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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM: ELEMENTS OF ADVICE FROM BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 OF DECISION XIII/21

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. In decision [XII/30](#) on the financial mechanism, the Conference of the Parties invited the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions to provide elements of advice, as appropriate, concerning the funding of the national priorities that could be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (para. 2). The Executive Secretary was requested to include any advice received into the documentation for the appropriate agenda item, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties (para. 3).
2. In decision [XIII/21](#), the Conference of the Parties invited the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting.
3. The present note provides, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the elements of advice received from biodiversity-related conventions, namely the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention on Wetlands) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and background information relevant to their formulation. The submissions received and full text of the decision or resolution of the convention bodies are provided in an information document CBD/SBI/03/INF/23.
4. The potential synergies between biodiversity-related conventions, including elements of advice received, are considered in document CBD/SBI/3/6, consistent with decision XII/30, paragraph 2 (a), and reflected in the considerations concerning the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities.
5. It is possible that further elements of advice may be provided by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, the World Heritage Commission and the International Whaling Commission, should their meetings, as currently scheduled, take place prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.¹

* CBD/SBI/3/1.

¹ 15th session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, 16 March, 18 March and 1 April 2021; 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, June/July 2021 (dates TBC); 68th session of the International Whaling Commission, 3-10 September 2021.

II. CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS: RESOLUTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO ELEMENTS OF ADVICE CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOUR-YEAR OUTCOME-ORIENTED FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD OF ITS TRUST FUND

6. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, through Resolution 10.25 (Rev.COP12), delegated to the its Standing Committee the authority to develop guidance on priorities for the GEF and requested the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat to convey this advice on its behalf. This Resolution continues in force. For Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, therefore, the guidance developed by its Standing Committee meets the requirements of decision XII/30 A, paragraph 2, and decision XIII/21 B, paragraph 10, of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Accordingly, the Chair of the Convention on Migratory Species Standing Committee initiated a process to invite inputs from Parties on their national priorities through the respective regional representatives of the Standing Committee. The Secretariat issued a notification to all Parties to support this process.

7. Based on that process, the Standing Committee adopted a resolution with regard to elements of advice concerning the funding of national priorities for the Convention on Migratory Species for the development of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the eighth replenishment period of its Trust Fund (GEF-8). In paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Standing Committee invited the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and subsequently the Conference of the Parties, at its fifteenth meeting, to consider the following elements in the development of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for GEF-8, noting that these elements, which derive from the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12), the Gandhinagar Declaration (Resolution 13.1) and other key resolutions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, support the common objectives of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially with respect to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:²

(a) Improving monitoring, data collection and data analysis of species population sizes and trends, migration patterns and distribution, habitats and critical sites as well as of drivers of population changes;

(b) Supporting countries in setting up, strengthening and enforcing their legal frameworks for the conservation of wildlife and their habitats, including through addressing capacity needs, in particular by integrating the commitments of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in the revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plan and other national planning processes and development plans and related budgets;

(c) Restoring and maintaining ecological connectivity, especially for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory species and their habitats, which has been defined as the “unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth”, as outlined in Resolutions 12.26 (Rev.COP13) and 12.7 (Rev.COP13);

(d) Supporting regional or global programmes and integrated approaches that support species migration systems;

(e) Supporting activities to reduce risk of the emergence of zoonotic diseases by addressing habitat fragmentation and destruction and risks from the direct use of migratory species;

(f) Supporting Governments and all other stakeholders including the Convention on Migratory Species, in their specific role and contributions to the effective implementation, monitoring, and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(g) Promoting international cooperation through regional and transboundary mechanisms and initiatives;

² The elements are presented in subparagraphs (a) to (s) in the language and formulation as adopted in the resolution.

(h) Addressing the drivers of loss of wild migratory animals, especially habitat destruction and fragmentation, invasive alien species, and overexploitation of wild migratory animals, which can be responsible for the transmission of infectious diseases from wild animals to humans;

(i) Reducing the adverse impacts on wild migratory animals from energy installations and linear infrastructure, including roads, railways, fences, and pipelines as outlined in Resolutions 11.24 (Rev.COP13) and 11.27 (Rev.COP13) and integrate migratory wildlife considerations into any spatial planning including in strategic and environmental impact assessments;

(j) Combatting wildlife crime and strengthening anti-poaching efforts, including through regional approaches for tackling the illegal killing, take and trade of birds, including trapping, as outlined in Resolution 11.31 and 11.16 (Rev.COP13);

