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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Fifteenth meeting – Part II and resumed part II

Montreal, Canada, 7–19 December 2022

Nairobi, 19 and 20 October 2023

**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS FIFTEENTH MEETING**

Summary

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held the second part of its fifteenth meeting in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, and in Nairobi, on 19 and 20 October 2023. It adopted 35 decisions (see sect. I), including, in particular, on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The account of the proceedings of the meeting is contained in section II, while the annex contains the list of the organizations represented at the meeting.

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* For decision 15/1, see CBD/COP/15/4, sect. I.

I. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION*

15/2. Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services¹ and the related regional and thematic assessments;
2. Also welcomes the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways,² and on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate and on climate change,³ desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems;⁴
3. Takes note of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*,⁵ including its summary for policymakers, as well as the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*⁶ and the *2020 Plant Conservation Report*;⁷
4. Acknowledges with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the European Union, for the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;
5. Takes note of the general conclusions from the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;
6. Also takes note of the lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 identified in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;
7. Encourages Parties, and invites other Governments and local and subnational governments, as well as relevant organizations, as appropriate, to use the reports and to take steps to widely disseminate their findings, including by translating the reports into local languages and by producing other

* Decision 15/1 (Proposed interim budget for the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing for the year 2022) was adopted on 15 October 2021, during the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and is therefore included in the corresponding report (CBD/COP/15/4).

¹ IPBES (2019): *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

² IPCC, 2018: *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA.

³ IPCC, 2019: *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, USA.

⁴ IPCC, 2019: *Climate Change and Land: An IPCC Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

⁵ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020). *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*. Montreal.

⁶ Forest Peoples Programme (2020). *Local Biodiversity Outlooks 2: The contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and to renewing nature and cultures. A complement to the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook*. Moreton-in-Marsh, England (United Kingdom).

⁷ Sharrock, S. (2020). *Plant Conservation Report 2020: A review of progress in implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020*. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Richmond, United Kingdom. *Technical Series No. 95*.

appropriate communication products for different stakeholders, and to make use of the reports when implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

8. *Urges* Parties to take urgent action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss as identified in the *Global Assessment* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as well as those of climate change and land degradation, in an integrated manner.

15/3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision X/2 on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

Recalling also the conclusions of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*,¹ the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*² and the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that, despite some progress, none of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets has been fully achieved and that this undermines the attainment of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and other international goals and objectives,

1. *Welcomes* the updated analysis of national biodiversity strategies and action plans³ and of the national reports⁴ and the review of progress towards the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020⁵ provided in these documents;

2. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by Parties to reflect the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the efforts made to reflect issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities, traditional knowledge, the customary sustainable use of biodiversity and gender issues therein;

3. *Further welcomes* the efforts made by Parties to implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and their efforts to better reflect issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities and their traditional knowledge, to the customary sustainable use of biodiversity, and gender issues in the national implementation of the Convention;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Parties to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the efforts made by these groups to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;

5. *Notes with deep concern* that, while there has been encouraging progress towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, national targets set by Parties through their national biodiversity strategies and action plans were collectively not commensurate with the level of ambition set out in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implementation has been limited, and further, that the lack of adequate means of implementation has been a persistent obstacle to the implementation of the Convention and of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in developing country Parties, thus highlighting the need for enhanced international cooperation;

6. *Also notes with deep concern* that the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action⁶ has not been fully implemented and that while awareness and understanding of biodiversity and gender issues has increased, gender is not adequately reflected in the implementation of the Convention or in many national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

¹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020). *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*. Montreal.

² Forest Peoples Programme (2020). *Local Biodiversity Outlooks 2: The contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and to renewing nature and cultures. A complement to the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook*. Moreton-in-Marsh, England (United Kingdom).

³ CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1.

⁴ CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.2.

⁵ CBD/SBI/3/2.

⁶ Decision XII/7, annex.

7. *Further notes with deep concern* that, despite encouraging progress, the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and the consideration of traditional knowledge and the customary sustainable use of biodiversity have not been adequately reflected in the implementation of the Convention or in many national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

8. *Takes note* of the lessons from the review of progress towards the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 presented in the note by the Executive Secretary,⁷ and will consider these lessons, as appropriate;

9. *Encourages* Parties, when developing, updating or revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to take into account the lessons from the review of progress towards the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 at national and global level, as well as information contained in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* and the review of implementation of the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

10. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and organizations to support national dialogues with indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders, including women and youth, on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁸

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, and with the participation of the Parties, to organize international dialogues with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, including women and youth, on progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030).⁹

⁷ CBD/SBI/3/2.

⁸ Decision 15/4.

⁹ Decision 15/11, annex.

15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [14/34](#), in which it adopted the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and decided to establish an open-ended intersessional working group to support its preparation,

Noting the outcomes of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, of the regional and thematic consultations and workshops conducted based on decision 14/34 and of the intersessional work conducted on digital sequence information on genetic resources,¹

Noting also the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation,²

Expressing its gratitude to the following Governments and organizations for hosting these consultations, as well as for their financial contributions: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechia, Kenya, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay, as well as the African Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and Tourism Montreal

Expressing its gratitude to the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada) and Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda), for supporting the development of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Welcoming the submissions by Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, United Nations organizations and programmes, other multilateral environmental agreements, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, women's groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, citizens at large, and other stakeholders and observers providing views on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Alarmed by the continued loss of biodiversity and the threat that this poses to nature and human well-being,

Emphasizing therefore the need for a balanced and enhanced implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including its three objectives,

1. *Adopts* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Notes* that the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will be supported by the following decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting and affirms that these decisions are of equal standing to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(a) Decision 15/5 on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020>

² [CBD/WG8J/11/7](#), [CBD/SBSTTA/23/9](#), [CBD/SBSTTA/24/12](#) and [CBD/SBI/3/21](#), respectively.

- (b) Decision 15/6 on planning, monitoring, reporting and review;
- (c) Decision 15/7 on resource mobilization;
- (d) Decision 15/8 on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation;
- (e) Decision 15/9 on digital sequence information on genetic resources;
- (f) Decision 15/13 on cooperation with other Conventions and international organizations.

3. *Also notes* that the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will be supported by relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocols, in particular the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;³

4. *Urges* Parties and other Governments, with the support of intergovernmental and other organizations, as appropriate, to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and, in particular, to enable participation at all levels of government, with a view to fostering the full and effective contributions of women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society organizations, the private and financial sectors, and stakeholders from all other sectors, to that end;

5. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to cooperate at the transboundary, regional and international levels in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

6. *Reaffirms* its expectation that Parties and other Governments will ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities are respected and given effect to in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

7. *Invites* the General Assembly of the United Nations to acknowledge the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to take into account the progress in its implementation when monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

8. *Decides* that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity 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;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to facilitate its implementation, and, on the basis of this analysis, to prepare draft updates of these programmes of work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as appropriate, at meetings during the period between the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and to report on this work to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

Annex

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Section A. Background

1. Biodiversity is fundamental to human well-being, a healthy planet, and economic prosperity for all people, including for living well in balance and in harmony with Mother Earth. We depend on it for food, medicine, energy, clean air and water, security from natural disasters as well as recreation and cultural inspiration, and it supports all systems of life on Earth.

³ Decisions CP-10/3 and CP-10/4.

2. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework seeks to respond to the *Global Assessment Report of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES),⁴ the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*,⁵ and many other scientific documents that provide ample evidence that, despite ongoing efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide at rates unprecedented in human history. As the IPBES global assessment report states:⁶

An average of around 25 per cent of species in assessed animal and plant groups are threatened, suggesting that around 1 million species already face extinction, many within decades, unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of drivers of biodiversity loss. Without such action, there will be a further acceleration in the global rate of species extinction, which is already at least tens to hundreds of times higher than it has averaged over the past 10 million years.

The biosphere, upon which humanity as a whole depends, is being altered to an unparalleled degree across all spatial scales. Biodiversity – the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems – is declining faster than at any time in human history.

Nature can be conserved, restored and used sustainably while other global societal goals are simultaneously met through urgent and concerted efforts fostering transformative change.

The direct drivers of change in nature with the largest global impact have been (starting with those with the most impact) changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasion of alien species. Those five direct drivers result from an array of underlying causes, the indirect drivers of change, which are, in turn, underpinned by social values and behaviours (...) The rate of change in the direct and indirect drivers differs among regions and countries.

3. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, building on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, its achievements, gaps, and lessons learned, and the experience and achievements of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in our societies' relationship with biodiversity by 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled.

Section B. Purpose

4. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework aims to catalyze, enable and galvanize urgent and transformative action by Governments, and subnational and local authorities, with the involvement of all of society, to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, to achieve the outcomes it sets out in its Vision, Mission, Goals and Targets, and thereby contribute to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to those of its Protocols. Its purpose is the full implementation of the three objectives of the Convention in a balanced manner.

5. The Framework is action- and results-oriented and aims to guide and promote, at all levels, the revision, development, updating, and implementation of policies, goals, targets, and national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and to facilitate the monitoring and review of progress at all levels in a more transparent and responsible manner.

6. The Framework promotes coherence, complementarity and cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, other biodiversity related conventions, and other relevant

⁴ IPBES (2019): *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

⁵ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020). *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*. Montreal.

⁶ IPBES (2019): The following paragraphs are taken from key messages A6, A, D and B respectively, of the *Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

multilateral agreements and international institutions, respecting their mandates, and creates opportunities for cooperation and partnerships among diverse actors to enhance implementation of the Framework.

Section C. Considerations for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

7. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its Vision, Mission, Goals and Targets, is to be understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated, consistent with the following:

Contribution and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities

(a) The Framework acknowledges the important roles and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and as partners in its conservation, restoration and sustainable use. The Framework's implementation must ensure that the rights, knowledge, including traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity, innovations, worldviews, values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities are respected, and documented and preserved with their free, prior and informed consent,⁷ including through their full and effective participation in decision-making, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,⁸ and human rights law. In this regard, nothing in this framework may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights that indigenous peoples currently have or may acquire in the future;

Different value systems

(b) Nature embodies different concepts for different people, including biodiversity, ecosystems, Mother Earth, and systems of life. Nature's contributions to people also embody different concepts, such as ecosystem goods and services and nature's gifts. Both nature and nature's contributions to people are vital for human existence and good quality of life, including human well-being, living in harmony with nature, and living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth. The Framework recognizes and considers these diverse value systems and concepts, including, for those countries that recognize them, rights of nature and rights of Mother Earth, as being an integral part of its successful implementation;

Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach

(c) This is a framework for all - for the whole of government and the whole of society. Its success requires political will and recognition at the highest level of government and relies on action and cooperation by all levels of government and by all actors of society;

National circumstances, priorities and capabilities

(d) The goals and targets of the Framework are global in nature. Each Party would contribute to attaining the goals and targets of the Framework in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities;

Collective effort towards the targets

(e) The Parties will catalyse implementation of the Framework through mobilization of broad public support at all levels;

⁷In this framework, 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".

⁸ A/RES/61/295.

Right to development

(f) Recognizing the 1986 United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development,⁹ the Framework enables responsible and sustainable socioeconomic development that, at the same time, contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

Human rights-based approach

(g) The implementation of the Framework should follow a human rights-based approach, respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights. The Framework acknowledges the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;¹⁰

Gender

(h) Successful implementation of the Framework will depend on ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and on reducing inequalities;

Fulfilment of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and their balanced implementation

(i) The goals and targets of the Framework are integrated and are intended to contribute in a balanced manner to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Framework is to be implemented in accordance with these objectives, with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, as applicable;

Consistency with international agreements or instruments

(j) The Framework needs to be implemented in accordance with relevant international obligations. Nothing in this Framework should be interpreted as agreement to modify the rights and obligations of a Party under the Convention or any other international agreement;

Principles of the Rio Declaration

(k) The Framework recognizes that reversing the loss of biological diversity, for the benefit of all living beings, is a common concern of humankind. Its implementation should be guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;¹¹

Science and innovation

(l) The implementation of the Framework should be based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge and practices, recognizing the role of science, technology and innovation;

Ecosystem approach

(m) This Framework is to be implemented based on the ecosystem approach of the Convention;¹²

Intergenerational equity

(n) The implementation of the Framework should be guided by the principle of intergenerational equity which aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and to ensure meaningful participation of younger generations in decision-making processes at all levels;

Formal and informal education

⁹ A/RES/41/128.

¹⁰ UN General Assembly Resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022.

¹¹ Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.I (vol.I)), United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8.

¹² Decision V/6.

(o) Implementation of the Framework requires transformative, innovative and transdisciplinary education, formal and informal, at all levels, including science-policy interface studies and lifelong learning processes, recognizing diverse world views, values and knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities;

Access to financial resources

(p) The full implementation of the Framework requires adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial resources;

Cooperation and synergies

(q) Enhanced collaboration, cooperation and synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, other biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes, in line with their respective mandates, including at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, would contribute to and promote the implementation of the Framework in a more efficient and effective manner;

Biodiversity and health

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

Section D. Relationship with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

8. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the same time, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the achievement of sustainable development in all its three dimensions (environmental, social and economic) is necessary to create the conditions necessary to fulfil the goals and targets of the Framework. It will place biodiversity, its conservation, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, at the heart of the sustainable development agenda, recognizing the important linkages between biological and cultural diversity.

Section E. Theory of change

9. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is built around a theory of change which recognizes that urgent policy action is required globally, regionally and nationally to achieve sustainable development so that the drivers of undesirable change that have exacerbated biodiversity loss will be reduced and/or reversed to allow for the recovery of all ecosystems and to achieve the Convention's Vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

Section F. 2050 vision and 2030 mission

10. The vision of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a world of living in harmony with nature where "by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

11. The mission of the Framework for the period up to 2030, towards the 2050 vision is:

To take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and by ensuring the

fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, while providing the necessary means of implementation.

Section G. Global goals for 2050

12. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

GOAL A

The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050;

Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;

The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

GOAL B

Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

GOAL C

The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

GOAL D

Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

Section H. Global targets for 2030

13. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. The actions set out in each target need to be initiated immediately and completed by 2030. Together, the results will enable achievement towards the outcome-oriented goals for 2050. Actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national circumstances, priorities and socioeconomic conditions.

*1. Reducing threats to biodiversity***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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

TARGET 8

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 actions¹³ 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.

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.

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,¹⁴ in accordance with national legislation.

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.

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

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.”

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.

Section I. Implementation and support mechanism and enabling conditions

14. Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the achievement of its goals and targets will be facilitated and enhanced through support mechanisms and strategies under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, in accordance with its provisions and the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

15. The full implementation of the Framework will require the provision of adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial resources from all sources on a needs basis. It further requires cooperation and collaboration in building the necessary capacity and transfer of technologies to allow Parties, especially developing country Parties, to fully implement the Framework.

Section J. Responsibility and transparency

16. The successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework requires responsibility and transparency, which will be supported by effective mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, forming an agreed, synchronized and cyclical system.¹⁵ This includes the following elements:

(a) National biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised or updated in alignment with the Framework and its goals and targets as the main vehicle for implementation of the Framework, including national targets communicated in a standardized format;

(b) National reports, including the headline and, as appropriate, other indicators in the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(c) Global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets to assess the contribution towards the Framework;

(d) Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, including the means of implementation, based on national reports and, as appropriate, other sources;

(e) Voluntary peer reviews;

(f) Further development and testing of an open-ended forum for voluntary country reviews;

(g) Information on non-state actor commitments towards the Framework, as applicable.

17. Parties may take the outcome of the global reviews into account in the future revisions and implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including the provision of means of implementation to developing country Parties, with a view to improving actions and efforts, as appropriate.

18. The mechanisms recognize the specific challenges faced by developing countries and the need for international cooperation to support them accordingly. Means of implementation, including capacity-building and development, and technical and financial support will be provided to Parties, especially to developing country Parties, to enable the implementation of these mechanisms for responsibility and transparency, including information on transparency of the support provided and received, and provide a full overview of aggregate support provided.

19. The mechanisms will be undertaken in a facilitative, non-intrusive, non-punitive manner, respecting national sovereignty, and avoiding placing undue burden on Parties.

¹⁵ Decision 15/6 on mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

20. Further recommendations on the transparency and responsibility mechanisms will be provided by the Conference of the Parties as necessary with a view to achieving the goals and targets of the Framework.

21. Future meetings of the Conference of the Parties will consider and provide any additional recommendation, as necessary, including on the basis of the outcomes from the reviews, with a view to achieving the goals and targets of the Framework.

Section K. Communication, education, awareness and uptake

22. Enhancing communication, education, and awareness on biodiversity and the uptake of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by all actors is essential to achieve its effective implementation and behavioural change, and to promote sustainable lifestyles and biodiversity values, including by:

(a) Increasing awareness, understanding and appreciation of the knowledge systems, diverse values of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystems functions and services and traditional knowledge and worldviews of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as of biodiversity's contribution to sustainable development;

(b) Increasing awareness on the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and of the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources for sustainable development, including improving sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication efforts and its overall contribution to global and/or national sustainable development strategies;

(c) Raising awareness among all sectors and actors of the need for urgent action to implement the Framework, while enabling their active engagement in the implementation and monitoring of progress towards the achievement of its goals and targets;

(d) Facilitating understanding of the Framework, including by targeted communication, adapting the language used, level of complexity and thematic content to relevant groups of actors, considering their socioeconomic and cultural context, including by developing material that can be translated into indigenous and local languages;

(e) Promoting or developing platforms, partnerships and action agendas, including with media, civil society and educational institutions, including academia, to share information on successes, lessons learned and experiences and to allow for adaptive learning and participation in acting for biodiversity;

(f) Integrating transformative education on biodiversity into formal, non-formal and informal educational programmes, promoting curriculum on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in educational institutions, and promoting knowledge, attitudes, values, behaviours and lifestyles that are consistent with living in harmony with nature;

(g) Raising awareness on the critical role of science, technology and innovation to strengthen scientific and technical capacities to monitor biodiversity, address knowledge gaps and develop innovative solutions to improve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

15/5. Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contained in annex I of the present decision;
2. *Decides* to use the period from 2011–2020, where data is available, as the reference period, unless otherwise indicated, for reporting and monitoring progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, while noting that baselines, conditions and periods used to express desirable states or levels of ambition in goals and targets should, where relevant, take into account historical trends, current status, future scenarios of biodiversity and available information on the natural state;
3. *Also decides* to consider a review of the monitoring framework in order to finish its development at its sixteenth meeting, and thereafter keep the monitoring framework under review, as appropriate;
4. *Notes* the value of aligning national monitoring with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting statistical standard in order to mainstream biodiversity in national statistical systems and to strengthen national monitoring systems and reporting as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances;
5. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments, the Global Environment Facility, the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other relevant organizations to support national, regional and global biodiversity monitoring systems, recognizing the need for enhanced international cooperation and capacity-building especially for developing countries;
6. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations to support community-based monitoring and information systems and citizen science and their contributions to the implementation of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
7. *Invites* the Statistical Commission, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant organizations to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
8. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group, with a time-bound mandate until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present decision;
9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review the outcomes of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators established pursuant to paragraph 8 above, to complete the scientific and technical review of the monitoring framework and to report its findings for subsequent consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;
10. *Decides* to consider the requirements for further work to fully implement and review the effectiveness of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at its sixteenth meeting;
11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, and subject to the availability of resources, to convene moderated online discussions on the monitoring framework;

12. *Invites* the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions to continue the development and operationalization of indicators related to traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples and local communities, and to report on this work to the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Request* the Secretariat to make information available on the progress and outcomes of this work to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with relevant partners:

(a) To facilitate the development of guidance on the development of regional and national monitoring systems and on the implementation of the monitoring framework, including on capacity-building and development to support its implementation, taking into account the special needs, circumstances and priorities of developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, also taking into consideration the special situation of developing countries, including those that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous area, in compiling and using the headline indicators, and component and complementary indicators when relevant, including in their national reports, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other national planning processes;

(b) To facilitate the use of relevant tools, including the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT), to facilitate national reporting and the sharing of information between multilateral environment agreements;

15. *Invites* the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation, with the support of the Secretariat and subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a set of complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant decisions adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and also based on previous experiences with the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as described in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*¹ and the 2020 Plant Conservation Report,² for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Annex I

MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. The monitoring framework is composed of the following groups of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

(a) Headline indicators (contained in table 1): a minimum set of high-level indicators, which capture the overall scope of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be used for planning and tracking progress as set out in decision 15/6. They are nationally, regionally and globally relevant indicators validated by Parties. These indicators can also be used for communication purposes;

(b) Global level indicators collated from binary yes/no responses in national reports. They are global indicators based on responses to yes/no questions to be included in the national reporting template. They will provide a count of the number of countries having undertaken specified activities;³

¹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020). *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*. Montreal.

² Sharrock, S. (2020). *Plant conservation report 2020: A review of progress towards the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020*. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montréal, Canada and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Richmond, UK. Technical Series No. 95.

³ Binary indicators will be further developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (see table 1 in annex II to the present decision) and made available for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

(c) Component indicators (contained in table 2): a list of optional indicators that, together with the headline indicators, cover components of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which may apply at the global, regional, national and subnational levels;

(d) Complementary indicators (contained in table 2): a list of optional indicators for thematic or in-depth analysis of each goal and target which may be applicable at global, regional, national, and subnational levels;

(e) The monitoring framework may be supplemented by additional national and subnational indicators.

2. The indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework meet, or will be able to meet by 2025, the following criteria:

(a) The data and metadata related to the indicator are publicly available;

(b) The methodology underpinning the indicator is either published in a peer-reviewed academic journal or has gone through a scientific peer-review process and has been validated for national use;

(c) The data sources and indicators are compiled and regularly updated with a time lag of less than five years between updates, if possible;

(d) There is an existing mechanism for maintaining the indicator methodology and/or data generation, including, for example, by a member of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, an intergovernmental organization or a well-established scientific or research institution, providing nationally applicable guidance on the use of the indicator;

(e) Indicators are able to detect trends relevant to the components of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(f) When possible, indicators are aligned with existing intergovernmental processes under the Statistical Commission, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics or the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting or utilize the existing work on essential biodiversity variables under the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network.

3. Headline indicators use methodologies agreed by Parties and are calculated at a national level based on national data from national monitoring networks and national sources, recognizing that in some cases headline indicators may need to draw on global datasets. If national indicators are not available, then the use of global indicators at a national level must be validated through appropriate national mechanisms. Headline indicators allow for consistent, standardized and scalable tracking of global goals and targets.

