



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
4 April 2024

English only

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Twenty-sixth meeting

Nairobi, 13–18 May 2024

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

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

Review and analysis of existing tools and guidance and their gaps to support the implementation of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present document provides further information to support the results of the analysis and conclusions summarized in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3.
2. In paragraph 8 of decision [15/4](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework would be used as a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, its bodies and its Secretariat over the period 2022–2030 and that, in this regard, the Framework should be used to better align and direct the work of the various bodies of the Convention and its Protocols, its Secretariat and its budget.
3. In response to paragraph 2 of recommendation [25/3](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Executive Secretary issued notification No. [2023-120](#). In response to the notification, the Secretariat received 50 submissions: 10 from Parties¹ and 40 from 39 relevant organizations and stakeholders. Original submissions are available at www.cbd.int/notifications/2023-120.
4. The annex to document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/16 contains more than 1,200 tools and guidance documents referenced in the submissions, including individual technical and scientific resources and databases, policy tools and regulatory and legislative measures.
5. The present document provides further details on the review and analysis with regard to subparagraphs 2 (a) and (c) of recommendation 25/3. The Framework introduces several elements beyond the targets themselves (for example in its section C), however the present document reports

* CBD/SBSTTA/26/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

¹ Australia, Belarus, Canada, European Union, Finland, Gabon, Japan, State of Palestine, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

only on findings regarding the targets of the Framework. These other elements are considered further in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3, which also addresses the aforementioned subparagraph 2(d) of recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/25/3](#).

II. Sources of information for this analysis and findings

6. The following sources were used to provide data and information to support this review:

(a) Information from document [CBD/SBSTTA/25/4](#) and information document [CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/1](#) containing the results of an initial rapid analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention (prepared in response to decision 15/4, para. 9);

(b) Submissions received regarding gaps in tools and guidance in response to notification No. [2023-120](#);

(c) Information provided on the website of the Convention (www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/) at the time of preparing the present document, noting that this site will continue to be updated after the consideration of the information by the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-sixth meeting;

(d) Additional information regarding gaps and redundancies provided by relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues at the Secretariat.

7. Among the 50 submissions noted above, six Parties, one secretariat of another biodiversity-related convention and one observer provided significant information on gaps and priorities. Submissions overwhelmingly referred to the targets of the Framework, and in some cases to elements of the targets, with most referring to guidance for particular biomes. Very few referred to the tools and guidance related to other elements of the Framework beyond the targets (see document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/16).

III. Findings on available tools and guidance that can support the implementation of targets of the Framework, and their gaps

8. This section provides findings for each target regarding:

(a) Some of the most relevant programmes of work and currently recognized cross-cutting issues under the Convention that provide tools and additional guidance to support the target. This list is designed to illustrate the level of guidance available and is not comprehensive;

(b) The following cross-cutting issues, which apply to all targets: capacity-building, communication, education and public awareness; identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments; technical and scientific cooperation; and technology transfer;

(c) A brief overview of the current tools and guidance;

(d) The main gaps in tools and guidance including, where relevant, ongoing processes that are relevant to filling the gaps.

9. Many of these gaps identified in the present document were also noted as gaps for the monitoring framework by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as outlined in the gap analysis in annex III to document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/2](#).

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.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

10. Agricultural Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Protected Areas, Ecosystem Approach, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Article 8(j).

Overview of tools and guidance:

11. Many tools and guidance documents are referenced in the guidance note for Target 1 of the Convention's website² but most refer to those relevant to marine and coastal areas. With respect to marine and coastal areas, there are different ways in which tools are being applied and at different scales. Marine spatial planning and integrated coastal management have seen much attention in the last 20 years and have been implemented at various scales. Important partners for this target include UNESCO-IOC and UNEP Regional Seas Programmes, among others, which are continuing to apply the approaches. However, implementation is far from being comprehensive, and certain sectors have shown resistance to such approaches. Additionally, ensuring the sustainability of these practices over the long-term has proven difficult in many regions.

Gaps identified:

12. The main gaps are for terrestrial and inland water ecosystems. Existing guidance may not have the level of detail required for direct uptake into policy, specifically with respect to certain sectors and at local level. However, there is limited information on which to identify such needs further. There is a need for guidance on some of the terms or elements of the target. Examples include: "spatial plan", "under spatial planning", "biodiversity inclusive", "areas of high biodiversity importance" (including taking into account livelihoods and poverty reduction as elaborated further for Target 2). A standardized methodology for defining and assessing "ecosystem degradation" is a related foundational gap for Targets 1, 2 and 3 and Goal A.

13. Decision 15/19 requested the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to carry out a fast-track assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity considering such elements as land- and sea-use change and restoration. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is currently developing further guidance for its areas of work. There are only a few guidance documents on "participatory planning" under the Convention, including the ones relating to indigenous peoples and local communities under Article 8j or landscape approaches in national biodiversity strategy and action planning. However, guidance, tools, methodologies and approaches for participation in planning and decision-making are well established in the social sciences more broadly. For example, guidelines on participatory local planning have been produced by UNHABITAT, UNCCD³, UNEP and the GEF⁴ and Dodge and Bennett (2011)⁵.

