate and evaluate the risks posed by all forms of e-commerce to the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and their parts and, if necessary, develop and implement appropriate risk management activities. See also decision XII/17, paragraph 9 (d).

2. Implement when addressing trade with invasive alien species through e-commerce, decision XIII/13, paragraphs 7 and 8 and use the voluntary guidance on devising and implementing measures to address the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquariums and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food (decision XII/16) and the supplementary guidance for avoiding unintentional introductions of invasive alien species associated with trade in live organisms (decision 14/11), as relevant.

3. Review existing national and/or subnational legislation, regulations and policies to verify that e-commerce is adequately addressed or make changes as needed to ensure that enforcement actions can be taken, in accordance with decision XIII/13, paragraph 2.

4. Establish mechanisms to identify commodities of concern that may be obtained via e-commerce with a focus on high and potential high-risk consignments, such as soils, growing media, and living organisms.

5. Consider the use of lists that specify which species may be imported and restrict the remainder, rather than lists that only identify those species whose import is prohibited or restricted, in the interests of preventing the unintended introduction of invasive alien species, and especially in the case of countries that are vulnerable to invasive alien species, such as small island developing States, island countries, and countries with islands. These considerations should be consistent with the guidance contained in decisions XII/16, paragraph 23,³²⁵ and decision 14/11(a),³²⁶ as well as other applicable international obligations and standards, including those recognized by the World Trade Organization Agreement on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) that are relevant for cross-border e-commerce, as well as in accordance with decisions XII/16, paragraphs 22 and 14/11, paragraph 11(a).

2. Indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders' engagement

6. In accordance with decision XIII/13, paragraph 7, develop mechanisms, in collaboration with e-commerce stakeholders, for identification of e-commerce traders, their locations and other stakeholders with a view to facilitating inter-agency and multi-stakeholder participation and cooperation.

³²⁵ Encourages Parties and other Governments (a) to develop and share a list of regulated invasive alien species, based on the results of risk analysis, where appropriate. Decision 14/11, para. 11 (a).

³²⁶ States should maintain lists of species with the assessed potential to become invasive and associated with unacceptable risks for biodiversity and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism or other appropriate means. Decision XII/16, para. 23.

7. Engage with indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, as well as the wider community and general public for detection of early incursion, establishment or spread of invasive alien species, including from e-commerce, across traditional lands and waters, as well as the wider community and general public.
8. Ensure, in accordance with decision 14/11, paragraph 10, compliance with the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary import requirements of importing countries among e-commerce customers and traders by providing quality information on the risks to the customer's country (legal, environmental and health related).
9. Strengthen coordination with postal and express courier services to ensure that relevant information on the risks and preventive measures are conveyed to e-commerce users in accordance with decision XII/16, paragraph 24, and taking into consideration decision 14/11, annex I, paragraphs 7, 9-11, 13 and 29.
10. Ensure, in collaboration with national and regional trade authorities, that import/export requirements are up-to-date, clear and accessible to e-commerce traders, indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders.
11. Aim to inform both sellers and buyers about potentially invasive alien species, focusing on their legal responsibility. Both social media and specialized media, such as pet magazines/journals/books, especially journals from pet or plant association/society and multi-agency targeted publicity campaigns should be used to disseminate correct information, aiming to shift consumer values (e.g. towards native and non-invasive species) and to change behaviours (e.g. to prevent impulse purchase of invasive alien species) in accordance with decision XIII/13, paragraph 7(a).
12. Encourage, taking into consideration decision XIII/13, paragraph 7, e-commerce platforms and e-payment service providers, postal and express courier services to adhere to national regulations, international standards and guidance on invasive alien species in their operations, in consistency with other international obligations.
13. Consider implementing the Single Window³²⁷ approach, which allows the sharing of standardized information and documents with a single-entry point to fulfil all import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements. Its implementation at the national and/or subnational level may facilitate reporting on regulated articles (including live alien organisms with phytosanitary and sanitary risks, and risks to biodiversity), taking into account decision XII/16, paragraph 6, decision XIII/13, paragraph 7(c) and decision 14/11, annex I, paragraph 33.
14. Establish legal and policy frameworks that allow for the advanced international electronic sharing and exchange of data between all actors involved in the international supply chain, as appropriate, and use these data to triage packages and determine the level of inspection needed (risk-based inspection).

3. *Monitoring and compliance*

15. Gather data, taking into consideration decision 14/11, annex I, paragraphs 34-36, and in compliance with national legislation and circumstances, using all available means and tools (e.g. crowdsourcing) to monitor compliance and to evaluate the efficacy of activities that are implemented to mitigate risks associated with e-commerce. The data collected should be used, together with other relevant information including compliance history, and relevant information from indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent, to inform risk-based inspections and determine if investigation or enforcement action is needed. Data analytics should be applied to discern any abnormal trends and patterns, including potential invasive alien species incursion and impact risks.
16. Disseminate good practices and risk-based interventions using best practice methods of data analytics to facilitate legitimate e-commerce and, at the same time, identify and stop illicit trade. Wherever possible, prioritize the use of non-intrusive inspection (NII) technologies, and promote the adequacy of existing technologies e.g. scanners, sniffer dogs and other available tools for the detection of invasive alien species, and the further development of automated biosensors to improve efficient detection of prohibited and restricted articles moving through the express courier and postal systems.
17. Develop and implement training and tools to facilitate appropriate level of monitoring and inspection in e-commerce markets. This could include developing guidance on monitoring of e-commerce platforms and on the issuance of warnings, notices and other enforcement actions when non-compliances are found in e-commerce transactions, and the proper handling of restricted items seized in compliance with national and/or subnational law.

³²⁷ A single window is defined as a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements (see <http://www.wcoomd.org/~media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/tf-negotiations/wco-docs/info-sheets-on-tf-measures/single-window-concept.pdf>).

B. Suggested actions for web marketplaces (sale platforms) and e-payment service providers, postal and express courier services

18. Web marketplaces (sale platforms) and e-payment service providers, postal and express courier services are strongly encouraged to:

(a) Consider the information available from relevant international bodies, national and/or subnational authorities and other sources, regarding the risks (both legal and environmental) posed by invasive alien species and take steps accordingly to make their users aware of them, taking into account decision 14/11, annex I, paragraphs 11-13;

(b) Monitor e-commerce taking place within their platforms or jurisdiction and, consistent with relevant national and/or subnational legislation, alert relevant authorities where there is evidence of illegal or otherwise potentially damaging trade in invasive alien species taking place;

(c) Develop and apply improved management measures to minimize the risks of introduction of invasive alien species through e-commerce, consistent with international and national obligations.

C. Suggested actions for international bodies/agreements and cross-jurisdictional collaboration

19. International bodies/agreements, in collaboration with regional organizations and national authorities, as relevant, are strongly encouraged to undertake the following:

(a) Collaborate to share data, information, technology and expertise on e-commerce in potential invasive alien species;

(b) Draw on guidance from other international bodies, including the ongoing work by the World Customs Organization and in the Bern Convention;

(c) Continue to monitor e-commerce with potential invasive alien species at the global and regional levels with a view to identifying trends and risks in trade of invasive alien species;

(d) Prepare guidance to assist national border agencies in responding to non-compliance, considering that both domestic and international actions may be required to respond effectively;

(e) Improve collaboration between national border agencies in order to enhance opportunities to link existing security initiatives with invasive alien species risk management and targeted (risk-based) inspections. This will also provide a mechanism for timely information-sharing among national border agencies and other relevant ministries/departments on issues related to cross-border e-commerce trade;

(f) Conduct joint capacity-building activities with relevant organizations, Parties and other Governments and provide technical assistance and resources for implementing existing international guidelines and standards, and developing national and/or subnational regulatory frameworks or measures to address the risks associated with e-commerce for all relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities;

(g) Expand the concept of “authorized economic operators”³²⁸ (AEO); trusted trader to cross-border e-commerce and include invasive alien species risks in AEO criteria and requirements. Implementing AEO and trusted trader programmes in the e-commerce environment for postal operators, express carriers and e-platforms, which would result in a lower frequency of inspections;

(h) Establish frameworks that allow for the advanced electronic exchange of data between all parties involved in the international supply chain and use these data to triage packages and determine the level of inspection needed (risk-based inspection).

D. Suggested actions for relevant international expert organizations

20. Relevant international expert organizations are strongly encouraged to:

³²⁸ See also WCO *Compendium of Authorized Economic Operator Programmes* (2019), <http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/instruments-and-tools/tools/safe-package/aeo-compendium.pdf?db=web>

(a) Raise awareness among international, national organizations and e-commerce stakeholders about import/export requirements and what can be done to minimize the risk of introduction and spread of alien and potentially invasive species associated with e-commerce, taking into account decision XIII/13 paragraph 7(a);

(b) Building on such frameworks as EICAT,³²⁹ establish an international invasive alien species risk-based labelling system, to be used for all species sold via e-commerce and provide guidance on the handling and care of organisms. On consignments of live alien species, such labelling should include information to enable identification of hazards for biodiversity and the identification of species or lower taxa (e.g., scientific name, taxonomic serial number or its equivalent), taking into account decisions XII/17 and 14/11 as well as the ongoing work of the Economic and Social Council's Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

Annex III

DRAFT METHODS, TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AS IT RELATES TO PREVENTION OF POTENTIAL RISKS ARISING FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND ASSOCIATED NATURAL DISASTERS AND LAND USE CHANGES

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (C))

³²⁹ IUCN *Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa*, <https://ipbes.net/policy-support/tools-instruments/environmental-impact-classification-alien-taxa-eicat>

1. The interactions of climate change, associated changes in land and marine ecosystems and biological invasions will have profound consequences for biodiversity. These interactions are considered and potential responses enumerated in CBD/AHTEG/IAS/2019/1/2.
2. Climate change is aiding increased rates of (and risk of spread of many alien species). Human adaptations to climate change will alter land-use and increase disturbances in the ecosystem that, in turn, facilitate the establishment of alien species.
3. Not all invasive alien species incursions are successful, nor will all invasive alien species benefit from climate change, as some may become less abundant under particular changing climates. Some invasive alien species will decline in importance while some currently low impact alien species may become significant invasive alien species.
4. Climate change may exacerbate existing problems and impacts of invasive alien species, with both direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity and socioeconomic values. Changing ocean currents will have huge impacts on species movements in marine environments as well as influence climatic conditions on land. Loss of permanent sea ice is opening up new sea transport routes and shipping in the Arctic is creating greater probability of invasive alien species introduction and establishment in the Arctic terrestrial and marine environments.
5. Climate change is associated with more frequent extreme weather events like cyclones and flooding. Extreme weather events cannot only transport invasive alien species to new areas, but also cause disturbances in habitats which enable invasive alien species to establish themselves and spread. Climate-induced extreme weather events can also lead to sudden human population movements and displaced people can inadvertently transport invasive alien species.
6. Prevention and management of invasive alien species under climate change becomes an even greater challenge with climate change. New prioritization actions will be required.
7. For more information on tools that support management of invasive alien species in the face of climate change.³³⁰