(k) Advancing the implementation of projects that are mutually supportive of various treaties as well as joint programmes such as the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, as outlined in Resolution 13.4;

(l) Implementing concerted actions for the conservation of iconic species including the Regional Plan for the conservation of the Jaguar which addresses direct and indirect threats through collaboration both at institutional and scientific levels;

(m) Restoring and maintaining global flyways, as outlined in the Programme of Work as outlined in Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13);

(n) Reducing threats to wild animals, including poisoning of wildlife caused by use of pesticides, poison bait, veterinary pharmaceutical treatments, lead in ammunition and fishing weights and light pollution and pollution in the marine environment from marine debris, noise and unexploded ordinance, as outlined in Resolution 12.20, Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13) and Resolution 13.5;

(o) Minimizing bycatch of the Convention on Migratory Species-listed marine species and reducing post-release mortality as outlined in Resolution 12.22 and elsewhere;

(p) Supporting sustainable tourism activities that are beneficial to the conservation of wild animals, as outlined in Resolution 12.23 and Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12);

(q) Mitigating threats to freshwater fish, such as habitat degradation, barriers to migration and overexploitation, as outlined in Resolution 10.12;

(r) Supporting conservation strategies that promote the establishment and maintenance of networks of climate resilient sites for migratory species, as outlined in Resolution 12.21;

(s) Addressing insect decline and support scientific research on its impact on migratory insectivorous animal populations Resolution 13.6.

III. CONVENTION ON WETLANDS: DECISION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, SC58-25, ON ELEMENTS OF ADVICE CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE CONVENTION RELEVANT TO THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT OF THE GEF TRUST FUND

8. In response to the invitations from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity contained in decisions XII/30 and XIII/21, the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands at its thirteenth meeting, in resolution XIII.7, paragraph 46, requested its secretariat to present to the Standing Committee for consideration at its 58th meeting, elements of advice for the GEF concerning funding to support the objectives and priorities of Convention on Wetlands for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting in the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.

9. At the intersessional virtual sessions of the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee held on 23 and 25 June 2020, the Standing Committee considered elements of advice for the GEF concerning funding to support the objectives and priorities of the Convention on Wetlands for the eighth replenishment period of the GEF Trust

Fund. Accordingly, in Decision SC58-25, the Standing Committee decided to request that the following elements of advice be submitted by the Secretariat to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

10. The Standing Committee expressed the appreciation of the Convention on Wetlands for the invitation of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions to provide input to help develop strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and drew attention to the following considerations:³

(a) Wetlands are the most threatened of all ecosystems with 87% of the planet's wetlands having been lost, 35% of which between 1970-2015 at a rate three times faster than forests; and 81% of the populations of freshwater species have declined globally, that is a higher percentage than for other species;

(b) Wetlands provide significant benefits and services to people, including most freshwater for consumption, protection from floods, droughts and other disasters, food and livelihoods for millions of people, and more effective storage of carbon than any other ecosystem;

(c) The Convention on Wetlands is highly relevant to the post-2020 biodiversity framework, especially with respect to the achievement of no net loss in the area and integrity of freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystems as well as other goals and targets.

11. In the light of these considerations, the Standing Committee, on behalf of the Convention on Wetlands and with its appreciation for the support of the Convention on Biological Diversity in advocating for areas of shared interest and mutual benefit to the two conventions, invited the Convention on Biological Diversity to include in its guidance from the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanism the following:⁴

(a) An invitation to continue to support projects in the Biodiversity Focal Area that mainstream wetlands and its biodiversity across sectors, landscapes – including inland waters – and seascapes; to address direct drivers to protect wetland habitats and species, including through protected areas systems such as the Wetlands of International Importance designated by Contracting Parties under the Convention on Wetlands; and to further develop biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks, including policy making and review, monitoring, spatial planning, incentives, and strategic establishment of protected areas, and protected areas management and restoration;

(b) An invitation to the GEF to continue to address the drivers that cause the loss of habitat and species and include under the current priority cluster on addressing direct drivers to protect habitats and species a programme priority to “Reduce pressures on freshwater ecosystems” besides the current one on “Reduce pressure on coral reefs and other vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems”. This would reflect the level of threat and the multiple benefits derived from wetlands, including freshwater wetlands that are not currently covered in the International Waters portfolio, such as peatlands existing in national territories;

(c) An invitation to the GEF to enhance support towards the integration of wetlands in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other national development plans, national budgets and priorities;

(d) An invitation to the GEF under the International Waters Focal Area, to continue the support to projects and activities to sustain healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and to enhance regional and national cooperation on shared freshwater surface and groundwater basins;

(e) An invitation to the GEF to continue to undertake further projects on Multifocal Areas Programmes on wetlands, which address the critical importance of wetlands for the multiple benefits these ecosystems deliver to nature and people, and cost effectiveness of investments that achieve biodiversity, water, climate and livelihoods objectives, while addressing systematic inclusion of gender equality, which Parties to the Convention are mainstreaming in accordance with Resolution XIII.18;

³ The considerations are presented in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) in the language and formulation as adopted in the decision.