14. Integrated water resources management (IWRM) is not specifically highlighted in the target (and Framework) and is the corresponding tool for potentially managing ecosystem services and biodiversity in inland water, coastal and nearshore marine areas, including the influence of land management on water resources. IWRM is important to the Convention. Target 6.5 of Sustainable Development Goal 6 refers

² <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/1>

³ <https://www.unccd.int/resources/brief/science-policy-brief-integrated-land-use-planning-and-integrated-landscape>

⁴ <https://www.gfdr.org/sites/default/files/documents/Participatory%20planning%20guidelines%20%28Eng%29.pdf>

⁵ Dodge, C. P. and G. Bennet. 2011. A Guide to Facilitated Participatory Planning. <https://idrc-crddi.ca/sites/default/files/openbooks/493-2/index.html>

specifically to IWRM⁶, reflecting its importance, whereas spatial land-use planning is not referenced throughout the 2030 Agenda. The extent to which the considerable available guidance on IWRM is biodiversity (and nature's contribution to people) inclusive has not been fully assessed, although this is known to be patchy at best. Both spatial planning and IWRM are also relevant to Targets 2 and 11, among others.

TARGET 2: Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

15. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Protected Areas, Ecosystem Approach, Ecosystem Restoration, Climate Change and Biodiversity, Invasive Alien Species, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices – Article 8(j).

Overview of tools and guidance:

16. An abundance of tools and guidance has been produced by partner organizations, including numerous “principles” and technical guidance. These are mainly biome-based and especially for forests although guidance for wetlands (including mangroves and other coastal wetlands) is available through the Ramsar Convention and other organizations. The available tools and guidance have expanded since the adoption of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030⁷.

17. The Ecosystem Restoration Short-term Action Plan (adopted in 2016 through decision XIII/5) is a cornerstone of the Convention's work. A Massive Open Online Course on Ecosystem Restoration developed on the basis of this Action Plan was delivered in 2022. The course attracted 16,849 participants from 193 countries. The evaluation of the course shows that 46.5 per cent of the participants who completed it are able to influence policy in their jobs (see more information in the [final report](#)). Overall, the guidance and manuals have stronger application if used as guiding methodology for project development cycles.

Gaps identified:

18. Guidance is needed on definitions and interpretations of various terms in the target, e.g. “degraded” ecosystems, and “effective” restoration. There is also a need for improved explanation of the scope of restoration vis-à-vis the continuum “reduction of impacts, remediation, rehabilitation, ecological restoration” with regards to the Convention, including the restoration of managed anthropogenic landscapes (enhancing functional uses).

19. One of the significant gaps is with regards to sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication objectives. Sustainable livelihoods and human well-being should be more prominent in restoration planning, including prioritizing ecosystems particularly important for the provision of goods and services for well-being, in particular poverty reduction, and ensuring the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable are met.

20. The partners to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in consultation with the CBD Secretariat, are currently developing the resource guide to assist Parties and other stakeholders to navigate various elements of Target 2 while setting up and monitoring national restoration targets⁸.

21. The topic is also highly relevant to Target 11 (ecosystem services). A related gap is regarding *the identification and prioritisation of “areas of high biodiversity importance”* (e.g. Targets 2 and 3). Most

⁶ “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate”

⁷ United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/284; 01 March 2019

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/areas-of-work/restoration-monitoring/target-2-roadmap/en/>

guidance at present refers to importance in terms of biological/ecological/conservation criteria with less attention to importance based on socioeconomic criteria, including sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.

TARGET 3: Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

22. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Protected Areas, Biological and Cultural Diversity, Tourism and Biodiversity, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Article 8(j)

Overview of tools and guidance :

23. Protected areas, a pillar of the work of the Convention since its inception, has a comprehensive set of tools and guidance. The programme of work on protected areas has been the main vehicle for delivery. A number of partners have been key in developing tools and guidance, in particular IUCN and its Commission on Protected Areas. The Ramsar Convention is the main source of tools and guidance for wetland protected areas. Areas beyond national jurisdiction were a significant gap in previous tools and guidance but are now being addressed under 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 (June, 2023).

24. “Recognizing indigenous and traditional territories” is a new concept for Target 3, compared to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. It is assumed that needs regarding this are covered by Article 8(j) and related guidance as are those for other aspects of indigenous peoples and local communities in the target. Most of the other elements of the target are also included in existing tools and guidance.

25. A number of terms in Target 3, including “areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services”, “effectively conserved and managed”, “ecologically representative”, and “well-connected”, “equitably governed”, “other effective area-based conservation measures” need guidance. Some are already clarified in previous guidance.

Gaps identified:

26. The main gap identified relates to *genetic diversity* including the relevance and inclusion of genetic diversity, including for small population sizes, and understanding genetic conservation approaches, terminology and methods. There is also a need to refine or update the scientific and technical guidance on other effective area-based conservation measures.

TARGET 4: Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

27. Agricultural Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing, Biological and Cultural Diversity, Tourism and Biodiversity, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Article 8(j), Ecosystem Approach, Ecosystem Restoration, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, Global Taxonomy Initiative, Impact Assessment, Protected Areas, Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Sustainable Wildlife Management.

Overview of tools and guidance:

28. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has been a major partner on identification of the status of and management of risks to threatened species. The FAO is a major partner regarding genetic diversity of domesticated species. Most of the programmes of work and many of the cross-cutting issues of the Convention (as listed above) support various elements of this target. Target 4 overlaps with Target 3 with regards to “in-situ” conservation (protected areas).

Gaps identified:

29. In its [recommendation 25/7](#) the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management to undertake, in line with the mandate of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework, a further gap analysis to identify areas that are not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations. It also requested the Executive Secretary, in undertaking the further analysis as noted above, to solicit views and inputs from Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental bodies. In response to this request, the Secretariat issued [notification 2023-121](#). This process is ongoing and will be discussed at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) and should be considered in addition to what is contained in the present document.

30. The main gap is with regards to tools and guidance for “human-wildlife interactions and minimizing human-wildlife conflict”. Work by the IUCN Species Survival Commission and its working group on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence is relevant.

31. A second gap is with regards to tools for the gathering of information on the threat status of species at population and sub-population levels (genetic diversity). A similar gap is identified for Target 3.

