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**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
Technical and Technological Advice**
Twenty-sixth meeting
Nairobi, 13–18 May 2024
Agenda item 11
Adoption of the report

Report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-sixth meeting

Summary

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held its twenty-sixth meeting, in Nairobi, from 13 to 18 May 2024. It adopted nine recommendations, which concerned the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the scientific and technical needs for the implementation of the Framework; matters related to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; synthetic biology; risk assessment and management; living modified organisms; marine, coastal and island biodiversity; ecologically or biologically significant marine areas; and biodiversity and health (see sect. I).

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

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

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I. Recommendations adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

26/1. Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work conducted by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting and the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, the scientific and technical review of the traditional knowledge indicators requested by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its twelfth meeting and the work of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

2. *Notes* that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-Sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources is considering the monitoring of the multilateral mechanism on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources as part of its work to further develop and operationalize the multilateral mechanism;

3. *Invites* the Co-Chairs of the Committee of the Whole of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to facilitate a discussion on possible approaches for monitoring the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information through the multilateral mechanism and in the context of Goal C and Target 13 of the Framework, and to report on the results of the discussion to the Working Group at its second meeting;

4. *Invites* the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group, taking into account the results of the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting, to develop options for the indicators on the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information for possible inclusion in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To extend the deadlines given in notifications Nos. 2024-033 and 2024-043 for submitting views on documents CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14 and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/20, respectively, and to invite Parties to submit views on document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19;

(b) In collaboration with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators and the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting, and taking into consideration the discussions held at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the submissions provided further to subparagraph (a), to produce updated version of documents CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14, CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19 and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/20, in particular to align the language used in those documents with that of the Framework, and to provide those updated versions as information documents for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) To provide, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, a list of component and complementary indicators adopted in decision 15/5 of 19 December 2022 that were not included in annex I to the present recommendation at the time of issuance for not meeting the criteria described in paragraph 2 of annex I to the decision but that have since met the criteria;

6. *Recommends* that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 15/5 of 19 December 2022, by which it adopted a monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and established the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Recalling also its decisions 15/4, 15/6, 15/7, 15/8 of 19 December 2022, 15/10 of 10 December 2022, 15/11, 15/13 of 19 December 2022 and 15/22 of 10 December 2022,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators and the inputs from the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting,¹ the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation,² the scientific and technical review of the traditional knowledge indicators requested by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity³ at its the twelfth meeting,⁴ and the work of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,⁵

Noting with appreciation also the contributions of international organizations and initiatives to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, as well as the work of Parties and national institutions to maintain national databases and data collection relevant to the monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁶

Noting with appreciation further the work under the Bern process⁷ to improve collaboration on the development of indicators related to biodiversity,

Noting the development of biodiversity and health-related indicators further to paragraph 2 (c) of decision 15/29 of 19 December 2022 and of indicators for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation further to decisions 15/5 and 15/13,⁸

Noting with appreciation the financial contributions from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, which enabled the work of the expert groups, the contribution from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for hosting an expert meeting on indicator 7.2, the financial contributions from the Government of the United Kingdom for the indicator studies on access and benefit-sharing and private sector finance, and the financial contribution from the Government of Canada for the development of the explanatory guidance and gap analysis, as well as the in-kind support from the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre in support of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators,

Recalling paragraph 13 of decision 15/6, in which the Conference of the Parties requested all Parties to use headline indicators and to provide responses on binary questions, as set out in the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in their national reports and supplemented, as appropriate, by optional component and complementary indicators also included therein and other national indicators providing flexibility in the progressive implementation of the provision in that paragraph to countries, in particular developing countries, in the light of the fact that not all indicators were ready at the time and of the need for capacity-building and development on the headline indicators,

¹ See CBD/FM/TEG/2024/1/2.

² See CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁴ See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/11.

⁵ See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/13.

⁶ Decision 15/4, annex.

⁷ See www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions.

⁸ See also recommendations 25/4 and 26/9 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Noting that there is an existing process to develop an indicator for the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)⁹ in response to the adoption of the Framework,¹⁰

Recognizing that the capacities for the collection and generation of data, maintenance of databases and processing of biodiversity-relevant data are uneven and that developing countries require support in terms of means of implementation in that regard, including through international cooperation, resource mobilization, information infrastructure, capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer,

Recognizing also the importance of strengthening national monitoring, reporting, review and information systems and that those systems are the primary source of information for monitoring the implementation of the Framework, including monitoring at the ecosystem level, in line with national circumstances and priorities,

[1. *Endorses* the technical updates to the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as contained in annex I to the present decision, which support the operationalization of the monitoring framework and comprise headline, binary, component and complementary indicators and optional headline indicator disaggregations;]

[2. *Agrees* to add headline indicators for Target 22 of the Framework, including headline indicator 22.1, on land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities, and binary indicator 5.b for Target 5, on trade in wild species;]

[3. *Adopts* the list of binary questions contained in annex II to the present decision;]

[4. *Welcomes* the guidance on the monitoring framework provided by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹¹ and invites Parties to make use of the guidance as relevant and appropriate, including the metadata for the headline and binary indicators, the approaches to taking section C of the Framework into consideration when implementing the monitoring framework, and the overarching guidance on the implementation of the monitoring framework and on gaps and opportunities;]

5. *Takes note* of the current status of development of the headline indicators and the current status of guidance related to the consideration of section C of the Framework contained in tables 1 and 2 of annex II to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2, as prepared by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators;

[6. *Notes with appreciation* that the monitoring framework provides good coverage of the overall scope of the Framework;¹²]

7. *Decides* that further work to develop the headline, component and complementary indicators needs to consider the reporting burden and the technical and financial constraints faced by Parties, in particular those that are developing countries, in the implementation of the monitoring framework;

8. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to review updated metadata for headline indicators, as well as the list of component and complementary

⁹ Decision 15/11, annex.

¹⁰ Women4biodiversity, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, is developing a methodology through a consultative process. See www.women4biodiversity.org/information-session-on-indicator-methodology-of-target23-of-the-global-biodiversity-framework/.

¹¹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.

¹² Many of the monitoring gaps correspond to a need for scientific and technical tools and guidance to support the achievement of the targets of the Framework, as described in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3 and its associated information documents (CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15 and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/16/Rev.1).

indicators in decision 15/5 that have met the criteria for inclusion in the monitoring framework since the adoption of that decision, for use by Parties in their eighth national reports;

9. *Invites* international and other relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth to support Parties in the implementation of the monitoring framework at the national level;

10. *Recalls* that the validation of global data by each Party is included in the reporting template for the national reports under the Convention;

[11. *Welcomes* the ongoing work on monitoring conducted under multilateral environmental agreements and relevant initiatives, including measuring the connectivity of habitats for migratory species, under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;¹³ additional indicators related to biodiversity and highly hazardous chemicals and mercury, under decision MC-5/17 of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury; improving the assessment of the extent of land degradation, under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;¹⁴ the related United Arab Emirates-Belém work programme on indicators adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement in its decision 2/CMA.5; and under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat;]

[12. *Invites* the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and relevant initiatives to share information on relevant monitoring initiatives with the Executive Secretary, while stressing the need to ensure consistency with existing mandates, and requests the Executive Secretary to make such information available to Parties;]

[13. *Highlights* the importance of mainstreaming the indicators across relevant processes, and invites the secretariats and governing bodies of multilateral environmental and biodiversity-related agreements, financial institutions and other processes to consider the indicators contained in annex I, as appropriate;]

[14. *Urges* Parties and other Governments, including local and subnational governments, to take section C of the Framework into consideration when implementing the monitoring framework, including by disaggregating the headline indicators by indigenous peoples and local communities, sex, age, persons with disabilities and other relevant groups and by ecosystem type, where appropriate, using relevant component, complementary and national and local indicators relevant to section C and traditional knowledge indicators, including by strengthening community-based monitoring systems, where relevant and applicable;]

15. *Invites* private philanthropic and other relevant organizations to share data on biodiversity-related finance, in alignment with the monitoring framework, where possible;

16. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, including local and subnational governments, to take a consistent approach at the national level to monitoring ecosystems and reporting data across the goals and targets of the Framework based on national ecosystem classifications;

[17. *Invites* Parties to make use of the Global Ecosystem Typology levels 2 and 3 and align their national ecosystem data with that typology, which has been recognized by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations for monitoring ecosystems, subject to national circumstances and capabilities;]

¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1651, No. 28395.

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

18. *Urges* Parties and other Governments, and invites local and subnational governments, to strengthen their monitoring systems, subject to the availability of the necessary means of implementation, involving all relevant institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant stakeholders in a participatory manner, with support, where appropriate, from international organizations and initiatives, in particular to facilitate the reporting of indicators in the seventh national report, due in February 2026;

19. *Urges* developed country Parties, and invites other Parties in a position to do so, to enhance international cooperation, including by providing adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, to address the technical and financial challenges faced by developing country Parties in the implementation of the monitoring framework;

20. *Invites* other Governments to enhance international cooperation, including by providing adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, to address the technical and financial challenges faced by developing country Parties in the implementation of the monitoring framework;

[21. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to provide adequate, timely and predictable financial resources for the development and implementation of national monitoring systems in a transparent manner and following a consultative process to support the reporting efforts of all eligible Parties in accordance with and without prejudice to their respective national priorities, in line with [the criteria of the Global Environment Facility and] decision 15/7;¹⁵]

22. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to make use of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and other globally available data, where relevant and where national data are not available, and taking into account regular updating of national data and their validation by Parties to complement data in national monitoring systems;

[23. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to review the needs of Parties in the implementation of the monitoring framework and consider how to address any technical or capacity gaps, including by strengthening national biodiversity observing systems and connecting national systems at the regional and global levels;]

24. *Encourages* Parties and relevant organizations, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, to exchange knowledge, and build capacity related to the headline, component and complementary indicators and to the consideration of section C of the Framework when implementing the monitoring framework;

[25. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments in a position to do so, including local and subnational governments, as well as relevant organizations, to consider providing resources to contribute to global monitoring systems, standards and data sets that support Parties and to community-based monitoring and information systems, taking into account that data validation at the national level is the foundation for the monitoring framework;]

[26. *Recalls* decision 15/8 on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation, and requests the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity to provide support for capacity-building and development for the implementation of the monitoring framework, in particular for Parties that have identified it as a priority need;]

¹⁵ This paragraph should be considered in the context of the discussions on the relevant agenda items held at the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

[27. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to take into account the scientific and technical needs of countries in its work on the fast-track methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people and the fast-track methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity;]

[28. *Decides* to review the use of the monitoring framework indicators, including the headline, binary, component and complementary indicators, in collaboration with the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group¹⁶ and in conjunction with the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework to be conducted at the seventeenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties;]

[29. *Also decides* that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should consider additional headline, component and complementary indicators, if relevant and available, at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting, as part of the review of implementation of the Framework;]

[30. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to work with Parties, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, relevant academic and research institutions and other relevant organizations, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and organizations representing indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, to fill the gaps in the monitoring framework, and in particular those described in annex III to the present decision, as part of the implementation of the present decision;]

31. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to support inclusive and participatory processes to facilitate the operationalization of the monitoring framework, including by using, where relevant, the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity, by:

(a) Sharing updates with Parties on the implementation of the monitoring framework on an ongoing basis, including information shared by multilateral environment organizations, members of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant organizations;

(b) Identifying options and potential collaborators to address gaps identified by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, including for the development of headline indicators 1.1 and 9.1;

(c) Facilitating capacity-building and development activities related to the implementation of the monitoring framework at the national level;

[32. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the guidance on the monitoring framework is easily accessible alongside the reporting template to support Parties in their national reporting processes, and encourages Parties to make use of all the guidance on the indicators¹⁷ as a reference for national reporting, as relevant and appropriate and in accordance with national legislation;]

[33. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare an analysis of the usage of the headline, binary, component and complementary indicators and of national indicators in national reports as an input into the review of the implementation of the monitoring framework and to share information related to paragraph 28 above with the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group;]

34. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to work with relevant organizations to further develop the metadata for headline indicators 1.1. and 9.1 and with organizations

¹⁶ Pending its establishment by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting further to the discussions to be held under agenda item 3 of the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

¹⁷ As provided in documents CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14 and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19, but these document symbols will change if the guidance is revised for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

identified in table 1 of annex II to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2 and other relevant organizations to update the headline indicator metadata, [especially those at a lower level of methodological development,] as necessary, and the list of component and complementary indicators contained in decision 15/5 that have since met the criteria for inclusion in the monitoring framework, for submission to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and to consider paragraph 7 of the present decision when undertaking that work.

Annex I

Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
A	A.1 Red List of Ecosystems	For indicator A.1: By realm, biome and ecosystem functional group [(Global Ecosystem Typology levels 2 and 3)] By indigenous and traditional territories By protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures By drivers (matched to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Threats Classification Scheme)	• Ecosystem Intactness Index • Ecosystem Integrity Index • Species Habitat Index • Biodiversity Habitat Index • Biodiversity Intactness Index • Protected Connected Index • Protected Area Representativeness and Connectedness Indices • Number of extinctions averted • Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered Index • Living Planet Index • Wild Bird Index	• Forest area as a proportion of total land area (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.1.1) • Rate of tree cover loss • Mountain Green Cover Index (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.4.2) • Continuous global mangrove forest cover • Mangrove forest fragmentation • Mangrove extent • Global salt marsh extent • Wetland Extent Trends Index • Forest Fragmentation Index • Forest Landscape Integrity Index • Global Vegetation Health Products • Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience Index • Relative magnitude of fragmentation • Ocean Health Index • Extent of physical damage to predominant seafloor habitats • River Fragmentation Index • Mean species abundance • Species Protection Index • Changes in plankton biomass and abundance • Comprehensiveness of conservation of socioeconomically and culturally valuable species • Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and
	A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems	For indicator A.2: By realm, biome and ecosystem functional group [(Global Ecosystem Typology levels 2 and 3)] By indigenous and traditional territories By natural and seminatural ecosystem, if feasible		

¹⁸ The proposed wording of the indicators is included in recommendation 25/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Once agreement on the wording is reached, it will be reflected in the present table.

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
	A.3 Red List Index (Sustainable Development Goal indicators 15.5.1) A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size greater than 500	For indicator A.3:¹⁹ By realm, biome and ecosystem functional group [(matched to the Global Ecosystem Typology)] By migratory species By drivers (matched to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Threats Classification Scheme) For indicator A.4: Species Taxonomic groups		agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.5.1) • Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.5.2) • Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals) • Species Status Information Index • Expected loss of phylogenetic diversity • Proportion of populations maintained within species
B	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems B.b Number of countries with policies or actions for implementing and monitoring the sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services	For indicator B.1: By type of ecosystem service By realm, biome and ecosystem functional group [(Global Ecosystem Typology levels 2 and 3)] By indigenous and traditional territories n/a	• Red List Index (for utilized species) • Living Planet Index for utilized species • Total value of ecosystems services in monetary units	• Ecological footprint • Red List Index (pollinating species) • Green Status of Species • Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.4.2) • Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.3.2) • Forestry production and trade (wood fuel) • Index of Linguistic Diversity • United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization culture/2030 indicators

¹⁹ Specific Red List Index disaggregations are also included in the relevant targets as complementary indicators.

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
C	C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments <i>13b. Text of binary indicator to be inserted</i>	For indicator C.1: By monetary benefits received by indigenous peoples and local communities For indicator C.2: By type of non-monetary benefits By non-monetary benefits received by indigenous peoples and local communities		• Number of users that have provided information relevant to the utilization of genetic resources to designated checkpoints • Total number of internationally recognized certificates published on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House • Number of checkpoint communiqués published on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House • Number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance for non-commercial purposes in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House
D	D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems	For indicators D1 and D2: No specific disaggregations listed For indicator D3: By funding source [(international private philanthropic organization for development, private biodiversity finance mobilized by official development finance (separate bilateral and multilateral indicators), biodiversity offsets, payment for ecosystem services, domestic private donations, private benefit-sharing		• Number of researchers per population • Number of joint scientific papers published in the Ocean Biodiversity Information System by sector • Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.a.1) • Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 4.b.1)Global imports of information and communications technology goods by category • Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 17.7.1) • International funding targeted at indigenous peoples and local communities within biodiversity-related activities • International funding targeted at youth within biodiversity-related activities

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
		schemes and other instruments, including biodiversity-relevant bonds (impact investing, credit markets, insurance products)]		• International funding targeted at gender equality and women's rights policy objectives within biodiversity-related activities • Monetary value of the annual budget for biodiversity from total national budget • Percentage of annual biodiversity expenditure in total national government budgets • Domestic funding targeted at indigenous peoples and local communities within biodiversity-related activities • Domestic funding targeted at youth within biodiversity-related activities • Domestic funding targeted at gender equality and women's rights policy objectives within biodiversity-related activities • Private funding targeted at indigenous peoples and local communities within biodiversity-related activities • Private funding targeted at youth within biodiversity-related activities • Private funding targeted at gender equality and women's rights policy objectives within biodiversity-related activities • Private funding mobilized for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth
1	A.1 Red List of Ecosystems A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems 1.1 Percentage of land and sea area covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans 1.b Number of countries using participatory,	For indicators A.1 and A.2: Described in Goal A (some disaggregations may be more relevant to the specific target) For indicator 1.1: No metadata currently proposed		• Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2)

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
	integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero by 2030			
2	2.1 Area under restoration	By ecosystem functional group [(Global Ecosystem Typology levels 2 and 3)] By indigenous and traditional territories By protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures By type of restoration activity	• Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1)	• Global Ecosystem Restoration Index • Proportion of key biodiversity areas in favourable condition
3	3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures	By protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures; By realm, biome and ecosystem functional group [(Global Ecosystem Typology levels 2 and 3)] By areas of importance for biodiversity (existing Sustainable Development Goal indicators 4.5.1, 15.1.2, 15.4.1) By effectiveness (protected area management effectiveness) By governance type	• Protected Connected Index • Protected Area Connectedness Index • Species Protection Index	• Rate of protected area downgrading, downsizing and degazettement events • International Union for Conservation of Nature Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard • Proportion of key biodiversity areas in favourable condition • Protected Area Isolation Index • Protected Areas Network metric • Number of protected areas that have completed a site-level assessment of governance and equity

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
		By indigenous and traditional territories		
4	A.3 Red list Index (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.5.1) A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size greater than 500	For indicators A.3 and A.4: Described in Goal A (some disaggregations may be more relevant to the specific target)	• Living Planet Index • Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities • Green status of species • Human-wildlife conflict indicator • Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.5.2)	• Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric • Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals) • Number of island invasive alien species eradications
5	5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.4.1) [5.b to be added]	By the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations major marine fishing areas	• Red List Index (impacts of utilization) for utilized species • Living Planet Index for utilized species • Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.6.1)	• Inland fisheries threat indicator • Red List Index (for internationally traded species) • Red List Index (impacts of fisheries) [disaggregation of indicator A.3] • Marine Stewardship Council Fish Certified Catch • Total catch of cetaceans under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling • By-catch of vulnerable and non-target species • Number of Marine Stewardship Council chain of custody certification holders by distribution country • Biodiversity-based trade, growth rates
6	6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment 6.b Number of countries adopting relevant regulations, processes and measures to reduce the impact of invasive alien species	For indicators 6.1 and 6.2: By taxonomic group By pathway		• Red List Index (impacts of invasive alien species)

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
7	7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.1.1 (a)) 7.2 Aggregated total applied toxicity	For indicator 7.1: By type of nutrient By subbasin For indicator 7.2: By pesticide type By use of pesticide products in each sector	• Cropland nutrient budget • Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.3.1) • Plastic debris density (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.1.1 (b)) • Red List Index (impact of pollution)	• Trends in loss of reactive nitrogen to the environment. • Trends in nitrogen deposition • Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.6.1) • Hazardous waste generation per capita (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.4.2(a)) • Trends in the amount of litter, including microplastics, in the water column and on the seafloor • Plastic debris density (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.1.1(b)) • Pesticide use per area of cropland
8	8.b Number of countries with policies to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity	B.1 disaggregation: Total climate regulation services provided by ecosystems and by ecosystem type	• Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 1.5.3), which include biodiversity • Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience Index	• Above-ground biomass stock in forest (tons/ha) • National greenhouse gas inventories from land use, land-use change and forestry • Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 1.5.4) • Index of coastal eutrophication (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.1.1(a)) • Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.3.1)
9	9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species 9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations	For indicator 9.1: No metadata currently proposed. Described under Goal B For indicator 9.2: By type of occupations	• Red List Index (species used for food and medicine) • Living Planet Index for utilized species	• Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.6.1) • Number of Marine Stewardship Council chain of custody