⁴ The following are presented in sub-paragraphs (a) to (f) in the language and formulation as adopted in the decision.

(f) An invitation to the GEF to include contributions to the biodiversity-related Conventions as part of the Focal Areas of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the eighth replenishment period (July 2022 to June 2026).

IV. INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY, 11/2019, COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

12. At its eighth session, held from 11 to 16 November 2019, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture expressed its thanks to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for its invitation to the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions and adopted the following elements of advice in paragraph 5 of Resolution 11/2019:⁵

(a) *Notes* that in the process of updating the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, the GEF has been identified as one of the key international mechanisms, funds and bodies that support the implementation of the International Treaty, and *invites* the GEF to continue giving priority through the GEF-8 to support programs, projects and initiatives that conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in relation to *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives and on-farm management and farmers' sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity;

(b) *Emphasizes* the continuous importance of GEF's financial support to mainstream biodiversity within the agricultural sector;

(c) *Invites* the GEF to enhance support towards the integration of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other national development plans, national budgets and priorities, which is one of the strategic priorities of the updated Funding Strategy of the International Treaty;

(d) *Notes* that the GEF is increasingly supporting projects and programs which address in an integrated manner food security, sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation and, acknowledging the important role of the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for the achievement of sustainable agriculture and food systems, *invites* the GEF to more clearly articulate such role within such integrated programmes in the GEF-8 programming framework;

(e) *Invites* the GEF to continue supporting projects to promote the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

(f) *Thanks* the GEF for having noted in the GEF-7 Biodiversity Strategy that results from certain GEF-7 investments may generate important co-benefits for the International Treaty and invites the GEF to continue to do so in the formulation of the GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy;

(g) *Notes* that the formulation and implementation of the GEF-8 will coincide in time with the implementation of the updated Funding Strategy, and *recommends* FAO and other GEF partners to increase the priority and attention given to the implementation of the International Treaty through the GEF-8, in order to make an important contribution to the achievement of the financial target for the Funding Strategy established by the Governing Body; furthermore, *suggests* that as part of the GEF-8, activities should focus on *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives, wild crop foods and on-farm management of farmers' landraces;

(h) *Requests* the Secretary to submit the elements of advice made by the Governing Body for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity for transmission to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and *requests* the Secretary, together with the Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilisation and the Bureau, to develop further inputs relevant to the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund that will reflect developments during the biennium, including in relation to the implementation of the

⁵ The elements of advice are presented in sub-paragraphs (a) to (h) in the language and formulation as adopted in the resolution.

Funding Strategy of the International Treaty and the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

V. CONCLUSIONS

13. In addition to priorities regarding specific objectives of each convention that relate to objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, there are a few areas of priority in common to the conventions:

(a) *National biodiversity strategies and action plans* – Each included as a priority, the need for support to ensure the integration of the objectives and issues addressed by the biodiversity-related conventions (plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, wetlands, and commitments related to migratory species) in the revision or updating of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other national development plans, national budgets and priorities;

(b) *Mutual support* – The importance of projects and investments which are mutually supportive of the objectives of multiple conventions;

(c) *Mainstreaming* – A shared priority for support for the mainstreaming of biodiversity (a) in the case of the Treaty, into the agricultural sector; (b) in the case of the Convention on Wetlands, the mainstreaming of wetlands and its biodiversity across sectors, landscapes and seascapes; and (c) in the case of the Convention on Migratory Species, into industries and developments that impact on migratory species and their habitats;

(d) *Transboundary and regional initiatives* – A priority need for support for transboundary and regional projects and programmes, including transboundary waters and species migration systems, which are of intrinsic importance to the Conventions on Wetlands and Migratory Species, as well as to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols.

14. It is noteworthy that each of the issues highlighted in paragraph 13 above are also relevant to other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Whaling Commission, and to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols.