4. To facilitate the compilation and use of these headline, component and complementary indicators at the national level, enabled by effective national biodiversity monitoring systems and other information systems, capacity-building and development activities, technology and other support will be required. The Secretariat, together with organizations identified in the indicator metadata sheets as data providers, are invited to provide guidelines and information for the design or improvement and implementation of national monitoring systems to support the collection of data and the calculation of headline indicators. In this way, Parties will be able to effectively use the headline indicators, as well as component and complementary indicators, supported by adequate means of implementation, including capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation to fill monitoring gaps, especially for developing countries.

5. In order to maximize uptake and minimize the reporting burden, the list of headline indicators comprises a small number of indicators which are intended to capture the overall scope of a goal or target in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The headline indicators may not capture all components of a goal or a target but for analytical purposes can be complemented, as appropriate, with the component and complementary indicators.

Table 1. Headline indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

A. Goal/ Target⁴	Headline indicators⁵
A	A.1 Red List of Ecosystems A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems A.3 Red List Index A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500
B ^b	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems*
C ^b	C.1 Indicator on monetary benefits received* C.2 Indicator on non-monetary benefits*
D	D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems*
1 ^b	A.1 Red List of Ecosystems A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems 1.1 Percentage of land and sea area covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans*
2	2.2 Area under restoration*
3	3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures
4	A.3 Red list Index A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500
5	5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
6 ^b	6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment
7	7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential 7.2 Pesticide environment concentration*
8 ^b	-
9 ^b	9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species* 9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations*
10	10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management
11	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems*
12 ^b	12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all
13 ^b	C.1 Indicator on monetary benefits received* C.2 Indicator on non-monetary benefits*

⁴ For goals or targets marked with ^b: a binary indicator was proposed for inclusion for this goal or target and will be further considered by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.

⁵ Indicators marked with an asterisk (*): an agreed up-to-date methodology does not exist for this indicator. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will work with partners to guide the development of these indicators.

A. Goal/ Target⁴	Headline indicators⁵
14 ^b	-
15 ^b	15.1 Number of companies reporting on disclosures of risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity*
16 ^b	-
17 ^b	-
18	18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use 18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity that have been eliminated, phased out or reformed
19	D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems*
20	-
21	21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for monitoring the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
22 ^b	-
23 ^b	-

Table 2. Proposed indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
A	A.1 Red List of Ecosystems A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems A.3 Red List Index A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500	Ecosystem Intactness Index Ecosystem Integrity Index Species Habitat Index Biodiversity Habitat Index Protected Connected (Protconn) index Parc connectedness EDGE Living Planet Index Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	Forest area as a proportion of total land area Forest distribution Tree cover loss Grassland and savannah extent Mountain Green Cover Index Peatland extent and condition Permafrost thickness, depth and extent Continuous global mangrove forest cover Trends in mangrove forest fragmentation Trends in mangrove extent Live coral cover Hard coral cover and composition Global coral reef extent Global seagrass extent (Seagrass Cover and composition) Global saltmarsh extent Kelp canopy extent Macroalgal canopy cover and composition Cover of key benthic groups Fleshy algae cover Wetland Extent Trends Index Change in the extent of inland water ecosystems over time Forest Fragmentation Index Forest Landscape Integrity Index Biomass of selected natural ecosystems

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			Biodiversity Habitat Index Global Vegetation Health Products Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience Index (BERI) Relative magnitude of fragmentation (RMF) Ecosystem Intactness Index Biodiversity Intactness Index Ocean Health Index Extent of physical damage indicator to predominant seafloor habitats physical damage Wetland Extent Trends Index River Fragmentation Index Dendritic Connectivity Index Percentage of threatened species that are improving in status according to the Red List Number of threatened species by species group Wild bird index Mean Species Abundance (MSA) Species Protection Index Changes in plankton biomass and abundance Fish abundance and biomass Genetic scorecard for wild species Species richness/Changes in local terrestrial diversity (PREDICTS) Marine species richness Comprehensiveness of conservation of socioeconomically as well as culturally valuable species

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			<p>Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities</p> <p>Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction</p> <p>Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals)</p> <p>CMS Connectivity Indicator</p> <p>Species Status Index</p> <p>Intact Wilderness</p> <p>Expected Loss of Phylogenetic diversity</p> <p>Proportion of populations maintained within species</p> <p>Free flowing rivers</p>
B ^b	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems*	<p>Red List Index (for utilized species)</p> <p>Living Planet Index (for used species)</p>	<p>Levels of poverty in biodiversity dependent communities</p> <p>Ecological footprint</p> <p>Number of certified forest areas under sustainable management with verified impacts on biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Expected loss of phylogenetic diversity</p> <p>Red List Index (pollinating species)</p> <p>Green status index (pollinators)</p> <p>Air quality index</p> <p>Air pollution emissions account</p> <p>Zoonotic disease in wildlife</p> <p>Climatic impact index</p> <p>Ocean acidification</p> <p>Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources</p>

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality Eflow index Change in the quality of inland water ecosystems over time Change in the quality of coastal water ecosystems over time Level of erosion Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population Intact wilderness Biofuel production Maximum fish catch potential Population involved in hunting and gathering Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale Forestry Production & Trade (Wood Fuel) Trends in the legal trade of medicinal plants Visitor management assessment Number of formal and nonformal education programmes transmitting spiritual and cultural values in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves Number of mixed sites (having both natural and cultural Outstanding Universal Values), cultural landscapes (recognized as combined works of nature and people) and natural sites with cultural values including those supporting local and indigenous knowledge and practices

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			<p>inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves</p> <p>Index of Linguistic Diversity - Trends of Bilingualistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages</p> <p>Index of development of the standard-setting framework for the protection and promotion of culture, cultural rights and cultural diversity</p> <p>Cultural vitality index</p> <p>UNESCO Culture 2030 (multiple indicators)</p> <p>Processes and tools to monitor the implementation of a right to a healthy environment (e.g. included in NBSAPs and reported in national reports)</p> <p>Red List Index (for internationally traded species)</p>
C ^b	<p>C.1 Indicator on monetary benefits received*</p> <p>C.2 Indicator on non-monetary benefits*</p>		<p>Number of users that have provided information relevant to the utilization of genetic resources to designated checkpoints</p> <p>Total number of internationally recognized certificates published in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of checkpoint communiqués published in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance for non-commercial purposes</p> <p>Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting</p>
D	D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA) for		Finance mobilized for capacity-building

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
	<p>conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems</p> <p>D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems</p> <p>D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems*</p>		<p>Financial and technical assistance provided in dollars (including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation)</p> <p>Finance mobilized for promoting the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of technology</p> <p>Number of scientists per population</p> <p>Joint scientific papers published (in Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)) by sector</p> <p>Nationally maintained research vessels</p> <p>Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology</p> <p>Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study</p> <p>Global imports of information and communication technology (ICT) goods as presented by bilateral trade flows by ICT goods categories</p> <p>Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies</p>
1 ^b	<p>A.1 Red List of Ecosystems</p> <p>A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems</p> <p>1.1 Percent of land and sea area covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans*</p>	<p>Priority retention of intact / wilderness areas</p>	<p>Number of countries using natural capital accounts in planning processes</p> <p>Percentage of spatial plans utilizing information on key biodiversity areas</p> <p>Habitat patches located within marine protected areas or integrated coastal zone management (ICZM)</p> <p>Other spatial management plans (not captured as ICZM or marine spatial planning)</p> <p>Number of countries using ocean accounts in planning processes</p>

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation Percent of total land area that is under cultivation Extent of natural ecosystems by type Number of countries implementing national legislation, policies or other measures regarding FPIC related to conservation Ecosystem Integrity Index
2	2.2 Area under restoration	Extent of natural ecosystems by type Maintenance and restoration of connectivity of natural ecosystems	Habitat distributional range Index of Species Rarity Sites, High Biodiversity Areas, Large Mammal Landscapes, Intact Wilderness and Climate Stabilization Areas Increase in secondary natural forest cover Annual tropical primary tree cover loss Forest Landscape Integrity Index Global Ecosystem Restoration Index Free flowing rivers Percentage of cropped landscapes with at least 10 per cent of natural land Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience Index (BERI) Priority retention of intact / wilderness areas Status of key biodiversity areas Biodiversity Habitat Index Red List Index Red List of Ecosystems Living Planet Index Species habitat Index

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
3	3.1 Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures	Protected area coverage of key biodiversity areas Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) ProtConn Protected Area Connectedness Index (PARC-Connectedness) Red List of Ecosystems Connectivity Indicator The number of protected areas that have completed a site-level assessment of governance and equity (SAGE) Species Protection Index	Protected area downgrading, downsizing and degazettement (PD) Status of key biodiversity areas IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Number of hectares of UNESCO designated sites (natural and mixed World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves) Protected area and other effective area-based conservation measures management effectiveness (MEPCA) indicator Protected Area Isolation Index (PAI) Protected Areas Network metric (ProNet) Extent to which protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures cover key biodiversity areas that are important for migratory species Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and traditional territories (by governance type) Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) Percentage of biosphere reserves that have a positive conservation outcome and effective management Extent of indigenous peoples and local communities' lands that have some form of recognition Species Protection Index Number of countries implementing national legislation, policies or other measures regarding free, prior and informed consent related to conservation Red List of Ecosystems

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			Proportion of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecological regions which are conserved by protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures
4	A.3 Red list Index A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500	Living Planet Index Number of plant and animal genetic resources secured in medium or long-term conservation facilities Trends in effective and sustainable management of human-wildlife conflict and coexistence Green Status of Species Index Conservation status of species listed in the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved	Species threat abatement and restoration metric Changing status of evolutionary distinct and globally endangered species (EDGE Index) Percentage of threatened species that are improving in status Number of CMS daughter agreements Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals) Rate of invasive alien species establishment
5	5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	Red List Index for used species Living Planet Index for used species Sustainable use of wild species	Sustainable watershed and inland fisheries index Red List Index (for internationally traded species and for migratory species) Marine Stewardship Council Fish catch Total catch of cetaceans under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling By-catch of vulnerable and non-target species Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing Proportion of legal and illegal wildlife trade consisting of species threatened with extinction Illegal trade by CITES species classification

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			<p>Number of countries incorporating trade in their national biodiversity policy</p> <p>Proportion of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecological regions which are conserved by protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures</p> <p>Implementation of measures designed to minimize the impacts of fisheries and hunting on migratory species and their habitats</p> <p>Number of MSC Chain of Custody Certification holders by distribution country</p> <p>Trends of trade and commercialization in biodiversity-based products that is sustainable and legal (in line with BioTrade Principles and/or CITES requirements)</p>
6 ^b	6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment	<p>Rate of invasive species impact and rate of impact</p> <p>Rate of invasive alien species spread</p> <p>Number of invasive alien species introduction events</p>	<p>Number of invasive alien species in national lists as per the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species</p> <p>Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas (in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species)</p> <p>Red List Index (impacts of invasive alien species)</p>
7	<p>7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential</p> <p>7.2 Pesticide environment concentration*</p>	<p>Fertilizer use</p> <p>Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated</p> <p>Floating plastic debris density (by micro and macro plastics)</p> <p>Red List Index (impact of pollution)</p>	<p>Trends in loss of reactive nitrogen to the environment.</p> <p>Trends in nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Municipal solid waste collected and managed</p> <p>Hazardous waste generation</p> <p>Trends in the amount of litter, including microplastics, in the water column and on the seafloor</p> <p>Index of coastal eutrophication;</p> <p>Plastic debris density</p>

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			Red List of Ecosystems Underwater noise pollution Name, amount/ volume/ concentration of highly hazardous pesticides by type (per land/marine area) Pesticide use per area of cropland
8 ^b	-	Total climate regulation services provided by ecosystems and by ecosystem type (System of Environmental Economic Accounts) Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 which include biodiversity National greenhouse inventories from land use and land-use change BERI	Above-ground biomass stock in forest (tonnes/ha) National greenhouse inventories from land use and land-use change Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications Index of coastal eutrophication Carbon stocks and annual net greenhouse gas emissions, by land-use category, split by natural and non-natural land cover
9 ^b	9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species 9.2 Percentage of the population in traditional occupations	Number of people using wild resources for energy, food or culture (including firewood collection, hunting and fishing, gathering, medicinal use, craft making, etc.) Red List Index (species used for food and medicine) Living Planet Index for used species	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing Number of MSC Chain of Custody Certification holders by distribution country Spawning stock biomass (related to commercially exploited species)

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			<p>Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities</p> <p>Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/ forestry enterprise size</p>
10	<p>10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture</p> <p>10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management</p>	<p>Area of forest under sustainable management: total forest management certification by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification</p> <p>Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status</p>	<p>Agrobiodiversity Index</p> <p>Changes in soil organic carbon stocks</p> <p>Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals)</p> <p>Red List Index (pollinating species)</p> <p>Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction</p> <p>Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area</p>
11	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems*	<p>Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons, attributed to disasters per 100,000 population</p> <p>Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services</p> <p>Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g., PM2.5 and PM10) in cities</p> <p>Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality</p> <p>Level of water stress</p>	<p>Air emission accounts</p> <p>Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management</p> <p>Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</p> <p>Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (SDG indicator 3.9.1)</p>

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
12 ^b	12.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is green/blue space for public use for all	Recreation and cultural ecosystem services provided	
13 ^b	C.1 Indicator on monetary benefits received C.2 Indicator on non-monetary benefits	Number of permits or their equivalents for genetic resources (including those related to traditional knowledge) by type of permit	<p>Total number of transfers of crop material from the Multilateral System of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) received in a country</p> <p>Total number of permits, or their equivalent, granted for access to genetic resources</p> <p>Total number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance published in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of countries that require prior informed consent that have published legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of countries that require prior informed consent that have published information on access and benefit-sharing procedures in the ABS Clearing-House</p> <p>Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits</p> <p>Estimated percentage of monetary and non-monetary benefits directed towards conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p>
14 ^b	-	Number of countries with Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting	<p>Human Appropriation of Net Primary Production (HANPP)</p> <p>CO2 emission per unit of value added</p> <p>Change in water-use efficiency over time</p>

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
15 ^b	15.1 Number of companies reporting on disclosures of risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity*	Indicator based on the Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosures	Species threat abatement and restoration metric Number of companies publishing sustainability reports
16 ^b	-	Food waste Index Material footprint per capita Global environmental impacts of consumption Ecological footprint	Extent to which (a) global citizenship education and (b) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (i) national education policies; (ii) curricula; (iii) teacher education; and (iv) student assessments Recycling rate Life cycle Impact assessment (LCIA) e.g. LIME; Life-cycle impact assessment method based on endpoint modelling Levels of poverty in developing communities
17 ^b	-		Number of countries that have the necessary biosafety legal and administrative measures in place Number of countries that implement their biosafety measures Number of countries that have the necessary measures and means for detection and identification of products of biotechnology Number of countries that carry out scientifically sound risk assessments to support biosafety decision-making Number of countries that establish and implement risk management measures Percentage of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety implementing the relevant provisions of the Protocol

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			<p>Number of countries with legal and technical measures for restoration and compensation</p> <p>Percentage of Parties to the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress</p> <p>Percentage of countries with systems in place for restoration and compensation of damage to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity</p> <p>Number of countries that establish and implement risk management measures</p> <p>Number of countries with mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of and access to information on potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health</p>
18	<p>18.1 Positive incentives in place to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use</p> <p>18.2 Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity that have been eliminated, phased out or reformed</p>	Value of subsidies and other incentives harmful to biodiversity, that are redirected, repurposed or eliminated	<p>Number of countries with biodiversity-relevant taxes</p> <p>Number of countries with biodiversity-relevant charges and fees</p> <p>Number of countries with biodiversity-relevant tradable permit schemes</p> <p>Trends in potentially environmentally harmful elements of government support to agriculture (producer support estimate)</p> <p>Trends in the number and value of government fossil fuel support measures</p> <p>Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of gross domestic product (production and consumption)</p>
19	D.1 International public funding, including official development assistance (ODA) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems		Amount of funding provided through the Global Environment Facility and allocated to the biodiversity focal area

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
	<p>D.2 Domestic public funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems</p> <p>D.3 Private funding (domestic and international) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems*</p>		<p>Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation</p> <p>Amount and composition of biodiversity-related finance reported to the OECD Creditor reporting system</p> <p>Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries</p> <p>Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries</p> <p>Amount of biodiversity-related philanthropic funding</p> <p>Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology</p> <p>Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies</p> <p>Number of countries (and number of instruments) with payments for ecosystem services (PES) programmes</p> <p>Number of countries that have (a) assessed values of biodiversity in accordance with the Convention, (b) identified and reported funding needs, gaps and priorities, (c) developed national financial plans for biodiversity, (d) been provided with the necessary funding and capacity-building to undertake the above activities</p>
20	-		
21	21.1 Indicator on biodiversity information for the monitoring the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	<p>Species Status Index</p> <p>Extent to which (a) global citizenship education and (b) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are</p>	<p>Growth in number of records and species in the Living Planet Index database</p> <p>Growth in species occurrence records accessible through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility</p>

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
		mainstreamed at all levels in: (i) national education policies, (ii) curricula, (iii) teacher education and (iv) student assessments	<p>Growth in marine species occurrence records accessible through the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)</p> <p>Proportion of known species assessed through The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™</p> <p>Number of assessments on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™</p> <p>World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) bio-literacy survey (Biodiversity literacy in global zoo and aquarium visitors)</p> <p>Species Status Information Index</p>
22 ^b	-	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure	<p>Percentage of positions in national and local institutions, including: (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups</p> <p>Number of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure tenure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure</p> <p>Number of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control</p> <p>Number of protected areas that have completed a site-level assessment of governance and equity (SAGE)</p> <p>Trends in number of environmental human rights defenders killed annually, disaggregated by country and</p>

Goal/ Target	Headline indicator	Component indicator	Complementary indicator
			<p>gender; and number of indigenous environmental human rights defenders killed</p> <p>Land tenure of indigenous peoples and local communities by sex and type of tenure</p> <p>Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group</p>
23 ^b	-	<p>Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments</p> <p>Indicator on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action</p> <p>Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation; and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure</p>	<p>Percentage of positions in national and local institutions, including: (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups</p> <p>Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure</p> <p>Number of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>Number of protected areas that have completed a site-level assessment of governance and equity (SAGE)</p> <p>Percentage of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group</p> <p>Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control</p>

Annex II

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON INDICATORS FOR THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators will work:

(a) To provide technical advice on remaining and unresolved issues relating to the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as outlined by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, and to prioritize work on the following elements leading up to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

- (i) Support the work to address critical gaps to improve the monitoring framework, in particular on headline indicators that do not have an existing methodology, and advise on their implementation at the national level. Attention should be paid to fill gaps under Goals B, C and D and Targets 2, 13 and 14 to 22, given the imbalance in available headline indicators and their interlinkages across the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- (ii) Support the identification of important aspects related to the disaggregation and aggregation for each headline indicator, as applicable, including any methodological improvements as appropriate;
- (iii) Identify gaps in terms of the operationalization of each headline indicator, the management of data flows and advise on implementation at the national level;
- (iv) Keep the list of binary, component and complementary indicators under review;
- (v) Advise on the wording of questions to construct binary indicators to be used in national reports building upon table 1 below;

(b) To provide guidance to Parties on the use of indicators in national planning and reporting, including by reviewing how indicators are proposed for capture in the Online Reporting Tool for national reporting;

(c) To provide guidance to Parties on ways to fill temporal and spatial data gaps, including through the use of big data, citizen science, community-based monitoring and information systems, remote sensing, modelling and statistical analysis, and other forms of data and other knowledge systems, recognizing the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties to develop and access information tools;

(d) To provide advice on the existing capacity, gaps and needs in terms of capacity development, technology transfer and financing needs related to the monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

2. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will take into account:

(a) Previous work and experience under the Convention and other relevant programmes of work concerning indicators and monitoring;

(b) Statistical standards and development under the Statistical Commission or other statistical offices;

(c) Previous work and experience with other relevant global, regional, national and subnational monitoring frameworks, multilateral environment agreements, and knowledge systems;

(d) Recent developments and information on issues related to the indicators, their metadata and baselines.

3. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will be composed of 30 technical experts nominated by Parties, including experts on statistics and experts in relevant social and natural sciences, and up to 15 representatives nominated by observer organizations and other relevant organizations. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will select experts from the nominations submitted by Parties and organizations with due regard to representation of different areas of technical expertise, and ensuring balance in expertise on all aspects of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, also taking into account geographical representation, and the representation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth groups, and major stakeholders, gender balance and the special conditions of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, also taking into consideration the special situation of developing countries that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous area.
4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will nominate two co-chairs from among the selected experts.
5. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be invited to participate, ex officio, in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.
6. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group may also invite other experts, as appropriate, to contribute their expertise and experiences on specific issues related to the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.
7. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will primarily conduct its work electronically and, subject to the availability of resources, will also meet physically, if possible, at least twice during the intersessional period.
8. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group should be established and start its work immediately after approval by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at meetings held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Table 1. Global scale indicators to be considered for further development by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group and collated from binary (yes/no) reporting from countries through national reports

Note: This table is being shared with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group as an indication of the types of binary indicators that might be considered. This text has not been agreed or negotiated. It is being shared for information only.