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
	9b Number or countries with policies to manage the use of wild species sustainably, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and to protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities	By indigenous peoples and local communities By gender By age category By rural versus urban category		certification holders by distribution country • Spawning stock biomass (related to commercially exploited species) • Number of (a) plant and (b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.5.1) • Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.3.1) • Red List Index (impacts of fisheries) • Red List Index (impact of utilization)
10	10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.4.1) 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1)	For indicator 10.1: By household and non-household sector farms By crops and livestock For indicator 10.2: By indigenous and traditional territories	• Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status (SDG indicator 2.3.2)	• Agrobiodiversity Index • Soil organic carbon stocks (subindicator under Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1) • Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals) • Red List Index (pollinating species) • Red List Index (forest specialist species) • Red List Index (impacts of fisheries) • Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction (SDG indicator 2.5.2) • Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (SDG indicator 15.3.1) • Area of forest under sustainable management: total forest management certification by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
11	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems	Described under Goal B	• Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) in cities • Proportion of bodies of water with good	• Air emission accounts • Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			ambient water quality • Level of water stress	sanitation management (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.b.1) • Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.1.1) • Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services) (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.9.2) • Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 1.5.1)
12	12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green or blue space for public use for all 12.b Number of countries with biodiversity-inclusive urban planning referring to green or blue urban spaces	By space type: by realm, biome and ecosystem functional group [(Global Ecosystem Typology levels 2 and 3)]	• Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity	
13	C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable international Access and Benefit-sharing instruments <i>13.b Text of binary indicator to be inserted</i>	Described in Goal C	• Total number of internationally recognized certificates published on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House	• Total number of transfers of crop material from the Multilateral System of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture received in a country (subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.6.1) • Number of users that have provided information relevant to the utilization of genetic resources to designated checkpoints • Number of checkpoint communiqués published on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House • Number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance for non-

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
				commercial purposes in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House
14	14.b Number of countries integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty eradication strategies and, as appropriate, national accounts, within and across all levels and across all sectors, and progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework		• Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.9.1 (b))	
15	15.1 Number of companies disclosing their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts 15.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy measures aimed at encouraging and enabling business and financial institutions, and in particular for large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to progressively reduce their	By sector	• Number of companies publishing sustainability reports (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1)	• Number of organizations within the country that have signalled an intent to start adopting the recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
	negative impacts on biodiversity, increase their positive impacts, reduce their biodiversity-related risks and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production			
16	16b1 Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices		• Food Waste Index (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.3.1(b)) • Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 8.4.1) per capita • [Global environmental impacts of consumption] • [Ecological footprint]	• Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 4.7.1) • National recycling rate, tons of material recycled (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.5.1) • Human appropriation of net primary production • Carbon dioxide emission per unit of value added (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 9.4.1) • Change in water-use efficiency over time (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.4.1) • Indicators from the Life Cycle Impact Assessment Programme • Poverty level
17	17.b Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19			• Indicators related to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
18	18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	For indicator 18.1: By type of incentive (taxes, fees and charges, subsidies, tradable permits, payment for ecosystem services programmes and offset schemes) ²⁰	• [Revenue generated from biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges] • [Monetary value of biodiversity-positive subsidies] • Revenue generated by biodiversity-relevant tradable permits (if auctioned) • Monetary value of payments for ecosystem services • Monetary value of biodiversity offsets • [Number of other positive incentives in place for biodiversity (by type)] • [Monetary value of other positive incentives in place for biodiversity]	
	18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity	For indicator 18.2: By sector [(agricultural, fisheries, fossil fuels and other sectors)]		
19	See Goal D indicators	Described in Goal D		See Goal D indicators
20	20.b Number of countries that have taken significant action to strengthen capacity-building and development and access to and transfer of technology, and to promote the development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation		• Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 17.7)	• Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants) (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 9.5.2) • Number of joint scientific papers published in the Ocean Biodiversity Information System by sector • Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.a.1) • Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 4.b.1) • Global imports of information and communications technology goods as presented by bilateral trade flows by information and

²⁰ The monitoring framework acknowledges that nothing in this framework should be understood as modifying the rights and obligations of Parties under the World Trade Organization.

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
				communications technology goods category • Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 17.7.1)
21	21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for monitoring the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	By type of information	• Species Information Index • Participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making related to the implementation of the Convention at all levels • Index of Linguistic Diversity	• Growth in number of records and species in the Living Planet Index database • Growth in species occurrence records accessible through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility • Growth in marine species occurrence records accessible through the Ocean Biodiversity Information System • Proportion of known species assessed through the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species • Number of assessments on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species • World Association of Zoos and Aquariums bioliteracy survey (biodiversity literacy in global zoo and aquarium visitors)
22	[22.1 Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities] 22.b Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation, in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to	Indicator 9.2 is highly relevant to Target 22 Disaggregations by indigenous and traditional territories and governance of all indicators are relevant to Target 22	• Participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making related to the implementation of the Convention at all levels • Index of Linguistic Diversity • 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 (Sustainable	• Proportions 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 (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.7.1) • Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.c.1) • Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and share of women among owners or

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
	biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by, women, and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders		Development Goal indicator 1.4.2) • Number of verified cases of killings and other attacks against environmental human rights defenders in the previous 12 months (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.1)	rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.a.1) • Number Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.a.2) • Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.7.2) • Area covered by the reported territories and areas governed, managed, and conserved by custodian indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs—territories of life)
23	23.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy frameworks, inter alia, the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), to ensure that all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by ensuring women's equal rights and access to land and natural resources	Disaggregations by gender, age and governance for other indicators are relevant	• Proportion of seats held by women in: (a) national parliaments; and (b) local governments (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.5.1) • Indicator on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) • 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 (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 1.4.2)	• 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 • Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.a.1) • Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.7.2) • Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

Goal/ Target	Headline or binary indicator ¹⁸	Optional disaggregations	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
				(Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.a.2)

Annex II

List of binary indicator questions

Goal B: Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.				
Indicator text: Number of countries with policies or action plans for implementing and monitoring the sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance and enhancement of nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.				
B.1	Does your country have policies and/or action plans aimed at ensuring the maintenance, enhancement and restoration of nature's contributions to people, including of ecosystem functions and services?			(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
B.2	Does your country have policies and/or action plans aimed at ensuring the sustainable use of biodiversity?			(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
B.3	Does your country monitor the sustainable use of biodiversity?			(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
B.4	Does your country monitor the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services for the benefit of present and future generations?			(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
Target 1: Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.				
Indicator text: Number of countries using participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero by 2030.				
1.1	Are all areas of your country under integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes that:			
(a)	Address land-use (terrestrial) change?			(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
(b)	Address land-use (inland water) change?			(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully

(c) Address sea-use (coastal and marine) change? (Will be considered not applicable to landlocked States)	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
1.2 If the answer to any of the questions in 1.1 is not “No”, were the plans created using a participatory process? (Select all that apply, noting that, if your country is a landlocked State, marine spatial planning will be considered as not relevant)	(a) For terrestrial spatial planning (b) For inland water planning (c) For coastal and marine spatial planning (d) None of the above
Target 6: Eliminate, minimize, reduce and/or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.	
Indicator text: Number of countries adopting relevant regulations, processes and measures to reduce the impact of invasive alien species.	
6.1 Does your country have regulations and processes empowering relevant institutions to implement the measures necessary for a reduction in the introduction and impact of invasive alien species?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
6.2 Does your country have measures in place for preventing the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
6.3 Does your country have measures in place for eradicating or controlling invasive alien species?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
Target 8: Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.	
Indicator text: Number of countries with policies to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.	
8.1 Does your country’s national biodiversity strategy and action plan include actions to prevent or minimize the impacts of the following (select all that apply):	(a) Climate change (b) Ocean acidification (c) None of the above
8.2 Do your country’s climate change policies address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
8.3 Do your country’s other policies address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully

8.4 Do your country's other policies address the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
8.5 Are the impacts of climate change on biodiversity monitored and reported on?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
8.6 Are the impact of ocean acidification on biodiversity monitored and reported on?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
8.7 Do your country's policies or action plans on the impact of climate change and ocean acidification contain the following types of actions designed to increase biodiversity resilience or reduce impacts (select all that apply):	(a) Mitigation (b) Adaptation (c) Disaster risk reduction (d) Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches (e) Policies to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity (f) Other (g) None of the above
8.8 Are measures included in your country's policies or actions plans to minimize the negative impacts of climate actions on biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
8.9 Are measures included in your country's policies or actions plans to foster positive impacts of climate actions on biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
Target 9: Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	
Indicator text: Number of countries with policies to manage the use in wild species sustainably, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and to protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities	
9.1 Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks or administrative measures for the sustainable management and use of wild species?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
9.2 Does your country monitor the sustainable management and use of wild species?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully

[9.3 Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks to regulate trade in wild species? (Select all that apply)]	(a) For terrestrial species (b) For freshwater species (c) For marine species (d) For international trade (e) None of the above]
[9.3bis Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks to map and promote sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully (e) Not applicable]
9.4 Does your country monitor the social, economic and environmental benefits derived from the use of wild species for people, in particular those in vulnerable situations and most dependent on biodiversity? [(Select all that apply)]	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully [For: (a) Women and girls (b) Children and youth (c) People with disabilities (d) Indigenous peoples and local communities]
9.5 Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks to protect and encourage the customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, for example, the plan of action on customary sustainable use of biological diversity or other relevant initiatives?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully (e) Not applicable
Target 12: Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.	
Indicator text: Number of countries with biodiversity-inclusive urban planning referring to green or blue urban spaces.	
12.1 Does your country have urban areas under biodiversity-inclusive urban planning that incorporates the management of green or blue spaces for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
12.2 Does your country have urban areas under biodiversity-inclusive urban planning incorporating the management of green or blue spaces for ecosystem services and nature's contributions to people?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
Target 13: Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.	
[Proposed indicator text: Number of countries that have taken effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.]	

13.1 Does your country have effective legal, administrative and policy measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully (e) Not applicable
13.2 Does your country have capacity-building measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully (e) Not applicable
[13.2 Does your country have legal instruments, administrative and policy framework or measures to ensure the fair and equitable benefit-sharing of digital sequence information on genetic resources?] [13.2.Alt (a) Does your country receive monetary benefits from the utilization of digital sequence information on genetic resources? (b) Does your country receive non-monetary benefits from the utilization of digital sequence information on genetic resources?] [13.2.bis Countries' follow-up of the multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from digital sequence information on genetic resources²¹] [13.2.alt Question on digital sequence information to be formulated in the light of the ongoing process to develop a multilateral mechanism on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.]	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
13.3 Does the measures mentioned in question[s] 13.1 [and 13.2] include the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources?	(a) No (b) Yes (c) Not applicable
13.4a Does your country monitor [the fair and equitable benefit-sharing arising] [the] [monetary benefits received] from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources [that were accessed from your country]?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully (e) Not applicable
13.4b Does your country monitor [the fair and equitable benefit-sharing arising] [the non-monetary benefits received] from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources [that were accessed from your country]?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully (e) Not applicable
[13.5 Has your country established measures to ensure compliance with domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation of the country of origin of the genetic resources?] [13.5.alt Does your country have measures to ensure the fair and equitable benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that were accessed in another country?]	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully (e) Not applicable
Target 14: Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	

²¹ The wording of the question will be determined on the basis of the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.

Indicator text: Number of countries integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty eradication strategies and, as appropriate, national accounts, within and across all levels and across all sectors, and progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework.	
14.1 Does your country integrate biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes and poverty eradication strategies at all levels of government?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
14.2 Does your country use environmental economic accounting to quantify the monetary and non-monetary values of biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
14.3 Does your country integrate biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, plans and strategies across all sectors in order to ensure their mainstreaming?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully [If fully or partially, list all sectors concerned (optional).] [If fully or partially, list all sectors concerned [(optional)]: - Agriculture - Fisheries - Forestry - Aquaculture - Finance - Tourism - Health - Infrastructure - Energy - Mining - Manufacturing and processing - Other]
14.4 Does your country have policies, regulations, strategies or plans in place to progressively align all relevant public and private activities with the goals and targets of the Framework?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
14.5 Are policies, regulations, strategies or plans in place to progressively align fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
Target 15: Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions: (a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios; (b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns; (c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.	

Indicator text: Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy measures aimed at encouraging and enabling business and financial institutions, and in particular for large and transnational companies and financial institutions, to progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity, increase their positive impacts, reduce their biodiversity-related risks and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.	
15.1 Has your country put in place legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions, monitor, assess and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
15.2 Has your country put in place measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions provide relevant information to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (e) Fully
15.3 Has your country put in place measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
15.4 Has your country put in place measures to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions progressively reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity and increase their positive impacts?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
15.5 Does your country monitor whether negative impacts from business on biodiversity have progressively decreased?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
Target 16: Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices, including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.	
Indicator text: Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices.	
16.1 Has your country established mechanisms, policy or legislative or regulatory frameworks aimed at supporting sustainable consumption?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
16.2 Has your country adopted mechanisms to improve awareness or education with regard to the impacts of consumption on biodiversity and access to relevant and accurate information or alternatives supporting sustainable consumption?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
16.3 Has your country adopted or implemented policy instruments aimed at encouraging and enabling people to make sustainable consumption choices, including by reducing food waste, overconsumption and waste generation?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully

Target 17: Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.	
Indicator text: Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19.	
17.1 Has your country established biosafety-related policy, legal, administrative and other measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
17.2 Does your country implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
17.3 Has your country taken legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Parties, especially developing countries, that provide the genetic resources for such research as set out in paragraph 1 of Article 19 of the Convention?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
17.4 Has your country taken practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Parties, especially developing countries, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based on genetic resources provided by those Parties, as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the Convention?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
17.5 Does your country carry out scientifically sound risk assessments on the use and release of living modified organisms?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
17.6 Does your country provide access to biosafety-related information for the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
[17.7 Question to be added on capacity building related to Target 17.]	
Target 20: Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.	
Indicator text: Number of countries that have taken significant action to strengthen capacity-building and development and access to and transfer of technology, and to promote the development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation.	
[20.1 Does your country have [national capacity-building and development action plan(s) or other] plans, policies or instruments for addressing capacity-building and development needs for biodiversity?]	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
20.2 Does your country have measures to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth and people with disabilities in capacity-building and development for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (Select all that apply)	(a) Women and girls (b) Children and youth (c) People with disabilities (d) Indigenous peoples and local communities (e) Others

20.3 Has your country undertaken a national capacity self-assessment or other processes for assessing the capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
20.4 Has your country undertaken a national assessment of the capacity-building and development needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth and people with disabilities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (Select all that apply)	(a) Women and girls (b) Children and youth (c) People with disabilities (d) Indigenous peoples and local communities (e) Others
20.5 Has your country established partnerships to foster joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capabilities, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully (Specify for each type of partnership (optional))
Target 22: Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.	
Indicator text: Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation, in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.	
22.1 Does your country have policy, legislative and administrative frameworks at the national and subnational levels that:	
(a) Ensure full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making related to biodiversity of the following (select all that apply):	(a) Indigenous peoples and local communities (b) Women and girls (c) Children and youth (d) Persons with disabilities (e) Others
(b) Respect the following rights and cultures of indigenous peoples and local communities (select all that apply):	(a) Culture and practices (b) Rights over lands and territories (c) Rights over resources (d) Rights over traditional knowledge (e) Not applicable
(c) Ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders?	(a) No (b) Yes
(d) Ensure public access to information related to biodiversity for the following (select all that apply):	(a) Indigenous peoples and local communities (b) Women and girls (c) Children and youth (d) Persons with disabilities (e) Others

(e) Provide access to justice for one or more of the following categories (select all that apply):	(a) Indigenous peoples and local communities (b) Women and girls (c) Children and youth (d) Persons with disabilities (e) Others
22.2 Does your country have operational frameworks and mechanisms related to the policy, legislative and administrative frameworks listed under question 22.1?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
22.3 Does your country monitor the following:	
(a) The full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making of the following (select all that apply):	(a) Indigenous peoples and local communities (b) Women and girls (c) Children and youth (d) Persons with disabilities (e) Others
(b) The following culture and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (select all that apply):	(a) Culture and practices (b) Rights over lands and territories (c) Rights over natural resources (d) Rights over traditional knowledge (e) Not applicable
(c) The full protection of environmental human rights defenders?	(a) No (b) Yes
Target 23: Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity	
Indicator text: Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy frameworks, inter alia, the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), to ensure that all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by ensuring women’s equal rights and access to land and natural resources.	
23.1 Does your country have mechanisms for facilitating the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership of all women and girls at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
23.2 Has your country adopted legal, administrative or policy measures that explicitly recognize and protect all women and girl’s rights and access to land and natural resources?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
23.3 Does your country explicitly apply a gender-responsive approach and recognize the contributions and roles of women and girls in its implementation of the Framework through its national reports of national biodiversity strategy action plan?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully

23.4 Does your country conduct sex-disaggregated data collection and analyses to assess the differential impacts of biodiversity policies and programmes?	(a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
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[Annex III

Gap analysis: research needs and indicator development required for the improved monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Overall, the monitoring framework covers the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a whole reasonably well. However, if one considers all the elements within each goal or target in detail, there are inevitably some gaps. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework identified such gaps through an analysis of the coverages of each element of section C and of each goal and target with relevant headline, binary, component and complementary indicators in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19. The most important gaps remaining for each goal or target are summarized in the table below. The list is not exhaustive and does not cover all possible gaps in the monitoring framework.

<i>Goal or target</i>	<i>Key gaps in the indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for covering specific elements of the goals or targets</i>
Section C	Some key elements from section C are not well covered in the monitoring framework. The monitoring framework does not effectively track how diverse value systems are represented and included across the Framework. In addition, there is currently no consideration of intergenerational equity, an important element in measuring sustainability. The role of youth in the Framework should be better monitored. Furthermore, assessing science and innovation for biodiversity is not yet possible. Lastly, the role of informal and formal education for biodiversity is not yet included.
A	Goal A is well covered overall by the headline indicators of the Framework. Only one major gap was identified: data on the abundance of native wild species. However, other aspects, such as extinction rate, connectivity and integrity, require additional steps to be accurately captured by the headline indicator.
B	Two major gaps were identified for Goal B. Monitoring the value of nature's contribution to people and their restoration cannot be achieved with the current headline indicator. In addition, sustainability is poorly addressed by the current headline indicator.
C	The methodology for Goal C headline indicators is still being developed, but it is expected that it will cover most aspects of the goal. Issues regarding digital sequence information will need to be resolved once negotiations on the subject have been completed.
D	Elements of Goal D focused on resources are well covered by the headline indicators. However, technical and scientific cooperation and transfer of technology are not covered.
1	The binary indicator for Target 1 offers an overall good coverage of the objectives. However, it does not provide a measure of the spatial coverage of biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning. The binary indicator does not address the areas of high biodiversity importance; a key gap in Target 1.
2	The effectiveness of restoration measures is not tracked by the headline indicator, resulting in gaps in the ability to measure improvements in biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, integrity and connectivity.
3	Two major gaps were identified for Target 3: the coverage of areas of particular importance for ecosystem functions and services by protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures; and the connectivity of those areas. A further gap is the lack of guidance for the identification and recognition of indigenous and traditional territories.

<i>Goal or target</i>	<i>Key gaps in the indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for covering specific elements of the goals or targets</i>
4	The headline indicator for Target 4 does not sufficiently cover the recovery of species or the management actions in place to support such recovery. In addition, the minimization of human-wildlife conflicts is not addressed under the indicator.
5	The headline indicator only partially addresses the sustainable use and harvesting of wild populations by focusing on fish. All other aspects of the target are currently not well covered.
6	Two major gaps were identified for the headline indicator for Target 6: it does not currently address the impacts of invasive alien species on ecosystem services or the eradication and control of invasive alien species on priority sites, such as islands.
7	Two major gaps were identified for the headline indicators for Target 7: it does not currently address plastic pollution or the overall impacts of pollution.
8	The binary indicator for Target 8 is focused on the measures and processes in place but fails to address the impacts of climate action, climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity.
9	There is currently no method to assess sustainable use of wild species, therefore no indicator captures the benefits (social, economic, environmental) derived from such use.
10	Gaps identified for Target 10 centre around fisheries, as the indicator fails to address inland fisheries and does not track aquaculture practices.
11	Target 11 is well covered by its headline indicator. However, the specific contributions of ecosystem-based approaches or nature-based solutions to the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of nature's contribution to people are not addressed.
12	There are significant gaps in the coverage of the headline indicator for Target 12. Only area and access to green spaces will be addressed. None of the following will be addressed: well-being, mainstreaming, benefits, connectivity and quality.
13	Two main gaps were identified for Target 13. Digital sequence information on genetic resources remains undefined and an agreement on digital sequence information has been reached, making its monitoring infeasible. Furthermore, the current indicators do not address access to genetic resources.
14	The binary indicator for Target 14 addresses the structural changes and processes required to implement all aspects of the target. However, it does not allow tracking of the outcomes of such efforts within all levels of government and across all sectors. In addition, there is a lack of information on the way that indicators are used in other plans.
15	Target 15 is well covered by its headline and binary indicators. However, more work could be done to measure the effectiveness of certification standards and track the list of statutory requirements and mechanisms to regulate businesses and financial institutions.
16	The binary indicator for Target 16 does not address the reduction of the global footprint of consumption or the reduction of global food waste by half. In addition, the indicator does not allow for quantification of the outcomes of efforts linked to Target 16.
17	The binary indicator for Target 17 does not address the strengthening of capacity for biosafety measures or the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits. In addition, the indicator does not measure the environmental outcomes from the implementation of Articles 8(g) and 19.
18	One major gap was identified for Target 18: the identification of incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity. Neither of the headline indicators enable reporting on such efforts.

