



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
31 July 2025

Original: English

**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
Technical and Technological Advice
Twenty-seventh meeting
Panama City, 20–24 October 2025
Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda***
**Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation
of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:
strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work
under the Convention in the context of the Framework**

Strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work under the Convention in the context of the Framework

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 8 of its decision [15/4](#) on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided that the Framework should 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 according to the goals and targets of the Framework.
2. In paragraph 2 of its decision [15/33](#) on its multi-year programme of work, the Conference of the Parties decided that the development of further guidance for policy development and implementation should support the achievement of the goals and targets set out in the Framework.
3. In paragraph 9 of decision [15/4](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Framework to facilitate its implementation, and, on the basis of that analysis, to prepare draft updates of those programmes of work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as appropriate.¹
4. In summary, the Conference of the Parties has decided that the Framework serves as the strategic plan that drives the work of the Convention and its Protocols, its bodies and its Secretariat. It has also decided that all future policy guidance should be developed and implemented in support of the goals and targets of the Framework. In order to facilitate the implementation of the Framework, the Conference of the Parties has requested the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention to assess relevance, coherence and alignment with the Framework, and on that basis to prepare updates of the programmes of work, as necessary.

* [CBD/SBSTTA/27/1](#).

¹ As noted in paragraph 12 below, the strategic review and analysis is distinct from the functional review of the Secretariat.

5. In response to paragraph 9 of decision [15/4](#), the Executive Secretary prepared document [CBD/SBSTTA/25/4](#), which included the results of an initial rapid analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Framework. The full rapid analysis is contained in information document [CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/1](#).
6. On the basis of that and other information, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice adopted at its twenty-fifth meeting recommendation [25/3](#), in which it requested the Executive Secretary to: (a) undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that could support the implementation of the targets and other elements of the Framework; (b) compile views and information submitted as inputs for undertaking the comprehensive review and analysis; (c) identify gaps and redundancies, with a view to addressing those gaps and potential needs for updates; and (d) on the basis of the analysis carried out, prepare technical advice, including, if appropriate, recommendations for the adjustment of work undertaken under the Convention.
7. In response to that recommendation, the Secretariat prepared document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/3](#), in which it identified overarching scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Framework and their implications for the work of the Convention. A full gap and needs analysis for the Framework and how the existing programmes of work and cross-cutting issues supported the Framework was also provided in document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15](#).
8. In subparagraph 1 (a) of its decision [16/12](#), the Conference of the Parties recognized that the programmes of work and cross-cutting work of the Convention remained important tools to support the implementation of the Framework, although some programmes of work might need to be updated. In subparagraph 4 (e) of the same decision, it requested the Secretariat to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Framework to facilitate its implementation, to prepare draft updates of the programmes of work on the basis of the analysis, taking into account documents prepared for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body in relation to that work, and to submit them for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
9. In its guidance to the Secretariat regarding approaches for undertaking the work described above, the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body² clarified that the strategic review and analysis should cover all areas of work under the Convention, that an overarching strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work as a whole should be completed before reviews of individual programmes of work were undertaken and that updates to them should be on the basis of such analyses. The Bureau, however, excluded the reviews of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and of the programme of work on protected areas from that timeline, given that an intersessional process to update them had already been initiated and that they were tabled for consideration at the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings of the Subsidiary Body, respectively.
10. The Secretariat commissioned a team of consultants to carry out the strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention as a whole, which will be made available as document [CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/6](#). The present document contains a summary of the results of the review and analysis, information on opportunities for aligning the programmes of work with the Framework and draft recommendations for consideration by the Subsidiary Body.
11. As noted in paragraph 6 above, identified overarching scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Framework and their implications for the work of the Convention were brought to the attention of the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-sixth meeting, in document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/3](#). Consequently, the present document does not contain any additional analysis of scientific and technical needs or gaps but is focused instead on the alignment of the areas of work with the Framework and on their relevance to it.

² See the minutes of the meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body held from 1 to 3 April 2025 at www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta-bureau/sbstta-bur-2025-04-01-03-en.pdf.

12. Areas of potential further work identified pursuant to paragraph 4 (d) of decision [16/12](#) will be addressed under agenda item 6 (c) of the present meeting and are therefore not discussed in the present document.

13. Since the programmes of work are meant to be implemented by Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, the focus of the strategic review and analysis issued as document CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/6 is not on the operations of the Secretariat. The review and analysis, however, may serve as a useful source of information for the ongoing functional review of the Secretariat undertaken pursuant to the request from the Conference of the Parties in its decisions [15/34](#) (para. 35) and [16/28](#) (para. 11).