TARGET 5: Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

32. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Ecosystem Approach, Global

Strategy for Plant Conservation, Impact Assessment, Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Sustainable Wildlife Management, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Article 8(j).

Overview of tools and guidance:

33. The target essentially includes sustainable use and trade. Previous tools and guidance for most thematic programmes of work and sustainable use of biodiversity are mostly relevant to sustainable use. Previous attention to harvesting of wild species through fisheries has been addressed mainly for marine fisheries (Aichi Biodiversity Target 6). The work of the cross-cutting issue on sustainable wildlife management (and the Sustainable Wildlife Partnership) has tended to focus on wildmeat. There is some scope to expand that work beyond wildmeat, including for plants, although existing work programmes cover aspects of this.

34. Regarding trade, the provisions and guidance of CITES are obviously relevant. However, this applies only to trade in endangered species. Further guidance includes the Principles of the Ecosystem Approach and the Addis Ababa Guidelines on Sustainable Use. IUCN has published the Global Species Action Plan to support action conserve animals, fungi and plants; it is relevant for Targets 5, 6 and 9 as well.

Gaps identified:

35. Appendix III of the *Summary for policymakers of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (2022) includes a very detailed list of knowledge gaps in information, data, indicators and scenarios. Further consideration to determine which of these might be priority gaps is needed. In paragraph 5 of its recommendation 25/7, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management to undertake, in line with the mandate of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework, a further gap analysis to identify areas that are not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations. The results are to be submitted to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

36. There is a gap in tools and guidance with regards *biodiversity and trade*, other than for endangered species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Tools and guidance are needed for inland fisheries to supplement previous attention to marine fisheries. This should include how inland fisheries can contribute positively to biodiversity conservation through supporting sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction, and ecosystem conservation and restoration. This gap also exists for Targets 9 and 10.

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.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

37. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Ecosystem Restoration, Impact Assessment, Invasive Alien Species.

Overview of tools and guidance:

38. Invasive alien species have been a cornerstone of the work of the Convention since its inception. The CBD policy support tools are widely used to frame actions against invasive alien species, particularly decision VI/23: Guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien

species that threaten ecosystems, habitats, or species (2002) and Guidance on pathways of introduction of invasive species, their prioritization and management (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/9/Add.1) (2014).

39. There is an abundance of existing tools and guidance outside the CBD that are very relevant. One example is the invasive alien species databases (e.g., global invasive species database, GRIIS, CABI compendium, etc.), which seem to be widely used. GRIIS has been recently updated to include more national checklists, which will be useful for its role as a complementary indicator for Target 6. The IPBES thematic assessment on invasive alien species and their control is an important tool to guide actions on invasive alien species, and it is an extensive assessment of the global situation, providing also policy and management options. These tools are being used by local authorities as well as international organizations and initiatives working on matters related to invasive alien species.

40. However, overall, policies and their implementation have been insufficient in managing and preventing and controlling invasive alien species. Assessment of the progress towards meeting Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 concluded that there was still a considerable gap between the development and adoption of invasive alien species policy and implementation at national levels. This is due less to gaps in tools and guidance and more to do with issues of human resources, institutional mandates and awareness, among others.

41. SBSTTA recommendation 25/6 paragraph 8 endorsed the following elements of voluntary guidance developed on the basis of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species and further complemented through a peer-review process to support the implementation of the Framework:

- (a) Cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness and multi-criteria analysis methodologies that best apply to the management of invasive alien species, as contained in its annex I;
- (b) Identification and minimization of additional risks associated with cross-border e-commerce in live organisms and the impacts thereof, as contained in its annex II;
- (c) Management of invasive alien species as it relates to the prevention of potential risks arising from climate change and other drivers of biodiversity loss, as contained in its annex III;
- (d) Risk analysis of the potential consequences of the introduction of invasive alien species on socioeconomic and cultural values, as contained in its annex IV;
- (e) Relevance of databases to support the management of invasive alien species, as contained in its annex V; and
- (f) Additional advice and technical guidance on invasive alien species management, as contained in its annex VI.

Gaps identified:

42. No major gaps are identified other than the need to raise awareness of the tools and guidance and promote their uptake.

TARGET 7: Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

43. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Economics Trade and Incentive Measures, Impact Assessment.

Overview of tools and guidance:

44. The tools and guidance under the Convention relate to relevant aspects of the programmes of work and cross-cutting issues (as listed above), although the nature and impacts of pollution have changed somewhat since these and their guidance were established. Most of the guidance on pollution developed by the Convention relates to marine and coastal areas. The degree to which this guidance is being taken up and implemented varies significantly across different types of pollution and pollutants, different sectors, different biomes and stakeholders in different parts of the world.

45. There is substantial relevant guidance developed and being developed by partners and ongoing processes to support Target 7. Many other international organizations address different components of this target more directly, dealing with either specific types of pollution or specific sources/sectors associated with certain types of pollution, for example, the FAO for nutrient management in agriculture, various industrial organizations for industrial emissions and WHO and UNHABITAT for nutrient management through sanitation and hygiene. The UNFCCC is central regarding greenhouse gas emissions. Combined and consolidated action across these, and many other, actors is required to make substantial progress. Furthermore, the prevalence and impacts of certain types of pollution, and our understanding of these issues, have changed since these issues were addressed in the programmes of work and related guidance.

46. A number of other processes will be important for the achievement of this target, including WHO, UNHABITAT, FAO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNFCCC and the International Maritime Organization, among many others. Note is made of the Chemicals MEAs (the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and Minamata Convention on Mercury) and the recently adopted Global Framework on Chemicals and the mutual recognition of the relevance of these to the Framework, as noted at the sixth meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly⁹.