A. Prediction

8. Managing the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services requires knowledge of the manner in which the actual and potential impact will vary as a result of climate change so that management priorities can be adapted accordingly.
9. States, organizations and relevant stakeholders, taking into account, among other things, decision 14/5, are strongly encouraged:
 - (a) To undertake horizon scanning to forecast/predict future changes in actual and potential risks and impacts of invasive alien species arising from climate change;
 - (b) To identify changes in invasive alien species pathway risks arising from climate change. Climatically similar regions posing the greatest current mutual risks today are likely to change in the future along with changes in vectors and pathways, including changes in trade and the movement of people between these regions;
 - (c) To prioritize invasive alien species on the basis of potential direct and indirect impacts in the context of climate change;
 - (d) To identify effects of climate change on new potential invasive alien species introductions or pathways of introductions and establishment into pristine and invaded communities;
 - (e) To determine and prioritize for action sites at the greatest risk from climate change and invasive alien species;
 - (f) To prioritize efforts to maintain ecosystem goods and services, as well as ecosystem structures and functions on sites at the greatest risk from climate change and invasive alien species;
 - (g) To apply climate models to understand the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services arising from climate change, and to further develop models for use on a broad scale by developing countries;

³³⁰ See the synthesis report of the Online Forum (CBD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/1/INF/1).

(h) To develop better methods to integrate (i) climate change models, (ii) land-use scenarios and (iii) trends in trade with invasive alien species data analysis to improve prediction capability;

(i) To define scenarios to understand where invasive alien species may indirectly increase the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services by transforming ecosystems;

(j) To modify/fine-tune invasive alien species risk analysis, and identify potential alien invasive species³³¹ (including disease vectors) that remain only casual under current conditions without significant impact; and are likely to become established and/or invasive and have an increased impact due to rapid population growth as a result of climate change;

(k) To identify and study potential future invasive alien species that can establish and spread and have an increased impact as a result of climate change. This can be done by using such approaches as sentinel sites to monitor changes in abundance, spread and impacts of such species or by carrying out trait- and impact-based risk assessments;

(l) To identify invasive alien species that are likely to benefit under increased CO₂ levels, rising temperatures, increased frequency of extreme events, fire regimes of increased frequency and intensity, high salt-water incursions, changes in ocean currents and changes in precipitation patterns, and prioritize management to prevent their spread and impacts, including humane methods of eradication and control;

(m) To improve knowledge of the risks of invasive alien species adapting to new environmental conditions, including rapid evolution and hybridization;

(n) To identify impacts of invasive alien species arising from climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(o) To ensure the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, use of their biocultural indicators, early identification and warning systems and traditional knowledge in the development of predictions of invasive alien species under climate change with their “free, prior and informed consent” or “free, prior informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances.

B. Planning and prevention

10. States are encouraged, in collaboration with experts, subnational government, indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders:

(a) To develop climate change relevant risk analysis for prioritizing invasive alien species for management (e.g. fire enhancing weeds);

(b) To develop and implement management strategies to eradicate, contain or control high ranking potential alien species and introduced or established invasive alien species before they can respond to climate change. Those strategies should be object of an appropriate risk analysis, in order to avoid unnecessary biosafety concerns;

(c) To monitor the spread and impact of all established and potential alien species, particularly in sites or regions where biodiversity and ecosystem services are likely to deteriorate rapidly under climate change. Best-practice approaches using, for example, remote sensing or sensor networks are suggested to be undertaken;

(d) To minimize the potential of biological invasions or develop spatial response planning for areas in which communities are threatened with a high risk of extreme weather events (e.g, relocate zoos, botanical gardens, exotic aquaculture facilities from extreme-event-prone areas);

(e) To adapt current pathway management with a view to reducing changes in risks arising from climate, including predicted associated changes in trade and movement of people;

(f) To engage all sectors, including agriculture and public health agencies and industries, in invasive alien species planning activities where climate change risks are cross-sectoral;

(g) To raise public awareness of changing invasive alien species threats arising from climate change and include the participation of the public and all relevant sectors in response planning;

³³¹ Sleeper alien species: alien species whose population persistence is limited by the current climate and which are expected to exhibit greater rates of establishment as a result of climate change.

- (h) To collect best practices of indigenous peoples and local communities on the monitoring, controlling and mitigation of the impacts of invasive alien species caused by climate change;
- (i) To engage with regional and local specialists when considering prevention, planning and mitigation measures.

C. Management

11. It is suggested that States take the following actions:

- (a) Apply adaptive management approaches to future prioritized management actions in the context of climate change and share the information with other Parties to improve outcomes;
- (b) Take steps to increase the long-term functional resilience of threatened ecosystems and habitats to climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters and associated invasive alien species incursions, particularly for islands and coastal systems, taking into account guidance in decision 14/5, paragraphs 3(h), 4(b) and its annex as well as decision X/33, paragraph 8(n);
- (c) Undertake focused management actions, including containment, eradication when possible or control of invasive alien species in areas that could act as non-native sources for spread into identified vulnerable areas and/or native communities;
- (d) Collate existing knowledge into international online databases to allow the interoperable collection and dissemination of data and knowledge on the effectiveness of actions to mitigate impacts of invasive alien species arising from climate change. An example of such a database is the Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications (DIISE);³³²
- (e) Develop and integrate invasive alien species management strategies into “threatened climate vulnerable species movement-assisted translocation actions” to avoid unintended consequences, taking into account decision X/33, paragraph 8(e);
- (f) Collect best practices of indigenous peoples and local communities on the monitoring, control and mitigation of the impacts of invasive alien species, diseases and shifting species distributions caused by climate change.

D. National and international cooperation

12. States and relevant international organizations are strongly urged to integrate pathway and invasive alien species risk based multi-criteria prioritization approaches into all levels of planning to obtain multiple benefits and shared outcomes, including the following:

- (a) National and international climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, environmental impact assessments, and response planning activities in accordance with decision X/33, paragraph 8(p);
- (b) Other relevant conventions (e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) and providing relevant United Nations implementing agencies with policy guidance;
- (c) National and international commitments and actions under the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (d) Market incentive programmes and other actions funded by multilateral agencies or forums, such as the Global Environment Facility, the Clean Development Mechanism and the Green Climate Fund.

13. It is suggested that relevant international organizations organize training for governmental and non-governmental development assistance agencies and operatives engaged in disaster relief, identify risks of introducing and spread of invasive alien species with their activities and undertake rapid response with appropriate measures, such as quarantine of equipment and goods, emergency response, eradication, containment and control.

³³² <http://diise.islandconservation.org>.

Annex IV

**DRAFT RISK ANALYSIS ON THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE INTRODUCTION OF
INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL VALUES**

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (D))

1. It is suggested that guidelines be developed in order to more explicitly include social and cultural values when assessing the costs, benefits and prioritization of management. This could build on existing processes (for example, Socioeconomic Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (SEICAT)) and international best practices on engagement of indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders in decision-making. New Zealand incorporates cultural knowledge, values and perspectives (mātauranga) in the management of invasive alien species. Māori are involved in the governance of invasive alien species management, especially when culturally and spiritually significant (taonga) species are at risk. This system is worthy of emulation. States should seek formal participation and ensure bidirectional data streams between data holders and generators through the national data portals (where applicable) to the global-level aggregators. Country membership status, capacity, resources and other aspects should be understood by all Parties. Open access to data and seamless integration of this data between data tools used by indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders is an imperative for better management and monitoring of this threat. This will (a) increase data flows necessary for analysis at the level of the Convention on Biological Diversity and international decision-making and (b) open opportunities for national capacity-building and resourcing.
2. It is suggested that efforts be made to increase qualitative and quantitative knowledge and data on socioeconomic and cultural impacts of invasive alien species on communities and society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and methods to use this knowledge when prioritizing invasive alien species for impact and management feasibility and likelihood of success. It will be important to define socioeconomic, cultural and community well-being criteria in order to collectively evaluate such impacts, for example how the impacts of invasive alien species on treasured, sacred, culturally and spiritually significant native species can be measured, and impact thresholds understood and addressed.
3. Enhanced risk communication is essential to facilitate dialogue and understanding between and among indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders, who may include the general public and indigenous peoples and local communities. Risk communication seeks to reconcile the views of all interested parties in order to achieve a common understanding of the risks posed by invasive alien species, develop credible risk management options and consistent regulations, and promote awareness of issues concerning invasive alien species.
4. There is a lack of well-documented semi-quantitative criteria for socioeconomic, cultural and community well-being on which not only to evaluate impacts, but also to evaluate the effectiveness of the applied risk management option.
5. Social impact assessment offers a structured process for identifying, evaluating and addressing social costs and benefits. It has potential value for enabling public participation in planning and as a key component of integrated assessments of management options.

Annex V

**DRAFT USE OF EXISTING DATABASES ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND THEIR IMPACTS, TO
SUPPORT RISK COMMUNICATION**

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (E))

1. This advice is aimed at assisting Parties, other Governments and organizations in developing and maintaining efficient, timely and up-to-date data and information for management of invasive alien species.
2. Enhanced risk communication is essential to facilitate dialogue and understanding between and among indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders. Risk communication seeks to reconcile the views of all interested Parties in order to achieve a common understanding of the risks posed by invasive alien species, develop credible risk management options and consistent regulations, and promote awareness of issues concerning invasive alien species.
3. It is essential that regularly updated and curated data is maintained on invasive alien species distribution, impact and management action and relevant knowledge. Relevant publicly available data should be shared with the

key global data aggregators to support processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international and regional agreements.

4. It is essential that Parties, other Governments and organizations engage with key global aggregators and data providers (e.g. Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS)) and ensure bidirectional data streams between data holders and generators through the national data portals (where applicable) to the global-level aggregators. Open access to data, seamless integration of this data between data tools and availability of the data to indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders are imperative for better management and monitoring of invasive alien species. National or central coordination of data streams is essential for timely, comprehensive and fair availability of the occurrence data on invasive alien species from multiple sources. This will (a) increase data flows necessary for global and regional analysis and decision-making and (b) open opportunities for national capacity-building and resourcing.