<i>Goal or target</i>	<i>Key gaps in the indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for covering specific elements of the goals or targets</i>
19	Target 19 is overall well addressed by its indicators. However, the optimization of co-benefits and synergies of finance for climate and biodiversity is not well covered, and neither is the role of non-market-based approaches.
20	The binary indicator for Target 20 tracks the establishment of the conditions required to deliver on Target 20 but does not address whether those conditions lead to realized outcomes. In addition, it does not address the strengthening of research and monitoring capacity.
21	The headline indicator for Target 21 does not address two major gaps: the inclusion of non-biodiversity data to guide effective and equitable governance; and integrated and participatory management of biodiversity and aspects of communication, education and awareness-raising.
22	The binary indicator for Target 22 addresses the structural changes and processes required to implement all aspects of the target. However, it does not allow for the tracking of the outcomes of those efforts in ensuring the participation and access to justice and information of children and youth, persons with disabilities, women and girls and indigenous peoples and local communities.
23	The binary indicator for Target 23 addresses the structural changes and processes required to implement all aspects of the target. However, it does not allow for the tracking of either the outcomes of those efforts or the extent to which a gender-responsive approach is implemented, women's participation and leadership is enhanced or access and equal rights to land and natural resources are recognized.

26/2. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Takes note* of the findings of the analysis of scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the identification of gaps in tools and guidance, as described in annex III to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2 and in documents CBD/SBSTTA/26/3, CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15, CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/16/Rev.1 and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19, while noting the range of views expressed by Parties during its twenty-sixth meeting;

2. *Concludes* that most of the guidance that has been developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity is relevant and that there is a wealth of tools and guidance developed through other processes that also support the implementation of the Framework and the potential to work with them to mainstream the considerations for the implementation of the Framework²² into their activities, and that access to guidance, adequate financial resources, capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation are needed by Parties for the implementation of the tools and guidance;

3. *Recognizes* that there are gaps in tools and guidance that would require further discussion at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to support the implementation of the Framework, and notes those contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3, in particular its section IV and its annex, as well as the range of views expressed by Parties during the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in that regard;

4. *Also recognizes* that there is a potential need for new work to be advanced, especially but not limited to, in some of the following topics, to address the gaps in tools and guidance for the implementation of the Framework, subject to consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting for inclusion in its programme of work:

- (a) Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning;
- (b) Biodiversity and pollution;
- (c) Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity;

5. *Invites* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at its fourth meeting, to consider the implications of the present recommendation for work related to, inter alia, capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism, mainstreaming, cooperation, the programmes of work of the Convention, administrative and budgetary matters and the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties;²³

6. *Recommends* that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties consider adopting a decision along the following lines, noting that complementary recommendations may be elaborated by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that the identification of scientific needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework²⁴ is an ongoing process throughout its duration and that several other processes currently under way are relevant to the identification of further needs and to addressing them, including the work on monitoring and indicators, reviews of programmes of work, the new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other

²² Decision 15/4, annex, sect. C.

²³ See CBD/SBSTTA/26/3 sect. V.

²⁴ Decision 15/4, annex.

provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,²⁵ the work on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific and cooperation, the process for updating and supporting the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the work carried out by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other relevant processes,

Welcoming the establishment of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global knowledge support service for biodiversity,

1. *Recognizes:*

(a) That the programmes of work and cross-cutting work of the Convention on Biological Diversity remain important tools to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework[, although some programmes of work may need to be updated];²⁶

(b) That most of the tools and guidance developed under the Convention and its Protocols are relevant to the implementation of the Framework and already provide a solid basis to support its implementation without delay;

(c) That the priority for further work should be on supporting the use of tools and guidance to enhance the implementation of the Framework, including through adequate financial resources, capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, in particular for developing countries;

(d) That there is an opportunity to mainstream the Framework into the work undertaken under other relevant intergovernmental agreements and processes and by international organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and into capacity-building and development initiatives, with a view to integrating the considerations for the implementation of the Framework²⁷ into tools and guidance developed through such processes and initiatives, so that they support biodiversity-inclusive actions and outcomes;

(e) The [potential] [important] role of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global knowledge support service for biodiversity in supporting the use [and the further development] of tools and guidance to facilitate the implementation of the Framework, as relevant;

2. *[Agrees to advance work in the following areas: [to be determined]*

[(a) Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning;

(b) Pollution and biodiversity;

(c) Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity]];

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other agreements, intergovernmental processes, international organizations and initiatives, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make use of relevant tools and guidance to support the implementation of the Framework, adapted to the national context as needed, and to share through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention their experience and lessons learned on the use of tools and guidance, including their effectiveness, barriers to their uptake and ways and means of overcoming them, in particular at the national level;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁶ Decision 15/4, annex.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, sect. C.

(a) To continue to facilitate the compilation of and access to scientific and technical tools and guidance, in cooperation with relevant partners, including through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;

(b) To continue to facilitate the development of further tools [and exchange of good practices][and guidance and updating of existing guidance,]where needed, to address gaps identified [by Parties] [in annex III to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2, section IV.B of and the annex to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3 and document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15], in cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, [other competent intergovernmental organizations,] [the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global knowledge support service for biodiversity], relevant processes and organizations, [avoiding duplication of tools and guidance,] and in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and relevant stakeholders, and, where appropriate, [and in line with their respective mandates,] to work with such relevant processes and organizations to integrate the considerations for the implementation of the Framework into tools and guidance being developed under those processes and by those organizations in order to support biodiversity-inclusive actions and outcomes;

(c) For each of the issues referred to in paragraph 2, to invite Parties, other Governments, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other agreements, intergovernmental processes, international organizations and initiatives, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders to provide submissions on their views and relevant experiences on those work areas and, drawing on such submissions, [to prepare draft tools or guidance, as appropriate, [for those work areas] for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

(d) Recalling paragraph 9 of decision 15/4, to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Framework to facilitate its implementation, and on the basis of this analysis, to prepare draft updates of those programmes of work, taking into account documents prepared for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice related to that work, and submit them for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at a future meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

26/3. Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling that the *Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature* and the *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the *Sixth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as their implications for work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity, were reviewed by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fifth meeting,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare information, in collaboration with relevant United Nations organizations, and respecting their mandates, on the following topics in the form required by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for requests for assessments, taking relevant work undertaken by other science-policy panels into account, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixteenth meeting:

Biodiversity and pollution;

Cities and biodiversity;

Biodiversity and poverty;

Biodiversity and climate change;

Rights-based approaches, including those related to gender, to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue its close cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and to liaise with the Secretariat of the Platform, with a view to analysing and identifying further ways in which the Platform may contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to its global review of collective progress, including by identifying opportunities to make use, as appropriate, of the deliverables for each of the four functions of the Platform;

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

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XI/13 C of 19 October 2012, XII/25 of 17 October 2014, 14/36 of 29 November 2018 and 15/19 of 19 December 2022,

Recalling also that, in paragraph 5 (e) of decision [XII/25](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to bring the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the attention of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration with regard to the relevance of the findings for the work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁸ and for the submission, as appropriate, of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the decision by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its tenth session, to undertake a fast-track methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people by

²⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

2026, a fast-track methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity by 2027 and a scoping process for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services by 2024,²⁹ with a view to producing the second global assessment in 2028, as part of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030,

Noting the ongoing close collaboration between the Secretariats of the Convention and of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

1. *Takes note* of the information contained in the overview of previous and future assessments and, as appropriate, other deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including the schedule for consideration of deliverables by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice contained in the annex to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3/Add.1;

2. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outputs of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services according to the schedule contained in the annex to the present decision;

3. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider the following request[s: ...];³⁰

4. *Encourages* Parties to make use of, as appropriate, the assessments and deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³¹ to engage with the review processes for the preparation of the assessments and deliverables, where relevant, and to enhance communication, the sharing of information and coordination between the focal points of the Platform and of the Convention at the national level;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To facilitate the participation of the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in meetings of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, where relevant;

(b) To update the overview of previous and future deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and their relevance in the decision-making of the Convention, as contained in the annex to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3/Add.1, and make it available on the website of the Secretariat of the Convention and at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body in each intersessional period;

(c) To continue its close cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and to liaise with the Secretariat of the Platform, with a view to analysing and identifying further ways in which the Platform may contribute to the implementation of the Framework and to its global review of collective progress, including by identifying opportunities to make use, as appropriate, of the deliverables for each of the four functions of the Platform.

²⁹ Decision IPBES-10/1 of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

³⁰ To be developed by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting in the light of the information to be prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Convention Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 1 of the present recommendation of the Subsidiary Body.

³¹ Decision 15/4, annex.

Annex**Schedule of assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and of their consideration under the Convention (2024–2030)**

<i>Session number and date of consideration by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Date of consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention</i>
Eleventh session (2024)	Thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (“nexus assessment”) ^a	Meeting of the Subsidiary Body held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2026)
	Thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity (“transformative change assessment”) ^b	Meeting of the Subsidiary Body held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2026)
Twelfth session (2025)	Methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people (“business and biodiversity assessment”) ^c	Meeting of the Subsidiary Body held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2026)
Thirteenth session (2026)	Methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people (“monitoring assessment”)	Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2026), meeting of the Subsidiary Body held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2028) and eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2028)
Fourteenth session (2027)	Methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity	Meeting of the Subsidiary Body held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2028)
Fifteenth session (2028)	Second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services	Meeting of the Subsidiary Body held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2030)
Sixteenth session (2029)	Assessment topic to be determined at the twelfth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Meeting of the Subsidiary Body held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2030)

^a <https://ipbes.net/nexus>.^b <https://ipbes.net/transformative-change>.^c <https://ipbes.net/business-impact>.

26/4. Synthetic biology

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling decision 15/31 of 19 December 2022 on synthetic biology,

Having conducted a review of the outcomes and operation of the process in accordance with decision 15/31, and taking annex III to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/4 and document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/6 into account,

1. *Acknowledges* the work of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, and takes note of the outcomes contained in annexes I to V to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/4;

2. *Welcomes* the peer review process, and takes note of the results contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/6;

3. *Emphasizes* that capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing need to be strengthened in the context of synthetic biology, considering the inequity of participation by developing countries;

4. *Recommends* that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the call made by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety³² in its decision BS-VII/12 of 3 October 2014 for a coordinated approach on the issue of synthetic biology, taking into account the fact that the provisions of the Protocol may also apply to living organisms resulting from synthetic biology,

[*Recalling also* decisions XII/24 of 17 October 2014, XIII/17 of 17 December 2016, 14/19 of 29 November 2018 and 15/8 and 15/31 of 19 December 2022,]

[*Recalling further* that, in its decision XIII/17, the Conference of the Parties took note of the conclusion of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology that living organisms developed through current applications of synthetic biology, or that were currently in the early stages of research and development, were similar to living modified organisms as defined in the Cartagena Protocol, [and noted that it was not clear, given the current state of knowledge, whether or not some organisms of synthetic biology, which were currently in the early stages of research and development, would fall under the definition of living modified organisms under the Protocol,]]

[

Recalling that, in its decision 14/19, the Conference of the Parties agreed that broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessing of the most recent technological developments were needed for reviewing new information regarding the potential positive or negative impacts of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity³³ and those of the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,³⁴

Recalling also that, in its decision 15/31, the Conference of the Parties recognized that the results of the application of the criteria set out in decision IX/29 of 30 May 2008 to the

³² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

³³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

³⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

issue of synthetic biology had been inconclusive in determining whether synthetic biology was a new and emerging issue or not, decided not to require further analysis on whether synthetic biology was a new and emerging issue and established a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology,

]

[

Noting the potential positive contributions and negative impacts of synthetic biology applications in relation to the objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³⁵

Noting also the potential interlinkages of several issues identified during the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment process with those under consideration in the context of work on biodiversity and health, in particular the draft global action plan for biodiversity and health,

Acknowledging that a multidisciplinary and Party-driven approach is essential for assessing the potential impacts of synthetic biology on the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols,

Recognizing the inequity in the participation of developing countries in the research, development, assessment and regulation of synthetic biology and the importance of addressing impacts,

Noting with appreciation the outcomes of the work of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, including those contained in annex II to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/4,

]

A. Capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology

1. *Emphasizes* the urgent need for capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing for synthetic biology;

2. *Urges* Parties, and invites relevant organizations, to provide financial and technical support for capacity-building and development and technology transfer initiatives in developing countries, including for research, development and assessment in the field of synthetic biology;

3. *Calls upon* Parties and other stakeholders to facilitate broad international cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building and development related to synthetic biology, taking the needs of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth into account;

4. *Reaffirms* decision 15/8 on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation and the guiding principles contained in annex II to that decision;

5. *Decides* to develop a thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of [biotechnology, including] synthetic biology, as well as the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development;

6. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit information on their capacity-building and development, technology transfer and knowledge-

³⁵ Decision 15/4, annex.

sharing needs and experiences related to synthetic biology to support the preparation of the action plan for synthetic biology;

[

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, [subject to the availability of resources and] avoiding duplication with existing plans and strategies, to prepare a thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology, taking the following into account:

(a) The identification of areas where capacity-building is needed for research, development, assessment and regulation of synthetic biology;

(b) Strategies to ensure equitable participation of developing countries and indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in research, development, assessment and regulation of synthetic biology;

(c) Proposals to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from synthetic biology, in line with Articles 16 and 19 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(d) Mechanisms for technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and international cooperation;

(e) The specific needs of Parties, as identified in their submissions of information made further to the request in paragraph 6 above and the outcomes of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology;³⁶

(f) A gap analysis, taking other processes and initiatives related to the fields of synthetic biology into account;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to create a dedicated web page on the Biosafety Clearing-House to promote the action plan and facilitate knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology;

9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the action plan at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

]

B. Broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology

10. [*Welcomes*][*Acknowledges*][*Takes note of*] outcomes of the broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology;

[

[11. *Decides* [to extend][not to continue] the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology [for an additional intersessional period]];

[12. [*Adopts*][*Takes note of*] the refined methodology contained in annex IV to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/4, and decides to keep the methodology under review];

13. *Decides* that the broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment process should be a Party-led process;

³⁶ CBD/SBSTTA/26/4, annex II.

14. [*Establishes*][*Extends the tenure of*][*Re-establishes*] the [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology with [additional members][renewed membership] for one additional intersessional period, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present decision;

[15. *Decides* to review existing relevant technical information regarding synthetic biology analysed under relevant processes and by relevant organizations and revise the terms of reference on the basis of the findings without duplicating other processes;]

16. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth organizations to submit nominations to the [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology;

[17. *Also invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth organizations to strengthen the multidisciplinary approach when considering nominations for the [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;]

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To update the literature review in order to inform the work of the [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, taking ecological, socioeconomic, ethical and cultural considerations into account;

(b) To convene online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology in order to support the work of the [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;

(c) To convene at least one in-person meeting of the [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;

(d) To support the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work relevant to synthetic biology undertaken under the Convention, in accordance with decision X/40 of 29 October 2010;

(e) To support the participation of the research community, women and youth in the work relevant to synthetic biology undertaken under the Convention;

19. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outcomes of the [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventeenth meeting and, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its twelfth meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization at its sixth meeting.

]

5. *Recommends* that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

[*Decides* that the process outlined in annex I to decision CP-9/13 of 28 November 2018 will be applied to any trends or issues identified through the process of broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology that are considered to be living modified organisms and may require further guidance on risk assessment.]

[

Annex**Terms of reference for the [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology**

1. The [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology will be convened in compliance with section H of the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,³⁷ including with regard to expertise [on the impacts that the specific trends might have on the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity³⁸][on the specific trends prioritized by the Group] [and, whenever possible, expertise from a broad range of scientific disciplines,] as well as interdisciplinary and intercultural expertise, including from indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth.

2. The procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups set out in the annex to decision 14/33 of 29 November 2018 shall apply to the [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology.

3. The [multidisciplinary] Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, building on previous relevant work undertaken under the Convention and its Protocols, including the work of previous ad hoc technical expert groups and the outcomes of the peer review included in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/6, shall:

(a) [Assist the Secretariat in conducting][Consider] the literature review of the latest developments in synthetic biology[, including scientific and conceptual socioeconomic, cultural, and ethical aspects] [and other relevant materials made available by Parties,] and the discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic biology, with a view to integrating the outcomes into the assessment step of the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment process;

[(b) Consider important and outstanding issues, including:

(i) The operational definition of synthetic biology as it relates to the mandate and objectives of the Convention;

[(ii) A final assessment of synthetic biology against the criteria for identifying new and emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision IX/29 of 30 May 2008;]

(iii) An assessment of whether the applications below should be covered by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;³⁹

(iv) The methodology to carry out impact assessments, including, economic, social and health impact assessments;]

[(c) Continue the in-depth assessment, including on [their] potential [positive and negative] impacts [in the light of][on] the objectives of the Convention [, ecological, socioeconomic, [including potential threats to livelihoods, the sustainable use of biodiversity,]] and ethical and cultural considerations, and taking into special consideration indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, of]:

[(i) The potential impacts of the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning into synthetic biology;]

[(ii) The potential impacts of self-spreading vaccines for wildlife [and health in general and human health];]

³⁷ Decision VIII/10, annex III.

³⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

³⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

- [(iii) The potential impacts of engineered gene drives to control vector-borne diseases and invasive species, while avoiding duplication of work performed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management;]
- [(d) Identify benefits of synthetic biology for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁴⁰]
- [(e) Provide advice on the capacity-building and development needs of Parties regarding research, development and assessment of synthetic biology that could be included in the thematic plan of action;]
- [(f) Provide advice on potential modalities for improving the monitoring of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology;
- [(g) Review existing relevant technical information regarding synthetic biology analysed under relevant processes and by relevant organizations and revise the terms of reference on the basis of the findings, without duplicating work undertaken under other processes;]
- [(h) Prepare a [summary] report of the outcome of its work [and make recommendations] to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

]

⁴⁰ Decision 15/4, annex.

26/5. Risk assessment and risk management

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling Article 1 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,⁴¹

Recalling also decision [CP-10/10](#) of 10 December 2022,

Recalling further decision [CP-9/13](#) of 28 November 2018, by which it established a process for the identification and prioritization of specific issues regarding the risk assessment of living modified organisms that might warrant consideration,

Recalling paragraph 7 of decision 14/19 of 29 November 2018 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁴² in which the Conference of the Parties emphasized the need for a coordinated, complementary and non-duplicative approach on issues related to synthetic biology under the Convention and its Protocols, [and noting the conclusions of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to Support the Process for Broad and Regular Horizon Scanning, Monitoring and Assessment,⁴³ in particular its recommendation to consider self-limiting insects as a potential topic for the further development of guidance on risk assessment in line with the process set out in annex I to decision CP-9/13,]

Taking note of the assessment by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment of additional issues on which guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed,⁴⁴

1. [Takes note of][Welcomes with appreciation] the outcomes of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;⁴⁵

2. [Also welcomes][Acknowledges][Endorses] the additional voluntary guidance materials to support the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives;⁴⁶

[3. Encourages Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and relevant organizations and stakeholders to make use of the additional voluntary guidance materials in conducting relevant risk assessments and as a tool for capacity-building activities in risk assessment;]

4 Invites Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations and stakeholders that have used the voluntary guidance materials to submit information on their experiences and assessment of the applicability and usefulness of the materials to the Executive Secretary;

5. Calls for broad international cooperation, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and resource mobilization to support, inter alia, the application of the additional voluntary guidance materials;

⁴¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁴² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁴³ See CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2024/1/3.

⁴⁴ See CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2024/1/3.

⁴⁵ See CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/4 and CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2024/1/3.

⁴⁶ CBD/SBSTTA/26/5/Add.1.

[6. *Also calls* for the consideration of the related issues set out in the additional voluntary guidance materials,⁴⁷ including traditional knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, when using the voluntary guidance materials;]

[

7. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group on risk assessment, with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present decision, tasked with the development of additional voluntary guidance materials to support the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified fish;

8. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat information relevant to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;

9. *Decides* to extend the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to contribute to the development of additional voluntary guidance materials in support of the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified fish;

10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider at its twenty-eighth meeting the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and to make a recommendation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its twelfth meeting;

]

11. *Invites* Parties to submit detailed information on their needs and priorities for further guidance materials on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, including a rationale following the criteria set out in annex I to decision CP-9/13[, taking into account the recommendation of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to Support the Process for Broad and Regular Horizon Scanning, Monitoring and Assessment to consider self-limiting insects as a potential topic];

12. *Decides* to extend the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to support the analysis of further topics of risk assessment in accordance with the criteria set out in annex I to decision CP-9/13;

13. *Also decides* to consider at its twelfth meeting additional issues on which guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed, further to the process for the identification and prioritization of specific issues pertaining to the risk assessment of living modified organisms established in decision CP-9/13, taking into account the needs and priorities identified by Parties pursuant to paragraph 11 above [and the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 (e) of its terms of reference];

14. *Requests* that the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) Prepare a synthesis of the information submitted in response to paragraph 4 above for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its twelfth meeting;

(b) Convene capacity-building and development activities in support of risk assessment with a particular focus on the risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives;

[

⁴⁷ Ibid., sect. 7.