14. The strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work was undertaken with the generous financial support of the European Commission and the Government of Canada.

II. Methodology

15. As explained in paragraph 9 above, the strategic review and analysis contains an overview of the programmes of work of the Convention as a whole. It does not provide a detailed review of each specific programme. As guided by the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body, the review and analysis covered all areas of work under the Convention, namely, the thematic programmes of work formally established under the Convention,³ programmes addressing cross-cutting issues and other areas of work under the Convention, including those under the mandate of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.⁴ The programmes are referred to in the present document as “areas of work”.

16. The strategic review and analysis has been undertaken on the basis of two main sources of information: an assessment of the relevance and urgency of each area of work in the context of the Framework (provided in document CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/6, annex A); and an assessment of how each area of work aligns with the Framework (ibid., annex B).

17. The analysis was carried out in three steps:

(a) Step I: areas of work were grouped into two categories: (i) the eight official programmes of work formally established by the Conference of the Parties; and (ii) other work areas;

(b) Step II: information relating to each area of work was compiled, that is, key decisions of the Conference of the Parties, Secretariat support for the area of work, external partners and processes involved in each area of work, necessity for the continued leadership of the Convention in the area of work and assessment of relevance against the elements of the Framework;

(c) Step III: the areas of work were then divided into three groups, which do not represent any particular hierarchy Group A comprises areas of work, including biome-based programmes of work and cross-cutting areas, that comprehensively contribute to the implementation of the Framework and should be subject to regular review by the Conference of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies. Group B comprises areas of work that are relevant to one or more elements of the Framework and may benefit from integration with other areas of work. Last, group C comprises areas of work that are already adequately addressed through implementation by Parties or other multilateral agreements or processes.

³ Agricultural biodiversity, dry and subhumid land biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, island biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, mountain biodiversity and protected areas.

⁴ www.cbd.int/sbi/terms-of-reference.

III. Findings

18. The authors of the strategic review and analysis found that the areas of work could be categorized into three broad groups, on the following basis:

(a) Several areas of work⁵ contribute comprehensively to the implementation of the Convention and the Framework. These areas of work should be maintained in their current form;

(b) Some areas of work⁶ contribute to the implementation of the Framework to varying degrees, and their alignment with the Framework could be strengthened; many of them might benefit from integration with other related areas of work;

(c) Another group of areas of work⁷ may present opportunities to increase efficiency in the work of the Conference of the Parties by limiting ongoing investment in those areas by the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat and leaving their implementation to be led by partner organizations and Parties.

19. A draft version of the review and analysis was submitted for review by Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local governments and relevant organizations through notification No. [2025-078](#) of 5 June 2025, and 14 Parties⁸ and 13 organizations provided comments by the deadline of 30 June.⁹

20. The submissions received were focused on the purpose of the strategic review and analysis, methodology, conclusions and recommendations, and the implications of the recommendations, as summarized below.

1. Purpose of the strategic review and analysis

21. There were differing views on the purpose of the strategic review and analysis, which influenced the comments on and the interpretation of the findings of the review and analysis. Some submitters emphasized that the purpose of the review and analysis was to assess whether the programmes of work under the Convention were adequate and necessary to support the implementation of the Framework. Others endorsed the approach taken in the draft review and analysis (assessment of alignment, relevance, urgency and implementation needs).

2. Methodology

22. Many submitters expressed general support for the methodology used in the draft review and analysis, although some expressed concern that it was not applied in a consistent manner. Some pointed out that the rationale for categorizing areas of work into the three broad groups was often neither clear nor linked to the analyses contained in the annexes. A few submitters suggested that the review was incomplete.

⁵ Agricultural biodiversity; communication; education and public awareness; forest biodiversity; gender and biodiversity; health and biodiversity; inland waters biodiversity; invasive alien species; island biodiversity; liability and redress; marine and coastal biodiversity; monitoring, reporting and review; planning; protected areas; synthetic biology; and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (Article 8(j) of the Convention).

⁶ Business engagement; capacity-building; climate change and biodiversity; digital sequence information on genetic resources; economics, trade and incentive measures; ecosystem restoration; financial mechanism; Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; mainstreaming; resource mobilization; sustainable use of biodiversity; sustainable wildlife management; technical and scientific cooperation; technology transfer; and tourism and biodiversity.

⁷ Biodiversity and cultural diversity, biodiversity for development, dry and subhumid land biodiversity, ecosystem approach, Global Taxonomy Initiative, impact assessment and mountain biodiversity.