5. It is important to facilitate data sharing and, where appropriate, use common international data standards, standard terminology in national, regional, local and thematic databases, even if languages differ between data portals.

6. It is also important to obtain free, prior and informed consent from indigenous peoples and local communities when using their traditional knowledge.

7. Real-time data sharing is recommended to allow access to up-to-date information to enable early detection and rapid response.

8. There is a great need for States, organizations and the scientific community to identify gaps in knowledge and information on alien species in existing databases and strive to improve knowledge and data, especially for organism groups on which knowledge is especially poor, such as alien marine species, invertebrates, microorganisms and fungi. Increased interaction between data generators, data providers and experts may provide improvements in the quality of data. Collaboration between experts in collating existing databases using existing standards could also contribute to filling these information gaps. Errors in current databases should be identified and corrected in existing databases.

9. Existing global invasive alien species data providers, such as the IUCN-Invasive Species Specialist Group (IUCN-ISSG), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and CABI, could be invited to provide a global platform for sharing information, experiences and analysis of the results of management activities for invasive alien species, best practices in policy and regulatory mechanisms and codes of conduct to address activities that lead to the introduction and spread of alien and invasive species, aquariums and local productive activities.

10. IUCN-ISSG and partners could be invited to index, collate and archive the development of policy response indicators within the Biodiversity Indicators Framework (BIP) and Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.8.1.

11. States, organizations and experts are invited to continue supporting the ongoing development of the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) and other expert networks focused on collation and curation of new and existing data.

12. GBIF could be invited to include distribution data on invasive alien species in their global biodiversity databases.

13. States, sectoral authorities, international, regional and local organizations and relevant stakeholders could be invited to contribute to and use the CABI Invasive Species Compendium, which is an encyclopedic resource of scientific information on invasive alien species to help inform decision-making.

14. States, sectoral authorities, international, regional and local organizations, experts and relevant stakeholders are invited to use and further develop, as needed, impact assessment frameworks (e.g. EICAT and SEICAT) to develop science-based policies and prioritization of invasive alien species management actions.³³³

Annex VI

³³³ For more information on using these tools, see CBD/AHTEG/IAS/2019/1/2, pp 31-35.

DRAFT ADDITIONAL ADVICE AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES MANAGEMENT

A. Advice on the use of sanitary and phytosanitary measures

1. The application of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures to regulate import/export of alien organisms at the national level requires close collaboration between national authorities and other relevant ministries and departments. Some countries closely coordinate their activities on import requirements for alien organisms among relevant ministries and agencies, including national plant protection organizations and the veterinary authorities (e.g., coordination in Australia between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Energy).
2. Environmental authorities, national plant protection organizations and veterinary authorities should be advised to establish strong partnerships with national, regional and local governments in connection with mandates for alien species management. This will help prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and support early detection, rapid response and effective management. Such partnerships could include collaboration in setting national and regional priorities, completing risk assessments, carrying out surveillance, developing response plans, sharing information and exchanging expertise.
3. A large number of the international standards that are recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) are relevant for protecting biodiversity. These SPS measures should be applied more widely, not only in the context of agriculture, but also to protect the health of wild fauna and flora.
4. A number of guides, manuals and training materials have been developed under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to build capacity and support the implementation of international standards. These materials should be used to raise awareness and build capacity among partner organizations to address the issue of invasive alien species.
5. There is a need for capacity-building among developing countries, for implementing existing IPPC and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) international guidelines and standards and for developing national regulatory frameworks to address the risks associated with invasive alien species.
6. Regional cooperation and partnerships should be further developed to support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and beyond, through regular coordination and communication, identification of common priorities and alignment of efforts on a regional basis. This could be supported through IPPC by using the model of regional plant protection organizations to foster cooperation on invasive alien species.
7. A key gap that needs additional attention and guidance is pathogens affecting wildlife and invasive alien species that may be a vector or host of pathogens or parasites and other organisms that do not meet the IPPC definition of quarantine pests, the pathogens causing diseases listed under OIE and other organisms (e.g. invasive ants) that are not covered by IPPC or OIE.
8. As countries adopt different approaches in regulating invasive alien species (e.g., lists of restricted, prohibited and permitted species or hybrids), guidelines could be developed on how such approaches can be implemented in compliance with the SPS Agreement, with a view to facilitating the development of better regulation and ensure transparency.

B. Advice on management-specific pathways

1. Inter-basin water transfer and navigational canals

9. The ratification and application of relevant international maritime agreements (e.g. the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention), mentioned in paragraph 25 of decision VIII/27, and the Guidelines for the control and management of biofouling mentioned in paragraphs 29 and 30 of decision VIII/27) should be promoted in order to diminish the spread of invasive alien species through new shipping routes opening up as a result of climate change.
10. Regional cooperation among States should be enhanced on planning, monitoring and data exchange on invasive alien species specifically related to inter-basin water channels to establish early warning and rapid response systems as well as researching and employing methodologies to reduce new invasions through these channels.
11. Measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species in the procedures for planning, development and management of the inland waterway infrastructure should be promoted, as appropriate. Relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and other stakeholders, including local

fishers and other groups that are dependent on the waterways (e.g., boaters, recreational boat users, outfitters), should be consulted and engaged when planning and designing such measures.

2. *International aid programmes*

12. Developing countries need capacity-building, resource mobilization and information sharing for assessing and managing the invasive alien species risks associated with international aid programmes.

13. Aid agencies should ensure that any initiatives/projects/programmes/agreements avoid the introduction of invasive alien species into the area.

Emergency relief, aid and response

14. Environmental authorities should consult the relevant enforcement agencies to comply with the SPS Agreement or the country's quarantine regulation to prevent risk of biological invasions associated with emergency relief, aid and response.

15. Documenting any case of invasive alien species in aid-recipient countries should be initiated across broad sectors.

16. The risk of invasive alien species should be incorporated into emergency response strategies.

17. The responsibilities of aid-providers and aid-recipients should be identified to avoid any invasive alien species introduction through contaminants in aid transports and transfers.

3. *Air transport*

18. Relevant organizations should engage indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders at all levels to develop standards to prevent hitchhiker or stowaway species arriving by air.

19. Relevant organizations, including IPPC, OIE, ICAO, WCO and IATA, should collaborate to develop harmonized operating standards related to air cargo, with input from indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders.

20. States should avoid the introduction and spread of invasive alien species through the transport of living organisms, in accordance with the guidance annexed to decisions XII/16 and 14/11.

4. *Tourism*

21. Parties, in collaboration with travel operators and non-governmental organizations, should develop awareness programmes and campaigns to educate tourists, tourism agencies, local communities and policymakers on the risk and management of invasive alien species, and strategies and techniques to minimize risks.

22. Minimizing the impact of touristic activity to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species should be prioritized, taking into account vulnerable ecosystems, such as in protected areas, and island ecosystems.

23. The Secretariat should collaborate with the World Tourism Organization to consider joint efforts in addressing tourism as a major possibility for introducing invasive alien species and the management thereof.

5. *Sea containers and cargos*

24. Parties and other Governments should be aware that sea containers may carry invasive alien species with any cargoes, including industrial products, not only cargoes containing living organisms.

25. Relevant organizations should engage indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders at all levels to develop guidelines to prevent invasions of hitchhiker or stowaway species through sea containers.

26. Relevant organizations, including IPPC, OIE, IMO and WCO, should further collaborate to develop harmonized operational standards to address the pathways of biological invasion (contaminants and stowaway) via sea containers, in close cooperation with the relevant business sector and input from indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders, taking into account the appropriate treatment of sea containers prior to loading cargos.

27. The introduction and spread of invasive alien species through the transport of sea containers should be avoided, in accordance with the guidance annexed to decision XIII/13 and take appropriate actions to prevent the unintentional spread of invasive alien species via sea containers, taking into account paragraphs 10, 34, 35 and 36 of

the guidance annexed to decision 14/11 and other relevant international guidance, for example, the IPPC Guidance from the International Plant Protection Convention's Sea Container Task Force.³³⁴

28. Trade partners involved in operation of sea containers should act proactively to prevent unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

C. Advice on capacity-building activities

29. The capacity-building programme under the Convention, should include capacity-building in invasive alien species management.

30. Training programmes at the international, national, subnational or local level should be established by inviting broad sectors, especially academics and scientific expert organizations and other relevant organizations, including indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth.

31. The evaluation of existing capacity and the development of training packages for relevant topics, such as taxonomy, ecology, invasion biology, risk analysis – in particular horizon scanning – biological control, management of priority species and pathways should be considered within the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building.

32. There is a need to develop technical resources, including technical manuals for broad sectors, as follows:

(a) Taxonomic identification of organisms, including identification keys based on morphology, and the link to databases with images and to lists of specialists, DNA barcoding, artificial-intelligence-aided identification and citizen science;

(b) How to apply sanitary and phytosanitary measures to prevent spread of invasive alien species;

(c) How to publish and use data on invasive alien species using international data standards to ensure cross-linking national, subnational and regional and global thematic databases;

(d) Best practices published on successful eradications, and other useful information resources on technical advice on websites;

(e) How to use shared information on invasive alien species for national and subnational policy-setting and implementation;

(f) How to apply classical biological control agents against invasive alien species and under what circumstances;

(g) How to apply an ecosystem-based approach to control invasive alien species;

(h) Multi-criteria decision support manual for policymakers;

(i) If needed, a model regulatory act on invasive alien species with shared responsibility among broad sectors;

(j) Management manuals for broad sectors to communicate on invasive alien species among different stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth.

³³⁴ Reducing the spread of invasive pests by sea containers (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca7670en/CA7670EN.pdf>)

Item 22. Sustainable Wildlife Management

The following is taken from recommendation 23/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

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 2020³³⁵ 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 the sustainable use of wild species and its implications for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

³³⁵ See [CBD/WG2020/1/INF/3](#).

(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.

Item 23. Biodiversity and climate change

The following is taken from recommendation 23/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

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,³³⁶ 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,³³⁷

[*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 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,³³⁸

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-*

³³⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

³³⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

³³⁸ <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>.

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),³³⁹ (b) IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems (SRCCL),³⁴⁰ and (c) IPCC special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate (SROCC),³⁴¹

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;³⁴²

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,³⁴³ 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;

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,³⁴⁴ 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:

³³⁹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

³⁴⁰ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>

³⁴¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/home/>

³⁴² CBD/SBSTTA/23/3.

³⁴³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

³⁴⁴ 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>

[(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;³⁴⁵

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 2015-2030,³⁴⁶ the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the New Urban Agenda,³⁴⁷ 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

³⁴⁵ 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>.