(c) Develop a detailed outline of additional guidance materials on the risk assessment of living modified fish for peer review, in preparation for the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;

(d) Convene online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to support the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment in drafting a detailed outline for the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified fish;

(e) Synthesize the information submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in order to facilitate the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;

(f) Convene, subject to the availability of resources, two meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment, at least one of which should be held in person;

]

[(g) Collect relevant information to support the risk assessment of self-limiting insects and make it available on the Biosafety Clearing-House.]

[Annex

Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment shall:

(a) Be composed of experts, selected in accordance with section H of the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,⁴⁸ with specific scientific and technical expertise in living modified fish and their potential effects on biodiversity and in issues relevant to the mandate of the Expert Group, and include experts from relevant international organizations and from indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with decision 14/33 of 29 November 2018 on the procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups;

(b) Subject to the availability of funds, hold at least one in-person meeting before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,⁴⁹ and perform its work by means of online communication and engagement, as appropriate;

(c) Develop additional voluntary guidance materials for conducting the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified fish in accordance with annex III to the Protocol, taking into account current experience with the organisms and specific issues of risk assessment identified in annex I to decision CP-9/13 of 28 November 2018, including existing reports, general considerations on living modified fish and existing national and regional risk assessment experiences;

(d) Analyse the information submitted by Parties further to paragraph 11 of decision CP-11/--, and on that basis prepare a list of prioritized topics on which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed according to the criteria set out in annex I to decision CP-9/13;

(e) Prepare a report, including draft voluntary guidance materials on living modified fish and a list of prioritized topics further to subparagraph (d) above, on which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body.

⁴⁸ Decision VIII/10, annex III.

⁴⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

2. In undertaking its work, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment shall consider the synthesis of views from the submissions and discussions in the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management prepared by the Secretariat; existing resources, including those identified in the stocktaking exercise of the study on risk assessment: application of annex I to decision CP-9/13 to living modified fish;⁵⁰ guidance materials already available; and relevant decisions on risk assessment and risk management adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.]

⁵⁰ CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2020/1/3, annex.

26/6. Detection and identification of living modified organisms

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Noting the information contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/6,

1. *Concludes* that the *Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* (Biosafety Technical Series 05) is still relevant and useful for the detection and identification of living modified organisms and that there is no need to update it at this point in time;

2. *Recommends* that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling its decisions [CP-10/7](#) and [CP-10/11](#) of 10 December 2022 and the need for capacity-building activities on new detection techniques [and on detecting and identifying unauthorized living modified organisms],

Recalling also its decisions CP-10/3 and CP-10/4 of 19 December 2022, and in particular Goals A.6 to A.8 of the implementation plan and Goals A.6 to A.8 and related capacity-building activities of the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,⁵¹

Reiterating the importance of the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms for the Protocol and its relevance and applicability to other fields,

Recognizing that the detection and identification of newly developed [and unauthorized] living modified organisms may pose challenges, in particular for developing countries,

[Recognizing also the limited information available on the use of new techniques for detecting and identifying living modified organisms and the limited experience with detecting and identifying newly developed [and unauthorized] living modified organisms,]

Recognizing further the advancements in new techniques for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, such as digital polymerase chain reaction and next-generation sequencing,

Recognizing with concern the high cost of laboratory infrastructure, consumables required for those new techniques and the lack of access to reagents for some developing country Parties,

Confirming that the *Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* (Biosafety Technical Series 05) is still relevant and useful for the detection and identification of living modified organisms,

Recognizing the usefulness of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms for facilitating the exchange of experience, sharing information and building expertise,

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, participants in the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms, developers and other relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵² technical reference materials and publications related to new quantitative polymerase chain

⁵¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁵² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

reaction techniques, digital polymerase chain reaction, next-generation sequencing and isothermal amplification techniques in order to complement and update future editions of the *Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*;

2. *Invites* Parties to share through the Biosafety Clearing-House their experience with new detection techniques, such as those for detecting newly developed [and unauthorized] living modified organisms, including those that contain stacked events, [and experience with developing certified reference materials];

[3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to share and make available through the Biosafety Clearing-House training materials and reference publications;]

4. *Encourages* Parties to establish regional networks of laboratories and partnerships to support activities in the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms, and to promote capacity-building and knowledge-sharing;

5. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and international organizations, to provide financial resources to laboratories, in particular in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, and in countries with economies in transition, in order to strengthen the infrastructure for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, the formation of regional networks of laboratories, capacity-building activities and the development or acquisition of certified reference materials;

6. *Recommends* that, when adopting its guidance to the Global Environment Facility with regard to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Conference of the Parties invite the Global Environment Facility to assist eligible Parties by providing speedy access to the means of implementation at the scale required to cover the scope and speed of the assistance needed, including for strengthening the infrastructure for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, establishing regional networks of laboratories, undertaking capacity-building activities and developing or acquiring certified reference materials, and urges Parties to submit appropriate proposals in that context to the Global Environment Facility to enable support for such activities;

[7. *Encourages* technology developers to share transparently detection and identification methods on newly developed living modified organisms on the Biosafety Clearing-House;]

8. *Requests* that the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) Continue to collect publications and technical resource materials in different languages and make them available on the dedicated portal for the sampling, detection and identification of living modified organisms on the Biosafety Clearing-House;

(b) Prepare a compilation of technical reference materials and publications submitted in response to the request in paragraph 1, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its twelfth meeting;

(c) Collaborate with relevant organizations and provide capacity-building support to Parties in the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms, including hands-on training of laboratory personnel on both traditional analytical methods and new detection techniques;

(d) Raise awareness of the sampling, detection and identification portal on the Biosafety Clearing-House [and explore the possibility to link and cross-reference the Biosafety Clearing-House with relevant industry databases.]

26/7. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

(PP1) *Recognizing* the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity as one of the key cross-cutting elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁵³ and as critical to achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity,

(PP2) *Recalling* paragraph 8 of its decision [15/4](#) of 19 December 2022, in which it decided that the Framework should be used as a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵⁴ and its Protocols, its bodies and its Secretariat over the period 2022–2030,

(PP3) *Recalling also* its decisions [IX/20](#) of 30 May 2008, [X/29](#) and [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010, [XI/16](#), [XI/18](#) and [XI/20](#) of 19 October 2012, [XII/23](#) of 14 October 2014, [XIII/9](#) of 17 December 2016, [XIII/10](#) and [XIII/11](#) of 13 December 2016, [XIII/12](#) of 17 December 2016, [14/8](#) of 29 November 2018, [14/10](#) and [14/30](#) of 29 December 2018 and [15/24](#) of 19 December 2022 in relation to cooperation and collaboration with relevant global and regional organizations and initiatives,

(PP4) [*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 78/69 of 5 December 2023 on oceans and the law of the sea and its preambular paragraphs on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,^{55,56}]

(PP5) [*Recalling target 14.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”,⁵⁶*]

(Alt PP4 and PP5) [*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and the commitments contained therein to protecting, and restoring, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems and to maintaining their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations,⁵⁶]

(PP6) [*Recalling* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 6/15 of 1 March 2024, entitled “Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution”,³⁵]

(PP7) *Recognizing* the need to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with competent intergovernmental organizations, including on processes under regional seas conventions and action plans and regional fishery bodies, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, as well as other organizations with competence in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in support of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity, applying the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach,⁵⁷ and using the best available science and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities,

⁵³ Decision 15/4, annex.

⁵⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁵⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

⁵⁶ Türkiye dissociates itself from the reference made to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which it is not a Party. The participation of Türkiye in the discussions held under the present agenda item during the present meeting cannot be construed as a change in the well-known legal position of Türkiye with regard to said instrument.

⁵⁷ Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

with their free, prior and informed consent,⁵⁸ in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,⁵⁹ and human rights law,

(PP8) *Acknowledging* the importance of best available science, information and technology for decision-making, as well as the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, and welcoming the work undertaken under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, as well as the work of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects and of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

(PP9) *Considering* that valuable guidance also emerges from the work of other competent intergovernmental organizations, which complements guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties,

(PP10) *Welcoming* the capacity-building, experience-sharing and partnership activities facilitated by the Secretariat to support the implementation of the Framework, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, at the national, regional and global levels, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, subnational governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, economic sectors and relevant organizations, and expressing its gratitude to donor countries and many other partners for providing financial and technical support for the implementation of activities under the Initiative,

(PP11) *Welcoming also* the collaborative efforts carried out under the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, regional seas conventions and action plans, regional fishery bodies, large marine ecosystem projects and programmes and other relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations and regional organizations and initiatives to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation on a regional and global scale in order to accelerate progress towards the Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁶⁰, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies,

(PP12) *Acknowledging* that, through the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on island biodiversity, the Conference of the Parties has provided valuable guidance on a wide range of issues that is essential to the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the 2050 vision for biodiversity and that the guidance should continue to be referred to in efforts to implement the Framework,

(PP13) *[Deeply concerned* about mass coral bleaching and the increasing risk [of passing irreversible tipping points] for coral reefs, [recalling decision 14/5 of 29 November 2018], [reaffirming decision X/33 on biodiversity and climate change] and stressing the urgent need to implement the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that pertain to marine and coastal biodiversity and to island biodiversity[, in particular Target 8],

[1. *[Welcomes][Notes]* the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction⁶¹ and encourages Parties, and invites other Governments, to sign and ratify the Agreement at soon as possible];]

⁵⁸ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

⁵⁹ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

⁶⁰ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁶¹ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

2. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments participating in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, to take into consideration the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in its negotiations, as appropriate;

3. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders, to accelerate the implementation of priority actions for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, as contained in the annex to decision XII/23, in the context of the Framework;

4. *Recognizes* that the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity⁶² and on island biodiversity,⁶³ together with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, still correspond to global priorities and contain guidance that provide essential support for the implementation of the Framework;

[5. *Notes* that there are certain elements of the targets of the Framework for which there is limited guidance or tools available under the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on island biodiversity and that may require enhanced action and attention to implement the Framework, [as listed in the annex to the present decision,] and that such work may take the form of new guidance, where needed, avoiding duplication and making use of existing tools and guidance developed by other organizations and frameworks, the synthesis of best practices and experiences, and capacity-building and development on the areas concerned;]

6. *Stresses* that there are many areas of the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on island biodiversity that have not been fully implemented and for which the enhanced provision of financial resources, capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and access to and transfer of technology, in particular for developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, is needed;

7. *Also stresses* that a substantial and progressive increase in the level of financial resources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner and including national, international, public and private resources, is needed for the implementation of the Framework and of Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 with regard to marine, coastal and island ecosystems;

[8. *Invites* relevant global and regional organizations, bodies and initiatives, and related networks, to enhance their work on the issues listed in the annex to the present decision, in support of the implementation of the Framework, recognizing that many other organizations have mandates and are conducting work on issues relevant to the implementation of the Framework;]

[9. *[Welcomes][Notes[with appreciation]]* the ongoing work conducted under the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters⁶⁴ and its Protocol⁶⁵ on marine geoengineering techniques that could have deleterious impacts on marine biodiversity;]

[10. *Notes* the ongoing work conducted under the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments,⁶⁶ and encourages Parties, and invites other Governments, to sign and ratify that Convention;]

⁶² Decisions IV/5, annex, and VII/5, annex I.

⁶³ Decision VIII/1, annex.

⁶⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1046, No. 15749.

⁶⁵ International Maritime Organization, document IMO/LC.2/Circ.380.

⁶⁶ International Maritime Organization, document BWM/CONF/36, annex.

[11. *Requests* that, subject to the availability of resources, the Executive Secretary enhance cooperation and collaboration with competent international organizations with regard to the issues listed in the annex to the present decision, in line with their respective mandates, for:

- [(a) Implementing the United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation;]
- (b) Compiling and making available, including through the clearing-house mechanism, relevant experiences on those issues from Parties, other Governments, competent intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other relevant organizations and stakeholders;
- (c) Integrating those issues, as appropriate, into relevant capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation efforts undertaken under the Convention, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative;]

12. *Also requests* that the Executive Secretary continue the cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat and organizations with competence in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources[, including in the context of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction;]

[13. *Further requests* that the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, convene an expert workshop, in collaboration with the secretariat established under that Agreement or, if it has yet to commence its functions, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, and with relevant global and regional organizations, on opportunities for specific areas of scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity to inform the implementation of the Agreement, and provide the results of the workshop for consideration by Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

14. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

- (a) Continue to facilitate capacity-building and partnership activities, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in order to support the implementation of the Framework, including its monitoring framework,⁶⁷ with regard to marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity;

- (b) Continue to collaborate on processes carried out under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, regional seas conventions and action plans, regional fishery bodies, large marine ecosystem projects and programmes and other relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations and regional initiatives to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation at the regional and global scales in support of the implementation of the Framework, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, in line with their respective mandates;

- [(c) Enhance cooperation, collaboration or synergies, as appropriate, with other multilateral environmental agreements, global and regional organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities women and youth representatives and other relevant stakeholders, in accordance with human rights law, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with regard to various thematic issues related to marine and coastal

⁶⁷ Decision 15/5, annex I.

biodiversity in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.]

[Annex

Gaps and areas in need of additional focus under the Convention on Biological Diversity to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with regard to marine and coastal biodiversity and to island biodiversity

1. With regard to marine and coastal biodiversity, further efforts are needed, within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention:

(a) To enhance understanding of the scope and extent of degraded marine and coastal areas and the complexities of marine and coastal ecological restoration and enhance the use of active and passive restoration, including ecological restoration, in marine and coastal areas, building on experiences across various ecosystems and sectors and on different scales (most relevant to Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework);

(b) To improve the understanding and promote the effective implementation of area-based conservation measures, in particular systems of ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in various sectors active in marine and coastal areas, ensuring that such measures deliver tangible outcomes beneficial for biodiversity (most relevant to Target 3);

(c) To prevent, mitigate or minimize human-wildlife conflict in marine and coastal areas, in particular with regard to threatened, endangered and vulnerable species (most relevant to Target 4);

(d) To implement the precautionary approach on geoengineering activities that may have impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity;

(e) To gather information on the threat status of marine and coastal species at the population and subpopulation levels (most relevant to Target 4);

(f) To assess, monitor and conserve the genetic diversity of marine and coastal species in support of conservation (most relevant to Target 4);

(g) To improve understanding of marine biodiversity across pelagic and benthic ecosystems, including with regard to linkages between them, in support of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in mesopelagic areas (most relevant to Targets 3, 4 and 5);

(h) To assess and prevent, mitigate or minimize the individual and cumulative impacts of various types of pollution, including transboundary pollution, when the various types of pollution co-occur in marine and coastal areas (most relevant to Target 7);

(i) To assess and prevent, mitigate or minimize the transfer of invasive alien species, organisms and pathogens, including through ships' ballast water and biofouling (most relevant to Targets 6 and 7);

(j) To enhance the use of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches across a variety of coastal and marine ecosystems;

(k) To map, monitor and effectively manage and restore blue carbon ecosystems in order to better understand and support their role in climate change mitigation and adaptation without undermining the range of other ecosystems services that they provide (most relevant to Target 8);

(l) To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity associated with sea ice, and to improve understanding of the impacts of rapidly decreasing sea ice on marine ecosystems (most relevant to Targets 2, 3, 4 and 8);

(m) To sustainably manage aquaculture in marine and coastal areas, with a focus on preventing, mitigating or minimizing negative impacts on habitats and ecologically important species, while supporting the application of biodiversity friendly practices, creating local livelihoods and improving food security (most relevant to Target 10);

(n) To improve understanding of the contribution of marine and coastal blue spaces to healthy functioning ecosystems and to human health and well-being (most relevant to Target 12);

(o) To improve understanding of the multiple values of biodiversity across marine and coastal areas, in particular with regard to indigenous peoples and local communities, and integrate those values into planning and decision-making (most relevant to Targets 14 and 21);

(p) To enhance the implementation of legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of marine genetic resources and from digital sequence information on marine genetic resources (most relevant to Target 13);

(q) To enhance measures to ensure the protection of traditional knowledge associated with marine and coastal biodiversity;

(r) To mainstream biodiversity into marine economic activities and sectors that have not been referred to under previous decisions, while also promoting collaboration under relevant intergovernmental processes (most relevant to Target 14);

(s) To identify, understand and avoid the negative impacts of harmful subsidies in fisheries and other sectors on marine and coastal ecosystems, and to eliminate, phase out or reform such subsidies in line with relevant international obligations (most relevant to Target 18);

(t) To improve the robust engagement of a broader range of stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular by ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities (most relevant to Target 22);

(u) To integrate gender-responsive policies in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including through the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)⁶⁸ in the context of specific marine sectors and ecosystems (most relevant to Target 23);

(v) To strengthen the monitoring, control and surveillance of protected areas and threatened and vulnerable species;

(w) To ensure the mobilization of funds to improve knowledge of marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular in areas with significant knowledge gaps;

(x) To ensure participation in decision-making, access to justice and information, and the protection of environmental human rights defenders in the context of marine and coastal biodiversity, following a human rights-based approach;

(y) To improve understanding of marine biodiversity in deep-sea ecosystems, including with regard to linkages between benthic and pelagic ecosystems, and to avoid harmful activities.

2. With regard to island biodiversity, further efforts are needed:

(a) To increase the effort and focus on the rehabilitation of degraded terrestrial, inland water and marine and coastal ecosystems under effective restoration and the percentage of terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal areas to be conserved by 2030, taking into account linkages between land and sea (most relevant to Targets 2 and 3);

⁶⁸ Decision 15/11, annex.

- (b) To promote ecological restoration in island ecosystems, focusing on ecosystems that can contribute to disaster risk reduction and resilience to various pressures (most relevant to Targets 2 and 11);
- (c) To engage various sectors and stakeholders in area-based conservation, ensuring that any sustainable use is consistent with conservation objectives (most relevant to Target 3);
- (d) To identify and monitor islands and certain sites within island ecosystems as priority sites and areas for eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, in line with national circumstances and priorities (most relevant to Target 6);
- (e) To improve understanding of pollution risks on islands and levels of pollution, including transboundary pollution, that are harmful to island biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, taking into account food security and livelihoods (most relevant to Target 7);
- (f) To assess and prevent, mitigate or minimize the cumulative impacts of various types of pollution when they co-occur in island ecosystems (most relevant to Target 7);
- (g) To continue to improve understanding of the impacts of ocean acidification and warming, particularly in combination with other stressors, on island ecosystems, especially coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves, and to enhance the resilience of ecosystems vulnerable to those impacts (most relevant to Target 8);
- (h) To enhance the coordination and integrated implementation of action on inland water systems and groundwater and wastewater management, considering the impacts of climate change and its corresponding effects on marine ecosystems and biodiversity;
- (i) To enhance the use of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches across various types of island ecosystem and consider the full range of potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity (most relevant to Target 8);
- (j) To enhance the use of ocean accounting and marine spatial planning to conserve and manage coastal and marine biodiversity in islands;
- (k) To enhance the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through agroecological and other innovative approaches in the agriculture and aquaculture sectors, thereby contributing to food and water security and avoiding negative impacts, such as eutrophication, on marine and coastal ecosystems (most relevant to Target 10);
- (l) To enhance the use of sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches in the agriculture sector, thereby contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of those production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services (most relevant to Target 10);
- (m) To mainstream biodiversity into sectors that have not been explicitly referred to in the programme of work and decisions related to island biodiversity (most relevant to Target 14);
- (n) To improve understanding of multiple values of biodiversity across islands, in particular with regard to indigenous peoples and local communities, and integrate those values into planning and decision-making (most relevant to Targets 14 and 21);
- (o) To ensure the robust engagement of a broader range of stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity, in particular by ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities (most relevant to Target 22);
- (p) To integrate gender-responsive policies in the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity, including through the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) (most relevant to Target 23);

- (q) To ensure the mobilization of funds to improve knowledge of island biodiversity in those parts of the world where it is still poorly understood;
- (r) To ensure that the implementation of the Framework in the context of island biodiversity follows a human rights-based approach.]

26/8. Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming Articles 3, 4, 5 and 22 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁶⁹ as well as its decisions VIII/24 of 31 March 2006, IX/20 of 30 May 2008, X/29 of 29 October 2010, XI/17 of 19 October 2012, XII/22 of 17 October 2014, XIII/12 of 17 December 2016, in particular its paragraph 3, 14/9 of 29 November 2018 and 15/26 of 19 December 2022,

[Recalling resolution 78/69 of the General Assembly of the United Nations on oceans and the law of the sea of 5 December 2023 and its preambular paragraphs on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,^{70,71,72]}

[Recalling also target 14.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”,^{3,4]}

Reiterating the central role of the General Assembly in addressing issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Recognizing that the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is an important scientific and technical process that can make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁷³ and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction,⁷⁴

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Germany, Norway and Sweden for their financial support for the organization of the technical and legal expert workshops to review modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas, and takes note of the reports of the workshops;⁷⁵

2. *Decides* to extend the term of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, and requests the Executive Secretary to revise its terms of reference, as contained in annex III to decision XIII/12 and amended in annex III to decision 14/9, to align them with the present decision and to facilitate the work of the Group, in line with its terms of reference;

⁶⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁷⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

⁷¹ Türkiye dissociates itself from the reference made to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which it is not a party. The participation of Türkiye in the discussions under the present agenda item during the present meeting cannot be construed as a change in the well-known legal position of Türkiye with regard to the said instrument.

