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Agenda item 17 (c)
Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: strategic review of and updates to the programme of work on protected areas

Strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas*

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group II

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions VII/28 of 20 February 2004, VIII/24 of 31 March 2006, IX/18 of 30 May 2008, X/31 of 29 October 2010, 14/8 of 29 November 2018, 15/4 of 19 December 2022 and 16/12 of 1 November 2024,

Acknowledging that the programme of work on protected areas[1] and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[2] continue to provide a strategic framework for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,[3] in particular Target 3, while noting that complementary activities are needed to enhance its alignment with the Framework and address identified gaps,

Recognizing that ecological representativeness and ecological connectivity are qualitative requirements for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively conserved and managed, and equitably governed systems of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work under Target 3 of the Framework, and contribute to the achievement of other relevant targets and Goal A of the Framework,

1. *Notes* the forthcoming seventh International Union for Conservation of Nature World Protected and Conserved Areas Congress, organized in Panama by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Ministry of Environment of Panama;

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.
[1] Decision VII/28, annex.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[3] Decision 15/4, annex.

2. *Decides* to update the existing programme of work on protected areas in a manner consistent with Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation;

3. *Also decides* to define the areas within the scope of the updated programme of work as being protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

4. *Recognizes* the contribution of indigenous and traditional territories to the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, where applicable, respecting their free, prior and informed consent,[4] in accordance with national circumstances, legislation, as applicable, and relevant international instruments, and in the implementation of the updated programme of work, [in a manner consistent with the annex to decision 17/-- on the voluntary guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the recognition of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and their indigenous and traditional territories in spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, area-based conservation and environmental impact assessments];

5. [*Endorses*] the complementary activities for further or improved guidance contained in the annex to the present decision as an update to the programme of work to support the implementation of the Framework, with particular focus on Target 3, and in accordance with decision 16/31 of 27 February 2025;

6. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to integrate the updated programme of work in the development and implementation of actions to meet the relevant targets of the Framework, in particular Target 3, subject to national circumstances, legislation and priorities;

7. *Invites* Parties, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other Governments, subnational and local governments and relevant organizations and actors to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the updated programme of work, taking into consideration the specific situations of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of mobilizing predictable, adequate and sustainable means of implementation, including through financial resources, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building, to ensure the effective implementation of the updated programme of work;

9. *Invites* the secretariats of relevant biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and United Nations entities, including the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity, indigenous peoples and local communities, including the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of the Framework by supporting knowledge exchange, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and development, and coordinated action in the implementation of the updated programme of work;

[10. *Encourages* Parties [to apply a human rights-based approach in the implementation of][to implement] the updated programme of work, consistent with section C and Target 22 of the Framework and Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national legislation, as appropriate;]

11. *Invites* Parties to take into consideration findings from relevant assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services when implementing the updated programme of work and to engage in the preparations of the methodological assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity;

[4] "Free, prior and informed consent" refers to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" and "approval and involvement".

12. *Also invites* Parties to reinforce ecological connectivity in the implementation of the updated programme of work, in line with the relevant complementary activities set out in the annex to the present decision and in support of the implementation of the Framework;

13. *Decides* to work intersessionally to support the implementation of the updated programme of work and to develop and assess the feasibility of options to further strengthen the programme of work in relation to ecological connectivity, including consideration of possible complementary elements, including a possible fifth element, and requests the Executive Secretary to compile views of the Parties for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its meeting prior to the eighteenth Conference of the Parties;

14. *Also decides* to consider at its eighteenth meeting, as appropriate, whether additional guidance is required in relation to strengthening the foundational qualitative conditions for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively conserved and managed, and equitably governed systems of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, in line with Target 3, and to support for the development of actions to meet the related relevant targets of the Framework, on the basis of recommendations made by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the relevant Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services assessments and other relevant scientific and technical information, as appropriate, annex I to decision 14/8 and other relevant ongoing work, in particular under decision 17/-- on areas of potential further work in the context of the Framework, subject to the availability of resources;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding duplication with other ongoing initiatives and relevant programmes of work:

(a) To further support the Target 3 Community of Practice as a flexible, inclusive and voluntary platform, with a view to facilitating coordination, knowledge exchange and implementation support, and to invite indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, relevant organizations and initiatives to participate in the Community;

(b) To collaborate with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and other relevant partners in order to deliver targeted scientific and technical support to Parties for meeting Target 3 of the Framework, based on the best available information and the best practices identified pursuant to subparagraph (c) below;

(c) To compile with input from Parties, other Governments, governments at all levels, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and other stakeholders, a synthesis report on experiences, lessons learned and different approaches, as well as relevant scientific information, including the findings of the assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that support the achievement of Target 3 of the Framework and the implementation of the programme of work;

(d) To report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

Update to the programme of work

1. The table below shows the mapping of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework[5] against complementary activities that could support the implementation of the programme of work.[6] It highlights areas of strong alignment, opportunities to strengthen existing

[5] Decision 15/4, annex.
[6] Decision VII/28, annex.

provisions and gaps where further development is needed. It is based on the findings of a strategic review of the programme, related submissions and a peer review analysis. The activities are categorized as follows: (A) activities that have existing strong alignment with Target 3 of the Framework and its interlinkages with other targets; (B) activities that address targets that are partially covered by the programme of work and where implementation can be strengthened; and (C) activities for further developing areas that the programme of work does not cover or only covers in a limited manner and where additional guidance is needed. For Targets 9, 13, 17 and 18, no specific actions are proposed.