³⁴⁶ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

³⁴⁷ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

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.

Item 24. Biodiversity and agriculture

The following is taken from recommendation 24/6 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions III/11, V/5, [VI/5](#), [VIII/23](#) and [X/34](#),

Acknowledging the importance of soil biodiversity in underpinning the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems and, therefore, most of the services it delivers,

Recognizing that activities to promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services they provide, are key in the functioning of sustainable agricultural systems for food and nutrition security for all, for climate change [mitigation and] adaptation, the transition towards more sustainable agricultural [and food] systems and to enhance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

[1. *Adopts* the plan of action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, as contained in the annex to the present decision, and considers it an instrument for supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;]

2. *[Takes note of] [Welcomes]* the report entitled *State of Knowledge on Soil Biodiversity - Status, Challenges and Potentialities*,^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils of the Global Soil Partnership, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative, the European Commission and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to support the implementation of, and capacity-building and development for, the plan of action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity through, among other things, the integration of appropriate measures into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, sustainable soil management and relevant agricultural policies, plans, legislation, standards, programmes and practices, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

[4. *Urges* Parties to address the [direct and indirect] drivers of soil biodiversity loss and land degradation [, including land-use change, and to identify, phase out and eliminate incentives, taxes and subsidies harmful to soil biodiversity];]

5. *Encourages* Parties to integrate the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity into agricultural systems [and other managed ecosystems] [and other sectors identified by previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties], land and soil management, development programmes and relevant policies [at all levels, including incentives, and other measures, such as taxes and subsidies, to promote sustainable soil management];

6. *Invites* academic and research bodies, relevant organizations, networks and indigenous peoples and local communities, [farmers,] women and youth, to increase knowledge and promote awareness-raising activities on the importance of soil biodiversity and to promote further research in order to address gaps identified in the plan of action[, including through North-South technology transfer and capacity-building];

7. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including through the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, to facilitate the implementation of the plan of action, involving Parties, including their ministries of agriculture and environment at the national level, as appropriate;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the

Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils of the Global Soil Partnership and the Global Initiative for Soil Biodiversity to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with regard to soil-related targets and actions, including their monitoring and reporting;

9. *Urges* [developed country Parties] [Parties] and invites other Governments and organizations [in a position to do so,] to provide technical and financial support, as appropriate, to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to promote the research, technology transfer, monitoring and assessment of soil biodiversity [, consistent with Article 20 of the Convention];

10. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, other donors, funding agencies and the private sector to provide financial assistance, including capacity-building and development activities, for national, subnational and regional projects, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, that address the implementation of the plan of action for the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity.³⁴⁸

11. *Invites* Parties to provide, on a voluntary basis, information on their activities and results from the implementation of the plan of action, in alignment with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as appropriate, and requests the Executive Secretary to compile the submissions and to make them available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to bring the present decision to the attention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, other United Nations organizations, programmes and biodiversity-related conventions and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).³⁴⁹

Annex

DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION 2020-2030 FOR THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOIL BIODIVERSITY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since the launch of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, a significant amount of new scientific, technical and other types of knowledge relevant to soils and their biodiversity has been released.

2. The plan of action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity is based on the review of the Initiative, the *Status of the World's Soil Resources* report³⁵⁰ and on the findings of the report on the *State of Knowledge on Soil Biodiversity - Status, Challenges and Potentialities*,³⁵¹ prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.

3. Improved management of soil and its biodiversity offers solutions for all sectors that rely on soils, including forestry and farming, [as well as natural areas,] while it can simultaneously increase carbon storage, improve water and nutrient cycling, resilience to climate change, [while preventing and avoiding potential impacts arising from the implementation of soil mitigation approaches and practices on indigenous peoples and local communities] [including

³⁴⁸ This paragraph, which addresses support from the Global Environment Facility, will eventually be reflected in a decision on the financial mechanism which will consolidate the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the Global Environment Facility.

³⁴⁹ See General Assembly resolution 73/284 of 1 March 2019.

³⁵⁰ [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils \(2015\). *Status of the World's Soil Resources – Main Report, Rome*.](#)

³⁵¹ CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/8.

through nature-based solutions,³⁵²] [including through ecosystem approaches] and mitigate pollution. Soil biodiversity depends on the type of climate, mineral soil and type of vegetation and, in turn, this biodiversity has an effect on soil. In order to maintain or restore the biodiversity of soils, it is necessary to maintain or restore their biophysical, biochemical and biological properties. Soil biodiversity and its biotic interactions are important levers to improve soil quality and function, highlighting the importance of research, monitoring and management that is geared directly at soil biodiversity, as an integrative part and key element of soil quality. Soil biodiversity is also crucial to improve not only soil health,³⁵³ but also plant, animal and human health.

4. However, soil is one of the world's most vulnerable resources in the face of pollution, climate change, desertification, land degradation, drought, land-use change, unsustainable agriculture practices, biodiversity loss, increased demand for water and food production, urbanization and industrial development. Therefore, in order to safeguard soils and ecosystems, it is necessary to prevent the loss of soil and soil biodiversity from anthropogenic drivers related to climate change, such as the increase in temperature, droughts or extreme rainfall, and to land-use change, [such as fires, agricultural burning crop monoculture, improper and overuse of agrochemicals, soil pollution, soil sealing, soil compaction, soil salinization, intensive tillage, deforestation and introduction of invasive alien species].

5. The present plan of action presents global actions to support the integration of soil biodiversity considerations into the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as within and across productive sectors.

6. The elements of this plan of action recognize the need to mainstream soil biodiversity across sectors and the need for integrated approaches to better address the complex interactions that come into play as the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity usually involve economic, environmental, cultural and social factors. The importance of implementation at the field level with due consideration of gender roles, local context and specificities is another element reflected in the plan, while awareness-raising, sharing of knowledge, capacity-building and research remain key to ensuring a better understanding of the role of soil biodiversity for sustainability.

7. The present plan of action has been prepared jointly by FAO, the Secretariat of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in consultation with other partners and relevant experts, pursuant to decision [14/30](#).

II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

8. The *Status of the World's Soil Resources* report identified 10 threats critical to soil functions. The loss of soil biodiversity was identified as one of these threats, and a respective call for action was strongly recommended. The Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management³⁵⁴ provide a framework for reverting it through a number of policies, research and field actions.

9. The *purpose* of this plan of action is to provide ways to encourage conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity and to support Parties, other Governments, subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, relevant organizations and initiatives, in accelerating and upscaling efforts towards the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, and towards the assessment and monitoring at the corresponding level of soil organisms to promote their conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration, and to respond to challenges that threaten soil biodiversity.

10. The *overall objective* of this plan of action is to mainstream soil biodiversity science, knowledge, and understanding into public policies, at all levels, and to foster coordinated action to invest in soil biodiversity assessments at the global level to safeguard and promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil

[³⁵² At its fifth session, the United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution on “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development”, formally adopted the definition of nature-based solutions as being “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.”]

³⁵³ Soil health is defined as: “The capacity of soil to function as a living system. Healthy soils maintain a diverse community of soil organisms that help to control plant disease, insect and weed pests, form beneficial symbiotic associations with plant roots, recycle essential plant nutrients, improve soil structure with positive repercussions for soil water and nutrient holding capacity, and ultimately improve crop production”. FAO. 2011. *Save and Grow: A Policymaker's Guide to the Sustainable Intensification of Smallholder Crop Production*. ISBN 978-92-5-106871-7112. <http://www.fao.org/3/i2215e/i2215e00.htm>

³⁵⁴ FAO 2017. *Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome. <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/5544358d-f11f-4e9f-90ef-a37c3bf52db7/>.

biodiversity and its ecosystem functions and services, which are essential for sustaining life on Earth, while acknowledging that economic, environmental, cultural and social factors contribute to sustainable soil management, and to promote investment in soil biodiversity research, monitoring and assessment at the corresponding level. Achieving this objective will ensure that soil biodiversity recovers and continues to provide a full range of functions. It will also formally promote sustainable soil management practices, including artisanal forms of food production, which can enhance soil biodiversity while maintaining the productivity of managed ecosystems.

11. The *specific objectives* of this plan of action are to help Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and other stakeholders, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, consistent with the Convention and other applicable international obligations, as well as relevant organizations and initiatives, with the following:

(a) Implementing coherent and comprehensive policies for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels, considering the different economic, environmental, cultural and social factors of all relevant productive sectors and their soil management practices, and mainstreaming their integration into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and strategies;

(b) Encouraging the use of sustainable soil management practices and existing tools, sustainable traditional practices, guidance and frameworks to maintain and restore soil biodiversity and to encourage the transfer of knowledge and enable women, particularly rural women, indigenous peoples and local communities and all stakeholders to harness the benefits of soil biodiversity for their livelihoods, taking into account national circumstances;

(c) Promoting education, awareness-raising and developing capacities in the public and private sectors on the multiple benefits and application of soil biodiversity, sharing knowledge and improving the tools for decision-making, fostering engagement through collaboration, intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities and partnerships, and providing practical and feasible actions to avoid, reduce or reverse soil biodiversity loss;

(d) Developing voluntary standard protocols to assess the status and trends of soil biodiversity, as well as monitor activities, in accordance with national legislation, to address gaps in knowledge and foster relevant research, and to enable compilation of large data sets to support research and monitoring activities;

(e) Recognizing and supporting the role, and land and resource rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, as well as the role of women, smallholders and small-scale food producers, particularly family farmers, in maintaining biodiversity through sustainable agricultural practices, [such as agroecology and ecological intensification] [such as sustainable agricultural practices as identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services] [such as agroecology and sustainable intensification approaches]].

12. The plan of action seeks to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 2, 3, 6, 13, 14 and 15, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors,³⁵⁵ the 2018-2030 Strategic Framework under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)³⁵⁶ and the objectives, commitments and initiatives under other conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,³⁵⁷ the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade³⁵⁸ and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,³⁵⁹ and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

³⁵⁵ FAO. 2020. *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en>.

³⁵⁶ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Conference of the Parties, thirteenth session, decision 7/COP.13 (see ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1).

³⁵⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

³⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 2244, No. 39973.

³⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2256, No. 40214.

III. SCOPE AND PRINCIPLES

13. The *scope* of this updated plan of action focusses on soils across agricultural, other productive landscapes and other relevant ecosystems. It is wide and far-reaching and context-dependent to ensure that it responds to specific situations and farmer typologies and that it prioritizes actions on the basis of country goals and the needs of direct beneficiaries.