⁷² The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is not the only legal instrument that governs activities related to the seas and oceans. Therefore, it disassociates itself from the reference to said international instrument, and participation in the discussions under the present agenda item cannot be considered as a change in its national position regarding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

⁷³ Decision 15/4.

⁷⁴ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

⁷⁵ CBD/EBSA/EM/2023/1/3 and CBD/EBSA/EM/2023/2/3.

3. *Stresses* that the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas meeting the criteria for such areas is strictly a scientific and technical exercise, does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, including maritime zones, or of their authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its boundaries and does not have economic or legal implications [and that any action or activity carried out on the basis of the present decision shall be without prejudice to, and shall not be relied upon as a basis for asserting or denying any claims to, sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction, including in respect of any disputes relating thereto];

[4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, in line with paragraph 36 of decision X/29, paragraph 12 of decision XI/17 and paragraph 6 of decision XII/22, to continue to facilitate the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and to facilitate the modification of the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas [when new information becomes available, as appropriate,] through the holding of additional workshops, where Parties and [other Governments] wish workshops to be held;]

[5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, in line with paragraph 36 of decision X/29, paragraph 12 of decision XI/17 and paragraph 6 of decision XII/22, to continue to facilitate the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and to facilitate the modification of the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, in areas beyond national jurisdiction;]

[6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the participation in the workshops of experts from indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth organizations, and the use of traditional knowledge;]

[7. *Adopts* the modalities for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas contained in the annex, and requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate the implementation of the modalities;]

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate a review of the effectiveness of the implementation of the modalities contained in the annex 10 years after the adoption of the present decision and to submit the results of the review for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

9. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, competent intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to collaborate in the implementation of the modalities;

[10. [*Stresses*]/[*Notes*] the potential importance of synergies between the process to facilitate the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas using the modalities for areas beyond national jurisdiction outlined in the annex to the present decision and the implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and invites [Parties to the Agreement and] intergovernmental organizations with competence in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction to actively engage in the development and review of submissions of modifications of descriptions of such areas and the description of new areas;]

[11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop voluntary guidelines on peer-review processes for the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and other relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.]

[Annex

Modalities for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas

I. Guidance in the implementation of the modalities

1. Nothing in the present modalities shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including in respect of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf within and beyond 200 nautical miles.³

2. The modification of a description of an ecologically or biologically significant marine area, which can entail a modification to the textual description of the area, a modification to the ranking of the area against the criteria for such areas or a change in the location, shape, depth or size of the area[, or a withdrawal of the description of the area,] may be proposed for any of the following reasons:⁷⁶

(a) For areas beyond national jurisdiction:

- (i) Newly available or accessible knowledge, including traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, on features associated with the area;
- (ii) Change in the ecological or biological features of the area;
- (iii) Scientific errors identified in the description;

(b) For areas within national jurisdiction, any of the reasons noted in paragraph 2 (a) [or any other reason] deemed valid by the State within whose jurisdiction the modification is proposed.

3. The modification of an existing description or the description of a new area may only be submitted by the following proponents:

(a) For areas beyond national jurisdiction, any States, individually or collectively, including through competent intergovernmental organizations;

(b) For areas within national jurisdiction, the State within whose jurisdiction the modification or description is proposed.

4. Proponents that develop submissions for the modification of an existing description or the description of a new area should consider the following at an early stage:

(a) Collaboration with competent intergovernmental organizations, other relevant organizations, experts, indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent,⁷⁷ and women and youth organizations, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,⁷⁸ and human rights law;

(b) The need to avoid developing submissions that may raise concerns regarding sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction;

(c) The need for a strong scientific basis with sufficient information, as well as the importance of transparency;

(d) The need to take into account the regional dimensions of marine and coastal ecosystems and their ecological and biological features and processes, including regional differences in data availability, as well as collaboration across regions.

⁷⁶ The reason or reasons for a modification must be provided in the submission.

⁷⁷ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

⁷⁸ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

5. With respect to any submission for the modification of an existing description or the description of a new area, any State may formally communicate to the Executive Secretary, at any time, an objection to the inclusion of a description or a modification in the repository or the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, owing to the existence of a claim or dispute relating to sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction involving an area included in the submission. In such a case, the submission will not be advanced any further and will not be included in the repository or information-sharing mechanism until the withdrawal of the objection is communicated to the Executive Secretary by the objecting State.⁷⁹

II. Repository and information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

6. The repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is to contain:

(a) The descriptions of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas that the Conference of the Parties has considered and requested the Executive Secretary to include in the repository and transmit to the General Assembly of the United Nations for its information and relevant processes, as well as to relevant international organizations;

[(b) For archival purposes, previous versions of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held in the repository, in cases where the descriptions have been modified, including information on the modalities by which the descriptions were initially included in the repository.]

7. The information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is to contain:

(a) The records of submissions of a modification or description of an area within national jurisdiction for inclusion in the repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the comments received on such submissions;

(b) Submissions of a modification or description of an area within national jurisdiction for inclusion in the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, as well as any comments received on such submissions and any responses to those comments;

(c) The records of submissions of a modification or description of an area beyond national jurisdiction;

(d) Links to national processes and their related scientific information pertaining to areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally agreed scientific criteria in national jurisdiction that were provided by the State concerned as information for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties;

(e) Reports of the regional workshops convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;

[(f) For archival purposes, previous versions of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held in the [information-sharing mechanism]/[repository], in cases where the descriptions have been modified, including information on the modalities by which the descriptions were initially included in the [information-sharing mechanism]/[repository];]

(g) Guidance related to the application of the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the use of information contained in the descriptions of such areas;

⁷⁹ A record of the fact that a submission was received and objected to will be included in the information-sharing mechanism, regardless of whether the objection is withdrawn or not.

(h) Other relevant scientific and technical information and other forms of knowledge, including, where [appropriate]/[available], the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, related to areas described as meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;

(i) Information and experience relating to the application of other relevant and complementary intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria.

III. Modalities for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and description of new areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

A. Modification of the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas or description of new areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas within national jurisdiction

*Inclusion in the repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas*⁸⁰

8. The submission⁸¹ of a modification or a description of an area within national jurisdiction for inclusion in the repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas must be provided to the Secretariat together with information on the process by which the submission was developed, including any scientific peer-review process, and, in cases where information based on traditional knowledge is included, any information on consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities conducted with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, human rights law and, where appropriate, the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines.⁸² The proponent may also use the following options with respect to the development of the submission:

(a) The proponent may request the Secretariat to issue a notification, for information purposes, regarding its intent to submit a description or a modification before the submission is developed;

[(b) The proponent may also choose to develop or refine a draft submission at a workshop on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held pursuant to a decision of the Conference of the Parties before submitting it to the Secretariat.]

9. Upon receipt, the Secretariat shall make the submission available through the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and issue a notification to provide information on the submission and communicate its inclusion in the mechanism. The submission shall be open for comments by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations for a period of six months, and the Secretariat shall transmit any comments received to the proponent.

10. Upon receipt of such comments, which will be posted in the information-sharing mechanism, the proponent may do one of the following:

(a) Address the comments, if any, and, if necessary, provide a revised version of the submission to the Secretariat;

(b) Not address the comments and not proceed further, in which case the information-sharing mechanism will show a record of the submission and the comments, and the actual submission and comments will be available from the Secretariat upon request;

⁸⁰ An inclusion under the present section entails consideration of the submission by the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

⁸¹ To be included in the repository, the submission must be prepared in the template for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and include a map clearly indicating the area that is being modified or described.

⁸² Decision XIII/18, annex.

(c) Request the Secretariat to remove its original submission from the information-sharing mechanism, in which case the submission and the comments will be removed.

11. If comments are received and the proponent decides to address them and, if necessary, provide a revised version of the submission to the Secretariat, the Secretariat shall transmit the submission to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties for their consideration. [The proponent may also request that the submission be discussed at a workshop on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held pursuant to a decision of the Conference of the Parties before it is submitted to the Subsidiary Body.]

12. The submission shall be provided to the Conference of the Parties for consideration on the basis of a recommendation of the Subsidiary Body. The Conference of the Parties shall decide whether the submission is to be included in the repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. A record of the submission shall remain in the information-sharing mechanism, regardless of whether it is included in the repository or not.

*Inclusion in the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas*⁸³

13. The submission⁸⁴ of a modification or description of an area within national jurisdiction for inclusion in the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas must be provided to the Secretariat together with information on the process by which the submission was developed, including any scientific peer-review process, and, in cases where information based on traditional knowledge is included, any information on consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities conducted with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, human rights law and, where appropriate, the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines. The proponent may also use the following options with respect to the development of the submission:

(a) The proponent may request the Secretariat to issue a notification, for information purposes, regarding its intent to submit a description or modification before the submission is provided to the Secretariat;

[(b) The proponent may also choose to develop or refine a draft submission at a workshop on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held pursuant to a decision of the Conference of the Parties before submitting it to the Secretariat.]

[14. Upon receipt, the Secretariat shall make the submission available through the information-sharing mechanism and issue a notification to provide information on its availability in the information-sharing mechanism. [The proponent may request that the submission]/[The submission shall] be open for comments by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations for a period of six months, and the Secretariat shall transmit any comments received to the proponent.]

[15. Upon receipt of such comments, which will be posted in the information-sharing mechanism, the proponent may do one of the following:

(a) Maintain the submission as provided to the Secretariat;

(b) Address the comments and provide a revised submission to the Secretariat for inclusion in the information-sharing mechanism;

(c) Request the Secretariat to remove its original submission from the information-sharing mechanism.]

⁸³ An inclusion under the present section does not entail consideration by the Conference of the Parties or the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and cannot apply to the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas considered and endorsed by the Conference of the Parties held in the repository.

⁸⁴ To be included in the information-sharing mechanism, the submission must contain geographical coordinates and a map clearly indicating the area that is being modified or described.

B. Modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas or description of new areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas beyond national jurisdiction

16. The submission⁸⁵ of a modification or a description of an area beyond national jurisdiction must be provided to the Secretariat together with information on the process by which the submission was developed, including any scientific peer-review process, and, in cases where information based on traditional knowledge is included, any information on consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities conducted with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, human rights law and, where appropriate, the Mo' otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines.

17. Before providing a submission, the proponent may request the Secretariat to issue, for information purposes, a notification regarding its intent to submit a description or modification.

18. The Secretariat shall include a record of the submission, as received, in the information-sharing mechanism of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and disseminate information about the submission through a notification. The submission shall be open for comments by Parties, other Governments, competent intergovernmental bodies and relevant organizations for a period of six months.

19. The submission, as well as any comments received in response to the notification, shall be provided for discussion at a workshop on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held pursuant to a decision of the Conference of the Parties, the outputs of which shall be submitted to the Subsidiary Body and the Conference of the Parties for their consideration.

20. The Conference of the Parties shall decide whether to request the Executive Secretary to include the submission in the repository of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. A record of the submission shall remain in the information-sharing mechanism, regardless of whether it is included in the repository or not.

IV. Correction of editorial errors

21. In the case of editorial errors in a description of an ecologically or biologically significant marine area, the Secretariat, after being informed by a State, shall issue a notification to provide information regarding the editorial error and the requested correction and shall implement the correction three months after the issuance of the notification.⁸⁶ A footnote is to be added to the corrected description to indicate that an editorial correction was made, and when. A report on corrections made to address editorial errors shall be submitted by the Secretariat to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties, for information.]

⁸⁵ To be included in the repository, the submission must be prepared in the template for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and include geographical coordinates and a map clearly indicating the area that is being modified or described.

⁸⁶ In the case of corrections of editorial errors of descriptions within national jurisdiction, the Secretariat shall consult with the State within whose jurisdiction the correction is proposed.

26/9. Biodiversity and health

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [XII/21](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/6](#) of 17 December 2016, [14/4](#) of 22 November 2018 and [15/29](#) of 19 December 2022,

Recalling also that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁸⁷ acknowledges the interlinkages between biodiversity and health and the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁸⁸

Recalling further the framework for a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VIII/23 of 31 March 2006,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will contribute to the improvement of health and well-being, including physical and mental health, by addressing drivers of biodiversity loss, which are often also drivers of ill health, and noting the information available in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3,

Noting that the term “health” is defined in the Constitution of the World Health Organization as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity,

Recognizing the important role of education and awareness-raising for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages through the One Health approach and a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach,

Welcoming the participation of the Quadripartite alliance on One Health in the preparation of the draft global action plan on biodiversity and health, while acknowledging the importance of maintaining consistency with existing mandates,

Noting the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health,

[Acknowledging the potential interlinkages of the draft global action plan on biodiversity and health with several issues covered in the results of the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to Support the Process for Broad and Regular Horizon Scanning, Monitoring and Assessment,⁸⁹]

Taking note of the options to integrate biodiversity into the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) stimulus and recovery measures, as contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3, and in the Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19 of the World Health Organization,⁹⁰

Noting the importance given to biodiversity and health interlinkages by other organizations and initiatives, including the United Nations Environment Assembly, which, in its resolution 5.6 on biodiversity and health, [recognized, inter alia, the interdependent crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and strains on health, the Conference of the Parties serving as the

⁸⁷ Decision 15/4, annex.

⁸⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁸⁹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/4, annex I.

⁹⁰ World Health Organization, “Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19: prescriptions and actionables for a healthy and green recovery”, 2020.

meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement⁹¹ adopted under the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which, in its decisions 1/CMA.5 and 2/CMA.5, urged Parties, and invited non-Party stakeholders, to advance actions related to ecosystems, biodiversity and health, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which recognized the centrality of nature to health,⁹² and the Global Framework on Chemicals– For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, which is aimed at preventing or minimizing harm from chemicals and waste, protecting human health and biodiversity], as well as the current negotiations held at the World Health Organization on a new pandemic agreement, especially in terms of the potential risks of zoonotic diseases spilling over from wildlife,]

Considering the importance of cooperation with other multilateral environment agreements and relevant organizations and initiatives [to achieve a global approach to biodiversity and health] and the need to avoid duplication of efforts,

[1. *Adopts* the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, as contained in annex I to the present decision, as a voluntary plan for supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁹³ complementary to the guidance contained in decisions [XIII/6](#) and [14/4](#);

[2. *Welcomes* the targeted messages for mainstreaming biodiversity into the health sector contained in annex IV to the present decision;]

3. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities and on a voluntary basis:

[(a) To implement the Global Action Plan and provide information on their implementing activities and the results thereof, including in national reports, as appropriate;]

[(b) To designate a national focal point on biodiversity and health to enhance national coordination, knowledge exchange, implementation and the sharing of good practices and lessons learned among biodiversity and health actors, including those working in human, animal and plant health, the environmental sector and traditional medicine systems, and to work comprehensively with health and health-related agencies and professionals at the national level;]

[(c) To designate a national youth focal point on biodiversity and public health, who will, inter alia, report on the contributions and needs of children and youth in relation to environmental stewardship, health and intergenerational equity;]

(d) To integrate biodiversity and health interlinkages into biodiversity-related policies, programmes [and accounts], in line with decision 14/4 and, if appropriate, in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, [taking the elements of the Global Action Plan into account,] in line with section C of the Framework;

(e) To recognize the need to address the drivers of biodiversity loss urgently to reduce risks to health, while contributing to the implementation of the Framework, in particular paragraph 7 (r) of section C and Target 14;

[4. *Invites* other Governments, the governing bodies and secretariats of relevant multilateral environment and health agreements and international organizations, including the members of the Quadripartite alliance on One Health, [to make use of, as appropriate, the Global Action Plan in order] to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages into their respective constituencies and across sectors, respecting self-determined national priorities, and to further support the development and implementation of measures, guidance and tools for promoting and supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health linkages;]

⁹¹ Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

⁹² [E/C.19/2023/5](#), para. 24.

⁹³ Decision 15/4, annex.

[5. *Invites* indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and academia, women, children and youth to contribute to the implementation of the Global Action Plan;]

6. *Invites* the World Health Organization to take synergies into account, as appropriate, in its work on biodiversity and health undertaken pursuant to its fourteenth General Global Programme of Work, 2025–2028, as well as resolutions of the World Health Assembly related to One Health and to environmental determinants of health, and the work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

[7. *[Urges][Requests]* Parties, [in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention,] and invites other Governments, relevant multilateral environmental and health agreements, relevant organizations, donors and relevant financial institutions to provide financial and technical support, as appropriate, for capacity-building and development [and avail themselves of adequate resources in a timely manner], [and for addressing the biodiversity and health interlinkages, including] for [enabling] the effective implementation of the Global Action Plan;]

[8. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to provide financial assistance to all [developing][eligible] countries, without [prejudice,] discrimination or bias, including capacity-building and development activities, for national, subnational and regional projects that address the Global Action Plan;]⁹⁴

[9. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations to share measures, guidance and tools, examples, best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Global Action Plan and the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages at all levels;]⁹⁵

[10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To complete the work conducted pursuant to paragraph 13 (a) of decision [14/4](#) on the development of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health, taking account of section III and paragraph 14 of annex I and the information referred to in annex II to the present decision, among others, and to prepare a note on how the indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools could be used to monitor the implementation of the Global Action Plan;

(b) To facilitate, in collaboration with partners, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer activities to support Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders, such as relevant organizations, academia and women, children, youth and the elderly in the uptake and implementation of the Global Action Plan, including by convening regional workshops and facilitating dialogues, ensuring the participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth, in collaboration with, inter alia, members of the Quadripartite alliance on One Health and the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements;

(c) To continue to raise awareness at all levels, including through relevant processes of other multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental bodies, of the important interlinkages between biodiversity and health, including their relevance to the implementation of the Framework;

(d) To enhance and strengthen cooperation with international organizations and the secretariats of other multilateral environmental, health and human rights agreements with regard to biodiversity and health interlinkages;

(e) To explore, in consultation with the World Health Organization, the development of an online information platform to collate knowledge and experiences on interlinked biodiversity and

⁹⁴ The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice did not conclude its discussions on paragraph 8.

⁹⁵ The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice did not discuss paragraphs 9 and 10 at its twenty sixth meeting.

health policies and actions, including, inter alia, case studies, indicators, assessments and methodologies, in order to facilitate knowledge-sharing and capacity-building and thereby further support the implementation of the Global Action Plan;

(f) To report on the outcomes of that work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to the World Health Assembly at its seventy-ninth meeting.]⁹⁵

Annex I⁹⁶

Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health

I. Purpose

1. In line with, and further to, decisions [XII/21](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/6](#) of 17 December 2016, [14/4](#) of 22 November 2018 and [15/29](#) of 19 December 2022, the objective of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health is to support Parties and other Governments at all levels, relevant organizations and initiatives, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth, the private sector and other stakeholders in mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts, in line with national circumstances, priorities and legislation and in a manner consistent with relevant international obligations. The Plan is aimed in particular at enabling relevant government authorities to collaborate closely and coordinate their work on biodiversity and health interlinkages.

2. The Global Action Plan includes a set of voluntary actions that can be implemented at various levels and on different scales, from international to national and local and from multisectoral to sector-specific, with cross-sectoral collaboration at the governmental level, and that allow for the participation of civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities, as well as academia and the private and financial sectors, among others. In view of the cross-cutting nature of biodiversity and health interlinkages, other multilateral instruments and processes should also be considered when implementing the Plan, in a consistent manner with relevant international obligations.

3. The Global Action Plan builds on previous work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁹⁷ including that conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organization on biodiversity and health interlinkages through a joint work programme from 2012 to 2021. It is intended to complement and support the implementation of earlier decisions of the Conference of the Parties on biodiversity and health (decisions [XII/21](#), [XIII/6](#), [14/4](#) and [15/29](#)) and to facilitate the realization of biodiversity and health co-benefits from the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.⁹⁸

4. The Global Action Plan should be implemented recognizing the importance of the three objectives of the Convention, namely, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, in a balanced manner, to further work on the interlinkages between biodiversity and health. It also serves as an acknowledgement that the provision of adequate means of implementation to developing countries, including adequate and predictable financial resources, capacity-building, scientific and technical cooperation, and technology transfer, is critical to enable the implementation of the Plan and ensure equity. The Plan stresses the urgent need to address inequities in global health and the need to strengthen health systems in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

⁹⁶ It is noted that the finalization of text currently in brackets may have implications for currently unbracketed text.

⁹⁷ See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3.

⁹⁸ Decision 15/4, annex.

5. Nothing in the present Global Action Plan should be interpreted as modifying the rights and obligations of a Party under the Convention or any other international agreement.

6. The Global Action Plan also draws on the following:

(a) The findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, namely, that: (i) nature underpins all dimensions of human health and contributes to non-material aspects of the quality of life (inspiration and learning, physical and psychological experiences and supporting identities), which are central to the quality of life and cultural integrity; (ii) nature's contributions to people⁹⁹ play an essential role in human health by regulating material and non-material contributions; (iii) worldwide, social groups have unequal access to nature's contributions to people; (iv) the decline in nature's contributions to people threatens the quality of life; (v) the deterioration of nature and consequent disruption of benefits to people have both direct and indirect implications for public health and can exacerbate existing inequalities in access to health care or healthy diets; and (vi) the global environment can be safeguarded through enhanced international cooperation and linked, locally relevant measures;

(b) The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which include, that climate change is a threat to human well-being;¹⁰⁰

(c) The study on indigenous determinants of health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰¹ welcomed by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

(d) The lessons learned from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and other emerging zoonoses, which have further highlighted the importance of the relationship between health and well-being and biodiversity, the urgent need to conserve, restore and sustainably use biodiversity, the need to address inequities in global health, including with regard to equitable access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and medical equipment, and the need to enhance global collaboration and cooperation for a sustainable and inclusive recovery, thereby contributing to minimizing the risk of future diseases of zoonotic origin.