47. This target involves more than just the impacts of pollution on biodiversity. A very significant but invisible aspect of the target is the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services to “reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources” through, for example, nature-based solutions. This aspect is also an important component of Target 11.

Gaps identified:

48. There are several related gaps for this target, including:

- (a) Consolidated guidance on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in pollution mitigation (nature-based solutions), including guidance for specific sectors and/or sources of pollution;

⁹ For example see document UNEP/EA.6/INF/6

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/k24/000/90/pdf/k2400090.pdf?token=VkJgYJKyF1dXad8YR&fe=true>

- (b) Biodiversity considerations by sectors and stakeholders;
- (c) Alignment with other international processes that deal with these issues more directly – including as relevant to national implementation;
- (d) Understanding of the scope of the issue and what types and sources of pollution need to be addressed and prioritized;
- (e) Identification and acting on “highly hazardous” and assessing and dealing with risks.
- (f) Impacts of pollution on biodiversity and in different biomes (including which types and sources of pollution are of heightened interest for different biomes and species) as well as priority means to address these;
- (g) Guidance on role and synergies with the chemicals conventions and the Global Framework on Chemicals at national level; and
- (h) Tools and measures for plastics – but noting current processes to develop a [global instrument on plastics](#).

49. “Pollution” is recognized as one of the three “planetary crises” (in addition to climate change and nature loss) by UNEP and the United Nations Environment Assembly, among others. Therefore, to elevate the relevance and contribution of the Convention the opportunity is to raise pollution to a new major work area under the Convention. This should be based on working with major partners to provide added-value in priority areas. Further consideration of gaps and opportunities, including a more detailed assessment of the work of partners, can be used to define the priority tools and guidance needed under the work area.

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 solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

50. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Overview of tools and guidance:

51. Climate change has been a prominent focus of the work of the Convention, as well as a major area of work of many partners. A substantial range of tools and guidance has been developed under the Convention, including regarding nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, including for disaster-risk reduction. The degree to which these are being taken up and implemented varies significantly across different types of actions (adaptation/mitigation), different sectors, different biomes and stakeholders in different parts of the world. The concept of “nature-based solutions” is still relatively new, with the level of policy support tools remaining in its infancy, although accelerating. There can be an imbalance in the role of different ecosystems in helping to mitigate climate change, and in providing adaptation benefits, particularly the continuing efforts on forests, with less attention to grasslands and wetlands. Existing guidance may not have the level of detail required for direct uptake into policy, specifically with respect to certain sectors although there is limited feedback from the national level to assess the extent of gaps.

52. Several other processes will be important for the achievement of this target, including UNFCCC and IPCC. Partners include UNEP, UNDP, FAO and numerous others, which are all considering the biodiversity-climate nexus from various perspectives. Previous constraints regarding definitions of nature-based solutions should have been overcome through the adoption of the definition by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5).

Gaps identified:

53. There is a potential gap in tools and guidance for synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity/ecosystem services and climate change mitigation/adaptation financing. The “voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction” (CBD Technical Series number 93) need to be updated to include mitigation.

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.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

54. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Sustainable Wildlife Management, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Article 8(j)

Overview of tools and guidance:

55. Sustainable use is a cornerstone of the Convention and, therefore, integrated into most relevant programmes of work, cross-cutting issues and related tools and guidance. Fisheries are overwhelmingly based on wild species, and relevant guidance applies. The cross-cutting issue “sustainable wildlife management” has been addressing the topic particularly through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife, although this has focussed mainly on wildmeat. Customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities has been covered largely through work relating to Article 8(j) and the tools and guidance generated. IUCN has published the [Global Species Action Plan](#) to support action to conserve animals, fungi and plants; it is relevant for Targets 5, 6 and 9 as well.

Gaps identified:

56. A number of terms in the target are in need of definitions and/or guidance, although for some this may prove problematic. Examples include: “those most dependent on biodiversity” that would need in particular to consider poverty reduction (see related comments under Target 2 above) and “biodiversity-based activities, products and services”. Previous tools and guidance for fisheries have focussed on marine fisheries, and a gap is with regards to inland fisheries that are different in nature (see related comments for Target 5 above).

57. Most of the work on sustainable wildlife management has concentrated on wildmeat. There is more limited attention to sustainable management of other biota, including plants, and medicinal and other uses.

58. In [recommendation 25/7](#) the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management to undertake, in line with the mandate of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework, a further gap analysis to identify areas that are not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations. It also requested the Executive Secretary, in undertaking the further analysis as noted above, to solicit views and inputs from Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental bodies. In response to this request, the Secretariat issued [notification 2023-121](#). This process is ongoing and will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

TARGET 10: Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

59. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Biological and Cultural Diversity, Biodiversity for Development, Climate Change and Biodiversity, Economics Trade and Incentive Measures, Ecosystem Approach, Ecosystem Restoration, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, Impact Assessment, Protected Areas, Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Sustainable Wildlife Management, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Article 8(j)

Overview of tools and guidance:

60. The Target essentially involves sustainability and related tools, and guidance across the Convention is relevant. Many partners are active in this area. The tools and guidance related to this target are mainly from the FAO that is also the custodian of the SDG Indicator 2.4.1 (Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture), which is closely related to the Target 10 headline indicator 10.1. (Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture). Also, FAO is the custodian of SDG indicator 15.2.1 (sustainable forest management), which is related to Target 10 headline indicator 10.2 (progress towards sustainable forest management). FAO would be a lead source of guidance on issues with definitions. Many other intergovernmental organizations, such as regional fishery bodies, and non-government organizations also have tools and guidance relevant to this target.