14. The Initiative continues to be implemented as a cross-cutting initiative by Parties to the Convention, the Secretariat, FAO and its Global Soil Partnership in partnership with the work of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative, the Science-Policy Interface of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, education, academic and research bodies, donor agencies and the private sector, as well as relevant organizations, farmers, land owners and land managers, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, subnational governments and civil society.

15. When linked to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,³⁶⁰ the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals,³⁶¹ the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement³⁶², and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and land degradation neutrality targets, the scope of this plan of action can achieve multiple co-benefits of soil biodiversity processes for improved and more sustainable land-use practices.

16. The plan of action adheres to the *principles* of the ecosystem approach,³⁶³ which is aimed at providing better biological, physical, economic and human interactions associated with sustainable and productive ecosystems.

17. The plan of action focuses on the improvement of livelihoods, on the implementation of integrated and holistic solutions adapted to national and subnational contexts and in developing synergies for better soil biodiversity research, monitoring and assessment at the corresponding level while ensuring multi-stakeholder participation.

18. The plan of action recognizes the role of farmers, smallholders, small-scale food producers, family farmers, peasants, landowners, land managers, foresters, ranchers, indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth, education, academia and research bodies, civil society, subnational governments, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity and for the implementation of the plan.

19. FAO is invited to facilitate the implementation of the plan of action, and it is intended to align activities on soil biodiversity more closely with other FAO-related activities including the International Network on Soil Biodiversity and the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory, to monitor and forecast the conditions of soil biodiversity and soil health as well as with regional and country offices in order to create synergies and provide broader support. The full implementation of the plan of action at the national and subnational levels will depend on the availability of resources.

IV. GLOBAL ACTIONS

20. To support the implementation of coherent and comprehensive policies for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity at all levels, the following global actions have been identified and can be considered, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, by Parties and other Governments, in collaboration with relevant organizations:

(a) Develop protocols, [follow] [adopt] harmonized methods and use tools to collect and digitize soil biodiversity data and to improve mapping capabilities of Parties, acknowledging the differences in soil types across regions;

(b) Include soil biodiversity as an important component of soil description surveys using a large range of tools, including state-of-the-art methods and technology, and the development of bioindicators;

³⁶⁰ See General Assembly resolution 73/284 of 1 March 2019.

³⁶¹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

³⁶² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

³⁶³ Decision [V/6](#).

(c) Establish or strengthen, as appropriate, a monitoring network to assess and keep track of the abundance and diversity of multiple soil taxa or units and of the changes in soil biodiversity and its functioning, in accordance with national legislation;

[(d) Prepare a global assessment of soil biodiversity based on the compilation of national information captured from field assessments in all regions that addresses the gaps in soil knowledge at the global level and the need to invest in technologies to map soil biodiversity, especially in developing countries;]

[(e) Develop or identify and implement feasible indicators of soil biodiversity that are related to key ecosystem functions and services [and under the framework of the one-health concept],³⁶⁴]

(f) Strengthen education, research and capacity-building to use tools to monitor soil microbiobiodiversity and contribute to human, plant and soil health;

(g) Promote ecosystem-based approaches to conserve, restore and sustainably manage soil biodiversity in response to numerous challenges, such as loss of soil organic carbon and the need for sustainable management of soil in the context of climate change, soil degradation, the control, prevention and suppression of soil-borne diseases, enhancement of soil nutrients, food security [and food safety], reducing water scarcity and disaster risk;

(h) Engage with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to pursue restoration of degraded soils and their multifunctionality, including the utilization of restored areas and degraded agricultural areas for food production and avoiding expansion to natural areas where feasible;

(i) Encourage civil society groups, research bodies, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, traditional authorities from indigenous peoples and local communities, to become involved in the implementation of the plan of action;

(j) Encourage awareness-raising on the importance of soil biodiversity and its functions and services through subnational, national, regional and global platforms, such as FAO and GSP, which provide existing channels to be leveraged;

(k) Promote both in-situ and ex-situ conservation, restoration and sustainable use activities and management practices while strengthening the systems of knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(l) Identify the cumulative impacts of multiple sectors on the quality of soil biodiversity;

[(m) Promote good agricultural practices, including integrated pest management in order to prevent and address negative impacts of fertilizers and pesticides on soil biodiversity, based on risk assessment approaches;]

[(n) Identify sources of financial resources for the implementation of the action plan.]

V. KEY ELEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

21. The plan of action comprises four main elements that could be undertaken, as appropriate [and on a voluntary basis], by Parties and other Governments, in collaboration with relevant organizations:

- (a) Policy coherence and mainstreaming;
- (b) Encouraging the use of sustainable soil management practices;
- (c) Awareness-raising, sharing of knowledge, technology transfer and capacity-building and development;
- (d) Research, monitoring and assessment.

Element 1: Policy coherence and mainstreaming

Rationale

Soil loss and soil biodiversity loss is a cross-cutting issue, and policies should be designed to integrate considerations not only into the context of sustainable agriculture and sustainable forest management, but also within other sectors, especially infrastructure, mining, energy, transport and spatial planning. Appropriate and coherent national and subnational policies are needed to provide an effective and enabling environment to support activities by farmers, with emphasis on small-holders, small-scale food producers, family farmers, women farmers, peasants, and

land managers, foresters, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth and all relevant stakeholders. Inclusive policies that take soil biodiversity into consideration and promote its conservation, restoration and sustainable use can provide multiple benefits by linking agriculture, food production, forestry, marine, water, air, human health, culture, spiritual and environmental policies.

Activities

- 1.1** Promote the importance of mainstreaming soil biodiversity, including the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of soil biodiversity into policies aimed at the sustainability of agriculture, and other relevant sectors and support the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive policies for the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of soil biodiversity at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels;
- 1.2** Foster activities to safeguard and promote the importance as well as the practical application of soil biodiversity, and integrate them into broader policy agendas for food security, ecosystem and landscape restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation, urban planning and sustainable development, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- 1.3** Promote the implementation of good practices of sustainable soil management³⁶⁵ as a vehicle to promote integrated and holistic solutions that recognize the key role of above-ground/below-ground biodiversity interactions and of indigenous peoples and local communities and their traditional knowledge and practices, and that consider local contexts and integrated land-use planning, in a participatory manner;
- 1.4** Promote integrated ecosystem approaches for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, considering, as appropriate traditional sustainable agricultural practices;
- 1.5** Promote policies that provide economic incentives for practices that protect or help increase soil biodiversity, avoiding policy measures that would [not be consistent with and would not be in harmony with the Convention [and World Trade Organization rules] and other relevant international obligations and] [distort trade] and create inefficiency; and [eliminate], [reform with a view to] phasing out incentives, including subsidies harmful to soil biodiversity;
- 1.6** Develop policies and actions based on the recognition that soil biodiversity is central for sustaining all ecosystems and a key asset in restoring soil multi-functionality in degraded and degrading ecosystems;
- 1.7** Strengthen synergies between scientific evidence, conservation, restoration and sustainable practices, farmer-researcher community practices, agricultural advisory services and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to better support policies and actions;
- 1.8** Address linkages between soil biodiversity [and human health], nutritious, healthy diets and pollutants exposure, [including pesticides, veterinary drugs, and overflow of fertilizers];
- 1.9** Promote ways and means to overcome obstacles to the adoption of good practices in sustainable soil management associated with land tenure, the rights of users of land and water, in particular women, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, recognizing their important contributions through their knowledge and practices, gender equality, access to financial services, agricultural advisory services and educational programmes;
- 1.10** Consider the use and implementation of existing tools and guidance at the national, subnational, regional and global levels, such as the FAO agroecology knowledge hub, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management,³⁵⁴ the FAO's Revised World Soil Charter,³⁶⁶ the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management³⁶⁷ and the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers;³⁶⁸ the Committee on World Food Security's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest in the Context of National Food Security,³⁶⁹

³⁶⁵ See FAO 2017. *Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Rome. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-b1813e.pdf>

³⁶⁶ <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/e60df30b-0269-4247-a15f-db564161fee0/>

³⁶⁷ <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/code/en/>

³⁶⁸ <http://www.fao.org/3/ca5253en/ca5253en.pdf>

³⁶⁹ <http://www.fao.org/3/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>

1.11 Encourage Parties to include soil biodiversity in national reports and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and coordinate at the national and subnational levels, in order to increase and improve public and private actions that improve soil biodiversity;

1.12 Promote coordinated spatial planning and other approaches to reduce the loss of soil and soil biodiversity and implement adequate monitoring of soil sealing.

Element 2: Encouraging the use of sustainable soil management practices

Rationale

Management practices and land-use decisions undertaken by farmers, ranchers, landowners, land managers, foresters, indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth and all relevant stakeholders influence ecological processes, including soil-water-plant-atmosphere interactions with biodiversity. There is increasing recognition that the sustainability of agriculture and other managed systems depends on the optimal use of the available natural resources, biogeochemical cycles, biodiversity, including soil biodiversity, its functions and its contribution to ecosystem services. Improvement in sustainability requires the optimal use and management of soil fertility and soil physical properties and soil restoration, which rely, in part, on soil biological processes and soil biodiversity. Direct and indirect drivers of soil biodiversity loss need to be addressed at multiple scales, and special attention is needed at the farm and forestry level and across entire ecosystems.

Activities

2.1 Promote the improvement of soil health and the enhancement of soil organism abundance and diversity, by improving their food, water and habitat conditions through sustainable agricultural practices,^[370] [such as agroecology and ecological intensification] [sustainable intensification] and the restoration of degraded soils to increase ecosystem connectivity and restore production areas;

2.2 Develop, enhance and implement science-based risk assessment procedures, in conformity with risk assessment techniques developed by relevant international organizations, [as appropriate], on a regular basis, considering field-realistic exposures and longer-term effects, [for veterinary drugs (e.g., antibiotics³⁷¹), pesticides and pesticide-coated seeds, pollutants (including emerging substances, such as microplastics and new organic compounds), biocides and other contaminants to inform risk management decisions, to limit or minimize pollution and to promote the science-based application and minimization of veterinary drugs, fertilizers and pesticides (e.g., nematicides, fungicides, insecticides and herbicides)] [reducing the production and use of synthetic fertilizers,] to enhance the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, [human health and well-being];

2.3 Facilitate, for all relevant stakeholders, access to information, policies, tools and enabling conditions, such as access to technologies, innovation and funding, as well as to traditional practices that promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity at the field level, taking into account the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth, education, academia and research bodies, subnational governments and stakeholders in the implementation of this Initiative;

2.4 Encourage sustainable agricultural practices, [such as agroecology, integrated production systems (crop, livestock, aquaculture, forest and agroforestry), no-tillage systems, crop rotation in the field, fallow periods, inter-cropping, perennial crops, multicropping, cover crops, mixed crops, addition of organic matter and preservation and development of perennial vegetation in field margins and biodiversity refuges, and of landscape features, such as hedgerows, contour bunds and terraces,] recognizing the wide range of approaches to enhance the sustainability of agricultural systems;

^[370] These practices may include: agroforestry; the maintenance of adequate soil organic matter content and soil microbial biomass; provision of sufficient vegetative cover; multicropping; longer crop rotation; minimization of soil disturbance and tillage; no-tillage systems; use of organic fertilizers; use of biological nitrogen fixation; appropriate management of agricultural waste; integrated pest management; optimization and minimization of agricultural chemicals, in accordance with science-based risk assessment; and presence of native habitats within agricultural landscapes.]