2. The implementation of the updated programme of work should be conducted in line with section C of the Framework, [in particular by following a human rights-based approach,] and in accordance with national circumstances, legislation and priorities.

I. Complementary activities to strengthen the programme of work and its alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	*Complementary activities*	*Category*
Target 1	1. Integrate areas within the scope of the updated programme of work into broader landscape and seascape planning to improve, in accordance with national legislation, biodiversity outcomes, ecological representativeness and connectivity, through participatory and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning processes, while recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. 2. Identify and assess, using best available science and, subject to free, prior and informed consent, traditional knowledge, areas of high biodiversity importance, as well as ecological corridors, stepping-stones and other areas of particular importance for ecological connectivity, including for threatened and migratory species, and integrate this information into relevant national and subnational spatial planning policies, legislation, regulations and programmes regarding areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, paying particular attention to priority connectivity areas not yet integrated into such systems. 3. Increase the uptake of appropriate frameworks, in accordance with national legislation, to identify gaps in the representative coverage of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work in order to help prioritize future management and protection efforts including of underrepresented ecosystems.	A
Target 2	4. Promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems within areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, and beyond, including buffer zones, ecological corridors, soil biodiversity, [including [above- and below-ground][fungal] biodiversity,] and inland water ecosystems, with a view to restoring ecological integrity and ecological connectivity across landscapes and seascapes, including through the development of criteria for identifying priority restoration areas and approaches for measuring restoration success, ensuring inclusive and gender-responsive implementation of the restoration efforts, as appropriate.	B
Target 3	5. Incorporate the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Framework across implementation of the programme of work, updating relevant timelines and terminology, and ensuring coherence with related processes carried out under the Convention, including the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the	A

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	*Complementary activities*	*Category*
	Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030.[7] 6. Strengthen guidance related to improving monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems for terrestrial, inland waters, coastal and marine ecosystems to improve the assessment of biodiversity outcomes, including in relation to ecological representativeness, connectivity, integrity, conservation effectiveness, management effectiveness, governance quality, species population trends and through the use of appropriately indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,[8] as well as disaggregated indicators, including, as appropriate, by ecosystem type and level of protection. 7. Enhance guidance related to the recognition, respect, promotion and protection of indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, in the context of Target 3 of the Framework, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities. This encompasses differentiated approaches to ensure comprehensive protection, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, in line with the principles of no contact, intangibility and precaution, in accordance with national circumstances. 8. Increase the uptake of practical frameworks, guidance, emerging innovative tools, case studies and national experiences, lessons learned and different approaches to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, including the definition and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecological networks, corridor design for climate adaptation, large-scale ecological connectivity, including ecological processes below ground, other effective area-based conservation measures and transboundary conservation. 9. Strengthen the operationalization of equitable and effective governance in planning and management of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work [and a human rights-based approach] consistent with section C of the Framework, including by, as appropriate, shifting from beneficiary-based approaches to recognizing, respecting, promoting and protecting the rights and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities; promoting standards and good practices for participation, shared governance and co-management arrangements; ensuring culturally appropriate access to information; respecting and strengthening, where applicable, the implementation of free, prior and informed consent, consistent with national circumstances and legislation and relevant international instruments. 10. Strengthen inclusive monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems for areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, including by identifying available tools, and facilitate the use of relevant new technologies to better assess ecological representativeness, integrity and connectivity, biodiversity outcomes, management effectiveness, governance quality, species population	

[7] Decision 16/4, annex.
[8] Decision 15/5, annex I, as updated in decision 16/31, and decision 17/-- on planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	*Complementary activities*	*Category*
	trends, relevant indicators of the monitoring framework, as well as relevant disaggregated indicators. 11. Promote the use of relevant and new approaches for ecological integrity and connectivity in the planning and management of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, including through the development of ecological networks, ecological corridors, stepping stones and transboundary connectivity initiatives and corridor design for climate adaptation across wider landscapes and seascapes. 12. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, including ecological corridors. 13. Develop and implement, in accordance with national legislation, measures to maintain and enhance ecological networks, corridors, stepping-stones and other areas of particular importance for connectivity, and support their management in ways that allow for the movement of native species and the maintenance of ecological processes across and beyond areas within the scope of the updated programme of work.	
Target 4	14. Strengthen capacities for planning and management through participatory risk assessment, rapid response mechanisms, where possible, and inclusive community engagements and the integration of traditional knowledge in addressing human-wildlife conflict and promoting coexistence in areas within the scope of the updated programme of work. 15. Integrate effective management of human-wildlife interactions, including human-wildlife conflict risk assessment, in order to minimize conflict to promote coexistence in the context of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work.	B
Target 5	16. Address and manage the use of wild species in areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, where such use is allowed, in a manner that mitigates risks to native biodiversity and human health, consistent with site-specific conservation objectives and zoning, while preventing overexploitation and ensuring sustainable, legal and safe use at all stages, including through participatory biodiversity monitoring and the application of One Health risk assessment frameworks, as appropriate, and respecting and protecting the customary sustainable use practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.	B
Target 6	17. Strengthen the prediction, prevention, early detection, control or eradication of and the rapid response to invasive alien species in areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, including through community-based monitoring, surveillance systems, and biosecurity and trade-related measures.[9] 18. Strengthen guidelines, where applicable, for the development and implementation of national and regional plans for the management of invasive alien species and pathways of introduction into areas within the scope of the updated programme of work.	B