61. Target 11 (nature's contribution to people) covers most of the relevant activities and tools, and guidance for that Target are highly relevant. Implementation of tools and guidance varies across the agricultural sectors and according to realities in each country. It also varies depending on the scale of management/productive area being addressed (e.g., guidance for community-managed small-scale fisheries will differ from guidance on large fisheries managed spaces in open ocean and deep-sea areas such as those managed by regional fishery bodies).

Gaps identified:

62. As noted for Targets 5 and 9, tools and guidance for inland fisheries is a gap. This would include tools and guidance for the integration of fisheries into productive landscapes. There is more limited guidance for aquaculture compared to the other sectors. Some relevant tools and guidance have been produced for sustainable aquaculture, and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries includes an introduction to the topic. Most of the guidance refers to marine aquaculture particularly in coastal areas but most aquaculture production is inland.

63. There are strong linkages between Target 7 (pollution reduction), Target 10 (sustainable practices) and Target 11 (ecosystem functions and services). Guidance on building on these linkages would be useful; although this might best be covered under the suggestion to raise pollution to a new work area under Target 7 (above).

64. Technically, "areas managed sustainably" would include the management of impacts on water resources both in the locality and downstream, but there remains a danger that water resources are invisible. The gaps identified regarding IWRM for Target 1 (above) are therefore relevant.

TARGET 11: Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

65. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Ecosystem Approach, Ecosystem Restoration, Health and Biodiversity

Overview of tools and guidance:

66. There has been much attention to this target, with overall assessments done by, for example, IPBES, the IPCC and FAO. Most of the elements of this target also have dedicated tools and guidance, including for restoration (Target 2), pollution (Target 7), climate (Target 8) and sustainable landscapes (Target 10). Specific guidance under the Convention has been produced, for example, for soil biodiversity, pollinators, biodiversity and health, and poverty reduction, among many other areas. Most of the other relevant processes and partners are important for tools and guidance for the achievement of this target.

67. The degree to which these are being taken up and implemented varies significantly across different types of actions (adaptation/mitigation), different sectors, different biomes and stakeholders in different parts of the world. Existing guidance may not have the level of detail required for direct uptake into policy, specifically with respect to certain sectors but there is insufficient feedback from the national level on this issue.

Gaps identified:

68. Target 11 represent a socio-economic dimension of Target 2 on ecosystem restoration. Target 11 reinforces the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (decision 15/4, annex para. 3) and the Principles of the Rio Declaration (decision 15/4 annex section C para. 7(k)). Principle 1 reinforces the centrality of humans, and Principle 5 highlights the essential task of eradicating poverty. Although the Convention has consistently drawn attention to these linkages (notably, *inter alia*, through decision XII/5 and its annex on the Chennai Guidelines for the Integration of Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication), they can be weakly reflected, or absent, in guidance for many relevant targets. Relevant tools and guidance should include how activities and approaches deliver on these outcomes and how this is monitored, particularly at national level. Sustainable livelihoods and human well-being should be more prominent in restoration planning, including prioritizing ecosystems particularly important for the provision of goods and services for well-being, in particular poverty reduction, and ensuring the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

69. In addition to matters of rights and equity, integrating sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction into interventions can significantly improve outcomes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Target 11 is a good example of this gap in tools and guidance particularly for those ecosystems where there is a high degree of dependency of local people directly on sustainable use of biodiversity, mainly in developing countries. The emphasis of most current guidance on restoration puts ecological outcomes, including nature conservation, as the primary objective, with human well-being, and more rarely livelihoods and poverty reduction, as a secondary or implied outcome. Putting people first has significant implications for project design, monitoring of impacts and the prioritization of sites for restoration. Notably, it highlights the need for winners and losers to be identified and managed. Absence of guidance on synergies and trade-offs in restoration is a conspicuous related gap (although not limited to poverty). Many restoration efforts have failed because of, *inter alia*, inadequate attention to livelihood needs, limited consideration of trade-offs, inequitable distribution of benefits and costs, and limited or ineffective engagement with

decision makers and planners. Importantly, national programmes focused on poverty reduction and livelihood security can be a major source of funding for ecosystem restoration.

70. A gap is with regards to synergies and trade-offs between ecosystem services bundles. The topic has been well-assessed by IPBES, among others, but guidance on how to operationalise this in terms of practical decision-making, including at local level, may be lacking.

71. Plan of Action 2018-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (annex to decision 14/6) would benefit from guidelines and best practices for its implementation.

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.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

72. Agricultural Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Biodiversity for Development, Ecosystem Approach, Ecosystem Restoration, Health and Biodiversity

Overview of tools and guidance:

73. Some of the programmes of work under the CBD, in particular forest biodiversity and inland waters biodiversity, touch, albeit minimally, on urban planning and green spaces. Other programmes of work do not address this issue. Although work under the Convention on the issue of biodiversity and health has addressed issues highly relevant to Target 12, there is a need for further guidance on this issue.

74. Most of the relevant tools and guidance under the Convention stem from work areas related to cities and biodiversity, sub-national governments, and other local authorities. Observations on Target 1 (spatial planning) are also relevant. Major partners include the WHO and UNHABITAT, among many others, and their relevant tools and guidance.

75. The target and its guidance relate to a wide range of issues, including health and biodiversity, recreational activities and tourism, and urban planning. Furthermore, many of the key actors who need to implement the guidance and take action to achieve the target may not be a part of the “biodiversity community” and may not engage in discussions on these issues under the CBD.

76. Guidelines from FAO are relevant: criteria to become a FAO Green City (1000 cities expected by 2030), design of urban forests, including an atlas of case studies (early 2024), guidelines for the valorisation of urban nature-based solutions (mid 2024) as well as those from WHO.