³⁷¹ [For example, antibiotics used on livestock that can seep into the soil.]

- 2.5** Facilitate site-specific remediation of contaminated soils,³⁷² preferring those alternatives that show minor risks to biodiversity, while exploring the implementation of bioremediation strategies that use native microorganisms;
- 2.6** Prevent the introduction and spreading, and minimize the impact of invasive alien species that present a direct and indirect risk to soil biodiversity, and monitor the dispersion and eradicate, control or manage those already established;
- 2.7** Protect, restore and conserve soils that provide significant ecosystem services, including through the use of sustainable soil management practices;
- 2.8** Promote sustainable soil and associated water and land management practices that maintain, restore and promote the resilience of carbon-rich soils (such as peatlands, black soils, mangroves, coastal wetlands, seagrasses and permafrost);
- 2.9** Promote sustainable soil and associated water and land management practices that support the achievement of land degradation neutrality;
- 2.10** Promote ecosystem-based approaches to avoid land-use changes that cause soil erosion, the removal of surface cover and loss of soil moisture and carbon, and implement mitigation measures to alleviate degradation [while preventing and avoiding potential impacts arising from the implementation of approaches and practices of soil mitigation on indigenous peoples and local communities, small-scale food producers and peasants];
- 2.11** Promote conservation, restoration and sustainable management of soil biodiversity, and implement where appropriate, ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction [while preventing and avoiding potential impacts arising from the implementation of approaches and practices of soil mitigation on indigenous peoples and local communities, small-scale food producers and peasants];

Element 3: Awareness-raising, sharing of knowledge and capacity-building

Rationale

Increased awareness and understanding are critical for the development and promotion of improved practices for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity and ecosystem management. This requires collaboration that ensures the full and effective participation of and feedback from a broad range of stakeholders, including farmers, landowners, land managers, smallholders and small-scale food producers, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, decision makers, education, academia and research bodies and relevant institutions and organizations to ensure effective actions and collaborative mechanisms. Strengthening capacities to promote integrated and multidisciplinary approaches is needed to ensure the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and enhancement of soil biodiversity. This will further improve information flows and cooperation among actors to identify best practices and foster the sharing of knowledge and information.

Activities

- 3.1** Increase understanding and appreciation of the role of soil biodiversity and soil health in agroecosystems, forests, silvopastoral and other managed ecosystems, and of their effect on land management practices and ecosystem health;
- 3.2** Increase understanding and appreciation of the causes and consequences of soil biodiversity decline in specific agroecosystems, other managed ecosystems and natural environments and engage targeted key stakeholder groups, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, civil society, education, academia and research bodies, the mass media, and consumer organizations on the importance of soil biodiversity for health, well-being and livelihoods;
- 3.3** Strengthen understanding and appreciation of the impacts of sustainable land-use and soil-management practices, as an integral part of agricultural and their importance for sustainable livelihoods;
- 3.4** Promote awareness-raising and sharing of knowledge through tools and digital technology and promote capacity-building and mutual learning, including at the local and field levels by developing collaborative activities, such as peer-to-peer learning, for the promotion of best practices for soil biodiversity assessment, management and monitoring for all land management activities;

³⁷² The importance of special soils creating environments for specific soil biota (for example, natural extremely acidic or alkaline soils; natural hypersaline soils; natural soils containing high quantities of rare elements) should be recognized. Although they are not necessarily productive or high biodiverse soils, they host important communities as gene reserves and merit protection as they may contain unknown, adapted organisms that can be useful in the future.

3.5 Enhance education on, and knowledge of soil biodiversity, soil health and the ecosystem functions and services they provide, through the update of educational curricula for professionals, in such fields as economy, agronomy, veterinary, taxonomy, microbiology, zoology and biotechnology, and through the creation and dissemination of training and information materials on soil biodiversity;

3.6 Support citizen science campaigns and awareness-raising activities to engage relevant stakeholders in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, including celebrations on 5 December of World Soil Day, which was designated by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2013;³⁷³

3.7 Build and strengthen the capacities of farmers, landowners, land managers, foresters, ranchers, the private sector, education, academia and research bodies, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and vulnerable communities, as appropriate, in designing and implementing sustainable soil management practices and the sustainable application of soil biodiversity and consider traditional knowledge and practices;

3.8 Compile, protect, maintain, promote [and share] traditional knowledge, innovations and sustainable practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their [free, prior and informed consent] [prior and informed consent, free, prior and informed consent, or approval and involvement], related to soil biodiversity maintenance, soil fertility and sustainable soil management and promote work mechanisms between traditional agricultural knowledge and scientific knowledge that contribute to implementing sustainable agricultural practices in accordance with local agroecological and socioeconomic contexts and needs;

3.9 Develop partnerships and alliances that support multi-disciplinary approaches, foster synergies and ensure multi-stakeholder participation with respect to sustainable soil management;

3.10 Foster scientific and technical cooperation and transfer of technology to promote access to the latest technologies and molecular tools for modern soilless agriculture, soil biodiversity assessment and monitoring in developing countries [in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition].

Element 4: Research, monitoring and assessment

Rationale

Assessing and monitoring the status and trends of soil biodiversity, of measures for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity and of the outcomes of such measures, is fundamental to inform adaptive management and to guarantee the functioning of all terrestrial ecosystems, including the long-term productivity of agricultural soils. Soil biodiversity data that can be globally aggregated is needed to guide the decision-making process, with particular focus on those regions and areas currently lacking data. Education, academia and research bodies and relevant international organizations and networks should be encouraged to undertake further research, taking into consideration soil biodiversity functions, regional pedodiversity,³⁷⁴ and relevant traditional knowledge, [free prior and informed consent] [with prior and informed consent, free prior and informed consent, or approval and involvement] to address gaps in knowledge, and to expand research and to support coordinated global, regional, national, subnational and local monitoring efforts.

Activities

4.1 Increase national capacities on soil biodiversity taxonomy and address taxonomic assessment needs in different regions, and design targeted strategies to fill the existing gaps;

4.2 Promote further research to identify ways to integrate the application of soil biodiversity into farming systems as part of efforts to improve yield quantity and facilitate the harmonization of protocols for research, data collection, management and analysis, storage and curation of samples;

4.3 Promote further research to identify risks to soil biodiversity under climate change and potential adaptation measures and mitigation tools, as well as risks caused by the use of hazardous or toxic chemicals, including the potential loss of

³⁷³ See General Assembly resolution [68/232](#) of 20 December 2013 on World Soil Day and International Year of Soils.

³⁷⁴ The term “pedodiversity” and many tools for studying pedodiversity were adapted from biology. Pedodiversity, for example, can be measured just as biodiversity is measured by means of special indices showing the abundance of species and the taxonomic distances between them. A set of mathematical methods, both parametric and non-parametric, can be applied to quantify soil spatial heterogeneity

key species and their habitats, as well as the role of soil biota in wider ecosystem resilience and restoration that contributes, as appropriate, to the formulation of policy plans;

4.4 Promote research and implementation of integrated pest management practices, [biological pest control, reverse logistics for pesticide packaging, and the application of biological inputs,] as they interact with functions and services provided by soil biodiversity [, taking into account the negative impact of unsustainable use of pesticides on soil organisms to support the development of more feasible and sustainable alternatives];

4.5 Promote capacity-building and research in order to qualify and quantify soil biodiversity in agriculture and in other managed ecosystems and cultural landscapes, and to develop consistent and comparable protocols to monitor soil quality;

4.6 Promote research, information management and dissemination, data collection and processing, community-based monitoring, transfer of knowledge and technologies, including modern geospatial technologies, [genomic technologies] [molecular biology techniques] and networking;

4.7 [Promote] [Ensure] access to the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources in the soil, considering the potential to develop new products and medicines, in line with the third objective of the Convention and with the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;

4.8 Mobilize targeted participatory research and development, ensuring gender equality, women's empowerment, youth, [gender-responsive approaches] and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in all stages of research and development;

4.9 Develop and apply tools to assess the status of soil biodiversity in all regions and to address gaps in knowledge in all levels, by using a range of available tools, from traditional macroorganism and soil fauna observation and analysis, national and subnational statistics, soil surveys, to cutting-edge approaches and new technologies, as appropriate;

4.10 Generate data sets on soil biodiversity, pedodiversity and on soil degradation at the national, subnational and regional levels through a standard monitoring process that allows the creation of regional, national, subnational and local visual maps, georeferenced information systems and databases to indicate the status and trends of soil biodiversity and crop-specific vulnerability to support informed decision-making and comparisons;

4.11 Promote dissemination, co-creation of knowledge and exchange of information and data, in line with Articles 8(j) and 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, through transdisciplinary approaches, ensure that all decision makers and stakeholders have access to reliable and up-to-date information;

4.12 Encourage the development of harmonized definitions, standard baselines, indicators and national and subnational-level monitoring activities of soil biodiversity with the inclusion of a vast range of soil organisms, from microorganisms to fauna, as well as monitoring the effectiveness of soil management interventions in the field;

4.13 Promote regional cooperation to compile, systematize and share [data and] lessons resulting from experiences or case studies on the implementation of sustainable soil management practices in the context of agricultural practices with positive impacts on soil biodiversity;

[4.14 Encourage and support the development of community-based monitoring and information systems or simplified assessment methodologies and tools for measuring soil biodiversity, which are accessible by all regions of the world;]

4.15 Promote research and capacity-building on sustainable soil management practices, [including agroecological and other biodiversity-friendly management practices,] [including sustainable intensification,] that ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity;

4.16 Promote development of commercial application, in a sustainable manner, of products based on soil biodiversity.

VI. SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE, TOOLS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOIL BIODIVERSITY

22. Relevant voluntary guidance and tools developed under the Convention, and those developed by partner and relevant organizations and initiatives, such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management and the World Soil Charter, issued by FAO, will be made available in the clearing-house mechanisms.