1. Goal/ Target	2. Global indicator derived from binary reporting
B	Number of countries with national constitution or legislation recognizing and implementing and monitoring a right to a healthy environment
1	Number of countries using terrestrial and marine spatial planning to identify areas of high biodiversity importance in national development planning
6	Number of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species
8	Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications that reflect biodiversity
9	Number of countries with legal instruments to regulate the use and trade of wild species, and respecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities

1. Goal/ Target	2. Global indicator derived from binary reporting
12	Number of countries with urban sustainability plans referring to green and/or blue spatial management
13 / C	Number of countries that have operational legislative, administrative or policy frameworks which relate to Target 13
14	Number of countries with national targets for integrating biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts
15	Number of countries taking legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure that Target 15 is achieved
16	Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production (SDG Indicator 12.1.1)
17	Number of countries with capacity and measures in place related to Target 17
22	Number of countries recognizing the legal rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental human rights defenders, women, youth and persons with disabilities with respect to their traditional territories, cultures and practices
23	Number of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

15/6. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 6, 23, and 26 of the Convention,

Recalling also decisions IX/8, X/2, X/10, XI/10, XIII/27, 14/27 and 14/34,

Recalling further decision 14/29, in which it recognized that implementation by Parties and underlying commitments needed to be strengthened to bring the global community on a path towards achieving the 2050 Vision laid out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,¹ emphasizing that national reports, provided for in Article 26 of the Convention, continue to be a core element for reviewing progress in implementation as part of the multidimensional review approach, and recognizing that elements of the multidimensional review approach under the Convention should be technically sound, objective, transparent, collaborative and constructive, and aim to facilitate enhanced efforts by Parties,

Recalling that national biodiversity strategies and action plans are the main instrument for implementing the Convention at the national level and that national reports are the main instrument for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

1. *Adopts* an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review with a view to enhancing implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, comprising:

(a) National biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised or updated in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets as the main vehicle for implementation of the Framework, including national targets communicated in a standardized format by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(b) National reports submitted in 2026 and 2029, including the headline and, as appropriate, other indicators adopted in decision 15/5;

(c) Global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets to assess the contribution towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework considered by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting and at each subsequent meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the means of implementation, based on national reports and, as appropriate, other sources, to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth and nineteenth meetings;

(e) Voluntary peer reviews;

(f) Further development and testing of an open-ended forum for voluntary country reviews;

(g) Information on non-State actor commitments towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

2. *Decides* that future meetings of the Conference of the Parties will consider and provide any recommendations, as necessary, with a view to achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

3. *Also decides* that the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review will be undertaken in a facilitative, non-intrusive and non-punitive manner, respecting national sovereignty and avoiding placing undue burden on Parties, in particular developing countries;

¹ Decision [X/2](#), annex.

4. *Encourages* Parties to apply the Gender Plan of Action² in all aspects and at all scales of planning, implementation, reporting and review related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

Planning

5. *Adopts* the guidance for revising and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans contained in annex I to the present decision;

6. *Requests* Parties to revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, following the guidance provided in annex I to the present decision, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets, including those related to means of implementation, and to submit them through the clearing-house mechanism by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Requests* Parties not in a position to submit their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to communicate national targets reflecting, as applicable, all the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including those related to all means of implementation, in accordance with the reporting template provided in annex I, as a standalone submission, by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in advance of the full submission of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan;

8. *Urges* all Parties to use the headline indicators, supplemented by component and complementary indicators and other national indicators, in relevant national planning processes, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans, according to their national circumstances;

9. *Encourages* Parties to adopt the revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans as policy and/or legal instruments and to mainstream them (or elements thereof) with broader strategies and plans, such as national sustainable development plans, national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, in line with national circumstances and priorities.

Reporting

10. *Adopts* the guidelines for the seventh and eighth national reports contained in annex II, including the draft reporting template;

11. *Requests* Parties to submit their seventh national report by 28 February 2026 and their eighth national report by 30 June 2029, to enable the preparation of the global reviews, as per Article 26 of the Convention, using the template provided in annex II, recognizing the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties in preparing and submitting their national reports in a timely manner, and the need for enhanced international cooperation to support them accordingly;

12. *Encourages* Parties to collaborate, where appropriate, with other reporting processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant multilateral environment agreement reporting, including by using a modular data reporting tool, such as DART, on a voluntary basis;

13. *Requests* all Parties to use headline indicators and to provide responses on binary yes/no questions, as set out in the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in decision 15/5, in their national reports, and supplemented, as appropriate, by optional component and complementary indicators also included therein and other national indicators providing flexibility in the progressive implementation of this paragraph to countries, particularly developing countries, in the light of the fact that not all indicators are currently ready and of the need for capacity-building and development on the headline indicators;

² Decision 15/11, annex.

14. *Requests* Parties to include qualitative information in addition to the quantitative information on Goal D and Target 19, particularly in terms of the provisioning of means of implementation;

Review

15. *Decides* to consider, at its sixteenth meeting and at each subsequent meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a global analysis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present decision, to assess the contribution towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

16. *Also decides* to conduct a global review of the collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the means of implementation, at its seventeenth and nineteenth meetings, based on national reports and, as appropriate, other sources of information;

17. *Further decides* to mandate the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to develop the concrete procedures for the global review mentioned in paragraph 16 above, including on the use of indicators, and to prepare the review for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

18. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its twenty-fifth meeting, to provide advice on relevant scientific, technical and technological inputs that should inform the global review mentioned in paragraph 16, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

19. *Decides* that the Conference of the Parties will consider and provide any additional recommendations, as necessary, at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, on the basis of the inputs received pursuant to paragraphs 15 and 16, with a view to achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

20. *Recognizes* that Parties may take the outcome of the global review into account in future revisions and implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including the provision of means of implementation to developing country Parties, with a view to improving actions and efforts, as appropriate;

21. *Invites* Parties hosting the seventeenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to consider organizing a high-level discussion on the review of progress towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

Cooperation, synergies and stakeholder engagement

22. *Recognizes* that other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements will contribute to the implementation with respect to relevant or corresponding elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework consistent with their mandates and priorities;

23. *Encourages* Parties:

(a) To include in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, relevant actions to implement commitments and recommendations under each of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to which they are a party;

(b) To facilitate, as appropriate, engagement with and coordination among focal points for other relevant multilateral environment agreements and the Rio conventions;

(c) To enable the full and effective participation and engagement of women, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, all levels of government and stakeholders from all other relevant sectors, in all levels of development and implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as in the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports;

(d) To ensure consultations in order to obtain the free, prior and informed consent³ of indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, in their engagement and participation in the updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets, with respect to measures that may affect them.

24. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to cooperate at the regional and international levels in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

25. *Takes note* of the core reporting elements for sharing voluntary non-State actor commitments that contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be included in the online platform for the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming and Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People;

26. *Invites* indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, other multilateral environmental agreements, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, research organizations, the business and finance community and representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, to develop, on a voluntary basis, commitments contributing to national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to share them through the online platform for the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming and Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People;

Means of implementation

27. *Requests* Parties, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to provide financial and technical support for enabling the implementation of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework described in the present decision, especially for developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States;

28. *Invites* relevant international, regional, subregional or national organizations to support Parties in updating and revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in the preparation of national reports, including through the provision of relevant data, support for implementation of the monitoring framework and information and capacity-development activities;

29. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the operationalization of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review set out in paragraph 1 of the present decision, including, as appropriate, by:

(a) Supporting the implementation of the guidelines set out in annexes I and II to the present decision;

(b) Supporting the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the further development and/or piloting of the template contained in annex II to the present decision, and of core elements for reporting of non-State actors, where needed, and in an inclusive and transparent manner;

(c) Supporting the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the further development and piloting of a modus operandi of an open-ended forum for the voluntary country review, which may include possible expert assisted reviews;

(d) Further developing the online reporting tool for national reports on the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;

(e) Further developing the online decision-tracking tool;

³ 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”, as applicable.

(f) Further developing a mechanism for tracking commitments of non-State actors, including voluntary online reporting, in accordance with the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming and Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People;

(g) Facilitating of the voluntary use of modular tools for data reporting, such as the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT);

(h) Compiling views from Parties on the concrete procedures for the global review mentioned in paragraph 16 of the present decision, to support the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the development of these procedures;

(i) Coordinating the preparation of the inputs referred to in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the present decision in a transparent manner;

(j) Coordinating and collaborating with relevant partners to provide necessary capacity-building and development and other support, in particular to developing countries, to improve planning, monitoring, reporting and review;

30. *Welcomes* the financial and in-kind contributions, including from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, to initiatives intended to contribute to the support of the updating or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and invites donors, Governments and multilateral and bilateral agencies to make funds available to support planning, monitoring, reporting and review, in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including for the development and strengthening of national monitoring and information management systems.

Annex I

GUIDANCE FOR REVISING OR UPDATING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS TO ALIGN WITH THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the main vehicle for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level. They are expected to be a key component of the enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism of the Convention for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The present document provides guidance on revising or updating NBSAPs in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This guidance is in line with Article 6 of the Convention and complements previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties on various aspects of NBSAPs (in particular decision IX/8, para. 8, and decision X/2, para. 3). This guidance also takes into account calls to integrate and mainstream biosafety and access and benefit-sharing in NBSAPs pursuant to relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, as appropriate.⁴

2. National biodiversity strategies and action plans should be seen as an umbrella process under which all national targets and actions relevant to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework can be planned, implemented, monitored, reviewed and enhanced. They are the main instrument through which Parties establish and communicate their national contribution towards the Framework and its goals and targets. They should involve and facilitate the engagement of all government sectors at all levels of government, and all stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth across society, to ensure that targets, actions and expected outcomes are coordinated, that the concerns of different actors are addressed, and that their ownership and commitment towards implementation are attained. The NBSAPs should promote synergies and planning across other biodiversity-related conventions and

⁴ Decisions 14/31, BS-VII/5, CP-VIII/15, NP-I/6, NP-I/7 and NP-I/8.

multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).⁵ Additionally, the NBSAP process should garner high-level political support, ensure interministerial coordination and vertical integration, and facilitate implementation.

3. National biodiversity strategies and action plans should be revised or updated as needed, without interrupting implementation.

4. In accordance with Articles 3, 6, 20 and 21 of the Convention, the revision or updating of NBSAPs to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the corresponding national targets, should be self-determined by each Party in accordance with their particular conditions and capabilities.

5. National biodiversity strategies and action plans should promote and support increased efforts and actions, and improved implementation and consistency over time, in a cooperative and flexible manner, ensuring responsibility and transparency of information on national targets reflecting, as applicable, all the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and including information regarding means of implementation for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States in line with the relevant Articles of the Convention.

6. Revised or updated NBSAPs following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework should contain the following common elements in order to ensure the utility of NBSAPs in the enhanced implementation, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism, while retaining their flexibility and their principal role as national implementation vehicles:

(a) National targets addressing or contributing towards each of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and ensuring close alignment where possible, taking into account the availability of resources and means of implementation. Some Parties may wish to distinguish those targets and actions that will be implemented with already identified resources from those which they will only be able to achieve or implement if additional resources become available. National targets may leverage commitments made under other intergovernmental processes and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Rio conventions;

(b) Concrete actions, policies and programmes designed to meet the national targets and contribute to the global goals and targets, including spatial, temporal and financial aspects, as appropriate. The development of these actions should go hand in hand with the identification of financing and capacity gaps and the development of national finance plans, or similar instruments, as well as capacity-building and development plans. This should also include the provision of finance and other means of implementation;

(c) National monitoring, reviewing and assessment. While revising or updating NBSAPs, headline indicators as well as component, complementary and other national indicators, where relevant, should be used, including to track contributions towards the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, taking into account national circumstances. NBSAPs may identify the relevant agencies responsible for collecting the data and compiling these indicators, any need for further development of such indicators, and any capacity development needs.

7. In order to minimize the time and resources required to revise or update NBSAPs, the alignment of existing NBSAPs and their targets with the new framework could be assessed. This assessment should consider, according to national circumstances, elements such as implementation gaps, existing goals, targets and indicators, the effectiveness of past actions, monitoring systems (including any data and/or knowledge systems and gaps), sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, finance and other means of implementation, and an assessment of how stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth were involved in the revision and implementation. This exercise will allow the identification of those aspects or components of their NBSAPs that need to be revised or updated in the light of the new framework.

⁵ Note that a number of biodiversity-related MEAs have requested Parties to mainstream the implementation of their convention into the NBSAPs (e.g. resolution 8.18 of the Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar resolution XIII.5).

8. Parties may take into account different value systems, to revise or update, implement and review their NBSAPs. This may involve a national coordination mechanism, including representatives of key government ministries and other authorities at all levels, national gender and biodiversity focal points, traditional knowledge focal points, national focal points for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions and for the Sustainable Development Goals, representatives of national statistical institutes and other data holders, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, women's groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, citizens at large, and stakeholders.

9. Synergies among NBSAPs and the planning and implementation mechanisms of the other biodiversity-related conventions, Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and the Sustainable Development Goals should be identified and utilized to maximize efficiency and coherence.

10. Information on commitments from non-State actors may be a useful source of information for revising or updating NBSAPs. Additionally, Parties may include these commitments in their national targets, or they could be maintained as separate commitments from actors beyond the national Government, as appropriate to national circumstances. Double counting of commitments from non-State actors should be avoided.

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL TARGETS AS PART OF NATIONAL
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS⁶ TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

NATIONAL TARGETS			
National target 1 Full name/title of national target <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Alignment with global goals and targets <input type="checkbox"/> Goal A <input type="checkbox"/> Goal B <input type="checkbox"/> Goal C <input type="checkbox"/> Goal D <input type="checkbox"/> Global target 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Global target 2 ... <input type="checkbox"/> ... <input type="checkbox"/> Enabling conditions and/or other non-target elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework <i>(Please specify)</i> <hr/> <hr/>	Degree of alignment <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> ... Explanation, including which aspects of the goal or target are covered <i>(optional)</i> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Notes <i>This table is to be repeated for each of the national targets.</i> <i>Please check all relevant national targets and indicate their degree of alignment with the global targets.</i> High = covers all elements of the global target;

⁶ This information will be collected through the online reporting tool and it will also be utilized in the national reporting template.

			<p>Medium = covers most elements of the global target;</p> <p>Low = covers at least one element of the global target</p>
	<p>Please outline the main policy measures or actions that will be taken to achieve this national target. (optional)</p> <hr/> <hr/>		
	<p>Indicators to be used to monitor this national target</p> <p><u>Headline indicators</u> (drop-down menu of headline indicators for the global targets indicated above)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Component indicators</u> (drop-down menu of component indicators for the global targets indicated above)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Complementary indicators</u> (drop-down menu of complementary indicators for the global targets indicated above)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Other national indicators</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>...</p>		
	<p>Non-State actor commitments (optional)List the non-state</p>		<p><i>It is important to describe in this entry</i></p>

	<p>commitments towards this national Target:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Are there any overlaps or links between this national target and targets or commitments submitted as non-State actor commitments to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?</p> <p>If “Yes”, please indicate which commitment(s) and which actor(s).</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><i>how the initiative involves the national Government <u>and</u> others. This box would be used to reduce double counting.</i></p>
	<p>Means of implementation and barriers to implementation (optional)</p> <p>Please indicate if additional means of implementation are needed for the attainment of this national target.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional means of implementation are needed Explain:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Means of implementation available</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Additional explanation: (optional) _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	

GLOBAL GOALS/TARGETS			
Global goals and targets	National target(s) contributing to this global target	Elements of the global targets addressed by national targets	Notes
Global goal or target (full name/title)	<i>(Automatically generated list from Party's input in the national targets table)</i>	<i>(Free text)</i>	<i>This table is to be repeated for each global goal and target</i> <i>Response is required for each of the global targets</i>
	Indicators used to assess the global goal or target <i>(Pre-populated from the indicators listed in the Party's input in the national targets table)</i> Is there a reference period and national target which relates to the headline indicator? If yes, Explanation (optional) <hr/>		<i>Note that the headline indicator for each goal or target should be included in the list of indicators and associated with a relevant national target.</i>

Annex II

GUIDANCE AND DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH NATIONAL REPORT⁷

- Parties are required by Article 26 of the Convention to submit national reports to the Conference of the Parties on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention. The seventh and eighth national reports are due by 28 February 2026 and 30 June 2029, respectively. Given the time required to prepare, approve and submit a national report, Parties are encouraged to start preparing their national reports well before the deadline.
- The seventh and eighth national reports should provide an assessment of progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including progress towards national targets in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) as revised or updated in the light of the Framework, and Parties' progress in the implementation of the Framework, using the most up-to-date data and information from appropriate sources, including headline indicators as well as component and complementary indicators, and other national indicators, where relevant. Other sources may include any recent reviews of national implementation or other national assessments, in particular any review of the implementation of NBSAPs, that provide a basis for developing national ambition or targets and/or revising or updating NBSAPs to implement the Framework. Parties could use information from earlier national reports as appropriate. National reports, reviews or communications submitted under relevant conventions and in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals could also be used as important information for assessing progress in the implementation of the Framework.
- Further to decision 14/27, in which the Conference of the Parties decided that the submission of the next reports under the Convention and its Protocols would be synchronized, Parties should involve the respective national focal points for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols (if different from the primary

⁷ The guidance and template for the eighth national report can be adjusted if necessary, building on the experiences and lessons learned in the preparation of the seventh national report.

national focal point for the Convention) in the preparation of the national report. National focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio conventions, as well as the national focal points for the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant international and regional conventions should also be involved in the preparation of the national report.

4. Relevant stakeholders should be involved in the preparation of the national report and may include in it their contributions to the implementation of national targets, NBSAPs and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Contributions from non-State actors should, where possible, be clearly identified.

Structure and format of the seventh and eighth national report and use of the reports

5. To facilitate the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports, each section of the report uses a standardized template that contains specific questions with a choice of possible answers or specific requests for substantive information. There is also space to provide narrative information to further substantiate the answers given in a focused and succinct manner. Links to relevant websites and publications where additional information, including metadata for indicators, may be found, should be provided, reducing the need to include this information directly in the national report.

6. The seventh and eighth national report format contains five sections:

- Section I Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report;
- Section II Status of the revised or updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Section III Assessment of progress towards national targets;⁸
- Section IV Assessment of progress related to the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Section V Conclusions on the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Annex Information as requested in related decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

7. A resource manual will be available before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide further guidance and explanations on the use of the template and links to potential sources of information for the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports. Other supporting materials and tools will be developed or enhanced as needed before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to support the preparation of the report.

Use of indicators for monitoring and reporting

8. The template allows for information to be provided on all headline indicators and questions related to the binary indicators as set out in the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.⁹ It also includes the option to include information on component and complementary indicators, as well as national indicators as referenced in the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

⁸ Note that reporting on the implementation of Goal D and Target 19 will include detailed assessments of support provided for the implementation of the Convention. However, information on gaps in implementation can also be included in the conclusions, in section V.

⁹ Decision 15/5.

Enhancing synergies in reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions and in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals

9. Parties are also encouraged to use the clearing-house mechanism/Bioland tool. The voluntary Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (DaRT) developed by the United Nations Environment Programme is also available to Parties.

Submission of the report

10. To facilitate the preparation and submission of the seventh and eighth national report, an online reporting tool is available.¹⁰ The online tool will allow multiple national authorized users to draft elements of the national report and submit them for review and internal approval before formal submission by a national publishing authority. The tool will allow Parties to submit parts of the national report as they are finalized or to submit the entire report once all the sections are completed. The tool will also allow Parties to accept and verify data on relevant headline indicators from relevant regional/global data sets. For those Parties with limited Internet access or those who prefer to submit their national reports in document form, an offline version of the reporting templates will be made available. If the national report is submitted in document form, it should be accompanied by an official letter or an email message from the national focal point for the Convention or a senior Government official responsible for the implementation of the Convention. Parties not using the online reporting tool may send their seventh and eighth national report to the main email address of the Secretariat (secretariat@cbd.int).

DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR THE SEVENTH NATIONAL REPORT

Section I. Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report

<p>Please briefly describe the process undertaken for the preparation of this report (responses may include the following):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordination mechanisms and methodology for data collection and validation employed (if applicable) as well as key challenges encountered; ○ Consultations undertaken at various levels for preparing this report, involving and engaging various stakeholders, taking into account national circumstances.

Section II. Status of the revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<p>Has your country revised or updated NBSAPs in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In process If you answer “no” or “in process” please indicate the anticipated date of completion of the revision or updating of the NBSAP: _____ </p>
<p>Did your country involve and engage stakeholders in revising or updating NBSAPs?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please indicate: (drop down menu) Women IPLC, Youth, Other </p>

¹⁰ <https://chm.cbd.int>.

<p>Has your country's revised or updated NBSAPs been adopted as policy or legal instruments?</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In process <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>If you answered "No", please indicate the anticipated date of adoption:</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>If you answered "Yes" above, please indicate the type of policy instrument your country's revised or updated NBSAPs has been adopted as</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Adopted through legislation or otherwise by parliament <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted by Council of Ministers, Office of the President/Prime Minister or equivalent whole-of-government body <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted by Ministry of Environment or other sectoral ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated into the poverty reduction strategy, sustainable development strategy, national development plan, and other related strategies or plans <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)</p> <p>_____</p>

Section III. Assessment of progress towards national targets

Please use the following templates to report on progress in the implementation of your national targets and revised or updated NBSAPs in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<p>National target <i>(pre-populated from the submission of national targets)</i></p>	
<p>Please briefly describe the main actions taken to implement this national target</p>	
<p>Please indicate the current level of progress towards this national target</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> On track to achieve target <input type="checkbox"/> Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate <input type="checkbox"/> No significant progress <input type="checkbox"/> Moving away from target <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p>
<p>Please provide a summary of progress towards this national target, including the main outcomes achieved, key challenges encountered, and different approaches that may be taken for further implementation</p>	
<p>Please provide data on indicators (headline, component, complementary or other national indicator) used for assessing progress towards this national target <i>(pre-populated from the submission of national targets)</i></p>	<p><i>Provide tabular or graphic data or a hyperlink</i></p> <p>(For the headline indicators and other indicators available to the CBD, the following options will be presented to facilitate the reporting. As per the national target template, each headline indicator would be associated with at least one national target)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Use national data set <input type="checkbox"/> Use the available data (pre-populated data) <input type="checkbox"/> No data available</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant
Please provide examples or cases to illustrate the effectiveness of the actions taken to implement this national target. If needed, provide relevant web links or attach related materials or publications	
Please briefly describe how the implementation of this national target relates to progress in achieving related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets and implementation of other related agreements <i>(optional)</i>	

Section IV. Assessment of national progress towards the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Please provide an assessment or progress and trends related to the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The target information will be prepopulated from section III, based on the mapping of national and global targets.¹¹

2050 goals	Summary of national progress contributing to the global goals	Headline indicators	Component, complementary or other relevant indicators, including national indicators (pre-populated from the submission of national targets)	Source of data for indicator(s), where needed
Goal		(Each headline indicator will be listed once agreed) <input type="checkbox"/> Use national data set <input type="checkbox"/> Use the available global data (clicking will retrieve and display pre-populated data) <input type="checkbox"/> Not able to report on this headline indicator (no national data set and either do not wish to use global data or global data not available) <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant		
		Example: Headline indicator A.1: Indicator name (unit of measure) Provide data or an application programming interface (API). The data table will be available in Excel. If box 2 has been ticked, then this table will be prepopulated with existing global data. This section will be		

¹¹ The capturing of the assessment of global targets based on national targets will be further reviewed in the development and finalization of the online reporting tool.