[9] Any international measures should be implemented in compliance with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization and with the International Plant Protection Convention.

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	*Complementary activities*	*Category*
Target 7	19. Address pollution pressures from all sources which have negative impacts on areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, cumulative impacts and land-sea interactions.	B
Target 8	20. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, including ecological corridors, by scaling up related response measures that promote resilience in order to minimize the negative impacts of climate change, while ensuring ecological integrity. 21. Promote system design for climate adaptation and resilience that anticipates future range shifts, including by identifying additional climate refugia, connectivity corridors, soil biodiversity, [including [above- and below-ground][fungal] biodiversity,] and areas of future biodiversity importance.	C
Target 9	No specific actions identified.	n/a
Target 10	22. Strengthen guidance on how the sustainable management of productive landscapes and biodiversity-friendly practices can support ecological connectivity, ecosystem functions and resilience across landscapes and seascapes and biodiversity improvements for areas within the scope of the updated programme of work and how these areas can contribute towards and in line with Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	C
Target 11	23. Highlight the role of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work in restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, as well as strengthen capacities to measure and value those functions and services.	B
Target 12	24. Integrate areas within the scope of the updated programme of work into urban and peri-urban planning, including through green and blue infrastructure, to enhance ecological connectivity, restoration, the conservation of native species and climate change adaptation, and to support physical and mental health and well-being, and equitable access to nature especially for the most vulnerable.	C
Target 13	No specific actions identified.	n/a
Target 14	25. Integrate areas within the scope of the updated programme of work into cross-sectoral policies, legislation, planning and development processes, where relevant for their planning and effective management.	B
Target 15	26. Support and promote the implementation of legal, administrative or policy measures that encourage and enable businesses and financial institutions to assess, disclose and progressively reduce biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts on areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, including across their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios, in order to promote sustainable value chains and reduce risks to biodiversity. 27. Facilitate clearer direction on engaging financial actors and the private sector in support of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work on a voluntary basis to develop the field of conservation, protection and restoration as a key economic area.	B

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	*Complementary activities*	*Category*
Target 16	28. Promote synergies between the policies and actions taken to protect and conserve biodiversity, and policies and actions in order to implement Target 16, including through coherent policy frameworks, education, access to reliable information and sector specific approaches, such as sustainable tourism management, contributing to the reduction of waste generation.	B
Target 17	No specific actions identified.	n/a
Target 18	No specific actions identified.	n/a
Target 19	29. Promote the identification of timely, predictable and accessible financial resources from all sources, including domestic, international, public and private resources, for the effective implementation and long-term financial sustainability and institutional resilience of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention and Target 19 of the Framework, and innovative mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, especially to support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, consistent with national priorities and with environmental and social safeguards. 30. Promote [direct and] accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, where applicable under Target 3 of the Framework, in accordance with national circumstances.	A
Target 20	31. Strengthen capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for establishing and managing areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, including with respect to new technologies and institutional support for the conservation workforce, such as rangers and other relevant personnel.	A
Target 21	32. Strengthen the application of advances in biodiversity monitoring, data management and knowledge-sharing through targeted capacity-building and development on comprehensive biodiversity monitoring and the use of innovative technologies, including digital technologies, remote sensing and national biodiversity databases, to improve monitoring, evaluation, reporting and decision-making including regarding the implementation of Target 3 and relating to areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, including through nationally appropriate approaches and indicators, while strengthening capacities and infrastructure for managing and integrating biodiversity data.	B
Target 22	33. Strengthen access to information and the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making related to areas within the scope of the updated programme of work. [34. [Ensure, where possible,][Promote, where possible,] access to justice by indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth and persons with disabilities, [and promote the establishment of effective and accessible grievance mechanisms,] in accordance with national legislation and other relevant international agreements, to address issues related to the establishment, management and governance of areas within the scope of the updated programme of work.]	B

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	*Complementary activities*	*Category*
	[35. [Ensure, where possible,][Promote, where possible,] the full protection of environmental human rights defenders engaged in activities related to areas within the scope of the updated programme of work, [and in accordance with national legislation, and relevant international instruments and obligations].]	
Target 23	36. Promote gender equality and integrate a gender-responsive approach, including the use of disaggregated data by sex and other relevant disaggregated indicators, in accordance with national legislation, across the programme of work [taking gender-based violence into due consideration].	A