Item 25. Biodiversity and health

The following is taken from recommendation 24/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XII/21, XIII/6 and 14/4 on biodiversity and health and decision XIII/3 on the mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity within and across sectors,

Recalling the Sharm El-Sheikh declaration on the theme of *Investing in biodiversity for people and the planet* and the Kunming declaration on the theme of *Ecological civilization: building a shared future for all life on Earth*,

[*Noting* the resolution 48/13 [on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment][entitled “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”], adopted by the Human Rights Council,]

Also noting the resolution 5/6 on biodiversity and health of the United Nations Environment Assembly 5.2,

Taking note of the definition of One Health by the One Health High-level Expert Panel:

“One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.”

Noting that this definition has not been discussed or agreed by the Convention and its Protocols,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of the relationship between health and well-being, and biodiversity, including the urgent need to reduce pressures on habitats and to decrease ecosystem degradation and consequently reduce the risk of pathogen spillover and outbreak, the importance of early warning, surveillance and prompt information-sharing for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and the need to address inequities in global health, including with respect to [equal and] equitable access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical equipment,

Recognizing also the relevance of sustainable consumption and production patterns on biodiversity and health linkages,

Recognizing further that the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, could contribute to the reduction of the risk of diseases of zoonotic origin, vector-borne and other infectious diseases, and to health and well-being for all,

[*Taking note* of the 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services³⁷⁵ stating that zoonotic and vector-borne diseases are significant threats to human health, and that emerging infectious diseases in wildlife, domestic animals, plants or people can be exacerbated by human activities,]

Emphasizing the critical role of genetic resources, [in any form][digital sequence information,] [and associated traditional knowledge], in the research and development of health products and services, [including in the context of addressing emerging diseases which have potential to become pandemics,] and the importance of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization in this regard, in

³⁷⁵ <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>, approved by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services plenary at its 7th session in May 2019.

line with the Convention, [and in a mutually-supportive manner with other relevant international agreements and instruments,]

Noting ongoing efforts to draft and negotiate a World Health Organization convention, agreement or other international instrument to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, [as well as ongoing negotiations to amend the International Health Regulations (2005),] and the need to [ensure alignment with the provisions][be consistent with, and not run counter to the objectives] of the Convention and its Protocols,

1. *Encourages* Parties and their subnational and local governments, and invites other Governments, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, where appropriate, and relevant stakeholders:

(a) To take actions for a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and thereby contribute to minimizing the risk of future diseases of zoonotic origin, taking into account the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches;

(b) To further integrate the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national health plans, as appropriate, to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) To further support capacity-building development for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages into the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(d) To strengthen compliance with international and national provisions on access and benefit-sharing, in order to enhance the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources [and associated information] in the relevant health sectors.

2. *Invites* the Quadripartite for One Health (comprising the World Health Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the United Nations Environment Programme), the One Health High-level Expert Panel, and other relevant expert groups and initiatives:

(a) To take into account in their work [and outcomes] the linkages between health and biodiversity, [and] the need for the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, pursuant to decisions XIII/6 and 14/4[, and the need to recognize socioeconomic inequities between developing and developed countries, particularly health inequalities, as well as the principles of equity and solidarity];

(b) To contribute with guidance, interdisciplinary education and training, to the implementation of health-related elements and the application of the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(c) To contribute to the development of, and reporting on, health-related indicators of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(d) To collaborate with the Executive Secretary in providing Parties with capacity-building, technology transfer, and resource mobilization opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages.

[3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, as appropriate, to consider providing technical and financial support for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages;]

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and all relevant donors and funding organizations in a position to do so, to consider providing technical support and mobilizing resources for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages;

[5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and in

collaboration with members of the Quadripartite for One Health, to complete the work pursuant to decision 14/4, paragraph 13 (b)(c) on targeted messages and a draft global action plan, drawing on the deliberations of the resumed session of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as follows:

(a) To produce an updated version of the draft global action plan and targeted messages based on the inputs received from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, and other relevant stakeholders [and prioritize the issues of equity, particularly through the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, [digital sequence information] and associated [traditional] information];

(b) To invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, and other relevant stakeholders to review the updated version of the draft global action plan;

(c) To make the outcomes of this work available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advance at a future meeting, with a view to making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.]

Item 26. Nature and Culture

The following is taken from recommendations 11/3 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, except for the last preambular paragraph and Task 1 b. in the annex which both come from recommendation 23/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision X/20, paragraph 16, in which it welcomed the Joint Programme of Work between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the links between biological and cultural diversity, and decision 14/30, in which it recognized the Joint Programme of Work as a useful coordination mechanism for advancing the implementation of the Convention and deepening global awareness of the interlinkages between cultural and biological diversity,

Welcoming the lessons learned from the international and regional initiatives conducted under the auspices of the Joint Programme of Work 2010-2020,³⁷⁶

Noting that the Joint Programme of Work remains relevant for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

[*Also noting* that nothing in the Joint Programme of Work should be interpreted or used to support non-tariff barriers to trade;]

1. *Decides* to renew its commitment to the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, to be promoted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature as well as other relevant partners, including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, and, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities, taking a whole-of-society view, and an integrated approach with full respect for human rights, including the collective rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, with the aim of supporting national and subnational implementation, including mainstreaming, of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in accordance with national circumstances, fully incorporating the added value of biocultural diversity, building on biological and cultural heritage, and strengthening the links between biological and cultural diversity, in order to achieve the goals of the Convention at all levels and the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, along with other relevant international agencies and processes, to explore and consider, subject to the availability of resources, inter-agency mechanisms, such as the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, to ensure complementarity of efforts, respecting individual mandates, avoiding unnecessary overlap and duplication and maximizing efficiencies, to identify and overcome challenges, and promote lessons learned at a relevant scale towards the goal of the post-2020 joint programme;

3. *Encourages* Governments and Parties to all the relevant conventions, including the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the International Council on Monuments and Sites and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the United Nations special rapporteurs, academia, indigenous peoples and local communities, the

³⁷⁶ See the compilation of declarations on links between nature and culture (CBD/WG8J/11/INF/2).

private sector and civil society, to strengthen collaboration and coordination and to contribute to and support the joint programme on the links between biological and cultural diversity, drawing on the elements and tasks contained in the annex to the present decision, and to implement lessons learned, according to national circumstances, in considering biological and cultural diversity throughout their respective work;

4. *Welcomes* the elements and tasks described in the annex to the present decision, which build on the existing Joint Programme of Work, for enhancing collaborations across the international system in pursuit of mutually supportive goals;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and other relevant international agencies, Parties and other Governments, along with a broad coalition of partners, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, to implement, subject to the availability of resources, the elements and tasks described in the annex to the present decision, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and other mechanisms, as appropriate.

Annex

**ELEMENTS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE JOINT PROGRAMME OF WORK ON THE LINKS
BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

Goal: To recognize natural and cultural heritage and diversity as enablers and drivers of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and a pathway to the global biodiversity framework's vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050, the Sustainable Development Goals, and climate action, with a commitment to strengthening the links between biological and cultural diversity and considering lessons learned across the work of the Convention and other relevant processes, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Element 1

A joint strategy to stop the ongoing and often dramatic decline in global diversity of both nature and culture

Task 1.a

The Secretariat of the Convention will work together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and other relevant organizations, and, making use of the recommendations, studies, initiatives and documents developed through relevant bodies, such as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, will develop a joint strategy consistent with conventions and agreements related to biological diversity and culture, to contribute to actions to stop the ongoing and often dramatic decline in global diversity of both nature and culture.

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.]

Element 2

Science dialogue, knowledge dialogue, equivalence of knowledge systems, indicators and monitoring efforts

Task 2.a

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, together with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will review and update the four adopted traditional knowledge

indicators³⁷⁷ which were adopted in decision XIII/28 and are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the ongoing work on biological and cultural diversity and human well-being.

Task 2.b

The Secretariat of the Convention will continue efforts at the international level to operationalize the existing indicators and relevant indicators developed in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and other relevant bodies, and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Task 2.c

The Secretariat of the Convention will continue efforts at the international level to explore the full potential of community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) as methods and tools for monitoring the achievement of the global biodiversity framework, and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, taking into consideration the elements of most relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities, and explore synergies in the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and other global processes.

Task 2.d

The Secretariat of the Convention, UNESCO and IUCN, together with other relevant organizations, and Parties, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent and attending to the adequate protection of traditional knowledge, will, with respect to biocultural diversity, create events, spaces and platforms to promote the transmission and exchange, between scientific and traditional knowledge systems, of values, knowledge, experiences, methods and results relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and facilitate sustained capacity-building and the development and promotion of open frameworks for knowledge dialogues and knowledge co-production at the international, national and regional levels.

Element 3

Biocultural diversity and linkages between nature and culture in integrated socio-ecological systems

Task 3.a

The Secretariat of the Convention, in partnership with UNESCO, IUCN, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Parties, other relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities, will contribute to initiatives to strengthen the links between biological and cultural diversity, in line with the Joint Programme.

Task 3.b

The Secretariat of the Convention will work with UNESCO, IUCN, Parties and relevant organizations, to facilitate the development, support and implementation of specific efforts to enable indigenous peoples and local communities to record, document, protect and transmit traditional languages and dialects, in particular indigenous languages, with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities and with their full and effective participation, where this would support the objectives of the Convention.³⁷⁸

Task 3.c

The Secretariat of the Convention will work with UNESCO, IUCN, Parties and relevant organizations, to facilitate efforts to enable indigenous peoples and local communities to record, document and transmit traditional knowledge, with a focus on traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation of nature and culture and the sustainable use of natural resources.

³⁷⁷ In decision XIII/28, the Conference of the Parties adopted the following indicators for status and trends in the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity: (a) Trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages; (b) Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities; (c) Trends in the practice of traditional occupations; and (d) Trends in degree to which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through: full integration, participation and safeguards in national implementation of the Strategic Plan.

³⁷⁸ Recalling that UNESCO is the lead agency on languages, as proposed by participants in the Online Forum on the integration of Article 8(j) and provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and its protocols.

Task 3.d

The Secretariat of the Convention will work with UNESCO, IUCN, Parties and relevant organizations to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and co-management with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Element 4**Develop new approaches to communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)****Task 4.a**

The Secretariat of the Convention will work together with UNESCO, IUCN, other relevant bodies, and indigenous peoples and local communities to develop communication and educational materials to raise awareness, across society, and all sectors, of the interdependence and interlinkages between biological, cultural and linguistic diversity, for human well-being and environmental sustainability, to strengthen recognition of traditional knowledge and the sustainable use practices of traditional knowledge holders. Such materials should be culturally appropriate to the needs of different audiences, and, as appropriate, be made available in formats and languages understandable to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Task 4.b

The Secretariat of the Convention will work together with UNESCO, IUCN, other relevant agencies, and indigenous peoples and local communities to help Parties and other stakeholders to develop communication and education materials, and awareness strategies on indigenous languages.