		<p>replicated for all indicators throughout the document.¹² (Note that this section is dependent on the indicators and may include binary questions or quantitative indicators.)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td>Year</td><td>...</td><td>...</td><td></td><td>2022</td></tr> <tr> <td>Value</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Footnotes:</p> <p><i>This is just an example of how data might look.</i></p>					Year		2022	Value					
	Year		2022												
Value																	

Section V. Conclusions on the national implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

In this section, countries are encouraged to provide a summary of the national implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the main outcomes achieved and major challenges encountered, particularly those related to capacity, technical, technological, institutional and financial gaps and constraints and support provided for implementation. Countries could refer to cross-cutting challenges affecting the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, or specific obstacles that have hindered progress. These challenges may include lack of adequate financial, human and technical resources, difficulties regarding interministerial/inter-agency cooperation and coordination, lack of timely and reliable access to knowledge, information and data, lack of scientific expertise to support project development and management, and lack of access to relevant technologies for implementation. Countries should try to avoid duplication if relevant information is covered in the above sections.

In this section, please provide a summary assessment of the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including all the sections, and the main outcomes achieved and major challenges encountered, particularly those related to capacity, technical, technological, institutional, and financial gaps and constraints and support provided for implementation.

Annex

Information as requested in related decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting

It is suggested that Parties annex information on the implementation of the following decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting:¹³

- (a) Long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development (decision 15/8, annex I);
- (b) Strategy for resource mobilization (decision 15/7, annex I);
- (c) Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) (decision 15/11, annex);

¹² This section could be further developed with advice from the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (decision 15/5).

¹³ This section should be reviewed following the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- (d) Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity;*
- (e) Global plant conservation strategy.*

* Pending consideration and adoption at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

15/7. Resource mobilization

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 20 of the Convention as the basis for providing and mobilizing resources from all sources and the relevance of Articles 11 and 21 in this regard,

Recalling also Goal D and Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Emphasizing the importance of urgently increasing the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, with a view to closing the biodiversity financing gap and making adequate and predictable resources available in a timely manner for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Noting Targets 14, 15, 16, and 18 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and emphasizing the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming for strengthening resource mobilization and the effective and efficient use of resources, in order to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

Affirming the need to quick-start immediate mobilization of resources from all sources while taking appropriate action to ensure sustained resource mobilization to achieve the 2030 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 vision, and to mobilize resources in a manner commensurate with the ambition of the Framework,

Acknowledging that Aichi Biodiversity Target 20 calling for a substantial increase in resources for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was partially met¹ and welcoming the efforts made in this regard, while recognizing that resources were not sufficient to enable full and effective implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

Welcoming the pledges made by donor countries as part of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility,

Reiterating the important role of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as a basis for identifying national funding needs and priorities, and for the effective and efficient mobilization of resources from all sources in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, including, as applicable, for the implementation of the Protocols under the Convention, and for the synergistic implementation of other biodiversity-related conventions,

Recalling that Parties are invited to prepare national finance plans or other similar planning instruments, in the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with sub-goal 2.2 of the strategy for resource mobilization adopted in decision IX/11,

Recognizing the need for effective partnerships and collaboration among all relevant actors, and for strengthening partnerships with businesses and the financial sector for mobilizing resources and to align financial flows with the mission of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Cognizant of the opportunities for harnessing synergies among the Rio conventions, including synergies related to the mobilization and use of resources for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Germany for providing financial support to the work of the Panel of Experts on resource mobilization, and for hosting the Thematic Workshop on Resource Mobilization for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which was held in Berlin, from 14 to 16 January 2020;

2. *Welcomes* the final report of the Panel of Experts, which provides an assessment of the resources from all sources needed for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

¹ *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, fifth edition (SCBD, 2020).

and takes note of the other reports of the Panel of Experts, considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting;²

3. *Notes* the final analysis of financial reporting frameworks received by Parties, prepared by the Executive Secretary;

4. *Also notes* the progress made by Parties, in implementing the strategy for resource mobilization and the targets for resource mobilization adopted under Aichi Biodiversity Target 20;

5. *Welcomes* the fact that the commitment of doubling total biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015 was achieved;³

6. *Acknowledges* the pledges made to finance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, recognizes that further efforts are needed, and encourages developed country Parties, other donors, and financial institutions to facilitate efficient access to these resources through multilateral and bilateral channels;

7. *Welcomes* new initiatives including, but not limited to, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, the High-Ambition Coalition for Nature and People 2.0, the Legacy Landscapes Fund, the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, the Japan Biodiversity Fund, and other instruments, and encourages public and private donors to contribute to them and all Parties to make use of these instruments;

8. *Invites* the Secretary General of the United Nations, building on the reforms of the United Nations System, to further strengthen the United Nations development system, and the funds and programmes, to further strengthen the United Nations country team to support countries in integrating priorities identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other national biodiversity planning instruments into United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks;

9. *Recognizes* efforts by other relevant instruments and institutions to integrate biodiversity in their financing and programming decisions and further encourages them to align their financing with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

10. *Also recognizes* the ongoing need of developing countries for other means of implementation, including technical and financial support and capacity-building, including the need to undertake domestic action to mobilize resources and monitor and report thereon;

Strategy for resource mobilization

11. *Adopts* the strategy for resource mobilization for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contained in annex I to the present decision, as guidance to facilitate the immediate mobilization of resources, taking into account national circumstances;

12. *Recognizes* that the overall strategy for resource mobilization contains an intermediate phase (2023–2024), and a medium-term phase (2025–2030);

13. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments, organizations, the private sector and other major stakeholder groups to take the strategy for resource mobilization into consideration as a flexible framework guiding implementation of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework related to resource mobilization, in accordance with national circumstances;

14. *Invites* relevant international organizations and initiatives as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization;

15. *Calls upon* the Global Environment Facility to further reform its operations to ensure adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds by establishing easy and effective access modalities, including by scaling fast-track systems and by facilitating new contributors;

² CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.2/Rev.1 as well as CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.1 and CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.3.

³ *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, fifth edition (SCBD, 2020).

16. *Calls for* fundamental transformation of the global financial architecture and the reform of multilateral development banks and international finance institutions, including investment banks, to make them fit for purpose in supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, sustainable development and just transition efforts in developing countries;

17. *Invites* multilateral development banks as well as international financial institutions and philanthropy, to support the strategy for resource mobilization, and in particular to:

(a) Identify and report investments in their portfolio that contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, taking into account relevant international guidance and good international practice;

(b) Align their portfolios and financial flows with the objectives of the Convention, and the goals and targets of Framework by 2030;

(c) Simplify access to financial resources for biodiversity;

(d) Increase biodiversity funding, through leveraging financial resources from all sources and deploying a full suite of instruments, including new and innovative approaches such as private capital mobilization and blended finance;

(e) Report on their progress to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

18. *Invites* international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, in particular the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, to immediately consider supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including by partnering with the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, established as per paragraph 30 of the present decision;

19. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so to support the strategy for resource mobilization, in particular through mainstreaming of biodiversity and increasing direct funding to biodiversity in their portfolios, as well as through instruments for the mobilization of private investment for biodiversity;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recent programmatic initiatives of funds such as the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms, such as the funding arrangements for responding to loss-and-damage, including a fund, to harness synergies in project development and financing for the purpose of the objectives of the Rio conventions and global biodiversity-related Conventions and agreements;

21. *Encourages* the funds and funding mechanisms mentioned in paragraph 20 above to continue and intensify their work with a view to generating and increasing biodiversity co-benefits through complementary, coherent and collaborative interventions that generate greater impact, as well as to enhance efforts to simultaneously tackle biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation;

National finance plans

22. *Encourages* Parties to develop, update, and implement national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments, based on an assessment of biodiversity expenditures and finance needs, and based on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to support adequate and timely mobilization of international and domestic, public and private financial resources for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

23. *Encourages* developed country Parties to reflect in their national finance plans or similar instruments, their financial contribution to the implementation of the Convention, in developing country Parties;

24. *Encourages* developing country Parties, as appropriate, to provide information in their national biodiversity finance plans, on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-

building support needed, received, and used, to implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

25. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of relevant and interested international organizations and initiatives, including the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (BIOFIN), to provide financial and technical support and capacity-building for interested countries in the development, updating and implementation of national finance plans for biodiversity, and for the refinement of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative methodology, and encourages BIOFIN and other relevant and interested organizations and initiatives to continue and expand their work;

26. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar planning instruments to support efforts by recipient countries to mobilize domestic and international resources to reach their national goals, as defined in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

27. *Encourages* developed country Parties and Parties in a position to do so to continue and further increase their financial support to BIOFIN and other related initiatives in order to support the speedy implementation of national finance plans or similar instruments by developing country Parties or Parties with economies in transition;

Supportive action on scaling and aligning incentive measures as per Article 11 of the Convention

28. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Environmental Policy Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to support countries in scaling up and aligning incentives, in particular on guidance to identify and assess incentives harmful to biodiversity, on tracking economic instruments and finance for biodiversity, and on aligning national budgets with climate, biodiversity and other environmental objectives, and the relevant work of BIOFIN, and encourages the organizations to continue and further intensify this work;

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

29. *Recognizes* the urgency to increase international biodiversity finance and to establish a dedicated and accessible fund in 2023 for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that can quickly mobilize and disburse new and additional resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the Framework;

30. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to establish, in 2023, and until 2030 unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, a special trust fund to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure its timely implementation, taking into account the need for adequacy, predictability, and timely flow of funds;

31. *Also requests* the Global Environmental Facility to prepare a decision to be considered by the Council, on the approval of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, with its own equitable governing body, to be dedicated exclusively to supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

32. *Further requests* the Global Environment Facility to advance the necessary institutional and governance arrangements to allow for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to receive financing from all sources, in addition to official development assistance;

33. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to design and implement a project cycle with a simple and effective application and approval process, providing easy and efficient access to resources of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;

34. *Calls upon* the Global Environment Facility to approve these decisions at the next possible session of the Council and its ratification at the next possible session of the Assembly in 2023;

35. *Calls for* immediate substantive contributions from all sources, in line with Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

36. *Requests* the Global Environmental Facility to engage all multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions in the design and operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, with the view of leveraging additional resources from and for the Fund and channel them through new and existing biodiversity portfolios, which need to be aligned with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

37. *Also requests* the Global Environment Facility to report on the progress in establishing, and on the operations and performance of, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

38. *Decides* to assess the progress made in establishing, and on the operations and performance of, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and to consider and adopt further guidance to the Global Environment Facility and to the governing body referred to paragraph 31 above, on the modalities and operation of the Fund, at its future meetings;

39. *Also decides* to undertake and act upon, at its eighteenth meeting, a stocktake review on the operations and performance of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund regarding its scale, speed, accessibility, and future arrangements.

Review of the strategy for resource mobilization

40. *Decides* to review the strategy for resource mobilization at its sixteenth meeting to fully align the it with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and ensure that it will provide a solid basis to guide Parties and other actors towards the mobilization of adequate resources, commensurate with the ambition of the Framework;

41. *Also decides* to explore the current finance landscape with a view to assessing gaps and overlaps, and to identifying opportunities to strengthen, simplify and reform existing instruments to strengthen the current finance landscape for biodiversity;

42. *Further decides* to explore proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance to mobilize resources from all sources, commensurate to the ambition of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, based on the assessment made and the gaps identified pursuant to paragraph 41 above;

43. *Establishes* an advisory committee on resource mobilization to support the strengthening of the strategy for resource mobilization and to operationalize the decisions taken in the previous paragraphs, based on the terms of reference provided in annex II to the present decision, and report thereon to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and subsequently to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

44. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, as well as relevant international organizations and initiatives to make submissions to the Executive Secretary on their experience, good practices and lessons learned with the strategy for resource mobilization regarding its contribution towards facilitating the immediate mobilization of resources in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and requests the Executive Secretary to compile these submissions for consideration by the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization established pursuant to paragraph 43 above;

45. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider and further develop, as appropriate, the recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization, for further consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

46. *Decides* to keep the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization under review at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, starting at the seventeenth meeting, through the global

stocktake, establishing an iterative process to facilitate any further adaptation of the strategy and associated institutional arrangements to allow for the timely mobilization of resources in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by 2030;

Supportive activities of the Executive Secretary

47. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources:
- (a) To establish a technical expert group with terms of reference provided in annex III to the present decision, on the financial reporting elements in the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
 - (b) To issue a notification inviting developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to consider, taking into account national circumstances, whether they are in a position to voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and, if so, to indicate this to the Executive Secretary;
 - (c) To compile indications received pursuant to sub-paragraph (b) above for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;
 - (d) To support the work of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization;
 - (e) To further collaborate with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme and with other relevant and interested organizations and initiatives to facilitate and support their work;
 - (f) To continue and intensify collaboration with relevant organizations and initiatives with a view to further promoting supportive action on scaling and aligning incentive measures in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention;
 - (g) To continue and intensify collaboration with relevant bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms with a view to further catalysing synergies in project development and financing for the purpose of the objectives of the Rio conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals;

Annex I

STRATEGY FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION BUILDING BLOCKS AND STRUCTURE FOR PHASE I (2023-2024)

A. Aim

6. The aim of this strategy is to enable quick-start resource mobilization and scale up and align resources for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and provide the basis to further build upon towards 2030, based on the work of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization, in line with the Framework.
7. The Strategy will be updated by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to take account of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization. The updated strategy will be presented to the Conference of the Parties for consideration and adoption at its sixteenth meeting.
8. It will mobilize resources for the implementation of the Convention, addressing its three objectives in a balanced manner and commensurate with the ambitions of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
9. The strategy will be guided by:
- (a) Section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
 - (b) Articles 20, 21 and 11 of the Convention;

- (c) Funding from all sources, from a broad scope of financial instruments and mechanisms;
- (d) Immediate mobilization of resources, safeguarding a long-term vision of financial resources needs;
- (e) Comprehensive, fair and equitable access to all financing sources for all Parties.

B. Enabling actions

- (a) To promote the updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), including through the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and similar initiatives;
- (b) Develop, update and implement national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments;
- (c) Increase financial support to BIOFIN and other related initiatives in order to support the implementation of national biodiversity finance plans;
- (d) Optimize multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- (e) Capacity-building and development, scientific and technological cooperation, and technology transfer.

C. Objectives

1. Increase international biodiversity-related financial flows and financial resources from all sources

New and additional resources

- (a) Increase biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition:
 - (i) Fulfilment of developed country Parties' obligations to provide adequate, new and additional financial resources;
 - (ii) Other Parties to consider whether they may voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties;
 - (iii) Increase international biodiversity funding by multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and philanthropy, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate;
- (b) Establish a Global Biodiversity Framework fund to be open to contribution from all sources;
- (c) Mobilize additional international resources, including
 - (i) By increasing innovative finance solutions, such as green bonds and payments for ecosystem services, and developing guidelines and sharing good practices;
 - (ii) Through philanthropy and businesses, and leveraging private finance;
 - (iii) Through the multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources;⁴
- (d) Enhance the terms and implementation of agreements related to access to genetic resources, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilization, including through multilateral approaches;
- (e) Improving market access for biodiversity-based products and services.

⁴ Decision 15/9.

2. Identify and eliminate, phase out, or reform financial resource flows causing harm

- (a) Mainstream biodiversity in development cooperation:
 - (i) Re-prioritize portfolios and practices of development cooperation agencies and banks, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and charities, with a view to aligning financial flows with the objectives of the Convention;
 - (ii) Harness and scale synergies in project development and financing with a view to generating and increasing biodiversity co-benefits.
- (b) Strengthen risk assessment and transparent reporting requirement of international private finance and business actors.
- (c) Report on actions taken and efforts made to identify and eliminate, phase out, or reform harmful incentives.

3. Enhance the effectiveness of resource use

- (a) Improve GEF operations and access modalities, including by developing fast-track systems; by allowing the GEF Trust Fund to be open to contributions from all sources, including from the private sector and from philanthropy; and by putting in place institutional arrangements for the trust fund in partnership with multilateral development banks and international financial institutions;
- (b) Simplify access modalities for biodiversity funding of multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and charities;
- (c) Increase transparency and accountability, monitoring and reporting, of biodiversity-related public and private financing at all levels;
- (d) Direct more resources to key implementation partners at the regional, national and local levels and facilitate partnerships to ensure community engagement and results on the ground;
- (e) Strengthen ownership and capacity to access funding;
- (f) Build synergies and harness biodiversity co-benefits.

4. Significantly increase domestic resource mobilization from all sources

New and additional resources

- (a) Significantly increase domestic public biodiversity-related expenditures;
- (b) Use as appropriate international finance in order to leverage public and private domestic biodiversity finance;
- (c) design and implement or scale positive incentive measures, in line with other relevant international obligations;
- (d) Significantly increase domestic private biodiversity-related expenditures, both direct and indirect;
- (e) Develop and apply biodiversity finance solutions or similar instruments for biodiversity financing, including by applying and/or scaling the use of innovative financial tools such as blended finance or green/blue bonds;
- (f) Enhance the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions and non-market-based approaches.

5. Identify and eliminate, phase out, or reform financial resource flows causing harm

- (a) Mainstream biodiversity in public budgets: progressively aligning all public fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as far as possible and as appropriate;
- (b) Private sector mainstreaming: ensure or encourage, as appropriate, alignment of relevant fiscal, private and financial flows with the objectives of the Convention;
- (c) Mainstreaming biodiversity in the financial sector;
- (d) Identify and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, that are harmful for biodiversity, in line with other relevant international obligations;
- (e) Encourage the monitoring, assessment and transparent disclosure by financial institutions of biodiversity risks, dependencies and impacts of financial portfolios and operations; decrease or eliminate negative impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity of investments;

6. Enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use

- (a) Ensure national ownership by aligning with national development plans;
- (b) Support policy coherence by creating or enhancing partnerships with indigenous peoples and local communities and with civil society;
- (c) Enhance capacity-building, technical assistance and technological cooperation for financial planning and effective resource utilization and management;
- (d) Improve transparency and accountability, as well as national monitoring systems for resource use;
- (e) Build synergies and harness biodiversity co-benefits.

Annex II

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

A. Scope of work

1. The Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization will provide recommendations to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth and/or fifth meetings on the strengthening of the strategy for resource mobilization for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to operationalize the decisions taken in paragraphs 40 to 42 of the present decision to ensure it will provide a solid basis to guide Parties and other actors towards the mobilization of adequate resources commensurate with the ambition of the Framework, based in particular on the following steps:

Upgrading the strategy for resource mobilization consistent with the relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting

- (a) Strengthen the strategy for resource mobilization by bringing it in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant decisions also adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, to ensure coherence;⁵
- (b) Improve the information base on funding needs, gaps and priorities;

⁵ In particular, decisions 15/5 on the monitoring framework, 15/6 on mechanisms for planning, monitoring reporting and review, 15/8 on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation, and 15/9 on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

(c) Identify potential additional sources of funding, recognizing the need for support from a wide variety of sources, including innovative sources.

Assessing efficiency, effectiveness, gaps and overlaps

(d) Provide an overview of the global biodiversity funding landscape and identify which institutions, including global, regional and national, are funding activities related to addressing biodiversity loss, and ways in which coherence, coordination and synergies among them can be enhanced;

(e) Assess how existing instruments, funds, and frameworks and their interaction could be further improved, and successful ones promoted, replicated or scaled up, so that they fully align with, and provide immediate support to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(f) Take into consideration the progress of the reform to the Global Environment Facility to support the quick start mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and in particular the process for the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and its implementation;

(g) Identify the gaps within the current financing landscape, including the types of gap, such as relating to speed, eligibility, adequacy and access to finance, the priority gaps for which solutions should be explored as well as the most effective ways to address those gaps.

Global instrument for biodiversity finance

2. The Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization will develop recommendations to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on:

(a) Whether to create a dedicated financing mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity under the authority of the Conference of the Parties, which could be designated “Global Biodiversity Fund”, and what the options are to operationalize it;

(b) Whether the Trust Fund under the Global Environment Facility established by decision 15/15 should be designated “Global Biodiversity Fund”;

(c) Whether and how either of the funding mechanisms mentioned above, or another alternative, would be the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9;

B. Modalities

1. The composition of the Advisory Committee will be as follows: up to ten (10) dedicated representatives per region will be invited to participate, and ten (10) representatives of relevant organizations and initiatives as well as ten (10) representatives of stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, and youth, preserving balance between regions, and striving for gender balance.

2. The Committee will elect two co-chairs from among its members.

3. The Committee will conduct its work both electronically and, subject to the availability of resources, physically, meeting at least twice during the intersessional period before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4. The Committee will draw on different sources of information such as studies and dialogues, as well as experience under other multilateral environment agreements and taking into account the submissions received on the experience with the strategy for resource mobilization to quick-start mobilization of resources;

5. Other Governments, observers and/or experts may be invited to participate in the meetings or parts thereof at the discretion of the co-chairs.

6. The outcome of this work will be presented by the co-chairs as recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting with a view to their adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON FINANCIAL REPORTING

1. The Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting will work:

(a) To identify detailed metadata and information, including monitoring capacity-building needs, filling gaps in indicators for the goals and targets that are relevant for resource mobilization, in particular for public expenditures and private investments, and other targets relevant for resource mobilization, in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁶ taking into account existing methodologies and standards which have been developed, including the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting developed under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission;

(b) To provide technical advice and develop guidance on monitoring resource mobilization, including the implementation of indicators, including advice on the use of harmonized and agreed indicator definitions, best practices for monitoring and national data sharing, and scientific and technical advice on the improvement of indicators or the addition of new indicators in the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including indicators relevant to the private sector and other stakeholders, elements of the national reports and the related national report template, taking into account the relevant national reporting system;

(c). To recommend a simple, standardized national reporting template, or use of an existing reporting system, with the aim of collecting and reporting comparable data on financing for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework from all sources, including levels and trends;

(d) To provide guidance to Parties on ways to fill data gaps in an efficient manner, recognizing the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties to develop and access information tools;

(e) To provide advice on the existing capacity, gaps and needs in terms of capacity development, technology transfer and financing needs related to the financial monitoring and reporting.