⁸ Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, European Union and its Member States, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Poland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

⁹ BaKoen Royal Council, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement, Consorcio para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Ecorregión Andina, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (two submissions), Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, National Indigenous Women Forum, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Nature Conservancy and United Nations Environment Programme.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

23. There were differing views on various proposals to merge or integrate several programmes of work, for example, merging the programme of work on protected areas with those on restoration and land-use planning under an umbrella programme on area-based conservation, or merging business engagement with mainstreaming. Some proposals were not supported, including integrating sustainable use of biodiversity into sustainable wildlife management, merging access and benefit sharing with digital sequence information on genetic resources, integrating the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation into agricultural biodiversity and merging certain elements of the mountain biodiversity programme with climate change and biodiversity.

4. Implications of the recommendations

24. Some submitters pointed out that the implications of the recommendations were not detailed in the draft review and analysis, for example, how the recommendations would facilitate the implementation of the Framework, how they would result in streamlining the work carried out under the Convention and what the resource requirements for implementing them would be.

IV. Final conclusions of the strategic review and analysis

25. The draft strategic review and analysis was revised to take into consideration the submissions received through the peer review, and the ensuing conclusions are summarized below.

1. Areas of work that make a direct and comprehensive contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

26. Most of the areas of work (including six programmes of work formally established by the Conference of the Parties) make a direct and comprehensive contribution to the Framework, and it is recommended that they be maintained close to their current form and regularly reviewed and updated (see table 1). In addition, three options for addressing the programme of work on protected areas are provided (see table 2).

Table 1

Areas of work requiring minimum adjustments

Agricultural biodiversity; climate change and biodiversity; communication, education and public awareness; forest biodiversity; gender and biodiversity; Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; health and biodiversity; inland waters biodiversity; invasive alien species; island biodiversity; marine and coastal biodiversity; planning, monitoring, reporting and review; synthetic biology; and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (Article 8(j)).

Table 2

Options for the programme of work on protected areas

- Option 1: protected areas become the focal area for all work related to Targets 1, 2 and 3 of the Framework
- Option 2: protected areas, ecosystem restoration and spatial planning are kept as separate areas of work
- Option 3: protected areas, ecosystem restoration and spatial planning are placed under one umbrella programme with three discrete areas of work

2. Areas of work with a scope that could be reviewed

27. Areas of work with a scope that could be reviewed contribute to the implementation of the Framework, but their alignment with the Framework could be strengthened. It is recommended to merge various areas of work, as shown in table 3.

Table 3

Areas of work that may benefit from enhanced integration with other related areas of work

- Business engagement, economics, trade and incentives, mainstreaming, and tourism and biodiversity
- Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer
- Financial mechanism and resource mobilization
- Sustainable use of biodiversity and sustainable wildlife management

3. Areas of work that may present opportunities for enhanced efficiencies

28. Ongoing investment by the Conference of the Parties in areas of work that may present opportunities for enhanced efficiencies (see table 4) could be limited, and their implementation could be led by partner organizations and Parties. All achievements could continue to be recorded on the website of the Convention and through the clearing-house mechanisms, as information sources.

Table 4

Areas of work presenting opportunities for improved efficiencies

Biodiversity for development, biological and cultural diversity, dry and subhumid land biodiversity, ecosystem approach, Global Taxonomy Initiative, impact assessment and mountain biodiversity

V. Proposed approach

29. The Subsidiary Body may wish to note the differing views among Parties on the purpose, conclusions and recommendations of the strategic review and analysis.

30. On the basis of the conclusions reached in the strategic review and analysis, the Subsidiary Body may also wish to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties aimed at better aligning the areas of work under the Subsidiary Body's mandate, taking into account their relevance and coherence with the Framework. The areas of work concerned comprise agricultural biodiversity; climate change and biodiversity; dry and subhumid land biodiversity; ecosystem approach; forest biodiversity; the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; the Global Taxonomy Initiative; health and biodiversity; inland waters biodiversity; invasive alien species; mountain biodiversity; planning, monitoring, reporting and review; sustainable use of biodiversity; sustainable wildlife management; and synthetic biology.

31. The Subsidiary Body may further wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopt a rolling schedule for the review and updating of those areas of work, under the framework of its multi-year programme of work and in line with the evolving needs identified to implement of the Convention and the Framework.

32. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to request that the Executive Secretary draw the attention of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to the findings of the strategic review and analysis, for its consideration, in particular in relation to areas of work under its mandates, including biodiversity for development; business engagement; capacity-building; communication, education and public awareness; economics, trade and incentives; financial mechanism; gender and biodiversity; mainstreaming; resource mobilization; technical and scientific cooperation; technology transfer; and tourism and biodiversity.

33. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may also wish to request that the Executive Secretary submit the strategic review and analysis to the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for consideration of the elements related to biological and cultural diversity and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.