7. The following is recognized:

(a) Biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and negative health outcomes share many common drivers, including direct drivers of environmental change, which result from an array of underlying causes and are underpinned by social values and behaviours;

(b) Biodiversity is a key environmental determinant¹⁰² of human and animal health, and the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity benefit health by maintaining ecosystem services, which contributes to fulfilling the psychological needs for nature relatedness and realizing the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050;

(c) The relationship between biodiversity loss, the emergence and spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases and increasing health inequalities is well known, as is the role of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in prevention, reduction and proactive management of communicable and non-communicable disease risks;

[(d) Several human-mediated factors are most likely driving the emergence of zoonotic diseases, including increasing human demand for animal protein, unsustainable agricultural intensification, the increased use and exploitation of wildlife, the unsustainable utilization of natural

⁹⁹ Nature's contributions to people are defined by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as all the contributions, both positive and negative, of living nature (i.e. diversity of organisms and ecosystems and their associated ecological and evolutionary processes) to people's quality of life.

¹⁰⁰ Hans-Otto Pörtner and others, eds., *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability: Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (Geneva, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022).

¹⁰¹ E/C.19/2023/5.

¹⁰² Environmental determinants of health are global, regional, national and local environmental factors that influence human health. They include physical, chemical and biological factors external to a person. Further information on environmental determinants of health is available on [the Pan American Health Organization website](https://www.paho.org/en) at www.paho.org/en.

resources accelerated by urbanization, land-use change and extractive industries, increased travel and transportation, changes in food supply and climate change;^{103]}

(e) Sustainable development, in its three dimensions (social, economic and environmental), and the protection of the environment, including ecosystems, contribute to and promote human well-being and the full enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to health and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,¹⁰⁴ for present and future generations;

(f) Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, including for Parties that provide genetic resources for health-related research and development, is critical to the achievement of more equitable health systems;

(g) Within the context of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages (Sustainable Development Goal 3), children, youth, the elderly and those living with pre-existing medical conditions are more physically, mentally and emotionally vulnerable to environmental degradation and environmental change;

(h) Biodiversity loss and its direct drivers are a threat to animal, human and plant health;

(i) Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss contribute to health inequities, especially for people in vulnerable situations, including women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities, and have severe adverse impacts on the health of indigenous peoples and local communities and their unique interdependent relationship with local ecosystems, including their physical and mental health, livelihoods, foodways and traditional medicine systems;

(j) More effective and integrated policy coordination on biodiversity and health, including by enhanced communication, dialogue and collaboration across government ministries and all governments and sectors, is needed. This includes the need to strengthen the environmental dimension of the One Health approach and other holistic approaches, while acknowledging the need to enhance international cooperation with a view to addressing the specific challenges faced by developing countries in implementing the One Health approach or other holistic approaches, including by strengthening capacity for health surveillance and promoting equitable responses, in line with national circumstances and priorities.

II. Considerations and tools for supporting the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health

8. Taking account of the cross-cutting nature of biodiversity and health interlinkages, the implementation of the Global Action Plan should be carried out in accordance with national circumstances and in a manner consistent with international obligations and agreements.

9. The Global Action Plan embodies the view that the health of the environment and the health of all species are interconnected and interdependent, and that a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is required to mainstream that view into national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts. The concept of biodiversity and health interlinkages should take into consideration both individual and collective systemic levels, across and between species and ecosystems, and the multiple dimensions of health and well-being. Elements of the Plan should be actioned towards enabling improved stewardship of the environment, animals, plants and other taxa and the realization of the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

10. The implementation of the Global Action Plan may be further supported by a compilation of resources, including a list of tools and resources that can assist its implementation¹⁰⁵.

¹⁰³ United Nations Environment Programme and International Livestock Research Institute, *Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic Diseases and How To Break the Chain of Transmission* (Nairobi, 2020).

¹⁰⁴ See General Assembly resolution 76/300.

¹⁰⁵ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3, annex I

III. Actions to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages into national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts

11. The following voluntary actions may be taken by Governments, at the appropriate level, in accordance with national circumstances and with relevant international obligations, and, where relevant, by other actors, to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages, thereby generating benefits for health and the environment. The proposed general actions (sect. A) can be complemented with actions to integrate biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the Framework (sect. B).

A. General actions

12. Proposed general actions include the following:

(a) Assessing biodiversity and health interlinkages, including nature's contributions to people that are related to health, the environmental determinants of health and the environmental burden of disease¹⁰⁶ at the national level, taking account of biocultural diversity,¹⁰⁷ diverse value systems and a comprehensive understanding of health and well-being, including physical, sexual, reproductive and mental health, cognitive development, learning, supporting identities¹⁰⁸ and social determinants of health;

(b) Encouraging and facilitating national dialogues and knowledge-sharing platforms and events to strengthen capacities among all sectors and actors with regard to biodiversity and health interlinkages, with a view to developing communities of practice, noting the positive role of biodiversity in all aspects of health and well-being;

(c) Promoting, in consideration of the One Health approach and other holistic approaches, policy coordination and mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages into: strategies related to sectors with significant impacts on biodiversity; national biodiversity strategies and action plans; plans for mental health, nutrition, farming, non-communicable and communicable disease control and childhood development; and economic and sustainable development policies, policies related to animal and plant health, disaster risk reduction, relief and recovery, pandemic prevention, preparedness and response action plans, and policies on sustainability in the health sector;

(d) Developing and, as necessary, strengthening national coordination mechanisms on biodiversity and health interlinkages that are interdisciplinary and interministerial, ensuring the participation of all actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth and the elderly, and designating a national focal point for biodiversity and health to facilitate the process;

(e) Considering the designation of a national gender focal point on biodiversity and public health, who, among other tasks, can report on the contributions and needs of women and girls in relation to environmental stewardship and gender equality;

(f) Taking steps to ensure the full and effective participation of children and youth in decision-making and action on biodiversity and health, including by considering the designation of a national youth focal point on biodiversity and public health, who, among other tasks, can report on the contributions and needs of children and youth in relation to environmental stewardship, health and intergenerational equity;

¹⁰⁶ The environmental burden of disease quantifies the amount of disease caused by environmental risks (see www.who.int/activities/environmental-health-impacts).

¹⁰⁷ See also decision 15/22.

¹⁰⁸ Supporting identities refer to the basis for religious, spiritual and social cohesion experiences; sense of place, purpose, belonging, rootedness or connectedness, associated with different entities of the living world; narratives and myths, rituals and celebrations; satisfaction derived from knowing that a particular landscape, seascape, habitat or species exists (see Manuela Carneiro da Cunha and others, eds., *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Secretariat, 2019)).

(g) Incorporating biodiversity and health interlinkages into assessments related to sustainable development, including environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments, health assessments, health impact assessments, socioeconomic assessments and other relevant assessments, in particular by:

- (i) Considering the risks that biodiversity loss poses to health and well-being in the aforementioned assessments as valuable tools to guide decision-making;
- (ii) Including diverse health stakeholders¹⁰⁹ in the screening, scoping, review, decision-making and follow-up processes for the assessments and national reporting;
- (iii) Including comprehensive screening factors that reflect broad biodiversity and health interlinkages in the assessments;
- (iv) Ensuring that biodiversity loss and degradation are considered in the assessments, as well as national monitoring, reporting and review frameworks, in the context of intergenerational equity and gender equality and the health of future generations, specifically the ability of children to be born, grow, develop and thrive physically and mentally;

(h) Supporting research on biodiversity and health interlinkages to address knowledge gaps, improving access to scientific evidence and good practices, through enabling transformative and transdisciplinary education and research, respecting the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities[, and with their free prior and informed consent][, including through their full and effective participation in decision-making, in accordance with relevant national legislation and international instruments];

(i) Strengthening the understanding of the One Health approach and other holistic approaches and stressing the focus on biodiversity and health interlinkages by introducing them into the curricula of professionals in the fields of health care and medicine, public and global health, animal health, biodiversity and environment, and urban spatial planning, including for green and blue spaces, and other relevant fields, as part of lifelong learning and skills development;

(j) Encouraging, where appropriate, in collaboration with health-related organizations, the integration of biodiversity-related metrics, indicators and tools, into health strategies, plans and programmes and, conversely, the integration of health-related metrics, indicators and tools into biodiversity strategies, plans and programmes, in line with existing mandates;

(k) Encouraging the development of sector-specific information material, such as fact sheets, to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages into relevant sectors;[¹¹⁰]

(l) Enhancing international cooperation to support developing countries in addressing the specific environmental and health-related challenges that they face, including in implementing the One Health approach and other holistic approaches, in accordance with applicable international and national laws;

(m) Encouraging cooperation among national focal points from relevant multilateral environmental and health agreements on actions related to biodiversity and health interlinkages, including through participation through the whole-of-society approach in cross-sectoral events.

B. Actions to integrate biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

13. The interlinkages between biodiversity and health are acknowledged in the Framework as one of the considerations for its implementation, as follows:

¹⁰⁹ Health stakeholders include those related to human, animal and plant health and those with diverse knowledge of health.

¹¹⁰ These sectors may include agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, health, infrastructure, energy and mining, manufacturing, processing and finance, in line with previous Conference of the Parties decisions on mainstreaming.

The Framework acknowledges the interlinkages between biodiversity and health and the three objectives of the Convention. The Framework is to be implemented with consideration of the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches that are based on science, mobilize multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to work together, and aim to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems, recognizing the need for equitable access to tools and technologies, including medicines, vaccines and other health products related to biodiversity, while highlighting the urgent need to reduce pressures on biodiversity and decrease environmental degradation to reduce risks to health, and, as appropriate, develop practical access and benefit-sharing arrangements.¹¹¹

14. The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is also acknowledged in the Framework.¹¹²

15. Since the health of the environment and the health and well-being of all species are interconnected, all actions towards the implementation of the Framework will have co-benefits for all species and for human health. Actions for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the Framework are shown in the table below.

¹¹¹ Decision 15/4, annex, para. 7 (r).

¹¹² Ibid., para. 7 (g).

Actions for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<i>Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
Land and sea use		
Targets 1, 2 and 3	Reducing the loss, degradation and fragmentation of wildlife habitats and the encroachment on biodiverse areas contributes to the continued provision of nature's contributions to people, which in turn support health and reduce disease emergence and transmission among wildlife, livestock and people.	1. Encourage efforts to consider biodiversity and health interlinkages in land- and sea-use planning and policies, plans and actions for conservation and restoration to identify potential co-benefits and trade-offs for biodiversity and health, including by incorporating health impact assessments, so as to promote the multiple dimensions of health and reduce and mitigate disease risks to people, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth and the elderly; and livestock and wildlife, taking risks of disease spillover and spillback into account. 2. Encourage efforts to improve, in line with national capabilities, monitoring systems to include the evaluation of the impacts of land- and sea-use activities, including for conservation and restoration, on human beings, animals and ecosystems, including by establishing surveillance sites in high-risk areas where environmental conditions are quickly changing and becoming conducive to disease emergence. 3. Incorporate the consideration of biodiversity and health interlinkages into policies and programmes for water, sanitation and hygiene and measures to protect and sustainably manage ecosystems that supply water. 4. Consider the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional practices to mitigate negative health impacts in land- and sea-use planning and actions for conservation and restoration.
Species management		
Targets 4, 5 and 9	The sustainable management of populations of wild species is important for the health of ecosystems and the provision of ecosystem services, such as food security, nutrition, biomedical discoveries and medicine, and will enable people to continue to draw benefits from those populations. Protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities and those particularly dependent on wild species is especially important. At the same time, improving the regulation and management of the use of and trade in wild species and reducing human-wildlife conflict can reduce the transmission of infectious	1. Protect the customary sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem stewardship by indigenous peoples and local communities in protected areas, areas under other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous and traditional territories, and related health benefits. 2. Consider the role of species and genetic diversity in the production of nutritious food, food security, nutrition, medicine and other goods to ensure that the medicinal use of wild species, including in traditional medicine, is sustainable, safe and legal; and, for threatened or protected species, encourage conservation actions, as well as alternative, sustainable sources for medicinal use, where possible. 3. Improve, in accordance with other international agreements and within national capabilities, the regulation, management and use of and trade in wild species, such that it is sustainable and safe for human and wildlife health, by:

<i>Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
	diseases. Maintaining, in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities, the genetic diversity of wild species, domesticated species and their wild relatives increases resilience against future pathogens, food security and nutritional values for the benefit of environmental and human health. [Infectious disease emergence can be reduced by preserving wild species that work as reservoirs for viruses, and by reducing unsafe contact between humans, their livestock and wildlife.]	(a) Acknowledging and addressing the potential for health risks from use practices, such as the transport, marketing and commercialization of specimens of wild species; (b) Improving biosecurity measures and sanitation in markets and along the entire value chain; (c) Developing technologies and disease monitoring systems for improved management of wildlife trade; (d) Encouraging the participatory monitoring of wildlife including by wildlife hunters, farmers and traders, in emerging disease hotspots, as elements of strategies for disease prevention; (e) Including policies and actions aimed at limiting pathogen spillover and spillback in wildlife use and management programmes and activities, such as wildlife farming and commercialization. 4. Strengthen, when possible and in accordance with national capabilities, the capacity to understand and manage human-mediated factors with high potential to drive the transmission of zoonotic diseases, such as unregulated and unsustainable consumption of wild meat. 5. Maintain the genetic diversity of wild and domestic species and their wild relatives to safeguard their resilience and adaptive potential, hence protecting the health benefits associated with their existence. 6. Promote collaborations in line with the One Health approach by reinforcing planning and surveillance of biodiversity, including for wildlife habitats and zoonotic pathogen spillover risk, to better assess and address health and disease risks in order to manage wild species sustainably.
Invasive alien species^c		
Target 6	Invasive alien species are a major driver of biodiversity loss¹¹³ and a major threat to nature, nature's contributions to people and a good quality of life.¹¹⁴ Invasive alien species can be pathogens or pests and affect human, animal, plant and environmental health in various ways, including by causing diseases, such as allergic diseases, because of their toxicity or as vectors	1. Consider the adverse impacts of invasive alien species on human, animal, plant and ecosystem health in strategies, action plans and projects, and undertake assessments on that matter to support informed decision-making and actions aimed at preventing and minimizing such impacts, including through the use of multisectoral and transdisciplinary approaches.

¹¹³ Sandra Diaz and others, *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Summary for Policymakers* (Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Secretariat, 2019).

¹¹⁴ Helen E. Roy and others, *Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and Their Control* (Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Secretariat, 2023).

Framework targets ^a	Relevance to health ^b	Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration
	of pathogen transmission. In addition, invasive alien species often reduce the quantity and quality of services provided by ecosystems and can affect livelihoods and food security.	2. Identify 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.¹¹⁵ 3. Promote awareness of, and education on, the impacts of invasive alien species on human, animal, plant and ecosystem health. 4. Promote and strengthen collaboration with other sectors impacted by invasive alien species for enhancing prevention, control or eradication and management of invasive alien species, especially to address invasions of pathogenic agents, to reduce and prevent disease emergence.
Pollution		
Target 7	Pollution, in all its forms, is harmful to biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and the health of people, animals, plants and other organisms. It has an impact on the ability of biodiversity to contribute, for example, to the provision of clean air and water, soil fertility, pollination and pest control. Direct and indirect exposure to pollutants, in particular early-life exposure, can increase the risk of multiple non-communicable diseases over the life course. ^{116, 117}	1. Raise awareness of the negative impact of [antimicrobials,] heavy metals and plastic, including microplastics,^{118,119} and air, light and noise pollution on biodiversity and human health 1. Alt. Raise awareness of pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources on biodiversity and human health and of the need to reduce excess nutrients, the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals, including through integrated pest management, based on science, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution. 2. Promote the implementation of voluntary joint guidelines for the environmentally sound management of public health, medical and veterinary operations and their waste,¹²⁰ including to avoid the inappropriate use and disposal of [antibiotics,]pharmaceuticals,¹²¹ medical products,¹²² heavy metals and waste.¹²³ 3. Minimize pollution from waste and wastewater municipal systems and integrate biodiversity and health considerations into local and municipal waste and wastewater management plans; and incorporate national and subnational strategies for the management of municipal wastewater effluents into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

¹¹⁵ Decision 15/27.

¹¹⁶ World Health Organization, *Compendium of WHO and other UN guidance on health and environment*, (Geneva, 2023).

¹¹⁷ Landrigan, Philip and others, *Mindaroo-Monaco Commission on Plastics and Human Health*, *Annals of Global Health*, 89 (1): 23 (2023).

¹¹⁸ World Health Assembly resolution 76.17.

¹¹⁹ Landrigan, Philip and others, *Mindaroo-Monaco Commission on Plastics and Human Health*, *Annals of Global Health*, 89 (1): 23 (2023).

¹²⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme World Health Organization and World Organisation for Animal Health, *One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026): Working Together for the Health of Humans, Animals, Plants and the Environment* (Rome, 2022).

¹²¹ World Health Organization, *Compendium of UN and other UN guidance on health and the environment* (Geneva, 2021).

¹²² World Health Assembly resolution 76.17.

¹²³ United Nations Environment Programme, *Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening Environmental Action in the One Health Response to Antimicrobial Resistance* (Geneva, 2023).

Framework targets ^a	Relevance to health ^b	Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration
		4. Promote strategies to reduce light and noise pollution,^{124, 125} especially in urban environments, that is harmful to human health and the health of other organisms. 5. Make use of national systems on human biomonitoring^d to, among other objectives, mobilize resources to produce or enhance data to develop new strategies for strengthening pollution control measures.¹²⁶ 6. Develop monitoring and/or surveillance data, enhance information-sharing and promote understanding of the linkages between chemicals and waste and human health impacts to maximize the co-benefits for biodiversity and human health, including through the One Health approach.
Climate change		
Target 8	Climate change exacerbated by biodiversity loss is a driver of biodiversity loss and ill health. ¹²⁷ It increases the risks of extreme weather events (e.g. heatwaves, forest fires, droughts and floods) and ocean acidification and has an adverse impact on water quality and quantity, food production from agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and infrastructure supporting cities and settlements, increasing risks of vector-borne, waterborne and food-borne diseases, malnutrition, heat illness, mental health and displacement. Risks from climate change affect human beings, animals, plants and ecosystems. ^{128, 129} Nature-based solutions ^e and/or ecosystem-based approaches can help to mitigate and adapt to and improve resilience to climate change, which is detrimental to health.	1. Integrate the consideration of climate change biodiversity and health interlinkages into relevant national policy and planning instruments, in line with national circumstances and priorities. 2. Strengthen capacity-building and development to address the interlinkages among biodiversity, climate change and health, including through research and education and by developing knowledge and communication tools, and enhance international cooperation through technology transfer. 3. Co-develop and implement early warning systems to predict disease outbreaks in terrestrial, inland water and marine ecosystems by incorporating interoperable/ climate and environmental information and epidemiological information on appropriate spatial and temporal scales to support local decision-making.¹³⁰ 4. Promote research on potential climate change biodiversity and health interlinkages, for example, on vector-borne and waterborne diseases and mental health. 5. Raise awareness of potential co-benefits of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for human health, and consider integrating those co-benefits into relevant policies and planning instruments.

¹²⁴ World Health Organization, *Compendium of UN and other UN guidance on health and the environment* (Geneva, 2021).

¹²⁵ World Health Organization. report of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, annex 5 (Budapest declaration: accelerating action for healthier people, a thriving planet, a sustainable future).

¹²⁶ World Health Assembly resolution 76.17.

¹²⁷ Adapted from the Summary for Policymakers of the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

¹²⁸ Adapted from the Summary for Policymakers of the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

¹²⁹ Adapted from the Summary for Policymakers of the Sixth Assessment Report, Working Group II, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022. Available at www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/.

¹³⁰ Recommendation 24/9 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Framework targets ^a	Relevance to health ^b	Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration
		[6. Consider the development of indicators on linkages between climate, biodiversity and health.]
Agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry		
Target 10	Biodiversity at every level (genetic, species and ecosystem levels) is a pillar of food security, nutrition and healthy diets. ¹³¹ The quality and quantity of food and the way in which it is produced have implications for human health, as well as the health of livestock, wild animals and the environment. Dietary diversity, underpinned by diverse crops, livestock, healthy forests and marine and freshwater food, among others, provide a wide range of essential nutrients and non-nutrients, such as fibre. The cultivation of crops depends, among other things, on pollinators and the diversity of beneficial microorganisms in the soil. Sustainable intensification, integrated pest management, breeding of adapted crop varieties and agroecological approaches can reduce the need for nutrients and pesticides, including those harmful to people and pollinators.	1. Raise awareness of the interlinkages between biodiversity and health for nutrition, food security, livelihoods and food system resilience.^{132, 133, 134, 135} 2. Reduce the negative impacts on biodiversity and health of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry, among others, by leveraging sustainable practices, such as sustainable intensification, agrobiodiversity, agroecology, integrated landscape planning, the breeding of adapted crop varieties and the use of integrated pest management to reduce the need for and use of, pesticides, fertilizers and other chemical inputs, among other sustainable practices. 3. Promote improved standards of animal welfare for their health and well-being,¹³⁶ including to reduce the risk of communicable disease in farm animals and aquaculture[, by, inter alia, limiting the unnecessary use of antimicrobials, including antibiotics to prevent antimicrobial resistance]. 4. Recognize the value of traditional food practices, the foodways of indigenous peoples¹³⁷ and local communities in strategies for health, well-being and disease prevention. 5. Support initiatives to conserve genetic diversity for healthy ecosystems and food security, including from seeds, livestock, forestry, fisheries and pollinators.¹³⁸
Nature's contributions to people		
Target 11	Biodiversity underpins nature's contributions to people. ⁸ Safeguarding those contributions benefits human health, including physical and	1. Consider the contributions of biodiversity in national policies, strategies and programmes, including across the life course and for different community groups, recognizing nature's positive contributions to all dimensions of human health and well-being.