2. The expert working group will take into account:

(a) Previous work and experience under the Convention on financial reporting, including the work of the panel of experts, and other relevant programmes of work concerning indicators and monitoring;

(b) National finance plans or similar instruments;

(c) Statistical standards and development under the intergovernmental forum of the Statistical Commission;

(d) Reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) Previous work and experience with other relevant global, regional and national monitoring frameworks, multilateral environment agreements, and knowledge systems, including work of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (BIOFIN) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

3. The Technical Expert Group will contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that was established to advise on the

⁶ Refers to goal and target(s) as they appear in the first draft of the global biodiversity framework, as contained in document CBD/WG2020/3/3.

further operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the terms of reference of that group,⁷ bearing in mind geographical balance. The group will be composed of technical experts on biodiversity finance statistics from Parties as well as observers and other relevant organizations.

4. The Technical Expert Group will elect two co-chairs from among its members.
5. The Technical Expert Group will coordinate closely with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in order to avoid overlapping mandates and the duplication of work.
6. The Technical Expert Group will primarily conduct its work electronically and, subject to the availability of resources, will also meet physically, if possible, meeting at least twice during the intersessional period.
7. The Technical Expert Group should be established at, and start its work immediately after, the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It would report on its work through the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at meetings held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁷ Decision 15/5.

15/8. Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 15.6, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the Convention,

Recalling also decisions [XIII/23](#) and [14/24](#),

Noting with appreciation the support provided by Parties, other Governments, the Global Environment Facility, relevant organizations and other stakeholders for capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation activities to assist developing country Parties, Parties with economies in transition, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth,

Reaffirming the need to promote strategic and coherent approaches to capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation in supporting the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols,

Underscoring the critical importance of capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Recognizing that many Parties, in particular developing country Parties, might not yet have the necessary capacities to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and related decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, and highlighting the need for enhanced cooperation to address these capacity gaps,

Noting that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and related decisions are to be implemented in accordance with national priorities and capabilities,

Taking into account the specific needs of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, also taking into consideration the special situation of those that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth,

Taking note of the final report on the implementation of the short-term action plan (2017–2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and the lessons learned,¹

Taking note also of the summary of the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity held on 30 September 2020,²

Welcoming partnerships and commitments among organizations to support capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation for the implementation of the Convention,

Acknowledging the importance of increasing the provision and mobilization of resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its monitoring framework, particularly for capacity-building and development, and technical and scientific cooperation for all Parties, in particular developing country Parties,

Recalling Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention and taking into account decisions 15/7 on resource mobilization and 15/15 on the financial mechanism,

Recalling decisions 14/24 B, XIII/23, XIII/31, XII/2 B, X/16, IX/14, VIII/12 and VII/29 regarding technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer,

¹ CBD/COP/15/INF/5.

² See <https://www.un.org/pga/75/united-nations-summit-on-biodiversity-summary>.

Reaffirming that technical and scientific cooperation is essential to the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Acknowledging the close interlinkages between technical and scientific cooperation and the other means of implementation and the need for Parties to consider them as a package and not in isolation,

Taking note of the progress report on technical and scientific cooperation, including the achievements made under the Bio-Bridge Initiative presented in document CBD/COP/15/INF/8,

Taking note also of the results of the review of technical and scientific cooperation programmes contained in document CBD/COP/15/12,³

Recalling decision 14/20 and noting decision 15/9,⁴ and further recognizing the need to support access to, and generation, analysis and use of, digital sequence information on genetic resources through capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer,

Affirming the need to align all capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer activities with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and related decisions and strategies,

A. Capacity-building and development

1. *Adopts* the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support priorities determined by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, contained in annex I to the present decision;⁵

2. *Takes note* of the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,⁶ which has been developed to be complementary to the long-term strategic framework referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Also takes note* of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol,⁷ and welcomes decision NP-4/7 requesting the Executive Secretary to prepare a revised version in line with the long-term strategic framework referred to in paragraph 1 above;

4. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, the capacity-building task force of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, relevant organizations, and other stakeholders to use the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development referred to in paragraph 1 above as a flexible framework in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their capacity-building and development initiatives and programmes supporting the achievement of the vision, mission, goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

5. *Also urges* Parties and invites other Governments to put in place enabling environments including relevant policies, legislation and administrative measures, as appropriate, to promote and facilitate capacity-building and development at various levels, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth organizations;

6. *Urges* Parties, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to provide financial and technical support to biodiversity capacity-building and development activities, taking into consideration the specific situations of developing country Parties, in

³ Prepared pursuant to recommendation 3/3, paragraph 2 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

⁴ Decision 15/9 on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

⁵ The long-term strategic framework is further elaborated in document [CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1](#).

⁶ Decision CP-10/4, annex.

⁷ The strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol was adopted in decision NP-1/8. The evaluation of the strategic framework is contained in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/1.

particular those of the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, also taking into consideration the special situation of developing countries, including those that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas, in line with the priority needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and/or national capacity-building and development strategies, as well as those identified by indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth organizations;

7. *Invites* biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and processes to consider the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development when designing their capacity-building and development strategies, action plans, work programmes and mechanisms, as appropriate, to foster synergies and avoid duplication;

8. *Invites* biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements to prepare, following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, thematic capacity-building and development action plans for specific targets or groups of related targets, and to develop dedicated global, regional and subregional programmes to implement those thematic plans, in line with the long-term strategic framework and the Gender Plan of Action,⁸ as appropriate;

9. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to identify and prioritize capacity-building and development needs, in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities, and with the participation of women and youth and other relevant stakeholders, to integrate capacity-building and development components in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans while updating them in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and/or develop dedicated biodiversity capacity-building and development action plans, and programmes, as appropriate;

10. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to include biodiversity capacity-building and development, as appropriate, in relevant development cooperation frameworks, partnerships and programmes;

11. *Invites* Parties in accordance with Articles 16, 18 and 19 of the Convention to enhance and support capacity-building and development cooperation activities, especially in developing countries, for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, as appropriate, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, taking into account synergies between capacity-building and technology transfer and technical and scientific cooperation, including biotechnology⁹ research;

12. *Invites* universities and other academic institutions to develop and integrate specialized and transdisciplinary academic courses and programmes into their curricula and/or expand and strengthen existing ones, generate and share new knowledge, and implement continuing education programmes to support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

13. *Invites* relevant organizations and regional and subregional bodies, including regional economic integration organizations, to promote the sharing of expertise and information; to strengthen existing regional and subregional support networks or establish new ones, as appropriate, and to provide, upon request, assistance to enable national and subnational government institutions, local authorities and non-government actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, within the respective regions or subregions to strengthen their capacities, while also mobilizing and fostering effective use and retention of the capacities developed;

14. *Invites* regional teams of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the United Nations regional economic commissions to initiate and facilitate the coordination and synergistic

⁸ Decision 15/11, annex.

⁹ “Biotechnology” means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use (Article 2 of the Convention).

implementation of capacity-building and development interventions in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

15. *Invites* United Nations Resident Coordinators and the United Nations Country Teams, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and other relevant United Nations agencies, to integrate biodiversity capacity-building and development into country-level United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks to support national implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals;

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

(a) To promote awareness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, including through the creation of a dedicated web page on the clearing-house mechanism portal;

(b) To make available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the Biosafety Clearing-House, and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, existing and additional guidance on capacity-building and development, including existing, new and innovative tools, methods and case studies on good practices and lessons learned that can assist Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in their capacity-building and development efforts;

(c) To facilitate the development of an island biodiversity capacity-building and development action plan, on the basis of the review of the capacity and technology absorption and sustaining abilities of small island developing States, and in line with the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(d) To enable Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, and other relevant organizations to prepare, following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, thematic capacity-building and development action plans for specific 2030 targets or groups of related targets, as appropriate, taking into account needs and gaps identified and decided by Parties;

(e) To support and advise Parties on ways to integrate capacity-building and development components into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(f) To invite the United Nations Environment Management Group, in collaboration with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, to foster United Nations system-wide synergy, coherence and effectiveness in the provision of capacity-building and development support for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in line with the United Nations common approach to integrating biodiversity for sustainable development into United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery;¹⁰

(g) To convene, in collaboration with partners, a forum to facilitate networking and sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned in capacity-building and development for biodiversity before each meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

(h) To undertake, in collaboration with other biodiversity-related conventions and partners, a review of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, in conjunction with the global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the means of implementation, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting, to assess its use by Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, and other relevant stakeholders and, if necessary, propose updates to ensure its effectiveness to assist Parties in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(i) To commission an independent evaluation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, in conjunction with the global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global

¹⁰ [CEB/2021/1/Add.1](#).

Biodiversity Framework, including the means of implementation, and submit a report to facilitate its review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting;

B. Technical and scientific cooperation

17. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to recognize the important role of, and to promote, science, technology, innovation and other knowledge systems in supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework towards achieving the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature;

18. *Reminds* Parties, pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision XIII/23, to identify and communicate their biodiversity-related technical and scientific needs and requests for assistance, and invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to register as providers of technical assistance and offer support to address the needs identified by Parties through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism and the clearing-houses of the Protocols, to facilitate capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation;

19. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to put in place enabling environments, including relevant policies, legislation and incentives, to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation with other Parties, in particular developing country Parties, including through joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention, ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

20. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and other Governments, in collaboration with relevant partners and financial institutions, to promote, facilitate and support the development of biodiversity-related technologies and innovations, including biotechnology, as well as locally designed solutions and indigenous technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, including through incubator programmes relevant to the objectives of the Convention, and to increase technology transfer for all Parties, in particular for developing country Parties;

21. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take practical steps to promote and strengthen relevant networks of institutions and communities of practice to facilitate the exchange of biodiversity-related information, experiences, skills and technical know-how, among others, through networks of national and regional clearing-house mechanisms;

22. *Takes note* of the outcomes and key messages of the fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science;¹¹

23. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant stakeholders, to develop solutions based on innovative technologies embedded in local contexts to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to address the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, and to scale up those solutions at the national, subregional and regional levels;

24. *Decides* to establish an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation, to provide strategic advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III to the present decision;

25. *Also decides* to establish a mechanism comprising a network of regional, and/or additional subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to be coordinated at the global level by a global coordination entity, as described in annex II to the present decision;

¹¹ See CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/28.

26. *Further decides* that the core functions of the regional and/or subregional centres will include the following:

(a) To promote and facilitate, on a demand-driven basis, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties, especially from developed country Parties to developing country Parties, to support the implementation of the Convention and of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention;

(b) To provide a “one-stop service centre” for Parties to biodiversity-related conventions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to access technical and scientific knowledge, expertise, tools and other resources, taking into account the science, technology and innovation capability gaps identified by Parties, especially developing country Parties;

(c) To provide Parties, especially developing country Parties, with access to information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovations, including biotechnology¹² research;

(d) To mobilize resources to provide timely and targeted support for projects and activities that address specific identified technical and scientific needs;

(e) To facilitate matchmaking between Parties with specific needs and Parties or organizations in a position to provide assistance in response to the priority needs identified;

(f) To catalyse and support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of technical and scientific cooperation projects and programmes that:

(i) Promote and incubate international and regional cooperation and partnerships using a programmatic approach;

(ii) Facilitate the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies and innovative national, regional and local solutions, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, through scalable initiatives;

(iii) Facilitate access to, and utilization of, available scientific knowledge, information and data;

(g) To strengthen capacities of regional, subregional and national institutions to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation with an emphasis on science, technology and innovation;

(h) To facilitate knowledge sharing and organizational learning;

(i) To identify, collate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned regarding biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation, including biotechnology research;

(j) To maximize synergies and collaborate with other technology transfer initiatives and mechanisms;

(k) To perform such other activities related to science, technology and innovation as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties;

¹² Biotechnology means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific uses (Article 2 of the Convention).

27. *Decides* that the modalities for operationalization of the global coordination entity will be developed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, taking into account the core functions listed below:

- (a) To facilitate coordination, collaboration and synergies among the regional and/or subregional centres;
- (b) To facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned among the network members;
- (c) To coordinate a standardized approach in the delivery of support tools;
- (d) To mobilize additional resources for the technical and scientific cooperation programmes of the regional and/or subregional centres;
- (e) To operate a global helpdesk to provide information, advice and technical support at the request of the regional and/or subregional centres;
- (f) To ensure balance and equity among regions while implementing the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism's mandate to facilitate access to information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation;
- (g) To support the regional and/or subregional centres to align their work with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the implementation of the Convention;
- (h) To assist the regional and/or subregional centres in the reporting of their work for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties;

28. *Also decides* in the interim to strengthen and scale up the Bio-Bridge Initiative for the coming biennium, subject to the availability of resources, taking into account the results of the terminal evaluation of phase I of the Initiative, and urges Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to scale up financial, technical and human resources to further promote technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, at the global, national, regional, and subregional levels;

29. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support eligible activities of the regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity contributing to technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, and capacity-building and development at global, regional, subregional and national levels, as appropriate;

30. *Urges* Parties, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21, and invites other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to provide financial and technical support to the regional and/or subregional support centres and to the global coordination entity referred to in paragraph 25 of the present decision;

31. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation established pursuant to paragraph 24 of the present decision to prepare recommendations on how to monitor progress against the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the mechanism to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting, with the aim of informing the periodic review, update and enhancement of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;

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

- (a) To further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in collaboration with Parties, relevant partners, the regional and/or subregional support centres and the global coordination entity, other organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities;

(b) In consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to implement and support the following process and modalities for selecting entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, as appropriate:

- (i) Issue a notification to all Parties inviting entities and organizations that meet the selection criteria mentioned in paragraph 4 of annex II to the present decision and wish to host regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to submit expressions of interest and a detailed proposal of their offer;
- (ii) Provide responses to any inquiries or points of clarification from interested entities and organizations, as appropriate;
- (iii) Prepare an assessment report, with a ranked shortlist of up to three entities and organizations per (sub)region, also providing information on how the selection criteria were applied;
- (iv) Convene a meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation to consider the top shortlisted candidates and provide advice on the most suitable entity(ies) and organization(s) and the number of centres required;
- (v) Invite Parties to submit views on the assessment and the report of the Informal Advisory Group;
- (vi) Submit the report of the Informal Advisory Group as well as a compilation of the views of Parties to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and invite the Bureau to select the most suitable entities and organizations;
- (vii) Communicate the final decision to the selected entity(ies) and organization(s) and invite them to confirm acceptance of their selection within a period of one month;
- (viii) Initiate and facilitate a process to identify donors that could provide additional funding to the selected entity(ies) and organizations to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- (ix) Initiate within a period of three months and facilitate the process of signing the host agreement(s) with the selected entity(ies) and organization(s);

(c) To communicate to the regional and/or subregional support centres and the global coordination entity the priorities established by Parties regarding capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer;

(d) To maintain synergy and collaboration with biodiversity-related conventions, and relevant organizations, initiatives and networks, including the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and others that have technical and scientific expertise, technologies and information, and/or are involved in biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation activities;

(e) To maintain active communication with Parties and relevant stakeholders with a view to keeping them and the public informed of the achievements of the technical and scientific cooperation support activities;

(f) To organize, in collaboration with relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities, biodiversity science forums, technology and innovation expos, round tables and other events to showcase technical and scientific cooperation initiatives, technologies and opportunities;

(g) To compile relevant information related to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in the field of biological diversity for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and to make it available to Parties through the clearing-house mechanism;

- (h) To perform such other activities as may be necessary;
- (i) To prepare relevant documents and reports on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, including the work of the mechanism established in paragraph 25 of the present decision, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting to be held prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting, in conjunction with the global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the means of implementation;
- (j) To undertake a review of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, in conjunction with the global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the means of implementation, for consideration at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, if necessary, propose updates to ensure its effectiveness to assist Parties in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- (k) To submit a report on the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting to be held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex I

LONG-TERM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The long-term strategic framework is intended to guide the capacity-building and development efforts of government and non-government actors,¹³ including indigenous peoples and local communities, in support of priorities determined by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It seeks to catalyse institutionalized capacity-building and development interventions and ensure that they are robust, coordinated and delivered in a holistic and complementary manner. It also seeks to promote coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of capacity-building and development efforts at all levels through strategic and harmonized approaches.
2. The study carried out to provide the knowledge base for the strategic framework¹⁴ noted that capacity-building and development efforts, especially in developing countries, were fragmented and undertaken in silos, largely through externally funded short-term projects. Many countries had not yet adopted systemic, long-term and institutionalized approaches to capacity-building and development. Interventions were often implemented in an ad hoc manner and not as part of coherent long-term programmes, and without an adequate enabling environment. Consequently, many had not succeeded in bringing about the desired changes in a sustainable manner. The strategic framework aims to help address the above shortcomings.
3. In this strategic framework, capacity is described as “the ability of people, organizations and societies as a whole to achieve the biodiversity-related goals and action targets”, and capacity-building and development is understood as “the process whereby people, organizations and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time to achieve positive biodiversity results.”¹⁵

¹³ In this framework, government actors include, as appropriate, government institutions at national and subnational levels. The term “non-government actors” includes United Nations organizations and programmes, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, community organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, faith-based and religious groups, women and youth organizations, non-governmental organizations, media, the scientific community, and private sector entities such as private financial institutions, businesses, industries, insurers, producers and investors.

¹⁴ A report of the study is available as information document [CBD/SBI/3/INF/9](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pubs/2017/04/20170401-cbd-sbi-3-inf-9/).

¹⁵ Adapted from the definition given in “Capacity development: UNDAF Companion Guidance” United Nations Development Group 2017, available at <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/capacity-development-undaf-companion-guidance>.

Capacity-building and development is considered at three levels: the enabling environment, organizational and individual levels.

II. STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND OUTCOMES

A. Overall vision and theory of change

4. The long-term vision of this strategic framework is that by 2050 all societies will be fully empowered to effectively live in harmony with nature. The medium-term vision is that by 2030 governments and relevant non-government actors will have the requisite capacities to effectively and sustainably contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols.

5. The overall goal is to support the development and strengthening of the capacities necessary for achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to enhance the coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of capacity-building and development initiatives at all levels and ensuring alignment with relevant initiatives supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. These changes can only be achieved by having in place effective, agile and continuously learning organizations¹⁶ supported with adequate financial, technical and human resources.

6. The strategic framework, similar to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, is underpinned by a theory of change, which is elaborated and visualized in figure 3 of document CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1.¹⁷ The theory of change outlines the intended pathways of change in capacity, the underlying assumptions and the anticipated high-level changes/outcomes. The purpose of the theory of change is to ensure that relevant actors are conscious of the causal relationships, the change pathways, the expected changes/capacity results, and the important contextual factors and underlying assumptions.

B. Capacity results

7. The strategic framework establishes indicative high-level and long-term capacity-building and development results relevant to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, the achievement of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (see Box 1). Government and relevant non-government actors are also encouraged to set capacity-building and development targets at various levels and clearly include them in relevant documents, such as national biodiversity strategies and action plans, programme strategies and plans. Capacities can be categorized as “functional” capacities (cross-cutting skills needed to get things done and not associated with any one particular sector or theme); and “technical” capacities (associated with specific areas of expertise, sectors or themes).

¹⁶ An organization can become a “learning organization” by applying existing internal knowledge and learning from past experiences and lessons with the aim of improving its performance (e.g. see <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/wbs/conf/olkc/archive/olk4/papers/villard.pdf>).

¹⁷ The development of this theory of change took into account the technical guidance provided as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/theory-change-undaf-companion-guidance>.

Box 1. Expected capacity results

1. Long-term, high-level outcomes:

- (a) Successful implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (b) Achievement of 2030 targets and 2050 vision of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- (c) Biodiversity mainstreamed throughout sectors and society;
- (d) Strengthened access to and transfer of technology and effective participation in scientific and technical cooperation, particularly for developing countries.

2. Medium-term outcomes:

- (a) Successful development, where appropriate, and update of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (b) Sound enabling frameworks and institutional arrangements support achievement of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) Strategic partnerships and learning networks enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use efforts along with the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;
- (d) High-quality programmes and projects that are technically sound have realistic and achievable plans, address gender and youth considerations, and embed monitoring;
- (e) Effective monitoring and evaluation and learning processes embedded into projects and programmes from the start, to support evidence-based decision-making at all levels;
- (f) Reinforced mechanisms, incentive structures and investments ensure utilization and retention of capacity of all types at all levels.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

8. Governments and non-governmental actors are encouraged to apply the following overarching guiding principles, in support of priorities for capacity-building and development determined by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, which, if applied, would contribute to more effective and sustainable capacities to support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

- (a) Inclusive analysis of existing capacities and needs is essential to ensure effective interventions;
- (b) Country ownership and commitment should be cornerstones for capacity-building and development actions;
- (c) Strategic and integrated system-wide approaches to capacity-building and development should be promoted;
- (d) Interventions should be designed and implemented according to recognized good practice and lessons learned;
- (e) Indigenous peoples and local communities, gender and youth perspectives should be fully integrated into biodiversity capacity-building and development efforts, taking into account the Gender Plan of Action;¹⁸
- (f) Monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks should be incorporated into capacity-building and development strategies, plans and programmes from the start.

¹⁸ Decision 15/11, annex.

IV. KEY STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

9. Government and non-government actors are encouraged to adopt, as appropriate, the strategies below to enhance capacity-building and development initiatives in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and ensure alignment and synergy with the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant national and global processes. Each country should decide which strategies to apply, taking into account its needs, circumstances and local contexts:

(a) *Institutionalize capacity-building and development.* Ensure that capacity-building and development interventions are planned and delivered as an integral part of the institutions' broader corporate strategic plans, ongoing human resources and organizational development and knowledge management, organizational learning, mentorship and peer-to-peer support, nurturing of communities of practice, and systematic sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned;

(b) *Integrate long-term capacity-building and development into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.* Integrate capacity-building and development components into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and similar strategic documents or develop dedicated national capacity-building and development action plans, as appropriate,¹⁹ to identify the core capacity-building and development needs, goals, targets and milestones and foster their alignment with the strategic framework, alongside initiatives on related Sustainable Development Goals. This would help ensure that capacity-building and development for biodiversity is planned strategically and streamlined into national development investments and budgeting processes. It is encouraged to include plans on youth engagement and capacity-building and development, and to integrate intergenerational initiatives in these documents;

(c) *Increase focus on life-long learning.* Increase focus on formal, non-formal and informal education at all levels, including adult education, ensuring that knowledge, skills, values and norms are in line with the goals and targets as well as capacity-building and development needs of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(d) *Align biodiversity capacity-building and development with broader cross-sectoral plans and programmes.* Apply the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to national implementation proposed in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to galvanize capacity-building and development for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the global biodiversity goals and targets. Focal points of the Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, and representatives of line ministries and sectors should adopt a road map for alignment and coordinated action. The United Nations Country Teams should also play a key role in promoting integrated programming and coordination of capacity-building and development as part of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks;²⁰

(e) *Undertake measures to fully utilize and retain existing capacity.* Undertake context-specific assessments and stocktaking processes to identify existing capacity, and the obstacles preventing its utilization and retention. Likewise, identify and promote incentives that will help retain and fully utilize existing capacity and minimize not only loss of expertise and institutional memory, but also discontinuity of partnerships/relationships built;²¹

(f) *Develop thematic and regional and/or subregional capacity-building and development action plans and programmes.* It is recommended that, following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal

¹⁹ At least 30 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have prepared biodiversity capacity-building and development strategies or plans, either as a chapter or section within their NBSAP or as stand-alone documents: <https://www.cbd.int/cb/plans/>.