Gaps identified:

77. The main gaps can be combined under “biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning for urban areas particularly for green and blue spaces” noting that this would be part of the further tools and guidance on spatial planning for Target 1.

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.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

78. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing , Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Article 8(j)

Overview of tools and guidance:

79. Most of the guidance under the Convention has been developed under the auspices of the Nagoya Protocol. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has developed additional tools and guidance and remains a key partner. The Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House is the Convention's main platform for exchange of information on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing and includes a wealth of information to support countries in their policy-making efforts as well as development and implementation of access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing framework systems.

Gaps identified:

80. The current work on indicators to measure benefit-shared (monetary and non-monetary) will help to fill some current gaps on tools and methodologies. No other major gaps are identified.

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 this framework.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

81. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Biodiversity for Development, Climate Change and Biodiversity, Economics Trade and Incentive Measures, Ecosystem Approach, Ecosystem Restoration, Impact Assessment

Overview of tools and guidance:

82. The overall work of the Convention on mainstreaming and related tools and guidance, is relevant to Target 14. A number of its elements also have associated tools and guidance, including for multiple values (including relevant work of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity assessments, and similar assessments, including at national level, and IPBES¹⁰), strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments, national accounting (notably the System of Economic Environment Accounting) and for financing under the Biodiversity Finance Initiative and related initiatives, among many others.

¹⁰ IPBES 2022. Pascual et al. (eds.). Summary for Policymakers of the Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6522392>

Gaps identified:

83. There may be a need for further guidance for mainstreaming for various sectors. The gaps in sectors have not been assessed in detail but energy, industry and fashion are known to be weakly addressed; although some partners are working further on some of these. Dealing with synergies and trade-offs is another area where guidance can be needed at the practical decision-making level. This includes between the Paris Agreement, 2030 Agenda and the Framework.

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.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

84. Agricultural Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Biodiversity for Development, Economics Trade and Incentive Measures, Impact Assessment

Overview of tools and guidance:

85. Much of the information on what needs to be considered is provided through tools and guidance for the Framework as a whole. Further needs for Target 15 refer to operationalizing that guidance for the purposes of business and financial institutions. There is limited guidance adopted by the Convention itself, although a number of supporting technical and information documents exist. IPBES has provided guidance on biodiversity measurement processes by business and financial institutions. Some Parties and regional economic integration organizations have produced quite advanced guidance and policies. The business sector has played a leading role in developing and promoting tools and guidance. UNDP and UNEP, among other United Nations organizations, are playing an active role in relevant areas.

Gaps identified:

86. Since the adoption of the GBF there has been substantial work done on corporate and financial disclosure focusing on risks, but it is important to underscore that current reporting practices on biodiversity are limited by a lack of broadly accepted measurement approaches for impacts and dependencies on biodiversity.

87. Further, most of the readily available guidance is generic across business and finance. There is a need for specific guidance for various sectors although there is insufficient feedback from Parties on which sectors would be a priority.

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.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

88. Agricultural Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Sustainable Wildlife Management

Overview of tools and guidance:

89. There are a few policy briefs produced by UNEP notably, “*Integrating biodiversity into sustainable production and consumption activities*”¹¹; and “*Driving sustainability through public procurement of infrastructure*”¹² but this is insufficient to support Parties in establishing policies and frameworks at the local level.

90. There is limited guidance adopted by the Convention itself. There is much supplementary information on the impacts of over-consumption and sustainable consumption choices. This is perhaps most developed for food systems. FAO, UNDP and UNEP, among other United Nations agencies, are active in this area. Much of the information, however, refers to illuminating the impacts of unsustainable consumption on biodiversity. There is less guidance on “establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives”. The private sector will be critical in implementing actions to achieve this target, and therefore Target 15 is also particularly relevant.

Gaps identified:

91. There has been some work done by partners on sustainable consumption in some sectors. But this can be supplemented with further guidance to address impacts of unsustainable consumption practices on the conservation and sustainable use of diverse ecosystems. For example, while FAO worked a lot on sustainable fisheries, CBD built on their work and developed guidance on addressing the impacts of unsustainable fishing practices on marine biodiversity.

92. There are likely important gaps in guidance for other specific sectors. Although feedback from Parties is insufficient to enable prioritization, notable gaps likely include for energy, infrastructure, water, fashion and textiles. The guidance would need to cover more than just explaining relevant impacts but also provide measures to address those impacts (including as relevant in combination with action regarding Target 15). Further feedback from Parties is required in order to identify priorities beyond those addresses in previous decisions and work on mainstreaming.

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

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

93. Agricultural Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Impact Assessment

Overview of tools and guidance:

94. The [Biosafety Clearing-House](https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/knowledge-centre/resources/policy-brief-integrating-biodiversity-sustainable-production-and) (BCH) is an online platform for exchanging information on living modified organisms and is a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. It includes national information published by countries (primarily Parties to the Protocol) as well as a virtual library of biosafety resources, information on different living modified organisms as well as laboratories for their detection. Key guidance documents are available for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, socio-economic considerations in the context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and risk assessment and monitoring.