¹³¹ Adapted from World Health Organization, *Guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity for nutrition and health* (Geneva, 2020).

¹³² Adapted from World Health Organization, *Guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity for nutrition and health* (Geneva, 2020).

¹³³ Adapted from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Biodiversity and nutrition: a common path* (Rome).

¹³⁴ Adapted from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (Rome, 2019).

¹³⁵ Adapted from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (Rome, 2022).

¹³⁶ World Organisation for Animal Health, *Global Animal Welfare Strategy* (Paris, 2017).

¹³⁷ E/C.19/2023/5.

¹³⁸ Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, initiative on Environmental health and biodiversity. Available at www.cgiar.org/research/cgiar-portfolio/environmental-health-biodiversity/.

Framework targets ^a	Relevance to health ^b	Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration
	mental health, and reduces mortality and morbidity. The contributions include:¹³⁹ (a) The regulation of climate, ocean acidification and hydrological cycles; (b) The regulation and improvement of air and fresh and coastal water quality and the regulation of water flows; (c) Soil biodiversity, quality and fertility and the degradation or storage of pollutants; (d) The regulation of natural hazards and extreme events; (e) Pollination and seed dispersal; (f) Food and feed production from wild, managed or domesticated land or sea organisms; (g) The regulation of pests, pathogens, predators, competitors, parasites and potentially harmful organisms; (h) Learning (education, knowledge acquisition and inspiration for art and technological design, such as biomimicry); (i) Healing, relaxation, recreation and leisure; (j) Intrinsic interconnection and supporting identities (i.e. the basis for, for example, religious, spiritual and social cohesion experiences, and the sense of place, purpose, belonging, rootedness or connectedness); (k) The provision of medicinal, biochemical and genetic resources.	2. Take steps to address the adverse impacts of biodiversity loss on health, including mental health, for example, by: (a) Supporting initiatives that assist individuals and communities suffering from those impacts; (b) Fostering positive narratives on the environment for the future, especially among children and youth; (c) Recognizing relevant public health tools, such as nature prescriptions and nature-based therapy, traditional medicine and phytotherapeutic products to engage the health sector in building capacity to minimize, prevent and treat adverse impacts. 3. Use nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and innovative approaches to achieve benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and natural systems while delivering benefits for human health, such as for disaster risk reduction.
Urban areas		
Target 12	Green and blue spaces and urban planning that takes biodiversity into account can optimize ecosystem integrity and connectivity and increase physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health through various mechanisms,	1. Consider benefits for human health, in all its dimensions, in biodiversity-inclusive urban planning policies and the provision of blue and green spaces. 2. Improve access to and accessibility of biodiversity-rich green and blue spaces for all, especially for those more vulnerable to the negative impacts from social or

¹³⁹ The list of contributions is adapted from Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Summary for Policymakers*. Available at www.ipbes.net/document-library-catalogue/summary-policymakers-global-assessment-laid-out.

<i>Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
	including by improving air quality, reducing the heat island effect, enhancing flood resilience, providing beneficial microbiota, bringing cultural and psychological benefits and facilitating physical exercise, and for healing, relaxation, recreation and supporting identities, as well as community and social cohesion activities.	environmental determinants, such as children, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, migrants, racial minorities and low-income populations. 3. Develop communication tools in collaboration with the health sector on how enhancing biodiversity and ecological integrity and connectivity in urban areas is essential for the health and well-being of all species; and take steps to disseminate those tools across sectors, within all health sectors and to schools and community organizations. 4. Improve green and blue infrastructure and connectivity to foster biodiversity and optimize ecosystem services, especially those of high relevance to health in urban areas, such as air pollution removal, acoustic pollution absorption, avoiding run-off, soil erosion and the use of allergenic plants, and spaces to be in contact with nature and to practice physical exercise, among others. 5. Promote nature's contributions to people in relation to healing, relaxation, recreation and leisure, in particular in urban and densely populated areas.
Access and benefit-sharing		
Target 13	Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization are essential to health, health practice and effective health systems. Vaccine and therapeutic development rely on access to the diversity of organisms, molecules and genes found in nature. Many important therapeutics are derived from traditional knowledge systems and traditional medicine practice of indigenous peoples and local communities.	1. Recognize the role of genetic resources, digital sequence information on genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in the research and development of health products and services, and the importance of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization in this regard.¹⁴⁰ 2. Recognize the role of traditional medicine practice in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. 3. Ensure that the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources [and derivatives] [, as well as subsequent applications and commercialization,] are shared in a fair and equitable way[, in accordance with applicable access and benefit-sharing instruments]. [4. [Promote] [Ensure] compliance with access and benefit-sharing frameworks[, including across the pharmaceutical industry, to prevent the misappropriation of genetic resources and digital sequence information and associated traditional knowledge].] [5. Strengthen regulatory and compliance mechanisms for national and international access and benefit-sharing regimes in order to ensure equitable access to tools and technologies required to implement the One Health approach and other holistic approaches for the management of plant, animal and human diseases.]
Biosafety and biotechnology		

¹⁴⁰ Decision 15/29.

<i>Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
Target 17	The safe use of biotechnology, including through biosafety measures to regulate, manage and control potential adverse effects on biodiversity and human health, can play an important role in providing tools and solutions for biodiversity and health challenges.	1. Ensure that means are in place to evaluate, regulate, manage and control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, also taking risks to human health into account. [2. Support research, development and coordination mechanisms where potential benefits and risks from biotechnology applications could be assessed in a multidisciplinary manner, taking health and environmental perspectives into account. 3. Strengthening the application of biosafety measures, where applicable, to ensure safeguards in research, development and commercialization of activities involving living modified organisms.] 4. Promote the sharing of benefits for health arising from biotechnological developments. 5. Take all practicable measures to promote the effective participation of developing countries in health-related biotechnological research activities, including Parties, that are in a position to provide the genetic resources for such research, consistent with national circumstances. 6. Take all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by developing countries to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based on genetic resources provided by those Parties, consistent with national circumstances.
Mainstreaming		
Targets 14, 15 and 18	The consideration of biodiversity and health interlinkages in decision-making across all sectors can improve awareness of the benefits of biodiversity to foster more equitable health systems.	1. Take biodiversity and health interlinkages into account in business activities and corporate environmental social governance standards,^h as appropriate, through active dialogues with the business community and in assessments of the values and beneficiaries of biodiversity. 2. Include biodiversity and health interlinkages in nature-related financial disclosures. 3. Promote private and public investment and incentives that safeguard a broad spectrum of biodiversity and health interlinkages. 4. Promote the consideration of the multiple values of nature for health on the basis of diverse knowledge and knowledge systems, in educational curricula and training programmes at all levels and across disciplines, ensuring the engagement of

<i>Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
		knowledge holders and communicators from indigenous peoples and local communities and the health sector, among others. ^{141, 142} 5. Developing sector-specific information material, such as fact sheets, to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages into relevant sectors. ^[143]
Consumption		
Target 16	Overconsumption is an underlying driver of biodiversity loss and ill health. More equitable and sustainable use of resources, including a reduction of waste and overconsumption, allows all to live well and in harmony with nature.	Promote co-benefits from sustainable consumption choices by: (a) Identifying opportunities to promote healthy and sustainable lifestyles, sustainable consumption patterns, waste reduction and associated behavioural change that would benefit biodiversity and health; ¹⁴⁴ (b) Developing knowledge tools and educational activities to raise consumers' awareness and understanding of the negative impacts of overconsumption and waste on biodiversity and health.
Means of implementation		
Targets 19	Understanding the health co-benefits of investing in strategies and activities to halt biodiversity loss can help to mobilize necessary financial resources	Increase funding from all sources, including official development assistance to developing countries, to support projects and programmes for integrating biodiversity and health interlinkages in relevant policies, strategies, programmes and accounts.
Target 20	Improving capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and access to and transfer of technology relevant to interlinkages between biodiversity and health, including through North-South, South-South and triangular partnerships, can support the mainstreaming of those interlinkages.	1. Incorporate biodiversity and health interlinkage into capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer activities by supporting programmes and training initiatives for diverse health professionals and health-care providers to enhance their understanding of the interlinkages between biodiversity and health, including in traditional medicine practices and traditional knowledge. 2. Provide and facilitate for Parties, in particular developing countries, access to and the [voluntary and mutually agreed] transfer of technology that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to the integration of biodiversity and health interlinkages into relevant policies and initiatives. 3. Take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, aimed at ensuring that the private sector facilitate access to the joint development and

¹⁴¹ Adapted from Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, *Methodological assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature* (Bonn, 2022).

¹⁴² Adapted from World Health Organization, *Global Strategy on Health, Environment, and Climate Change* (Geneva, 2020).

¹⁴³ These may include agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, health, infrastructure, energy and mining, manufacturing, processing and finance, in line with previous Conference of the Parties decisions on mainstreaming.

¹⁴⁴ Decision XIII/6.

<i>Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
		[voluntary and mutually agreed] transfer of technology relevant to the integration of biodiversity and health interlinkages into relevant policies and initiatives. 4. Facilitate the exchange of information, from all publicly available sources, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to the integration of biodiversity and health interlinkages into relevant policies and initiatives, taking the special needs of developing countries into account. 5. Promote technical and scientific cooperation with other Parties, in particular developing countries, in implementing the present Plan, inter alia, through the development and implementation of national policies. In promoting such cooperation, special attention should be given to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution-building. 6. Support efforts to document traditional medicine practices, in particular those used by indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, [including through their full and effective participation in decision-making, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments,] and recognizing and respecting their rights over their traditional knowledge.
Knowledge and engagement of people		
Targets 21, 22 and 23	Ensuring that knowledge is available to all and that all groups of people are engaged in decision-making related to biodiversity can help to ensure that biodiversity and health interlinkages of particular importance to certain groups are taken into consideration, thereby contributing to the protection of rights, gender responsiveness and intergenerational and health equity.	1. Facilitate the establishment or strengthening of knowledge-sharing platforms and learning networks on biodiversity and health interlinkages to facilitate the exchange of best practices, lessons learned and innovative solutions, taking into account the needs of groups in vulnerable situations and those of indigenous peoples and local communities. 2. Promote and disseminate awareness-raising materials, advocacy tools, best practice and policies that maximize biodiversity and health co-benefits and highlight the relevant contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, and vulnerable groups, such as women, children, youth and the elderly and persons with disabilities. 3. Incorporate the health benefits from biodiversity into formal education systems from primary to post-secondary schooling to further enhance the interlinkages of biodiversity and health. 4. Recognize traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities as an important knowledge system that contributes to scientific, technical, social and economic advancements for human well-being. 5. Promote and support the meaningful and active participation of all actors of civil society, including traditional knowledge holders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities, also

<i>Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
		recognizing their unique contributions to and active roles in the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages. 6. Invest in communication tools and strategies that raise awareness of the value of ecosystem functions and services in ensuring health, well-being and health equity for different stakeholders in languages and formats accessible to the diverse groups of actors. 7. Implement the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) adopted by the Conference of the Parties¹⁴⁵ to support a gender-responsive consideration of biodiversity and health interlinkages. [8. Communicate on the health risk and costs arising from inaction and continued ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.]

^a For the text of the targets, see decision [15/4](#), annex, sect. H.

^b See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3 for additional information on biodiversity and health interlinkages.

^c An invasive alien species is a species the introduction or spread of which threatens biological diversity. See decision [VI/23](#) for further information.

^d Human biomonitoring directly measures the concentration of chemicals pollutants or their metabolites in human fluids (e.g. blood, urine, breast milk and saliva) and tissues (e.g. hair, nails and teeth) (see World Health Organization, “Human biomonitoring: assessment of exposure to chemicals and their health risks – Summary for decision makers”, technical document WHO/EURO:2023-7574-47341-69480 (Geneva, 2023)).

^e Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems that address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits (see United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5).

^f Interoperable information generally refers to information that can be used across sectors and disciplines, in particular for use by Governments with limited human, financial and technical resources, to address concurrent issues separately.

^g See Eduardo S. Brondizio and others, eds., *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019), table 231, p. 318.

^h Environmental, social governance considerations and standards for corporate sustainable investing.

¹⁴⁵ Decision 15/11, annex.

[Annex II

Monitoring elements for the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health

The monitoring of the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health can be supported by indicators from the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁴⁶ and by the following additional monitoring elements:

- (a) The environmental burden of disease per year (percentage) is used as a metric in government reporting at the national level;
- (b) Biodiversity and health interlinkages are considered in sector-specific policies and strategies and as an element of environmental determinants of health;
- (c) Intergenerational equity, the differentiated roles of and impacts on women and men and the unique interdependent relationship of indigenous peoples and local communities with nature are considered in national policies, strategies and programmes that address biodiversity and health interlinkages;
- (d) Multisectoral, multidisciplinary coordination mechanisms exist at the national level to address biodiversity and health interlinkages;
- (e) National focal points on biodiversity and health interlinkages are appointed;
- (f) National coordination mechanisms that address biodiversity and health interlinkages incorporate diverse knowledge systems and world views;
- (g) Biodiversity and health interlinkages are included in national health strategies;
- (h) Biodiversity and health interlinkages are included in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (i) One Health projects take biodiversity and health interlinkages into consideration;
- (j) A number of measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are implemented to support the prevention and reduction of communicable and non-communicable disease risks;
- (k) Disease alerts are detected and reported through cross-sectoral interoperable surveillance systems;
- (l) Environmental impact assessments incorporate biodiversity and health interlinkages;
- (m) Communication materials and tools adapted to the national context are available to promote the understanding of biodiversity and health interlinkages and facilitate the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders across sectors;
- (n) Education curricula and training programmes on biodiversity and health interlinkages are included in national strategies and programmes;
- (o) Funding is allocated to transdisciplinary research on biodiversity and health interlinkages;
- (p) Funding is allocated to knowledge-sharing platforms and spaces on biodiversity and health interlinkages;
- (q) Developing countries participate effectively in health-related biotechnological research;
- (r) Means of implementation are provided by developed countries to developing countries to support the integration of biodiversity and health into policy and planning instruments related to biodiversity and health;

¹⁴⁶ Decision 15/5, annex I.

- (s) National dialogues are convened, and knowledge-sharing platforms are established to discuss biodiversity and health interlinkages;
- (t) Biodiversity and health interlinkages are incorporated into medical and health curricula and the curricula of environmental management professionals;
- (u) The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is recognized and included in capacity-building and training programmes across sectors;
- (v) Biosecurity protocols and practices are implemented at national borders and within countries.]

[Annex III

Elements interlinking biodiversity and health identified for health promotion and disease prevention

- Air quality
- Freshwater and coastal water quality, quantity and access
- Soil quality, fertility and microbiome, and degradation or storage of pollutants
- Pollination and seed dispersal
- Food and feed production from wild, managed or domesticated organisms on land and in the ocean, and nutrition and dietary diversity
- Habitat (ecological conditions necessary for or favourable to human life)
- Health care (traditional medicine and traditional medical knowledge, medicines and health products, biomedical discovery, biochemical and genetic resources)
- Nature-based learning (education, knowledge acquisition and inspiration for art and technological design, such as biomimicry)
- Regulation of earth systems, such as climate change, ocean acidification and hydrological cycles¹⁴⁷
- Resilience to natural hazards, extreme events and disasters
- Beneficial microbial biodiversity and human microbiome, including immune regulation
- Regulation of pests, pathogens, predators, competitors, parasites and potentially harmful organisms
- Healing, relaxation, recreation, leisure and aesthetic enjoyment based on positive exposure to, experience of or engagement with nature
- Intrinsic interconnection, culture and supporting identities (i.e. the basis for religious, spiritual and social-cohesion experiences; sense of place, purpose, belonging, rootedness or connectedness, associated with various entities of the living world; narratives and myths, rituals and celebrations; satisfaction derived from knowing that a particular landscape, seascape, habitat or species exists)
- Health of indigenous peoples and local communities]

[Annex IV

Targeted messages for mainstreaming biodiversity into the health sector

The targeted messages below are aimed at supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the health sector and the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health. They could also be used by Parties, institutions working in the fields of human, animal and plant health and the environment, organizations working on the interlinkages between biodiversity and health, such as those established under other multilateral agreements and intergovernmental bodies, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth and relevant stakeholders.

¹⁴⁷ For example, the melting of permafrost can release strains of microorganisms potentially harmful to human health.

1. Biological diversity¹⁴⁸ is essential to human health and well-being and to all of life on Earth

(a) Health and well-being of all species are interconnected and interdependent. A holistic consideration of the health of all people, as well as that of animals, plants and other organisms, is needed to ensure living in harmony with nature;

(b) Biodiversity is a key environmental and social determinant of human health, and its conservation, restoration and sustainable use can benefit human health by maintaining ecosystem services;

(c) Halting the loss of biodiversity contributes to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights to health and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

2. Biodiversity loss affects everyone and is a threat to human health

(a) Nature's contributions to people affect almost every aspect of life, and changes in nature can have a profound impact on people's quality of life, health and health equity;

(b) The adverse impacts of biodiversity loss on health are unequal across populations, for example disproportionately affecting populations in situations of vulnerability, women, children, youth, elderly people, people with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations;

(c) Environmental degradation has severe adverse impacts on indigenous peoples and local communities and their interdependent and unbreakable relationship with local ecosystems, including with regard to their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health, foodways and healing practices and systems;

(d) Environmental degradation is a global health crisis that shapes the epidemiology of communicable and non-communicable diseases, tests community resilience and puts future generations at risk.

3. Promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources are indispensable tools to generate benefits for human health

Genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources contribute to health-related research and development, which results in the development of vaccines and medicines, among others.

4. Health practitioners and health systems, including traditional medicine practice, depend on biodiversity to prevent, diagnose, improve and treat physical and mental illnesses

Science, including traditional and diverse knowledge and health practices, should be considered together to exchange best practices and knowledge and revise the scientific validation of different approaches to improving and promoting health and well-being. Overcoming dualism, separation and imbalances in relationships between human beings and nature is central to addressing the biodiversity and health crises.

5. Both health and biodiversity-related interventions are needed to manage short- and long-term health risks resulting from biodiversity loss and unsustainable practices

(a) All ecosystems, including those human-made, as well as the use of wildlife, should be sustainably managed to promote healthy ecosystems, animal, plant and human well-being;

(b) Safeguarding environmental and social determinants of health is a shared challenge. Integrated environmental and health policies and practices are mutually reinforcing, while siloed approaches to addressing environmental, social and health challenges and risks are ineffective and

¹⁴⁸ "Biological diversity" means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2).

may have unintended adverse impacts on health, especially for poor and vulnerable populations, and the environment.

6. The impact of climate change on nature drives and exacerbates health risks for people and is detrimental to the healthy functioning of ecosystems

Safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems is fundamental to improve resilience in view of the effects of climate change, and to minimizing the adverse impacts of climate change on health.

7. Pollution in all its forms is harmful to biodiversity and introduces health challenges to human beings and all other species

Effectively preventing and reducing pollution from all sources can improve health and well-being and prevent diseases.

8. Biosecurity is essential to regulate and control the movement of invasive alien species, emerging infectious diseases, other organisms that can have negative impacts on biodiversity and health, and synergistic interactions between them

Effective biosecurity is often a foundation for biodiversity and health, and recognizing prevention is often much more cost-effective than remediation.]