²⁰ Capacity-building and development is one of the core outcome areas of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), renamed United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework by General Assembly resolution 72/279 in a number of countries, as demonstrated by the example of Bhutan (https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_70552.html).

²¹ As cited in the publication *Incentive Systems: Incentives, motivation and development performance*, United Nations Development Programme, 2006. <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/Incentive-Systems-cp8.pdf>

Global Biodiversity Framework, thematic capacity-building and development strategies or action plans be developed to support the achievement of the respective targets or groups of related targets. Parties, other governments, biodiversity-related conventions, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in a position to do so should, as appropriate, consider developing dedicated regional, subregional, national and subnational capacity-building and development action plans and programmes across multiple thematic sectors, with specific capacity targets and indicators;

(g) *Promote partnerships and networks for implementation.* Establish and strengthen partnerships for effective mobilization of capacities and resources; the sharing of existing knowledge, expertise and technologies; and implementation of medium to long-term capacity-building and development programmes on specific issues related to the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with national priorities;

(h) *Enhance synergies between capacity-building and development efforts of relevant processes.* Enhance synergies with the capacity-building and development initiatives and the implementation processes of the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the global, regional and national levels. At the national level, the focal points of relevant conventions and processes, and of funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, should consider establishing a mechanism to foster integrated and/or coordinated planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation, as appropriate;

(i) *Promote North-South cooperation.* Support capacity-building and development in developing countries, with a view to addressing institutional and technical constraints that could undermine access to and transfer of technology, access to scientific and technical cooperation, and the effective participation in biotechnological research, in line with Article 19 of the Convention. This could include joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(j) *Promote South-South and triangular cooperation.* Support capacity-building and development in developing countries that have common challenges and share similar characteristics (e.g. economic and social conditions and language), as a complement and not a substitute to North-South cooperation. This could include sharing of knowledge, expertise, technologies and resources and establishment of regional nodes, networks or centres of excellence;

(k) *Engage the private sector.* Engage the private sector, proactively and as appropriate, in the development of national capacities, as many technical and financial resources and relevant expertise and technologies lie in the hands of private entities. In doing so, ensure transparency and accountability. Also strengthen the capacity of small and medium enterprises to address biodiversity-related issues;

(l) *Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building and development interventions.* Develop and implement adaptive management systems for monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity capacity-building and development efforts, to assess whether the intended capacity results are achieved in an impactful and sustainable manner, to identify and correct mistakes, and to capture and share good practices and lessons.

V. MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

A. Governance and coordination mechanisms

10. There is a need for mechanisms that could provide strategic leadership and foster coordinated capacity-building and development action for biodiversity at the global, regional and national levels. Specifically, the roles of such mechanisms may include: (a) enhancing synergy, by facilitating inter-agency coordination and cooperation among relevant organizations, initiatives, and funding agencies; (b) providing guidance and advice to government and non-government actors; (c) promoting strategic and coherent approaches to capacity-building and development; (d) fostering partnerships and multi-stakeholder initiatives; (e) identifying opportunities to mobilize additional resources for biodiversity capacity-building

and development efforts; and (f) proposing innovative ideas to improve and advance the implementation of the long-term strategic framework.

11. At the global level, the above roles will be accomplished through the establishment of a capacity-building and development committee under the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation (annex III below);

12. At the regional level, biodiversity capacity-building and development coordination and coherence could be achieved with the support of the United Nations regional economic commissions and the regional teams of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group;

13. At the country level, coordination of biodiversity capacity-building and development could be done through the national biodiversity committees or similar mechanisms and facilitated through the United Nations Country Teams, within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the country.

B. Mutual supportiveness between various implementation strategies and processes

14. This long-term strategic framework should be synergized with the other means of implementation and enabling conditions for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (including technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and resource mobilization), the long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and with the mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation.

C. Resource mobilization for capacity-building and development

15. There is a need to mobilize resources from all sources to support national capacity-building and development and help create an enabling environment. The provision of financial resources in line with Article 20 of the Convention, and the efforts by the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (BIOFIN) could support countries to include options to mobilize resources for capacity-building and development in their national resource mobilization strategies, in line with decision 15/7 on resource mobilization.

D. Regional and global support networks

16. Existing regional and global support networks should be strengthened, to provide, upon request, capacity-building and development support to national government institutions, subnational governments, local authorities and non-government actors within the respective geographic regions or subregions.

E. Enhanced review mechanisms

17. The enhanced planning, reporting and review mechanism should consider the capacity-building and development dimension. The guidelines for national reporting by Governments should also include provisions for reporting on capacity-building and development and provide opportunities for countries to share experiences and lessons learned. The review and revision process of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the voluntary peer review of their implementation should also include a review of the capacity-building and development strategies and approaches in line with decision 15/6 on planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

F. Outreach and dissemination of the long-term strategic framework

18. A campaign targeting various stakeholders and actors will be undertaken to raise awareness of, and support for, the long-term strategic framework. Key partners and stakeholders will be invited to support the implementation, including through alignment of their capacity-building and development actions with the framework, and establishment of coalitions and communities of practice. A dedicated web portal within the clearing-house mechanism will be created and linked to the websites of biodiversity-related conventions and organizations to share information about the framework and the activities and experiences of various actors.

G. Reporting and review of the long-term strategic framework

19. The long-term strategic framework is intended to be a living document. It will be reviewed periodically and, if necessary, updated to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness and use by government and non-government actors. A first review will be carried out in 2025, and an independent evaluation will be undertaken in 2029, to coincide with the review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Reporting on its application and the lessons learned by Governments will be done through national reports in line with decision 15/6 on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

Annex II

MECHANISM TO STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

I. GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A. Goal and objectives

1. The overall goal of the mechanism is to promote and facilitate cooperation among Parties and relevant organizations to enable them to effectively utilize science, technology and innovation to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The specific objectives are:

- (a) To enhance local, national, subregional, regional and international capacities in relation to science, technology and innovation by means of human resource and institutional capacity-building and development;
- (b) To enable technology assessment and monitoring of appropriate technologies;
- (c) To promote and facilitate the development, transfer and use of appropriate technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies subject to free, prior and informed consent, according to national legislation;
- (d) To promote and encourage joint research, cooperation and collaboration in the use of scientific advances and good practices in research;
- (e) To promote the development, implementation and scaling-up of innovative solutions;
- (f) To facilitate access to and exchange of relevant technical and scientific data, information and knowledge.

B. Guiding principles

2. Technical and scientific cooperation initiatives (activities, projects and programmes) would be guided by the following principles:

- (a) *Demand-driven*. Initiatives should be started at the request of Parties and relevant institutions and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in response to their needs and in accordance with national legislation;
- (b) *Flexibility*. Initiatives should be implemented in a flexible and adaptive manner, taking into account the varying needs, conditions and circumstances of the Parties and stakeholders involved;
- (c) *Efficiency*. Measures should be taken to ensure that the initiatives achieve the intended results on time and with the least possible resources;
- (d) *Efficacy*. Measures should be taken to ensure that the initiatives generate the desired changes while taking into account the potential interconnections and unintended impacts, and that results can be monitored, assessed and evaluated;

(e) *Tailored*. Initiatives should be adapted to local conditions and circumstances, also taking into account cultural and other considerations, to foster buy-in and uptake, ownership, and sustainability at the local level;

(f) *Programmatic*. Delivery should be done through sustained long-term engagement and in a holistic and integrated manner, whereby various interventions (activities, projects and other initiatives) unified by an overarching vision and common objectives, are interconnected to achieve larger-scale and sustained impact that is more than the sum of its components;

(g) *Synergistic*. Initiatives should be implemented in a collaborative, interlinked, complementary and mutually supportive manner to achieve enhanced impact in supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at all levels and across conventions, processes and sectors;

(h) *Multi-stakeholder engagement*. Initiatives should actively engage relevant societal actors, institutional partners and providers of technical assistance, including (i) indigenous peoples and local communities and their networks; (ii) multidisciplinary research and professional networks; (iii) civil society, including youth networks; (iv) academic and scientific institutions; (v) the private sector; (vi) subnational, national and regional governmental institutions; (vii) national and international non-governmental organizations, including organizations engaging in citizen science; (viii) bilateral and multilateral institutions; and (ix) funding institutions;

(i) *Mutual respect*. Initiatives should adhere to the principles of mutual respect and equality and mutual benefit, under a human rights approach, including respect for diverse knowledge systems including the knowledge and experience of practitioners, and of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(j) *Respect for regulatory requirements*. Initiatives should adhere to appropriate and proportionate safeguards and comply with the legal and regulatory requirements of collaborating countries;

(k) *Continuous learning*. Initiatives should incorporate provisions for continuous education and learning opportunities, including interdisciplinary education in the research and development of new and emerging technologies, as a part of the long-term programmatic approach to strengthen the technical knowledge of the recipients;

(l) *Participation*. Initiatives should seek to maximize participatory approaches, recognizing the value of drawing on diverse perspectives, including those from outside the technical and scientific realm;

(m) *Precaution*. Initiatives should operationalize the precautionary approach;²²

(n) *Free, prior and informed consent*. Initiatives should respect the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities when considering the introduction, dissemination or use of innovations that may potentially impact their rights, traditional practices and territories as set out in international instruments including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

II. MAIN FOCAL AREAS

3. Technical and scientific cooperation work in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework could be organized around the following focal areas:

(a) *Science*. Promotion of research cooperation to foster effective generation and use of relevant scientific and analytical information and facilitate science-policy dialogue to support evidence-based policies, actions, tools and mechanisms, based on or informed by the best available science;

(b) *Technology*. Technology assessment, development, transfer, promotion, monitoring, governance, and use of technologies, including biotechnology, existing know-how of relevant sectors and

²² Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

indigenous and traditional technologies and knowledge, subject to free, prior and informed consent, according to national legislation to scale up solutions;

(c) *Innovation*. Promotion of appropriate, supportive and socially responsible innovation, in line with the needs of people and the environment.

III. CRITERIA FOR SELECTING HOST INSTITUTIONS

4. Any organization or institution wishing to host a regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centre should have the following:

(a) Demonstrated ability to provide technical advice and support to Parties in planning and implementing country-led projects and/or programmes;

(b) Experience and expertise in the areas of work undertaken by Parties in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols;

(c) Capacity to mobilize resources for technical and scientific cooperation programmes;

(d) Appropriate policies, procedures and other institutional mechanisms and demonstrated ability in place to manage multiple complex projects and programmes;

(e) Appropriate policies and procedures in place to disclose financial information regarding the operations of the organization or institution, including the sources of financial resources and how they are allocated;

(f) Active networks of collaborators, including institutions working at regional and subregional levels on biodiversity-relevant issues;

(g) Experience in working with biodiversity-related conventions, intergovernmental processes, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and other stakeholders;

(h) Experience in engagement in regional and subregional biodiversity-related networks and partnerships;

(i) Demonstrated experience in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation.

IV. ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

5. In line with Article 24 of the Convention, the Secretariat will:

(a) Prepare or submit, as appropriate, relevant documents and reports on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer (Articles 16, 17 and 18 of the Convention) for the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

(b) Compile relevant information related to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in the field of biological diversity and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism;

(c) Maintain active communication with Parties and stakeholders involved or interested in technical and scientific cooperation;

(d) Coordinate, as appropriate, with biodiversity-related conventions, relevant Parties' agencies, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and other relevant networks and initiatives with technical and scientific expertise and/or involved in technical and scientific cooperation;

(e) Organize, with partners, biodiversity science forums, technology and innovation expos and other events on the margins of international meetings;

(f) Perform such other activities as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

V. MONITORING AND REVIEW

6. The present mechanism will be monitored and reviewed periodically by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. If necessary, the Informal Advisory Group will make recommendations on possible updates regarding the relevance and effectiveness of this mechanism in supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which will be submitted for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body of Implementation and the Conference of the Parties. A first review will be carried out in conjunction with the global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the means of implementation, for consideration at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

7. An independent evaluation will be undertaken, together with the review of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and in conjunction with the global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including an evaluation of the means of implementation, and the Secretariat will submit a report to facilitate its review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting.

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

A. Background

1. Article 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires Parties to promote international technical and scientific cooperation with other Parties, in particularly developing country Parties, in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, where necessary, through appropriate international and national institutions, including by promoting cooperation in human resources development and institution-building, encouraging and developing methods of cooperation for the development and use of relevant technologies (including indigenous and traditional technologies), promoting cooperation in the training of personnel and exchange of experts, and promoting the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of relevant technologies. Article 18 also stresses the importance of the clearing-house mechanism for fostering technical and scientific cooperation.

2. In decisions, VII/29, VIII/12, IX/14, X/15, X/16, XII/2 B, XIII/23 and XIII/31, the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of measures and provided guidance on various aspects relating to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

3. In decision 14/24 B, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider establishing, at its fifteenth meeting, an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation, to be operational at the end of the mandate of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-house Mechanism, to provide the Executive Secretary with advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention.

B. Purpose

4. The Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation will provide advice and guidance to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to other relevant bodies and stakeholders, on ways and means to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, capacity-building and development, knowledge management, and the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with the three objectives of the Convention. In particular, the Informal Advisory Group will provide advice, guidance and recommendations on:

(a) Practical measures and approaches to promote technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention;

- (b) Measures to address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified in particular by developing countries;
 - (c) Measures to enhance collaboration with other relevant international agreements, processes and organizations with respect to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer initiatives, in particular for developing country Parties;
 - (d) Strategic approaches to addressing the needs and priorities of Parties through programmatic implementation of relevant technical and scientific cooperation initiatives established under the Convention;
 - (e) Monitoring the implementation of strategies and mechanisms on technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and development, and knowledge management in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to ensure coherence and consistency;
 - (f) Development and implementation of tools and mechanisms for promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and development, and knowledge management;
 - (g) Matters relating to the clearing-house mechanism and, in particular, on how to improve its effectiveness as a mechanism for promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation and exchange of information;
 - (h) Potential opportunities for mobilizing technical and financial resources to promote and sustain technical and scientific cooperation activities on a long-term and predictable basis;
 - (i) Identification, mapping and promotion of existing collaboration activities, in the context of Article 18 of the Convention;
 - (j) Development of indicators for capacity-building and development and technology transfer related to monitoring the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the request of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators;
5. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will support the work of the Informal Advisory Group, including through the provision of the necessary logistical and secretarial support.

C. Membership

6. The Informal Advisory Group will be composed of experts nominated by Parties, with due regard to equitable regional representation and gender balance, and by indigenous peoples and local communities, the scientific community, and relevant organizations including those representing women and youth. The number of experts from organizations will not exceed the number of experts nominated by Parties. The membership will reflect a balanced representation of experts on matters regarding the three objectives of the Convention. Members will be selected on the basis of the following criteria, as evidenced in their curriculum vitae:
- (a) At least five years of working experience on technical and scientific issues related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and/or other relevant international agreements and processes;
 - (b) Expertise relevant to technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and development, and knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism or similar online information-sharing platforms;
 - (c) Demonstrated experience with regional or international cooperation processes and programmes related to biodiversity and/or the environment.
7. The co-chairs of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity will be invited as ex officio members.

8. Members of the Informal Advisory Group will be selected through a formal nomination process based on the above criteria. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the co-chairs of the Informal Advisory Group, may invite additional experts knowledgeable in specific issues or thematic areas to be discussed at relevant meetings of the Informal Advisory Group, ensuring a balance of experts on matters related to the Convention. The members will serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of a government, organization or other entity.

9. Members of the Informal Advisory Group will serve for a term of two years, with a possibility of renewal for one additional two-year term.

D. Modus operandi

10. The Informal Advisory Group will meet at least once per year, subject to the availability of resources, wherever possible in the margins of other meetings. The frequency of meetings may be adjusted by the members as the need arises. The Informal Advisory Group may work face-to-face or remotely via electronic means, as appropriate.

11. The Informal Advisory Group may, as appropriate, establish subcommittees to support it in addressing specific issues or thematic areas and co-opt relevant experts to assist.

12. The Informal Advisory Group members shall not receive any honorarium, fee or other remuneration from the United Nations. However, costs for the participation of members of the Informal Advisory Group nominated by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition will be covered, in line with the rules and regulations of the United Nations.

13. The Informal Advisory Group will elect two co-chairs and a rapporteur to serve for a two-year period.

14. The working language of the Informal Advisory Group will be English.

15/9. Digital sequence information on genetic resources

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol and other access and benefit-sharing instruments provide the legal framework for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization,

Recalling also decision 14/20,

Noting the outcomes of the science- and policy-based process on digital sequence information on genetic resources established in decision 14/20,¹

Noting also the Informal Co-Chairs' Advisory Group on digital sequence information on genetic resources established by the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Executive Secretary, and the work on digital sequence information on genetic resources undertaken by the Advisory Group, including consideration of policy options,²

Noting further the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework,³ and the information in the note by the Executive Secretary on digital sequence information on genetic resources,⁴

Recognizing that there are divergent views on digital sequence information on genetic resources with regard to its scope under the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing also that digital sequence information on genetic resources is under consideration in other United Nations bodies and instruments,

Recognizing further that any solution for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources should be mutually supportive of and adaptable to other instruments and fora while recognizing that other fora may develop specialized approaches,

Acknowledging that the generation of, access to, and use of digital sequence information on genetic resources together with the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its use would support research and innovation and contribute to achieving the three objectives of the Convention and sustainable development,

Emphasizing the importance of capacity-building and development, technology transfer and technical and scientific cooperation to support generation of, access to, and use of digital sequence information on genetic resources,

Recognizing the importance of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁵

Recognizing also that a solution for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources is also a wide-ranging solution for the mobilization of resources to support the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

Recognizing further the value of depositing data in public databases,

Welcoming the efforts of databases, including the International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration, to encourage the tagging of records with information on geographical origin,

¹ CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2020/1/2; CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2020/1/3; CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2020/1/4; CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2020/1/5; CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2020/1/7.

² CBD/WG2020/3/INF/8; CBD/WG2020/4/INF/4; CBD/WG2020/5/INF/1.

³ Recommendations 3/2, 4/2 and 5/2 of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

⁴ CBD/WG2020/5/3.

⁵ Decision 15/4, annex.

Acknowledging the FAIR⁶ and CARE⁷ principles, the framework for data governance provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development “Recommendation on Enhancing Access to and Sharing of Data”,⁸ and the recommendations set out in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization “Recommendation on Open Science”,⁹

Recognizing that a solution on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources may include innovative revenue generation measures,

Noting that the differences between public and private databases should be considered in the development of a solution on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources,

Recognizing the different understandings of the concept and scope of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and the range of views regarding the need to define such concept and scope,

1. *Agrees* on the continuing use of the term “digital sequence information” for further discussions;

2. *Also agrees* that the benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources should be shared fairly and equitably;

3. *Considers* that the distribution of digital sequence information on genetic resources and distinctive practices in its use require a distinctive solution for benefit-sharing;

4. *Encourages* the depositing of more digital sequence information on genetic resources, with appropriate information on geographical origin and other relevant metadata, in public databases;

5. *Recognizes* that tracking and tracing of all digital sequence information on genetic resources is not practical;

6. *Also recognizes* that a multilateral approach on the sharing of the benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources has the potential to meet the criteria identified in paragraph 9 of the present decision;

7. *Further recognizes* that in the course of further analysis, exceptions to paragraph 6 above may be identified;

8. *Agrees* to develop a solution for the sharing of benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources;

9. *Also agrees* that a solution for fair and equitable benefit-sharing on digital sequence information on genetic resources should, inter alia:

- (a) Be efficient, feasible and practical;
- (b) Generate more benefits, including both monetary and non-monetary, than costs;
- (c) Be effective;
- (d) Provide certainty and legal clarity for providers and users of digital sequence information on genetic resources;
- (e) Not hinder research and innovation;
- (f) Be consistent with open access to data;
- (g) Not be incompatible with international legal obligations;

⁶ Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable, and their respective sub-principles.

⁷ Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics, and their respective sub-principles.

⁸ <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0463>.

⁹ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949.locale=en>.

- (h) Be mutually supportive of other access and benefit-sharing instruments;
 - (i) Take into account the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including with respect to the traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that they hold;
10. *Recognizes* that the monetary and non-monetary benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources should, in particular, be used to support conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and, inter alia, benefit indigenous peoples and local communities;
11. *Agrees* that the approach to fair and equitable benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources set out in the present decision does not affect existing rights and obligations under the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, including, as applicable, those related to traditional knowledge and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and is without prejudice to national access and benefit-sharing measures;
12. *Welcomes* section I of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development,¹⁰ and the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
13. *Calls for* specific and targeted capacity-building and development, technology transfer, according to Article 16, and technical and scientific cooperation, according to Article 18 and, as appropriate, support for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small islands developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, to generate, access and use digital sequence information on genetic resources for research and innovation, taking into account the key areas for potential capacity-building and modalities for capacity-building activities as identified by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources;¹¹
14. *Encourages* Parties to support the capacity needs and priorities, as appropriate, of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, as identified by them, emphasizing the capacity needs and priorities of women;
15. *Recalls* the proposed policy options for a solution on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources as contained in the annex to recommendation 5/2 of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
16. *Decides* to establish, as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund;¹²
17. *Also decides* to establish a fair, transparent, inclusive, participatory and time-bound process to further develop and operationalize the mechanism, as outlined in paragraphs 18 and 20 to 22 below, to be finalized at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
18. *Establishes* an ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources to undertake further development of the multilateral mechanism, including the elements identified in the annex, and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;
19. *Decides* to review the effectiveness of the multilateral mechanism at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including, inter alia, the criteria laid out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the present decision;

¹⁰ Decision 15/8, annex I.

¹¹ CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2020/1/7.

¹² Reference is made to the section on “Global instrument for biodiversity finance” in the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization as contained in annex II of decision 15/7 on resource mobilization.

20. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous people and local communities and relevant organizations to submit views on the issues set out in the annex to the present decision;

21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile and synthesize the views submitted pursuant to paragraph 20 above and make them available to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources;

22. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Compile lessons learned from other international funding mechanisms, such as the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the World Health Organization Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework, and the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility;

(b) Commission a study to analyse and model the extent to which a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and any other options the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group may decide, meets the criteria in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the present decision;

(c) Commission a study on the options for revenue-generating measures at different points along the value chain, the feasibility of their implementation and their costs relative to their potential revenue.

Annex

ISSUES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

(a) Governance of the fund;

(b) Triggering points for benefit-sharing;

(c) Contributions to the fund;

(d) Potential to voluntarily extend the multilateral mechanism to genetic resources or biological diversity;

(e) Disbursement of monetary benefits, including information on geographical origin as one of the criteria;

(f) Non-monetary benefit-sharing, including information on geographical origin as one of the criteria;

(g) Other policy options for the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including as identified through further analysis, as referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present decision;

(h) Capacity development and technology transfer;

(i) Monitoring and evaluation and review of effectiveness;

(j) Adaptability of the mechanism to other resource mobilization instruments or funds;

(k) Interface between national systems and the multilateral mechanism on benefit-sharing;

(l) Relationship with the Nagoya Protocol;

(m) Role, rights and interests of indigenous peoples and local communities, including associated traditional knowledge;

(n) Role and interests of industry and academia;

(o) Linkages between research and technology and the multilateral mechanism on benefit-sharing;

- (p) Principles of data governance.

15/10. Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision V/16, in which it established the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, and decision X/43,¹ in which it revised the multi-year programme of work for 2010–2020,

Recalling also decision 14/17,

Recognizing the need for a more holistic, forward-looking and integrated programme of work, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals,² the Paris Agreement³ and the post-2020 arrangements for the Convention,

Building on the composite report on the status and trends of traditional knowledge and the voluntary guidelines, standards and other tools already developed by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and adopted by the Conference of the Parties,⁴

Emphasizing the need for the effective implementation in accordance with national legislation and circumstances and international obligations, as appropriate, of the voluntary guidelines and standards related to Article 8(j) and related provisions at the national level, in order to build on the progress made towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and to contribute to the corresponding elements in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

1. *Decides* to develop a new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, on the basis of annexes I and II⁵ to the present decision;

2. *Also decides* to keep under review the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, as needed, and to reprioritize elements and tasks in order to ensure a programme of work supportive of a human rights approach and coherent with the priorities of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and one which takes into account developments in other relevant international forums and organizations;

3. *Encourages* Parties, according to national legislation and international obligations, to increase efforts to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities as on-the-ground partners in the implementation of the Convention, including by recognizing, supporting and valuing their customary laws, collective actions, cosmocentric worldviews and diverse values, including the efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities to protect and conserve lands and waters that they traditionally occupy or use towards the goals of the Convention, and engaging them, as appropriate, in the preparation of national reports, in the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and in the process for implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

¹ In decision X/43, the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised multi-year programme of work on Article 8(j), retiring completed or superseded tasks 3, 5, 8, 9 and 16.

² See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

³ See United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, twenty-first session, decision 1/CP.21 ([FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#)).

⁴ See decision [VII/16](#).

⁵ As requested by the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, at its eleventh meeting, annex II is being peer reviewed and the results will be made available to the ad hoc technical expert group established by paragraph 7 of the present decision. (Notification 2022-070, dated 3 November 2022).

4. *Requests* Parties and other Governments to report on the implementation of the current programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, and once adopted, of the new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as on the application of the various voluntary guidelines and standards developed under the aegis of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and adopted by the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, through national reports, and to relevant subsidiary bodies, in order to determine progress made;

5. *Invites* Parties, as per decision X/40 B, paragraph 7, to consider designating national focal points for Article 8(j) and related provisions in support of existing national focal points, to facilitate and disseminate culturally appropriate communications with indigenous peoples and local community organizations, and to promote the effective development and implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions;⁶

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to strengthen and support the network of national focal points for Article 8(j) and related provisions, as well as of the national focal points to the Convention on Biological Diversity, enabling them to play a key role at the national level in such areas as (a) national and subnational arrangements for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, (b) national arrangements for the protection, preservation and promotion of traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use, with the free, prior and informed consent⁷ of the holders of that knowledge, (c) facilitating the input of indigenous peoples and local communities into the drafting of national reports, and (d) promoting capacity-building and development for indigenous peoples and local communities at the national and local levels, on issues related to the Convention;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene an ad hoc technical expert group on indigenous peoples and local communities, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, subject to availability of financial resources, which should meet prior to the twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, with terms of reference as contained in annex III to the present decision, to provide advice on the further elaboration of the new programme of work on, and the possible institutional arrangements for, Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, including the future modus operandi for the implementation of Article 8(j), considering the possible establishment of a subsidiary body, continuing the working group, or other arrangements;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with relevant organizations, to support the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group as outlined in paragraph 7;

9. *Decides* to continue the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with the intention to subsequently decide on institutional arrangements and future modus operandi for Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, at its twelfth meeting, to further elaborate the new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, taking into account the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, for consideration by the Conference of Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

⁶ As of December 2020, 46 national focal point for Article 8(j) and related provisions were designated in 42 countries.

⁷ 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”.

Annex I

**DRAFT OBJECTIVES, GENERAL PRINCIPLES, AND ELEMENTS OF WORK FOR THE
NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE
CONVENTION RELATED TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES
2020-2050**

I. OBJECTIVE

1. The objective of this programme of work is to promote, within the framework of the Convention, a just implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions at the local, national, regional and international levels and to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and levels of its implementation, ensuring an ongoing recognition of the unique association that indigenous peoples and local communities have with the Convention and its Protocols.

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2. Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in all stages of the identification and implementation of the elements of the programme of work. Full and effective participation of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities in all activities of the programme of work.

3. Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be valued, given the same respect and considered as useful and necessary as other forms of knowledge. Genuine collaborations and co-production of knowledge in ways that respect the knowledge generation processes and the integrity of each knowledge system should be promoted. The inclusion of knowledge from the diversity of knowledge systems and practices should be mainstreamed in the development and implementation of biodiversity policies.

4. An holistic approach consistent with the spiritual and cultural values and customary practices of the indigenous peoples and local communities recognizing the connection to their territories and their rights, in accordance with relevant national legislation, to have control over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

5. The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in an equitable way.

6. Access to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices held by indigenous peoples and local communities should be subject to free, prior and informed consent⁸ of indigenous peoples and local communities, depending on national circumstances, and on a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use and application of such knowledge, innovations and practise based on mutually agreed terms and in accordance with domestic law.

7. The implementation of the new programme of work on Article 8(j) will be monitored continuously through the indicators for status and trends in traditional knowledge,⁹ adopted under the earlier programme of work, and their further operationalization will also be continued under the renewed joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity,¹⁰ including in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and other relevant bodies.

⁸ 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”

⁹ The adopted indicators for traditional knowledge are: trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities (decision X/43); trends in linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages (decisions VII/30 and VIII/15); trends in the practice of traditional occupations (decision X/43); trends in which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through their full integration, safeguards and full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan.

¹⁰ Decision 15/22.

Annex II

**DRAFT POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF THE NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(J)
AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION RELATED TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

I. SUSTAINABLE USE

[To promote the sustainable use of biological diversity, including the customary sustainable use of wildlife and traditional food production practices and agriculture systems]

Suggested activities:

- 1.1 Develop voluntary guidelines to incorporate customary sustainable use practices or policies, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- 1.2 Develop voluntary guidelines to promote and strengthen community-based initiatives that support and contribute to the implementation of Article 10(c) and enhance customary sustainable use of biological diversity.
- 1.3 Identify and promote best practices (e.g. case studies, mechanisms, legislation and other appropriate initiatives).
- 1.4. Develop proposals to support indigenous peoples and local communities in on-farm and in situ conservation.
- 1.5 Develop communication, education and public awareness materials on the value and contributions of indigenous, local and traditional food systems, and on these systems and their products and their advantages for human health and biodiversity.
- 1.6 In accordance with national legislation and international obligations, encourage indigenous peoples and local communities to register their existing practices with the appropriate international mechanisms and initiatives, such as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as the programmes implemented by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Satoyama Initiative, to assist in transmission to future generations in appropriate and respectful ways.
- 1.7 Develop guidance to promote indigenous concepts of diverse agroforestry systems in areas adjacent to protected areas.]

II. CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

[To promote and support the conservation, protection and restoration of biological diversity by indigenous peoples and local communities]

Suggested activities:

- 2.1 Develop voluntary guidelines, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities to strengthen the policy framework for community-based conservation, protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities, such as indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) or traditional sacred sites.
- 2.2 Develop voluntary guidelines to facilitate, as appropriate, the integration of ICCAs into national networks of protected areas by appropriately recognizing ICCA territories and strive for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in protected area management.
- 2.3 Develop voluntary guidelines to promote and support, subject to national legislation, traditional land-use change and land tenure by indigenous peoples and local communities and identify and

promote best practices (e.g. case studies, mechanisms, legislation and other appropriate initiatives) and their implementation.

- 2.4 Promote indigenous peoples and local communities without formal access to land to partner in the conservation, protection and restoration of biodiversity.
- 2.5 Develop voluntary guidelines to operationalize the indicator on land-use change and land tenure¹¹ in the lands and waters of indigenous peoples and local communities, traditionally used or occupied as appropriate, including by mapping existing ICCAs, documenting legislation and recognition of indigenous peoples land tenure rights and collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities contributing to the protection of biodiversity, and report on progress made.]

III. SHARING OF BENEFITS FROM GENETIC RESOURCES

[To promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources associated with traditional knowledge]

Suggested activities:

- 3.1 Develop voluntary guidelines and mechanisms to support Parties, as appropriate, in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities through capacity-building (regarding prior and informed consent (PIC), mutually agreed terms (MAT), and equitable sharing of benefits and biocultural community protocols, as well as through legal, policy, or technical assistance, in accordance with national legislation.
- 3.2 Promote and strengthen programmes aimed at valorization of genetic resources associated with traditional knowledge.
- 3.3 Promote and support programmes aimed at ensuring the development of databanks/databases on the use of genetic resources associated with traditional knowledge.
- 3.4 Promote programmes that encourage collaboration and partnerships between indigenous peoples and local communities and the users of genetic resources associated with traditional knowledge.
- 3.5 Identify opportunities for capacity development for indigenous peoples and local communities and for dialogue with external stakeholders, taking into account the cultural and organizational contexts, and adjusted to sui generis governance structures.
- 3.6 Identify opportunities for capacity development for indigenous peoples and local communities, and create platforms for information exchange between indigenous peoples and local communities and Parties, as well as for dialogue with external stakeholders.]

IV. KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE

[To support the transmission of traditional knowledge and ensure that traditional knowledge and other knowledge systems are valued equally]

Suggested activities:

- 4.1 Develop proposals to support indigenous peoples and local communities, to strengthen the transmission and use of traditional knowledge, including by enabling them to explore collection, recording, documentation, storage and ways and means for the dissemination of indigenous and local knowledge, through secure indigenous knowledge systems' documentation centres, and strengthen the use and transmission of traditional knowledge to future generations, including for the goals of the Convention and to contribute to other international processes, with "prior and informed consent",

¹¹ References to "land" include both lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous peoples and local communities.

“free, prior and informed consent”, or “approval and involvement” of indigenous peoples and local communities depending on national circumstances.

- 4.2 Promote the Joint Programme of Work on the Links Between Biological and Cultural Diversity (nature and cultures).¹²
- 4.3 Promote the inclusion of traditional knowledge and indigenous and local knowledge systems as equally valid in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
- 4.4 Develop voluntary guidelines to promote the mainstreaming of inclusion of traditional knowledge, as an equally valid part of the broader mainstreaming of biodiversity across society and sectors of production, as well as other relevant global processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals.]

V. PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES, INCLUDING THROUGH APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS, AND FURTHER ADVANCEMENT OF ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS

- [5.1 In accordance with national legislation and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, promote the application and monitoring of the following:
- (a) The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities;¹³
 - (b) The Tkarihwaí: ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities;¹⁴
 - (c) The Global Plan of Action on the Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity;¹⁵
 - (d) The Mo’otz kuxtal¹⁶ Voluntary Guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation, or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities¹⁷ for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge;¹⁸
 - (e) The Rutzoli jirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity.¹⁹

¹² The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and partners. See decision 15/22.

¹³ Adopted in [decision VII/16](#).

¹⁴ Adopted in [decision X/42](#).

¹⁵ Adopted in decision XII/12 [B](#), contained in the annex.

¹⁶ Meaning “roots of life” in the Mayan language.

¹⁷ The use and interpretation of the term “indigenous peoples and local communities” in these Guidelines should refer to [decision XII/12 F](#), paragraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c).

¹⁸ Adopted in [decision XIII/18](#). The adoption of the Mo’otz kuxtal voluntary Guidelines has also advanced the work being pursued by the Working Group on *sui generis* systems for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities by highlighting the potential role of community protocols and procedures for access to traditional knowledge.

¹⁹ Adopted in decision 14/2.

Consider the promotion of other principles, standards and guidelines within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- 5.2 Promote the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, as appropriate, emphasizing the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and taking into account the special role of gender in the generation, transmission and protection of traditional knowledge, in accordance with national realities, circumstances and capacities.²⁰
- 5.3 Explore, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and appropriate agencies, ways to recognize, support and promote, as appropriate, traditional land tenure and secure land tenure for indigenous peoples and local communities.²¹
- 5.4 Explore, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and appropriate agencies, ways to promote a human rights-based approach in conservation efforts.
- 5.5 Explore, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and appropriate agencies, ways to protect environmental defenders from arbitrary persecution, through appropriate mechanisms at the national and international levels.²²
- 5.6 Building on the guidelines and standards²³ aimed at the national level, the previous work on sui generis systems, and taking into account the safeguards framework, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, to develop a comprehensive safeguards framework (decisions XII/3 and 14/15) for indigenous peoples and local communities and the promotion and management of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components with the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.]

VI. FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- [6.1 Facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity including through implementing the enhanced participation mechanisms used by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, and by maintaining the voluntary funding mechanism to support their effective participation in meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols.
- 6.2 Parties, according to the national legislation, to promote full and effective participation and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the development of national reports, and in the development, revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and to strengthen partnerships with indigenous peoples and local communities, recognizing their collective actions, for implementation of the Convention.
- 6.3 Collaborate with other relevant global processes, including but not limited to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

²⁰ See decision XII/7.

²¹ References to "traditional tenure" include lands and waters.

²² See Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/EarlyWarningProcedure.aspx>

²³ List of adopted guidelines and standards.

(UNFCCC) with its recently established Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, as well as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

- 6.4 Report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on matters falling within the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity in accordance with the [System-Wide Action Plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(E/C.19/2016/5\)](#).
- 6.5 Explore, in collaboration with Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities and other engaged actors, how the methodological guidance for identifying, monitoring and assessing the contribution of the collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities, through the resource mobilization reporting framework, can best be applied, including the use of qualitative values and methods as requested by the Conference of the Parties in [decision 14/16](#);
- 6.6 Explore ways and means, partnerships and opportunities to mobilize financial resources for on-the-ground implementation of the Convention by indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as to contribute to other international processes.]

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON THE NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION RELATED TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the New Programme of Work and Institutional Arrangements on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities shall:

(a) Further elaborate possible elements, tasks and actors of a new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities based on annexes I and II to the present decision, as well as the results of the peer review referred to in recommendation 11/2 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, ensuring alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(b) Elaborate options for institutional arrangements and their *modus operandi* that would allow for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention, including but not limited to those options contained in paragraph 9 of decision 14/17, including information on legal, organizational and financial implications of each option, and taking into consideration the rules of procedure of the Convention;

(c) Prepare a report on the outcomes of its work for consideration by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its twelfth meeting.

2. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will be constituted according to the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, adjusted to ensure full participation of indigenous peoples and local communities respectively, including three experts per region nominated by Parties, two representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities from each of the seven sociocultural regions recognized by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as no more than six other organizations.

15/11. Gender Plan of Action

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XII/7 and IX/24, welcoming earlier versions of a gender plan of action for the Convention,

Recognizing the importance of advancing efforts to achieve gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment to ensure the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹

Recognizing also that the full and effective participation and leadership of women in all aspects of Convention processes, particularly in policy and action at national and local levels, is vital for achieving long-term biodiversity goals and the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature,

1. *Adopts* the Gender Plan of Action contained in the annex to the present decision;
2. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, and relevant organizations to implement the Gender Plan of Action to support and advance gender mainstreaming and gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
3. *Invites* relevant organizations of the United Nations family and other international organizations and initiatives to support coherent gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, through identifying synergies and drawing on relevant experience from related processes;
4. *Urges* Parties and invites where appropriate, relevant organizations to incorporate the Gender Plan of Action in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to include gender-specific indicators in the development of national indicators, collecting data disaggregated by sex, age and other demographic factors and gender indicators, where possible;
5. *Invites* Parties to implement the Gender Plan of Action in synergy with gender plans or strategies developed under other relevant multilateral environmental agreements or related multilateral processes, as appropriate;
6. *Encourages* Parties to submit information on efforts and steps taken to implement the Gender Plan of Action in their national reporting, including sex-disaggregated data;
7. *Also encourages* Parties to appoint and provide support for a national gender and biodiversity focal point for biodiversity negotiations, implementation and monitoring;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, to facilitate outreach and capacity-building and development activities with a view to exchanging experiences, good practices, and lessons learned, to support the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action;
9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, based inter alia on the information received pursuant to paragraph 6 above and with the support of relevant partners, to undertake a mid-term review of implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, identifying progress, lessons learned, and further work to be undertaken for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
10. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and relevant bilateral and multilateral funding organizations to provide technical and financial support, as well as capacity-building and development, for implementation of the Gender Plan of Action;

¹ Decision 15/4, annex.

11. *Encourages* Parties to increase representation of women in their delegations to meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to achieving gender equality, including through requests for support for participation through the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ), where applicable;

12. *Invites* Parties, and relevant public and private entities, to increase the gender responsiveness of biodiversity capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, provision of financial resources, and other means of implementation, with the aim of strengthening the support for the full and effective participation of women and girls.

Annex

GENDER PLAN OF ACTION (2023-2030)

I. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Gender Plan of Action is to support and promote the gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Plan of Action will also support a gender responsive approach to applying the implementation mechanisms associated with the Framework.

II. MODALITIES

2. The implementation of the Gender Plan of Action and its proposed expected outcomes, objectives, and actions,² are based on the following modalities:

(a) Maximizing synergies between gender equality and the conservation, sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, considering also the consequences of climate change and land and sea-use change as drivers of biodiversity loss. Recognizing the links between gender equality and key environmental concerns, the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action aims to mainstream gender equality and contribute to maximizing synergies between these areas, towards meeting shared objectives and supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(b) Ensuring coherence and coordination with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals include gender equality as both a standalone goal and critical cross-cutting component, and emphasize the indivisibility of the different goals and targets. The Gender Plan of Action is intended to complement and support the implementation of the different Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the biodiversity agenda and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(c) Applying a human rights-based approach to advancing gender equality in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, and noting that resolution A/RES/76/300 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly recognized the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right. International human rights instruments and mechanisms, including the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the committee of experts it establishes, offer critical guidance for gender responsive environmental action that benefits both people and planet;

(d) Addressing the intersecting ways in which gender inequalities may be amplified for all women and girls. Women and men, and boys and girls around the world experience marginalization in different, multiple and intersecting ways depending on their ethnicity, social status, caste, age, and environment, among other factors. Recognizing the structural barriers and power imbalances that hamper inclusiveness of the whole of society, the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action will take an intersectional approach, prioritizing the needs and interests of all women and girls, with particular attention

² These modalities are put forward as measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Gender Plan of Action. As the Plan is intended to enable the gender-responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the modalities put forward may also be considered relevant to the implementation of the Framework.

to those facing all forms of discrimination. The implementation of the Gender Plan of Action will also seek to ensure the engagement of men and boys, to ensure a collaborative and supportive approach towards achieving gender equality in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

(e) Ensuring meaningful and effective engagement and empowerment of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities. Indigenous women and girls, and those from local communities, are integrally involved in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and yet continue to face discrimination and remain marginalized in decision-making processes, access and ownership over resources including land. As such, it is proposed that implementation of the Gender Plan of Action include a focus on empowering and supporting the meaningful, informed and effective engagement of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities to address their rights, needs and interests, and to recognize and value their traditional knowledge, innovations, practices, technologies and cultures and their related rights in support of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and in the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

3. The Gender Plan of Action includes a focus on supporting the effective engagement of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities, and those facing all forms of discrimination, in all actions. The references to “women and girls” in the expected outcomes, objectives and actions should thus be understood to include all women and girls, including from indigenous peoples and local communities and those facing all forms of discrimination. When consulting women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities, it should be done under the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

4. The Gender Plan of Action contains three expected outcomes, under which are grouped a series of indicative objectives and actions and associated deliverables and timelines, as provided in the table below. The expected outcomes, objectives and actions of the Plan of Action are put forward with the aim of supporting the achievement of all the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in a gender responsive manner, recognizing that effective action on biodiversity requires all members of society to be fully engaged.³

5. The indicative actions are intended to guide efforts to achieve the objectives of the plan, through a variety of measures directed at developing capacity and knowledge, preparing and applying guidance and relevant recommendations, fostering engagement, and facilitating and strengthening financing, among others. These actions are proposed as areas for which particular attention is needed, recognizing that other actions may be required both to complement and further define the efforts to achieve the associated objectives at national, subnational, as well as regional and international levels. Possible deliverables and proposed timelines are put forward to guide the implementation of the different actions.

6. The process for developing a gender plan of action is based on the understanding that all relevant actors have a role to play in implementing the Convention and supporting the objectives of gender mainstreaming. Taking a gender-responsive approach to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and of the Convention entails a participatory and inclusive process. As such, Parties, together with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, international and United Nations system entities, indigenous peoples and local communities, women’s groups, youth, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders are invited to support the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the Gender Plan of Action.

³ CBD/SBI/3/INF/41.