¹¹ <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/knowledge-centre/resources/policy-brief-integrating-biodiversity-sustainable-production-and>

¹² <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/knowledge-centre/resources/policy-brief-driving-sustainability-through-public-procurement>

- (a) The findings of the fourth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol assessment and review process, as well as other sources included a positive trend in the operational objectives related to the BCH and to information-sharing. The number of submissions to the BCH has more than doubled since the baseline, which is attributable to both developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, as well as developed country Parties. An increase of 64 per cent was reported in the number of visits. Furthermore, the number of referrals from social networks to the BCH increased by 160 per cent from the baseline, attributable mainly to Facebook. The number of decisions published in the BCH increased by 177 per cent since the baseline. In terms of completeness of information, the ratio of decisions versus risk assessment reports remained very high (96 per cent), showing an increase of 17 per cent from the baseline. The number of countries that had published biosafety-related laws or regulations in the BCH increased by 4 per cent (with 163 countries having submitted biosafety laws or regulations). The number of countries having registered national focal points for the Protocol and national focal points for the BCH has increased to almost 100 per cent. The BCH has become a more widely used tool for online discussions, which was visible both by an increase in the number of online forums established on the BCH (relating to the post-2020 implementation plan; public participation, education and awareness; and synthetic biology), the number of Parties having registered participants to online forums and the number of participants in online forums.¹³
- (b) Regarding the [*Voluntary Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms and Monitoring in the Context of Risk Assessment \(2016\)*](#), 49 per cent of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol reported to be using the “Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs” (developed by the Online Forum and the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management), and 65 per cent of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol indicated that their country has specific needs for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of LMOs.
- (c) Regarding [*Biosafety Technical Series 05: Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety \(2022\)*](#), no information is available through the assessment and review process on the use of the training manual because of the publication of the manual in 2022. However, in its decision CP-10/11, the COP-MOP welcomed the publication of this training manual. At the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, a recommendation is expected to be made to COP-MOP regarding the update of the training manual in light of the submissions by Parties and relevant organizations on new detection techniques; and
- (d) Regarding *Guidance on the Assessment of Socio-Economic Considerations in the Context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, contained in annex II of the [report of the AHTEG](#), no information is available on the application of the Guidance through the assessment and review process under the Cartagena Protocol. However, in decision CP-10/12, the COP-MOP to the Cartagena Protocol recalled the voluntary guidance, recognized the limited time available for Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to make use of it, acknowledged the need to gather and share further information on methodologies and approaches, and invited the submission of experiences in the use of the Guidance to the Executive Secretary, as well as examples of methodologies and applications of socioeconomic considerations in the light of the elements of the voluntary guidance. Accordingly, notification [2023-133](#) was issued on 11 December 2023. Information made available under this process will be presented to the COP-MOP at its eleventh meeting, to be held in October 2024.

¹³ CBD/SBI/3/3, section I.

95. Regarding the [Safety Assessment of Transgenic Organisms in the Environment, Volume 10: OECD Consensus Document on Environmental Considerations for the Release of Transgenic Plants \(2023\)](#), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development published their tenth volume of safety assessments for transgenic organisms in the environment in 2023. The series represents a compilation of science-based consensus documents developed by the Working Group on the Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology since 1995. The publication contains information for use during the regulatory assessment of organisms produced from modern biotechnology and intended for release in the environment, including general information on environmental risk assessment, key concepts, structure and planning. The publication could potentially support Parties with their application of annex III of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Gaps identified:

96. The main gap is relation to “*measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention*”, i.e. (i) whether Parties “take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties, especially developing countries, which provide the genetic resources for such research, and where feasible in such Contracting Parties”; and (ii) take all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties, especially developing countries, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties. Such access shall be on mutually agreed terms. Some guidance on measures for distribution of benefits from biotechnology, as set out in Article 19 of the Convention, exists in the context of the Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing provisions of the Convention and in the context of the Nagoya Protocol.

TARGET 18: Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

97. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Biodiversity for Development, Climate Change and Biodiversity, Economics Trade and Incentive Measures

Overview of tools and guidance:

98. Some key guidance has been provided through decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. UNEP, FAO, UNDP, OECD and WTO, among others, are active in this area. Perverse subsidies in fisheries are perhaps among the first to be given prominent attention regarding impacts on biodiversity, now spanning over five decades, although many still persist. The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) on 17 June 2022, marks a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies, which are a key factor in the widespread depletion of the world’s fish stocks. Significant perverse subsidies regarding biodiversity still persist, in particular in agriculture, although FAO and other agencies are at the forefront of efforts in that sector.

99. Much of the background information in the public domain refers to the identification of subsidies harmful to biodiversity. This is not consistently available across all sectors although further analysis is required to identify where priority gaps might lie. There is more limited information on how to actually transform the subsidies.

100. Transforming perverse incentives to those positive for biodiversity is a major source of additional financing to support the Framework and relevant to Target 19.

Gaps identified:

101. Further guidance is required on how to reform and/or phase-out harmful subsidies once they have been identified.

TARGET 19: Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030, including by: (a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least \$30 billion per year by 2030; (b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances; (c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments; (d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards; (e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises; (f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions¹⁴ and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity; (g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

102. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Climate Change and Biodiversity, Economics Trade and Incentive Measures, Impact Assessment

Overview of tools and guidance:

103. Relevant tools and guidance produced under the Convention centre on key COP decisions (including 14/15 and 14/16). The CBD panel on resource mobilization (established at COP 14) plays a lead role. The voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms (decision 14/3) and methodological guidance concerning the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities (decision 14/16) are key guidance. The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) led by UNDP plays a lead role in providing supporting guidance. The OECD and several non-governmental institutions also provide relevant assessments and guidance.

Gaps identified:

104. Increased attention to synergies and trade-offs among finance areas and sectors might be useful. Further guidance may be needed on section (c) leveraging private finance, and section (d) regarding scaling-up innovative schemes, together with clarification and guidance on section (f). These potential gaps would be best addressed through existing partnerships and support mechanisms.

¹⁴ Mother Earth Centric Actions: Ecocentric and rights-based approach enabling the implementation of actions towards harmonic and complementary relationships between peoples and nature, promoting the continuity of all living beings and their communities and ensuring the non-commodification of environmental functions of Mother Earth.