II. Account of proceedings

Introduction

3. The twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was attended by the following Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

Albania	Eswatini	Namibia
Algeria	Ethiopia	Nepal
Angola	European Union	Netherlands
Antigua and Barbuda	Fiji	(Kingdom of the)
Argentina	Finland	New Zealand
Armenia	France	Nigeria
Australia	Gabon	Norway
Austria	Gambia	Oman
Bahamas	Georgia	Pakistan
Bangladesh	Germany	Paraguay
Barbados	Ghana	Peru
Belarus	Greece	Philippines
Belgium	Grenada	Poland
Benin	Guatemala	Portugal
Bhutan	Guinea	Qatar
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guinea-Bissau	Republic of Korea
Botswana	Guyana	Republic of Moldova
Brazil	Hungary	Russian Federation
Burkina Faso	Iceland	Rwanda
Burundi	India	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cabo Verde	Indonesia	Saint Lucia
Cambodia	Ireland	Sao Tome and Principe
Cameroon	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Canada	Italy	Senegal
Central African Republic	Jamaica	Serbia
Chad	Japan	Seychelles
Chile	Jordan	Sierra Leone
China	Kenya	Singapore
Colombia	Kuwait	Slovakia
Comoros	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Somalia
Cook Islands	Lebanon	South Africa
Costa Rica	Lesotho	South Sudan
Croatia	Liberia	Spain
Cuba	Lithuania	Sri Lanka
Czechia	Madagascar	State of Palestine
Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi	Sudan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Malaysia	Suriname
Denmark	Maldives	Sweden
Djibouti	Mauritius	Switzerland
Dominican Republic	Mexico	Syrian Arab Republic
Egypt	Monaco	Tajikistan
Equatorial Guinea	Mongolia	Thailand
Eritrea	Montenegro	Togo
Estonia	Morocco	Tonga
	Mozambique	Trinidad and Tobago
		Tunisia

Turkmenistan
Türkiye
Uganda
Ukraine

United Kingdom of
Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United Republic of
Tanzania
Uruguay

Venezuela
(Bolivarian
Republic of)
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

4. The following States not party to the Convention were also represented: Holy See and United States of America.

5. The meeting was also attended by observers from the following United Nations bodies specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations

Global Environment Facility

Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services

International Maritime Organization

International Seabed Authority

Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights

Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and
Stockholm conventions

Secretariat of the Convention on
International Trade in Endangered
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Secretariat of the International Partnership
for the Satoyama Initiative

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
on Mercury

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women
(UN-Women)

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Programme
World Conservation Monitoring
Centre

United Nations Office for Project Services

United Nations Secretariat (Division for
Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea)

World Health Organization

6. Information on participation in the meeting is available in information document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/23.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

7. The meeting was opened at 10.20 a.m. on 13 May 2024 by the Chair, Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

8. In her opening remarks, the Chair welcomed participants to the meeting and expressed her condolences to the people and the Government of Kenya for the lives and homes lost during the recent flooding. She said that the main challenge at the present meeting was translating into action the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in December 2022. Parties had already been working to lay the ground for implementation of the Framework by setting national targets, updating or developing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and mobilizing key institutions and organizations. In undertaking those actions, it was important to build on the current wealth of knowledge and experience to inform decision-making. The work of the Subsidiary Body was crucial in ensuring that actions under the Framework were guided by a robust foundation of scientific and technical knowledge, tools and guidelines. The in-depth scientific and technical preparation for the present meeting had been made possible by the hard work of the three ad hoc technical expert groups on indicators, synthetic biology and risk assessment. In conclusion, she urged participants to seek

solutions proactively and compromise where views diverged in order to achieve a productive and successful meeting.

9. Opening statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Inger Andersen; and by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention, David Cooper.

10. In her opening remarks, the Executive Director welcomed the Subsidiary Body to UNEP headquarters. Ensuring the success of the Framework entailed a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, which in turn required that every country had access to the right science, technology and technical skills for national implementation. In that regard, she highlighted three main areas that presented opportunities for effective action by the Subsidiary Body. First, increasing accountability and transparency would help countries to deliver on their national commitments. Clear metrics for measuring success were needed, supported by strengthened national capacities for monitoring and reporting progress, as well as a coherent approach to aggregating national data to help with reviewing progress at the global scale. Second, advancement of the global action plan on biodiversity and health would help the health sector to link up with action on issues of environmental concern, recognizing the connectivity between planetary health and human health. Incentives were needed for countries to integrate health and biodiversity, as set out in the Global Action Plan. Third, using the global oceans agenda to elevate the work on marine and coastal biodiversity was a natural continuation of the foundational work of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development had elevated the global profile of ocean action. Further collaboration with the Subsidiary Body would therefore help with the identification of areas that met the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the development effective area-based conservation measures. In conclusion, she thanked all actors for the work done to ensure that scientific, technical and technological knowledge supported healthy biodiversity, for healthy people and a healthy planet.

11. The Acting Executive Secretary expressed solidarity with the victims of the recent floods in Kenya and of other environmental catastrophes around the world, which were indicative of the price being paid for inaction on a range of planetary crises, including climate change, the water crisis, pollution and loss of ecosystem services. The close linkage between all those environmental challenges and biodiversity loss highlighted the urgent need for coordinated action to implement the Framework. The goals and targets of the Framework were inevitably ambitious, given the scale of the challenges that the planet faced. The present meeting of the Subsidiary Body presented an opportunity to further strengthen collective efforts to implement the Framework with valuable scientific and technical inputs from the ad hoc technical expert groups. A wide range of expertise was available at the present meeting, and generous financial support from several Governments had made possible the attendance of representatives from a large number of developing country Parties and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities. Additional funding would be needed to ensure full participation in future meetings, including the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Cali, Colombia, in October 2024. In concluding, the Acting Executive Secretary highlighted a number of important issues that would be considered on the agenda of the present meeting, including the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the scientific and technical needs to support implementation of the Framework, horizon scanning with regard to synthetic biology, risk assessment and risk management, marine and coastal biodiversity, and biodiversity and health. He expressed hope that the spirit of multilateralism, as demonstrated by the adoption of the Framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, would prevail during the coming meetings and lead to the adoption of important decisions.

12. Following the opening remarks, the representative of Ukraine raised a point of order. The representative of the Russian Federation exercised his right of reply.

Item 2**Organizational matters****A. Election of officers**

13. In accordance with the elections held at the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth meetings of the Subsidiary Body, the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-sixth meeting comprised the following members:

Chair: Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Vice-Chairs: Taulant Bino (Albania)

Jahidul Kabir (Bangladesh)

Scott Wilson (Canada)

Jan Plesnik (Czechia)

Marina von Weissenberg (Finland)

Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon)

Aria St. Louis (Grenada)

Bilal Qtishat (Jordan)

Kenneth Uiseb (Namibia)

Raquel Hilianova Soto Torres (Peru)

Substitute Vice-Chair for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

Francis Reyes Polanco (Dominican Republic) for Grenada

Substitute Vice-Chair for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol:

Jane Stratford (United Kingdom) for Canada

14. At the 1st plenary session, on 13 May, it was agreed that Mr. Mikissa would act as Rapporteur for the meeting.

15. The Rapporteur made a statement on behalf of all participants, thanking the Chair and the members of the Bureau for their work in preparing for the meeting, the Acting Executive Secretary and his team for the meeting documents and logistical arrangements, the Executive Director and staff of UNEP for their hospitality and the relevant Parties for providing funding to facilitate the participation of developing country representatives.

16. At its 5th plenary session, on 15 May, the Subsidiary Body elected the following members to serve for a term commencing at the end of its twenty-sixth meeting and ending at the end of its twenty-eighth meeting, to replace the members from Czechia, Finland, Gabon, Jordan and Peru: Sanne Kruid (Kingdom of the Netherlands), Mostafa Madbouhi (Morocco), Jan Plesnik (Czechia) (continuation of office), Paulina Stowhas Salinas (Chile) and Ruliyana Susanti (Indonesia), with Ana Laura Mello (Uruguay) to serve as substitute for Chile for matters pertaining to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

17. At its 1st plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/1.

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
4. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
5. Synthetic biology.
6. Risk assessment and risk management.
7. Detection and identification of living modified organisms.
8. Marine and coastal biodiversity:
 - (a) Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
 - (b) Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.
9. Biodiversity and health.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the meeting

Organization of work

18. At its 1st plenary session, the Subsidiary Body approved the proposed organization of work.¹⁵⁰

Item 3

Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

19. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 3 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁵¹ which included a draft recommendation. It also had before it nine information documents relating to: a scientific and technical review of the traditional knowledge indicators;¹⁵² a study on access and benefit-sharing indicators as they related to Target 13 and Goal C of the Framework;¹⁵³ the report of the online discussions of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on the monitoring framework as it related to Target 17;¹⁵⁴ guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework;¹⁵⁵ the report of the expert meeting on developing a methodology for headline indicator 7.2 under the monitoring framework;¹⁵⁶ guidance on needs related to implementing the monitoring framework;¹⁵⁷ a note on headline indicator D.3 on private funding;¹⁵⁸ guidance from the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation regarding indicators for Target 20;¹⁵⁹ and comments on the outputs of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the monitoring framework.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁰ CBD/SBSTTA/26/1/Add.1, annex I.

¹⁵¹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/2.

¹⁵² CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/11.

¹⁵³ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/12.

¹⁵⁴ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/13.

¹⁵⁵ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.

¹⁵⁶ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/18.

¹⁵⁷ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19.

¹⁵⁸ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/20.

¹⁵⁹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/21.

¹⁶⁰ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/22.

20. The representative of the Secretariat provided a number of oral editorial corrections to the note by the Secretariat on the monitoring framework: for Target 18, changes to the complementary indicators had been inadvertently lost and the text in the table was the original text from decision 15/5 and should be deleted; and for Target 22, the land tenure indicator mistakenly appeared in the cell below the cell in which it belonged.

21. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Oman, Russian Federation, Seychelles (on behalf of members of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature), South Africa (on behalf of the African States), Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.¹⁶¹

22. At its 2nd plenary session, on 13 May, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of agenda item 3.

23. Statements were made by representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Whaling Commission.

24. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the Group on Earth Observations, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the International Land Coalition, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

25. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Anne Teller (European Union) and Hesiquio Benítez Diaz (Mexico), with a mandate to resolve the remaining issues with the binary questions that were not finalized by the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-fifth meeting, focusing on paragraphs on which there were the most comments.

26. At the 6th plenary session, on 15 May, one of the Co-Chairs of the contact group reported that the group had established two friends-of-the-Chair groups, facilitated by Tim Strabala (New Zealand) and Ntakadzeni Tshidada (South Africa), for the binary indicators for Targets 13 and 17.

27. At its 10th plenary session, on 18 May, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair following discussion in the contact group.

28. Following an exchange of views in plenary and informal discussions in the margins of the meeting, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.10, for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body.

29. During the exchange of views, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, supported by the representatives of Argentina, Belgium and Netherlands (Kingdom of the), expressed concern regarding the fact that the Subsidiary Body was being asked to consider for adoption a document that, owing to a lack of time, was only available in English. The Subsidiary Body agreed to note in the present report that its consideration of a draft recommendation before it could be made available in all languages would proceed on an exceptional basis and would not set a precedent for future meetings.

30. In addition, the representative of Belgium, supported by the representative of Argentina, asked that it be put on record that the annexes to the draft recommendation had not been discussed at the present meeting.

¹⁶¹ Statements submitted to the Secretariat are available at www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-26.

31. The Subsidiary Body subsequently adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.10, as orally amended, as recommendation 26/1 (see sect. I).

Item 4

Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

32. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 4 at its 2nd plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework¹⁶² and an addendum to that document, on matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,¹⁶³ both of which included a draft recommendation. It also had before it, as information documents, a review and analysis of existing tools and guidance and their gaps to support the implementation of the Framework¹⁶⁴ and a compilation of submissions from Parties and organizations on such tools and guidance.¹⁶⁵

33. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, European Union, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Poland, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Africa (on behalf of the African States), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

34. Statements were also made by representatives of FAO, the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

35. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the network of Marine Protected Area managers in the Mediterranean.

36. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that she would prepare revised draft recommendations, in consultation with the Secretariat, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed or supported by Parties.

C. Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

37. At its 7th plenary session, on 17 May, the Subsidiary Body considered a revised draft recommendation submitted by the Chair, on matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.2, for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body at a later stage.

38. At its 10th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.2, as orally amended, as recommendation 26/3 (see sect. I).

D. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

39. At its 7th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered a revised draft recommendation submitted by the Chair, on scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

¹⁶² CBD/SBSTTA/26/3.

¹⁶³ CBD/SBSTTA/26/3/Add.1.

¹⁶⁴ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15.

¹⁶⁵ CBD/SBSTT.A/26/INF/16/Rev.1.

40. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Fiji, India, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

41. At its 8th plenary session, on 17 May, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of the revised draft recommendation.

42. Following an exchange of views in plenary and informal discussions in the margins of the meeting, the Subsidiary Body approved the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.3, for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body at a later stage.

43. At its 10th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.3, as orally amended, as recommendation 26/2 (see sect. I).

Item 5

Synthetic biology

44. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 5 at its 2nd plenary session, with Mr. Plesnik chairing the discussion. The Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Secretariat on synthetic biology,¹⁶⁶ as well as three information documents, relating to additional prioritized trends and issues in synthetic biology,¹⁶⁷ a literature review of trends and issues in synthetic biology (2012–2023)¹⁶⁸ and a synthesis of peer review comments on the outcomes and methodology of the horizon scanning process.¹⁶⁹

45. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Egypt (on behalf of the African States), Japan and Mexico.

46. At its 3rd plenary session, on 14 May, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of agenda item 5.

47. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, Malawi, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

48. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

49. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Ossama Abdelkawy (Egypt) and Jane Stratford (United Kingdom), with the following mandate: (a) to consider the report on the effectiveness of the horizon scanning process,¹⁷⁰ in line with paragraph 11 of decision 15/31; and (b) to draft recommendations to be forwarded to the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, considering the potential options in annex V to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/4.

50. At its 9th plenary session, on 18 May, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair following discussion in the contact group.

¹⁶⁶ CBD/SBSTTA/26/4.

¹⁶⁷ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/4.

¹⁶⁸ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/5.

¹⁶⁹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/6.

¹⁷⁰ As contained in CBD/SBSTTA/26/4, annex III, and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/6.

51. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.6, for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body at a later stage.

52. During the exchange of views, the representative of Belgium said that, during discussion in the contact group, a representative of a Party had requested the inclusion of text that was neither mentioned in the statement made by that Party's delegation in plenary nor included in its written submission, and that such a situation constituted a breach of the rules of procedure. He therefore called upon the Secretariat to ensure that the rules of procedure were correctly followed by contact groups and asked that his request be reflected in the present report. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo subsequently expressed support for that request.

53. At its 10th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.6 as recommendation 26/4 (see sect. I).

Item 6

Risk assessment and risk management

54. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 6 at its 3rd plenary session. It had before it notes by the Secretariat on risk assessment and risk management,¹⁷¹ which contained draft recommendations, and on additional voluntary guidance materials to support case-by-case risk assessments of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives.¹⁷²

55. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties to the Cartagena Protocol: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Lithuania, Malawi (on behalf of the African States), Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, Uganda, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

56. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, supported by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, raised a point of order. The representative of the Secretariat responded to the matter raised.

57. At its 4th plenary session, on 14 May, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of agenda item 6.

58. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties to the Cartagena Protocol: Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Moldova and Sweden.

59. A statement was also made by the representative of Argentina.

60. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the Federation of German Scientists (also on behalf of the European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility), the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, and the University of Ghana.

61. The representative of Brazil raised points of order, to which the Chair and the representative of the Secretariat responded.

62. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that she would prepare a revised draft recommendation, in consultation with the Secretariat, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed or supported by Parties.

63. At its 9th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.

¹⁷¹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/5.

¹⁷² CBD/SBSTTA/26/5/Add.1.

64. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.5, for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body at a later stage.

65. At its 10th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.5 as recommendation 26/5 (see sect. I).

Item 7

Detection and identification of living modified organisms

66. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 7 at its 4th plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the detection and identification of living modified organisms,¹⁷³ which included a draft recommendation. It also had before it, as information documents, a synthesis of submissions of information on the detection and identification of living modified organisms¹⁷⁴ and a summary of the online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms.¹⁷⁵

67. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties to the Cartagena Protocol: Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo (on behalf of the African States), Uganda and Zimbabwe.

68. A statement was also made by the representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

69. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that she would prepare a revised draft recommendation, in consultation with the Secretariat, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed or supported by Parties.

70. At its 8th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered a revised draft recommendation submitted by the Chair. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.4, for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body at a later stage.

71. At its 10th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.4 as recommendation 26/6 (see sect. I).

Item 8

Marine and coastal biodiversity

72. The Subsidiary Body considered sub-items 8 (a) and 8 (b) together at its 4th plenary session.

73. For sub-item 8 (a), the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Secretariat on further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas,¹⁷⁶ which included a draft recommendation. It also had before it the reports of the two expert workshops held to review modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas,¹⁷⁷ as well as an information document containing further information on the draft modalities for such modifications.¹⁷⁸

74. For sub-item 8 (b), the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Secretariat on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity,¹⁷⁹ which included a draft recommendation. It also had before it three information documents, on potential options for

¹⁷³ CBD/SBSTTA/26/6.

¹⁷⁴ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/1.

¹⁷⁵ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/2.

¹⁷⁶ CBD/SBSTTA/26/7/Add.1.

¹⁷⁷ CBD/EBSA/EM/2023/1/3 and CBD/EBSA/EM/2023/2/3.

¹⁷⁸ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/7.

¹⁷⁹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/7.

modalities for collaboration and cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations in the context of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction,¹⁸⁰ the strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity in the context of the Framework¹⁸¹ and the strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on island biodiversity in the context of the Framework,¹⁸² respectively.

75. With respect to sub-item 8 (a), the Chair proposed that consideration of issues of a legal and political nature in the draft recommendations on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas be deferred to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as they did not seem to be within the Subsidiary Body's mandate to discuss. The representative of Argentina expressed opposition to the proposal to defer the consideration of issues of a legal nature, saying that legal matters were technical matters, while the representatives of Belgium and Mexico indicated their support for the proposal. Subsequently, at the 5th plenary session, the representative of Türkiye also voiced opposition to the proposal.

76. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, European Union, Fiji, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Philippines, Russian Federation, Seychelles, South Africa (on behalf of the African States for sub-item 8 (a)), Sweden, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African States for sub-item 8 (b)).

77. At its 5th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of agenda item 8.

78. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sudan and Türkiye.

79. Statements were also made by representatives of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, the International Whaling Commission and OHCHR.

80. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (also on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature and the Ocean and Climate Platform) and the network of Marine Protected Area managers in the Mediterranean.

81. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Erica Lucero (Argentina) and Gaute Hanssen (Norway), with the mandate to focus on areas on which Parties had expressed divergent views, for both sub-items.

82. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 18 May, one of the Co-Chairs of the contact group, reporting back on the group's work, drew attention to the fact that, in its discussion on item 8 (b), the group had not addressed the annex to the draft recommendation, owing to a lack of time. Consequently, the entire annex had been placed in brackets.

(a) Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: further work

83. At its 9th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group.

¹⁸⁰ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/8.

¹⁸¹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/9/Rev.1

¹⁸² CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/10

84. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.7, for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body at a later stage.

85. During the exchange of views, the representative of the Russian Federation requested the Chair of the Subsidiary Body to work together with the Bureau and the Secretariat in exploring options for the terms of reference for the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, to enable the Secretariat to produce suggestions for amendments to the terms of reference for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. The Chair said that the request would be reflected in the present report.

86. At its 10th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.7, as orally amended, as recommendation 26/8 (see sect. I).

(b) Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

87. At its 10th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair following discussions in the contact group.

88. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.9, for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body at a later stage.

89. The Subsidiary Body subsequently adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.9, as orally amended, as recommendation 26/7 (see sect. I).

Item 9

Biodiversity and health

90. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 9 at its 5th plenary session, with Ms. von Weissenberg chairing the discussion. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on biodiversity and health,¹⁸³ which included a recommendation, and an information document containing supplementary information for the global action plan on biodiversity and health.¹⁸⁴

91. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso (on behalf of the African States), Canada, Colombia, Fiji, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

92. At its 6th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of agenda item 9.

93. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Austria, Burundi, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

94. Statements were also made by the representatives of OHCHR, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, UNEP and UN-Women.

95. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the Ifakara Health Institute, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

96. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Jahidul Kabir (Bangladesh) and Barbara Engels (Germany), with the mandate to work on the elements of the draft recommendation and on the global action plan on biodiversity and health

¹⁸³ CBD/SBSTTA/26/8.

¹⁸⁴ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3.

contained in annex I document CBD/SBSTTA/26/8, prioritizing technical gaps and missing information.

97. At its 9th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.

98. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.8, for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body at a later stage.

99. During the exchange of views, the representative of Argentina, asking that his remarks be reflected in the report, said that, at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, his Government intended to suggest amendments to the global action plan that had not been proposed at the present meeting, owing to the lack of time available to review annex I to the draft recommendation.

100. At its 10th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.8, as orally amended, as recommendation 26/9 (see sect. I).

Item 10

Other matters

101. There were no other matters.

Item 11

Adoption of the report

102. At its 10th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted the present report, as orally amended, on the basis of the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur,¹⁸⁵ on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

103. During the adoption of the report, the representative of Colombia indicated that he had concerns that he wished to have reflected in the final report regarding the way that his delegation's interventions and proposals concerning people of African descent had been addressed during the present meeting.¹⁸⁶

Item 12

Closure of the meeting

104. The representative of Colombia, the host of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, welcomed the outcomes of the present meeting, while noting that much remained to be done both before and during the meeting in Cali. He was nevertheless convinced that, with the support of all, the Conference of the Parties would succeed in sending the world a strong and decisive message for "Peace with nature", the theme of the sixteenth meeting, and he pledged to ensure a process whereby all views, including those of the major groups, would be taken into account and to do everything needed to make the meeting a success.

105. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 10.50 p.m. on 18 May.

¹⁸⁵ CBD/SBSTTA/25/L.1.

¹⁸⁶ See the written statement submitted by the delegation of Colombia in connection with agenda item 12 for further details (available at www.cbd.int/conferences/nairobi-2024/sbstta-26/documents).