Item 27. Synthetic biology

The following is taken from recommendation 24/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XII/24, XIII/17 and 14/19 of the Conference of the Parties which provided guidance and mandated work on synthetic biology in relation to the three objectives of the Convention,

Also recalling Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommendation 23/7, paragraph 2, by which the Subsidiary Body deferred consideration of the submission that synthetic biology should be classified as a new and emerging issue to its twenty-fourth meeting,

Noting the analysis on the relationship between synthetic biology and the criteria for new and emerging issues established in decision IX/29 performed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology,³⁷⁹

Recalling decision 14/19, in which it agreed that broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessing of the most recent technological developments is needed for reviewing new information regarding the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention and those of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing,

Also recalling paragraph 7 of decision 14/19, emphasizing the need for a coordinated, complementary and non-duplicative approach on issues related to synthetic biology under the Convention and its protocols, as well as among other conventions and relevant organizations and initiatives,

[*Noting* the relevance of digital sequence information for synthetic biology, recalling decision 14/20 on digital sequence information on genetic resources and ongoing discussions and noting also the need for a coordinated, complementary and non-duplicative approach on issues related to digital sequence information on genetic resources],

[*Recalling* paragraphs 9 to 11 of decision 14/19, and calling upon Parties and other Governments, taking into account the current uncertainties regarding engineered gene drives, to apply a precautionary approach, in accordance with the objectives of the Convention,]

Recognizing the importance of capacity-building, knowledge sharing, technology transfer and financial resources for addressing issues related to synthetic biology,

Welcoming the outcomes of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology held in Montreal, Canada, from 4 to 7 June 2019,³⁸⁰

A. Considerations for new and emerging issues and associated criteria

1. *Recognizes* the various challenges experienced by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology in performing analysis on the relationship between synthetic biology and the criteria for new and emerging issues;

2. *Also recognizes* that decisions X/13, XI/11, XII/24, XIII/17 and 14/19 mandated work on synthetic biology under the Convention, and that the results of the application of the criteria as set out in decision IX/29 to the issue of synthetic biology have been inconclusive in determining whether synthetic biology is a new and emerging issue or not [and decides not to require further analysis on whether synthetic biology is a new and emerging issue] [while keeping the Convention's work on synthetic biology under

³⁷⁹ CBD/SBSTTA/24/4/Rev.1, annex I, sect. VI.

³⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, annex I.

review][recognizing that synthetic biology has not been determined to be [or not to be] a new and emerging issue];

3. *Notes* that this should not be seen as setting a precedent for future processes for treating proposed new and emerging issues;

B. Process for broad and regular horizon scanning monitoring and assessment

4. *Establishes* a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology as set out in section A of the annex; [and for an [initial] [period of] [two cycles during two consecutive intersessional periods;] [one intersessional period;]]

5. [*Establishes* a multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to support the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment in accordance with the terms of reference contained in section B of the annex;]

6. *Decides* that the trends in new technological developments in synthetic biology identified by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology³⁸¹ [and the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group] will inform the [initial] horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment [of the following intersessional period;]

7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary information relevant to the trends referred to in paragraph 6 above to inform the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment;

8. *Calls upon* Parties and other stakeholders to facilitate broad international cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge sharing, including through the Biosafety Clearing-House, for products of synthetic biology that are considered to be living modified organisms, and capacity-building on synthetic biology, taking into account the needs of Parties and of indigenous peoples and local communities;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To convene online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology [to support the work of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group] as well as the overall process outlined in paragraph 4 above;

(b) To synthesize the information submitted in response to paragraph 7 above as well as the information provided through the online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology to inform the deliberations of [the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group][the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice];

(c) [To convene at least one meeting of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to work according to the annex, section B;]

(d) To prepare reports on the outcomes and operation of the horizon scanning process referred to in paragraph 4 above and to submit those reports for peer review to support the review of the effectiveness of the process by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its meetings [prior to the sixteenth [and seventeenth] meetings of the Conference of the Parties respectively;]

(e) To facilitate international cooperation, promote and support capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing, regarding synthetic biology, taking into account the needs of Parties and of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(f) To continue to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the discussions and in the work on synthetic biology under the Convention, in accordance with decision X/40 [and with a human rights approach;]

³⁸¹ Ibid., annex I, sect. I.

10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outcomes of the horizon scanning process [contained in the report of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group],³⁸² and make recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its [sixteenth [and seventeenth] meetings] and, as appropriate, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its [eleventh [and twelfth] meetings] and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its [fifth [and sixth] meetings];

11. *Also requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the interim and final reports on effectiveness of the horizon scanning process established in paragraph 4 above, at its meetings prior to the [sixteenth [and seventeenth]] meetings of the Conference of the Parties, respectively, and to make a recommendation [on the need to extend that process];

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue pursuing cooperation with other regional and international organizations, conventions and initiatives, including academic and research institutions, on issues related to synthetic biology.

Annex

BROAD AND REGULAR HORIZON SCANNING, MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE MOST RECENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

A. Process for the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment

1. The process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment (hereinafter “the process”) consists of the following steps:

- (a) Information gathering;
- (b) Compilation, organization and synthesis of information;
- (c) Assessment;
- (d) Reporting on outcomes.

2. [For each step, the coordinating actors, other actors and main considerations for the process are as set out in table 1.]

3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall review the outcomes of the process and make recommendations on technological developments in synthetic biology and their potential positive and negative impacts for the objectives of the Convention. [including social, economic and cultural impacts as well as related ethical issues].

4. The effectiveness of the process shall be reviewed [regularly] [in accordance with a decision] by the Conference of the Parties.

B. [Terms of reference for the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to support the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment

1. The multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, building on the previous relevant work under the Convention and its Protocols, including the work of the previous Ad Hoc Technical Expert Groups on Synthetic Biology, shall:

[(a) Assess, vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols [and making use of tools and approaches to enable a participatory assessment process], based on the results of steps in A1(a) and A1(b) above; (i) new technological developments and applications of synthetic biology, and (ii) state of knowledge on potential impacts on biodiversity and the environment of current and future synthetic biology applications, taking into account impacts on human, animal and plant health, and cultural and socioeconomic issues;]

(b) [Make use of tools and approaches to enable a participatory assessment process] to review and assess the information gathered through the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment and,

³⁸² Ibid., sect. V.

on this basis, consider technological developments in synthetic biology and their potential positive and negative impacts [and their implications] for the objectives of the Convention;

(c) Identify a methodology for the assessment of the compiled information, based on [scientific evidence] [best scientific knowledge and other knowledge system], considering the availability and accessibility of tools and expertise;]

(d) [Identify trends and issues, [including categories of synthetic biology that may need to be prioritized[[identified] or] that may need to continue to be considered in [subsequent cycles,] as well as additional issues that may be regarded as priorities [vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention] [for the next intersessional period;]]

(e) Identify capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge sharing needs based on priorities determined by Parties on issues related to synthetic biology and in the light of the outcomes of the horizon scanning process;]

(f) Evaluate the availability of tools to detect, identify and monitor the [organisms, components and products] [potential positive and negative impacts] of synthetic biology;]

(g) Prepare a report on the outcomes of its assessment to be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

(h) Make recommendations to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on specific issues that may require further consideration by the Conference of the Parties and/or the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

1 *alt.* [The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall:

(a) Review and assess the information gathered through the process and, on this basis, consider technological developments in synthetic biology and the potential negative and positive impacts vis-à-vis the objectives of the Convention;

(b) Identify issues that may need to continue to be considered, as well as additional issues that may be considered priorities in the next intersessional period;

(c) Prepare conclusions and recommendations on technological development in synthetic biology and their potential positive and negative impacts for the objectives of the convention].

2. The multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology will be constituted for an initial duration of two intersessional periods and according to section H of the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including, whenever possible, expertise from a broad range of disciplines, as well as interdisciplinary and intercultural expertise, indigenous peoples and local communities. The continuing need for the Group will be assessed in the light of the overall assessment of the effectiveness of the horizon scanning process.

3. The procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups set out in the annex to decision 14/33 shall apply to the Multidisciplinary Technical Expert Group.

4. The multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology will work through a combination of face-to-face meetings, held physically and/or online, supported, as needed by online discussions.]

[Table 1. Process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology

Process and steps		Coordinating actors	Other actors and considerations
Horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment process	(a) Information gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat, with the support of consultants as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible mechanisms include submissions of information through notifications; outreach to relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations; online forums; collaborative activities with regional and national assessment platforms; and other existing tools, such as national reports, and the clearing-house mechanism.

Process and steps		Coordinating actors	Other actors and considerations
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek inputs from a diverse range of actors, including other organizations working on synthetic biology, facilitate engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, among others, and build on the work done by other relevant horizon scanning or technology assessment processes. • Some issues identified during one cycle may need to continue to be considered in subsequent cycles, with consistency in the way the process is carried out with a view to obtaining results that could be comparable over time.
	(b) Compilation, organization and synthesis of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat, with the support of consultants as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use digital tools for dissemination of information and feedback, inter alia, by webinars, directed to Parties, and other stakeholders. • The information compiled and synthesized will be made available, including through the clearing-house mechanism.
	(c) Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology • Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (approval of the main conclusions of the process) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise from a broad range of disciplines, as well as interdisciplinary and intercultural expertise necessary. • Face-to-face meetings with support of online mechanisms. • Make use of tools and approaches to enable a participatory assessment process. • Selection of experts for the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will be undertaken in accordance with the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. • Key actors in the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment process, including consultants and members of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, will be subject to the procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest set out in decision 14/33. • Assessment step may be supported by, among other things, commissioning technology assessment studies.
	(d) Reporting on outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group reports to Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External review of the draft outcomes. • Communicate the outputs effectively to a broad range of potential users, in a culturally appropriate format and languages.

Process and steps		Coordinating actors	Other actors and considerations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice reports to Conference of the Parties (and/or the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol) on the outcome of step (a), (b) and (c). 	
Use of outcomes in support of decision-making		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (review of outcomes, preparation of conclusions and recommendations) Conference of the Parties and/or the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (decision-making) Parties and others, including other United Nations bodies 	
Review of process and its effectiveness		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference of the Parties on basis of periodic review by Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 	