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

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

105. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Capacity Building and Development, Technical and Scientific Cooperation, Technology Transfer

Overview of tools and guidance:

106. All of the tools and guidance produced are for building capacity. Therefore, all needs and gaps identified are relevant to Target 20. Examples of tools and guidance specifically related to capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation are accessible on the Convention website.¹⁵ Capacity-building cuts cross all of the targets of the Framework. The Secretariat and partners have provided significant capacity-building support to Parties, though most of that support is not referenced on the CHM central portal.

107. Decision 15/8 established the long-term framework for capacity-building and development specifically to implement the Framework. This included establishing the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, which would be the main conduit through which further capacity-building needs are identified and addressed. The NBSAP forum is another important mechanism for obtaining feedback on needs from national level.

Gaps identified:

108. A study commissioned by the Secretariat in 2019 to provide the knowledge base for the development of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 provides an overview of the needs and gaps identified by Parties and stakeholders. The study report also noted a lack of guidance documents and resource materials (including guidelines, case studies, manuals, toolkits and report) to address those needs and highlighted the need to consider updating existing guidance documents and resource materials developed under the Convention and its Protocols or by partners, or provide new ones.¹⁶ The global synthesis report on national capacity self-assessments, published in 2010 by the United Nations Development Programme and others, also highlighted a number of capacity-development needs and gaps.¹⁷

TARGET 21: Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent,¹⁸ in accordance with national legislation.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

109. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity,

¹⁵ See: <https://www.cbd.int/cb/learning-approches-tools/>

¹⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/cb/forums/strategic-framework/final-report-study.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.undp.org/publications/national-capacity-self-assessment-synthesis-report>

¹⁸ Free, prior and informed consent refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”.

Communication Education and Public Awareness, Identification Monitoring Indicators and Assessments, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Article 8(j), New and Emerging Issues.

Overview of tools and guidance:

110. The Convention, Nagoya Protocol and Cartagena Protocol Clearing Houses, as well as national clearing house mechanism portals, are a key resource for knowledge sharing. A number of other dedicated resources provide additional support, including the Biodiversity e-Learning platforms, [Bio-bridge Initiative Web Platform](#), [Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative \(FERI\)](#), [Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas \(EBSAs\)](#), [Coral Reef Portal](#), [Sustainable Ocean Initiative](#), [Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative](#), and [CBD Decision-tracking Tool](#). Several voluntary guidelines regarding the use of traditional knowledge have been developed under the Convention with regards to Article 8(j).

111. InforMEA¹⁹ provides a further tool for information regarding the decisions and other activities of the MEAs collectively. Guidance on managing and mobilizing data, information and knowledge at national level will also made available through the knowledge management strategy of the Convention

Gaps identified:

112. Existing support mechanisms improve access to and dissemination of relevant best available data, information and knowledge but there has been limited assessment of guidance and accessibility of external guidance and through alternative knowledge platforms.

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.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

113. Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing, Biological and Cultural Diversity, Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative, Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices - Article 8(j)

Overview of tools and guidance:

114. The Convention has developed substantial guidance regarding indigenous peoples and local communities through related work, particularly under Article 8(j) and related provisions. Current support mechanisms under the Convention also relate to indigenous peoples and local communities. This has also been a leading source of guidance beyond the Convention. Aspects of gender are also covered under Target 23. There has been more limited attention to other groups, including children, youth and persons with disabilities.

Gaps identified:

115. The main gap is with regards to relevant considerations other than for indigenous peoples and local communities – that is, everybody else. It is also unclear the extent to which tools and guidance developed for the purposes of Article 8(j) and related provisions is applicable to other groups. Document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3 considers needs with regards to new elements introduced into the Framework beyond the targets themselves. This would also include needs regarding “protection of environmental human rights defenders”.

¹⁹ <https://www.informea.org/en>

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.

Most relevant programmes of work and cross-cutting issues:

116. Agricultural Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Gender and Biodiversity

Overview of tools and guidance:

117. The following are produced through CBD processes, including those produced in collaboration with partner organizations: information on gender considerations and advancing women's rights and gender equality within the draft post-2020 monitoring framework; addressing gender issues and actions in biodiversity objectives, best practices in gender and biodiversity, and guidelines for mainstreaming gender into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The key means of addressing gender is the Gender Plan of Action adopted in decision 15/11.

118. Most partners have also developed guidance on gender or integrated it into their activities. For example, the FAO undertakes country gender assessments; provided assessments of gender in key sectors such as The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems and provided guidance on developing gender-sensitive value chains and governing land for women and men, and gender, mainstreaming and biodiversity conservation. SDG Indicator 5.a.2 ("Ensuring women's legal rights to land ownership and/or control") is under the stewardship of the FAO. Similarly, UNDP, UNEP and other agencies have extensive support and guidance on gender.

119. There is limited information on the application of key existing tools that include: The UNFCCC 5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan; Advancing Women's Rights, Gender Equality and the Future of Biodiversity in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; Developing and Measuring a Gender-Responsive Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework: Information on Gender Considerations Within the Draft Post-2020 Monitoring Framework; Elements and Structure of a Gender-Responsive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

120. Many other international organizations and partners address different components of this target more directly and address specific sources/sectors associated considerations.

Gaps identified:

121. Gaps are observed in the following areas:

- Assessment of incorporation of gender into all other tools and guidance.
- Gender-neutral assessment of access to land and natural resources and the Framework. Target 23 only highlights this regarding women and girls but in many areas this is also a critical issue for men.
- Guidance to build the capacity of government officials and other key stakeholders to integrate gender in biodiversity policy and action to support the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action.
- Tools that effectively document lessons learned for mainstreaming gender-responsive policies in CBD and other international processes and also in relation to national implementation policies and initiatives.