GENDER PLAN OF ACTION: OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, DELIVERABLES, TIMELINES AND ACTORS

Objectives	Indicative actions	Possible deliverables	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
Expected outcome 1: All people in particular all women and girls, have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention				
1.1 Increase all women and girls' rights to ownership and control over land and access to natural resources and to water, to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	1.1.1 Compile baseline data and research on the relationship between conservation interventions, sustainable use and all women and girls' rights to ownership and control over land and access to natural resources and to water, and prepare guidance for national-level action	Baseline data, research and guidance on all women and girls' rights to ownership and control over land and access to natural resources and to water in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use made available to Parties for SBI-4	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Parties
	1.1.2 Take measures to update national legislation so that all women and girls have equitable access to ownership and control over biological resources, as well as land and waters	Created or updated legislation that provides equal rights of access, ownership and control of land and waters for women and men	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations
	1.1.3 Support women's organizations and networks to have equal opportunities to lead or participate in decision-making on policies relating to the three objectives of the Convention, including related to land and waters, land tenure and property reforms through inter alia, consultation of women, in accordance with national law, and the provision of financial support	Consultations that included effective engagement of women and girls' organizations/networks; Financial and other relevant support provided to women and girls' organizations/networks to strengthen their capacity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations
1.2 Ensure equal access for all women and girls to resources, services and technologies to support their engagement in the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	1.2.1 Conduct participatory assessments with baselines to identify gender gaps and effective measures to enable equal access to resources, services and technologies relevant for the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	Assessments undertaken and compilation shared through side events and on webpages of the Convention	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat

Objectives	Indicative actions	Possible deliverables	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
(including financial services, credit, education, training and relevant information among others)	1.2.2 Take targeted measures to facilitate equal access of women to financial services and credit, and of all women and girls to education, training, information, among other relevant resources, services and technologies relevant for their engagement in the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources	Initiatives/programmes established or enhanced to facilitate equal access of women to financial services and credit, and of all women and girls to training, information and other relevant measures	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat
	1.2.3 Take specific measures to respect, preserve and maintain the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of all women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as their corresponding rights relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity	Assessment and case studies undertaken on specific measures and policies to respect, preserve and maintain traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of all women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant organizations, the research community, Secretariat
1.3 Ensure gender equitable access in relation to access and benefit-sharing instruments, as appropriate	1.3.1 Develop, test and promote relevant methodologies to mainstream gender perspectives in access and benefit-sharing instruments, as appropriate	Guidance on mainstreaming gender equality in relation to access and benefit-sharing instruments made available to Parties	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Relevant organizations, the research community, Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> Parties
1.4 Promote women's empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities in biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors, that support sustainable	1.4.1 Conduct assessments on gender roles across biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors to determine gender gaps and make use of assessments already undertaken in this regard	Assessments and case studies inform decision-making and are shared through webinars and side events	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Private sector, Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat

Objectives	Indicative actions	Possible deliverables	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
management and production practices	1.4.2 Implement supportive interventions to promote women's empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities in biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors that support sustainable management and production practices	Capacity-building and development workshops and training sessions carried out for women focused on empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities relevant to biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors	<i>Timeframe:</i> Ongoing	<i>Leading:</i> Private sector, Parties, relevant organizations
1.5 Identify and eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, in particular in relation to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders and park rangers	1.5.1 Develop and deploy data, tools and strategies to understand and address gender-based violence and biodiversity linkages, including with a focus on the protection of women environmental human rights defenders, to support biodiversity policy and programming development and implementation	Data and/or knowledge products, campaigns, tools, webinars, on the links between gender-based violence and biodiversity, produced and made available to Parties and stakeholders	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Relevant organizations, Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> Parties
	1.5.2. Effective measures are taken to eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, in particular in relation to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders and park rangers	Case studies are compiled and shared on implementing measures to eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence related to control, ownership, and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders and park rangers	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations, the research community

Objectives	Indicative actions	Possible deliverables	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
Expected outcome 2: Biodiversity policy, planning and programming decisions address equally the perspectives, interests, needs and human rights of all people, in particular of all women and girls				
2.1 Increase opportunities and strengthen the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women at all levels of action, engagement and decision-making related to the three objectives of the Convention	2.1.1 Convene an expert group meeting, including women environmental human rights defenders, to develop guidance and recommendations to aimed at eliminating gender disparities in the participation and leadership of women and decision-making related to the three objectives of the Convention	Report of Expert Group meeting and recommendations made available to Parties and stakeholders	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations, Parties
	2.1.2 Apply guidance and recommendations to ensure the informed and effective participation and equal leadership of women in governance bodies at all levels related to the three objectives of the Convention	Data/information on women's participation and leadership in biodiversity-related governance bodies is included in national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations
2.2 Enhance the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through the engagement of women's groups and women delegates	2.2.1 Support capacity development in leadership, negotiation and facilitation for women delegates, including through webinars and in-session training, through remote and in-person modalities	Webinars, in-session training, active engagement of representatives in the Friends of Gender Equality Group under the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations
	2.2.2 Ensure gender expertise included in all advisory and expert bodies under the Convention on Biological Diversity	Gender experts/women's group representatives are included in all advisory and expert bodies/meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat
	2.2.3 Undertake assessments to determine measures to enable women's meaningful, informed and effective participation in the new	Measures to enable women's meaningful, informed and effective participation and	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024	<i>Leading:</i> Indigenous peoples and local

Objectives	Indicative actions	Possible deliverables	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
	programme of work on Article 8(j) and analyse gender considerations to be addressed in this work programme	gender considerations are incorporated in the new programme of work on Article 8(j)		communities, Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat
2.3 Integrate human rights and gender equality considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)	2.3.1 Provide capacity-building and development opportunities for governments at all levels and other relevant stakeholders on gender responsive development, planning, implementation, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of NBSAPs	Capacity-building and development initiatives undertaken, templates, guides and toolkits developed	<i>Timeframe:</i> Ongoing ⁴	<i>Leading:</i> Relevant organizations, Parties, Secretariat
	2.3.2 Appoint national gender-biodiversity focal points to support knowledge exchange, sharing experiences and best practices, peer-to-peer learning, mentoring and coaching	National gender-biodiversity focal points nominated, learning activities conducted, recommendations for support prepared, and an awareness raising/knowledge sharing plan developed	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024	<i>Leading:</i> Parties <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations
	2.3.3 Engage all relevant stakeholders, particularly women's groups, gender institutions and gender experts, and indigenous peoples and local communities, in the process of developing and updating NBSAPs and related biodiversity policies, plans, and strategies at all levels	Gender responsive NBSAPs	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations
Expected outcome 3: Enabling conditions are created to ensure gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework				
3.1 Develop national capacity to produce and use gender and biodiversity data, including	3.1.1 Build knowledge and capacity of national statistical offices to ensure the systematic collection of sex-disaggregated	Training tools developed and capacity development support	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations

⁴ As per decision 15/5 on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Objectives	Indicative actions	Possible deliverables	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
relevant data disaggregation (e.g. sex, age, ethnicity and other demographic factors)	biodiversity data and the development and use of relevant gender-specific indicators	provided, available data disaggregated by sex		
	3.1.2 Share sample indicators, data, best practices and relevant guidance on developing and monitoring data disaggregated by sex and other demographic factors, per sector	Webinars, in-session workshops, prepare report highlighting best practices	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, Secretariat, relevant organizations
3.2 Strengthen the evidence base, understanding and analysis of the gender-related impacts of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the role of all women and girls as agents of change in achieving its goals and targets, including insights from traditional knowledge of all women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities	3.2.1 Undertake research and analysis, and collect and apply information and data, including gender-differentiated traditional knowledge, on the gender-differentiated impacts of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the role of all women and girls as agents of change	Information materials, available data sources/databases, reports and compilation documents shared through webinars, side-events at meetings of Convention bodies, social media and the website of the Convention	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat
3.3 Support access to information and public participation of women and girls' organizations, networks, leaders and gender experts in the resourcing, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	3.3.1 Organize capacity-building and development workshops and prepare guidelines to enhance the capacity of women and girls' organizations, networks and gender experts to support planning, implementation and reporting on NBSAPs and related activities, including integration of gender considerations into all biodiversity programming at all levels	Capacity-building and development workshops undertaken, and guidelines prepared Reporting on capacity-building and development initiatives and engagement of women's organizations, networks and gender experts included in national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026 <i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Parties <i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat
3.4 Ensure coherent gender responsive implementation of the	3.4.1 Promote gender-biodiversity linkages in relevant tools, information and activities of	Relevant linkages with United Nations and international	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, United

Objectives	Indicative actions	Possible deliverables	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through identifying synergies and drawing on relevant experience from related United Nations and international processes	United Nations and international processes, and undertake joint activities with the Rio conventions, United Nations and international gender partners	processes promoted, joint activities, including high-level events at major international meetings		Nations and international partners
	3.4.2 Establish coordination mechanisms among women and girls' organizations/networks, ministries or other institutions responsible for gender and those responsible for the environment, relevant focal points, and local partners to strengthen coherent programming on gender and biodiversity-related issues	National-level gender-biodiversity/environment working groups/coordination mechanisms established, reports on progress provided; In-session workshop / side event to exchange experiences and discuss gaps, challenges	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations
3.5 Ensure that national reports and submissions under the Convention on Biological Diversity provide information on the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action and gender-responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	3.5.1 Identify and compile best practices, lessons learned and gaps in gender responsive implementation, monitoring and reporting, with the engagement of women's organizations and networks, and gender experts	Best practices, lessons learned and identified gaps presented in in-session meetings or side events and shared on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, women's groups/networks, relevant organizations, Secretariat
	3.5.2 Use gender-specific indicators and data disaggregated by sex in reporting on progress towards implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and report on progress in implementation of the Gender Plan of Action	National reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity include reporting on implementation of the Gender Plan of Action and include gender-specific indicators and sex-disaggregated data	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties
	3.5.3 Integrate reporting on women's and girl's contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and on the mainstreaming of gender considerations into NBSAPs, including their implementation, budgeting and reporting, in existing national reporting mechanisms	National reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity include reporting on women's and girl's contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and on the mainstreaming of	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2030	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, relevant organizations

Objectives	Indicative actions	Possible deliverables	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
		gender considerations into NBSAPs, including their implementation, budgeting and reporting		
3.6 Allocate adequate human and financial resources to support rights-based gender-responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including by tracking and reporting resource allocations for gender initiatives, and applying gender-responsive budgeting	3.6.1 Raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting gender responsive approaches to biodiversity-related policies, plans, strategies and action, including good practices to facilitate access to finance for grass-roots women's organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities	Webinars, communication materials, in-session workshops	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2024, 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Secretariat, relevant organizations
	3.6.2 Establish targeted funding programmes or budget lines to support gender-responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and of the Gender Plan of Action	Targeted funding programmes and budget lines	<i>Timeframe:</i> 2026	<i>Leading:</i> Parties, Global Environment Facility, and other relevant organizations

15/12. Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [X/22](#) and [XII/9](#),

Recalling also the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020),¹ and welcoming progress in its successful implementation,

Noting that, while responsibilities for implementation of the Convention rest with the Parties, there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the Convention,

Noting also that subnational governments, cities and other local authorities are a constituent part of many Parties and other Governments, and that the implementation and monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework needs to involve all levels of government as appropriate,

Recognizing the important role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as monitoring and reporting, mainstreaming, resource mobilization, capacity-building and communication, education and public awareness, social participation and public access to information,

Recalling principle 2 of the ecosystem approach adopted in decision V/6,²

1. *Adopts* the updated Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, as set out in the annex to the present decision, as a flexible framework to support Parties in accordance with national legislation;

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to facilitate, as appropriate, the implementation of the updated Plan of Action referred to in paragraph 1 above, according to national legislation, including by:

(a) Involving subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the revision, implementation and update of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, respecting the competencies of each level of government;

(b) Supporting subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to develop, implement and evaluate their local biodiversity strategies and action plans, in accordance with national biodiversity strategies and action plans and global commitments;

(c) Ensuring the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the mainstreaming of biodiversity, in line with the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming within and across sectors guided by the Conference of the Parties in decision 15/17;

(d) Allocating human, technical and financial resources, as appropriate to national circumstances, and in a manner supportive of principle 2 of the ecosystem approach;³ ;

3. *Invites* Parties to communicate and report on the implementation of the updated Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities for Biodiversity, as appropriate, in their national reports under the Convention;

¹ Decision X/22.

² Decision V/6, annex.

³ Principle 2 of the ecosystem approach, adopted in decision V/6, annex, is “Management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level.”

4. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other stakeholders, including entities engaged in development finance, to invest resources, support technology and knowledge transfer, and build capacity, at the level of governance where they can be most effective;

5. *Urges* Parties to support subnational governments, cities and local authorities in strengthening their capacities to improve the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to consider further expanding and strengthening its sustainable cities initiatives in its future replenishments, and piloting land- and seascape level initiatives targeted at subnational and local governance, infrastructure, biodiversity-inclusive spatial and land-use planning, and urban-rural linkages, in accordance with the priorities identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources, to undertake a review of the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to submit the report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the work of the Global Partnership on Subnational and Local Governments for Biodiversity for the implementation of the plan of action as adopted below.

Annex

PLAN OF ACTION ON SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY (2023–2030)

A. Background

1. The Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (2023–2030) is intended to support Parties, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and their partners in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Plan of Action is intended to be implemented in accordance with national legislation. The elements contained in the updated Plan of Action have been identified through a series of consultations with Parties, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, and their networks and stakeholders, including the “Edinburgh Process”, and culminating with the 7th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments.⁴

B. Objectives

2. The Plan of Action has the following objectives:

(a) To increase the engagement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, to support the successful implementation of, and reporting on, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) To improve regional and global coordination and exchange of lessons learned between Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, regional and global organizations, United Nations and development agencies, academia, and donors on ways and means to encourage and support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to manage biodiversity sustainably, provide ecosystem services to citizens and integrate biodiversity concerns into urban and territorial planning and development;

⁴ This updated plan of action builds on the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011–2020) endorsed in decision X/22, annex.

(c) To identify, enhance and disseminate policy tools, guidelines, financial mechanisms or instruments, and programmes that facilitate subnational and local action on biodiversity and build the capacity of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to support their national Governments in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, with respect to the competencies of each level of government;

(d) To facilitate the development of awareness-raising programmes on biodiversity in line with communication, education and public awareness strategies.

C. Activities to engage subnational government, cities and other local authorities

3. The catalogue of activities, grouped into seven interrelated and complementary action areas presented below provides a framework based on which Parties, their subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and all stakeholders can develop their own actions to implement the Plan of Action. As such, any activity is offered as a complement to their post-2020 biodiversity strategies, action plans and targets. It is understood that activities will be implemented with respect to the competencies of each level of government and according to each Party's national and subnational context and circumstances.

Action area 1

Development and implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans reflecting the involvement of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities

(a) Involve subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the process to revise and update national biodiversity strategies and action plans, for alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its subsequent implementation;

(b) Encourage subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to develop biodiversity strategies and action plans in harmony with national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Action area 2

Collaboration between levels of government, and mainstreaming

(a) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to improve harmonization of strategic planning, coordination and implementation between levels of government;

(b) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to support the implementation of measures to mainstream biodiversity in line with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) Engage the Advisory Committee on Local Governments and Biodiversity and the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity⁵ to provide input and support to the implementation of the Plan of Action from the point of view of local and subnational governments, cities and other local authorities.

Action area 3

Resource mobilization

(a) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to support the application of Principle 2 of the ecosystem approach in resource mobilization, where appropriate;⁶

(b) Collaborate with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, to create enabling conditions for significantly increased private sector investment, and reforms that can introduce new revenue streams for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration at the subnational and local levels.

⁵ Referred to in paragraph 7 of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) endorsed in decision X/22, annex, and paragraph 0 of the present Plan of Action.

⁶ Principle 2 of the ecosystem approach, adopted in decision V/6, annex, is "Management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level."

Action area 4
Capacity development

- (a) Support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in implementing capacity development and technology transfer initiatives that contribute to the implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Action area 5
Communication, education and public awareness

- (a) Support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in developing inclusive and action-oriented communication, education and public awareness, public access to information and participation initiatives at the subnational and local levels, reconnecting nature and people in and around cities and regions.

Action area 6
Assessment and improved information for decision-making

- (a) Invite the use of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity as a self-assessment tool for city and local governments to benchmark and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines;
- (b) Support subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in co-producing data, and in gaining and offering better access to data and scientific evidence and expertise to improve decision-making, enabled by improved capturing, analysis and reporting of local and landscape-based biodiversity data.

Action area 7
Monitoring and reporting

- (a) Encourage subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to use online commitment and reporting platforms, such as *RegionsWithNature* and *CitiesWithNature*,⁷ where subnational governments can report on, and track progress against, their commitments to contributing to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (b) Involve subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the regular monitoring and review of progress against targets specified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) Include contributions made by subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (d) Coordinate inputs from subnational governments, cities and other local authorities on their contributions to achieving the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for the purposes of its mid-term review, including on the implementation of measures to mainstream biodiversity in line with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

D. Implementation of the Plan of Action

4. Parties and other Governments are urged to implement the Plan of Action, as appropriate, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention and other key partners that convene subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, such as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Regions4 Sustainable Development (Regions4), the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the European Union's Committee of the Regions, considering national priorities, capacities and needs.

5. Implementation of the Plan of Action will also be supported by the Global Partnership on Subnational and Local Governments for Biodiversity, an informal cooperative platform composed of United

⁷ Linked with the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming and Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People.

Nations agencies and programmes, academic networks and institutions, and networks of subnational governments, cities and local authorities, and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

6. The Advisory Committee on Local Governments and Biodiversity and the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity will provide input and support to the Plan of Action from the points of view of cities and local authorities and subnational governments, respectively, in recognition of their critical, complementary and distinct role in the implementation of the Convention. Both committees, recognized in the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011–2020) are open and free platforms with the sole objective of coordinating the contribution and participation of government at these levels in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. The Plan of Action recognizes the need to maintain flexibility in its approach to implementation in order to accommodate changing national, subnational and local priorities, as well as future decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

15/13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XIII/24 and 14/30,

Recognizing the critical role of actions for the restoration, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity for helping to address multiple global crises, including climate change and pollution, as well as biodiversity loss simultaneously,

Acknowledging the independent nature of the mandates of biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, emphasizing the need to fully observe their respective mandates and reaffirming that synergies in their implementation at the global, regional and national levels should be promoted on a Party-driven basis, in accordance with the priorities set out within each instrument and with national circumstances, capabilities and priorities,

Reaffirming the importance of enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives, including but not limited to biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, chemicals and waste conventions, and the Rio conventions, at the global, regional, subregional, national and subnational levels, in a manner respectful of their respective mandates,

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among all relevant conventions, organizations and initiatives to achieve the three objectives of the Convention and to implement and monitor progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in an effective and timely manner in order to achieve its targets, goals, 2030 mission and 2050 Vision,

Taking note of the work conducted by the United Nations Environment Management Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate system-wide attention to biodiversity and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

Welcoming with appreciation the support provided by the Government of Switzerland for the organization of the consultation workshops of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Bern I and II) and welcoming the reports of both workshops,¹

Also welcoming with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of decisions XIII/24 and 14/30 with respect to enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, including in convening the Bern II workshop,

Welcoming the contributions of other biodiversity-related conventions, multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes to the preparation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through their active participation in the “Bern process”,

Recognizing that relevant multilateral environmental agreements have specific contributions to make in implementing elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with their mandates,

Welcoming with appreciation the work conducted by other organizations to fulfil elements of decision 14/30, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the World Health Organization,

¹ Report of the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Bern, 10-12 June 2019 (CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2) and report of the Second Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern II) (CBD/SBI/3/INF/29).

Also welcoming with appreciation the work undertaken by the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation in promoting plant conservation and contributing to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity as described in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*² and the 2020 Plant Conservation report,³

Noting the work to establish a “World Coastal Forum” in response to paragraphs 15 and 16 of decision 14/30, as well as related resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat at its thirteenth meeting⁴ and by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at its twelfth meeting,⁵ which call for increased focus on coastal ecosystems,

Welcoming the cooperative activities under the Rio conventions,

Taking note of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 on nature-based solutions supporting sustainable development,⁶

Recognizing the rolling work programme up to 2030 of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

Welcoming with appreciation the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly proclaiming the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and the contribution that this may provide to objectives of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

1. *Welcomes* the contributions of other biodiversity-related conventions, multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes to enhancing synergies in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

2. *Encourages* the strengthening of cooperation and synergies among relevant conventions and multilateral agreements by, as appropriate and in line with their respective mandates, legal authority and responsibilities, establishing or renewing cooperation frameworks, as needed;

3. *Invites* the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to formally endorse the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through their own governance processes, as appropriate, in order to support its operationalization and contribute to the transparency and monitoring of progress in its implementation by, among others, using synergetic modular reporting tools such as the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT);

4. *Also invites* the governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular by further strengthening cooperation at the global level within their respective mandates and enhancing synergies among themselves, to encourage mutually supportive decisions, to coordinate their own strategies with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to propose key issues for thematic discussions facilitated by the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, taking into account, where appropriate, the conclusions of the Bern II workshop included in document CBD/SBI/3/10;

5. *Invites* the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, as well as the informal advisory group on synergies, to enhance cooperation, reduce inefficiencies and facilitate synergies between the heads of the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions, including through thematic consultations,

² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020). *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*. Montreal.

³ Sharrock, S. (2020). *Plant Conservation Report 2020: A review of progress in implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020*. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Richmond, United Kingdom. *Technical Series No. 95*.

⁴ Resolution XIII.20 on promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats.

⁵ Resolution 12.25 on promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species.

⁶ UNEP/EA.5/Res/5.

on key issues for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to provide common messages or draft recommendations to their respective governing bodies to act upon;

6. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to work together with all stakeholders to jointly implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support, at global, regional, subregional, national and subnational levels, across areas and sectors, through bilateral joint work programmes where appropriate, and through existing global, regional, subregional, national and subnational instruments, mechanisms and processes;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, and encourages the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as other relevant international organizations, to support the Parties and secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements to continue to enhance synergies in areas of priority established by their Parties, including by facilitating and implementing key actions aimed to enhance synergies at the national and regional levels outlined in decisions XIII/24 and 14/30, in particular regarding reporting and the use of supportive tools, such as DaRT, capacity-building and development, and by facilitating linkages between biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, in accordance with international rights and obligations;

8. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to liaise closely with the secretariats of the Rio conventions and relevant partner organizations in the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and to provide a report on its progress to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its sixteenth meeting;

9. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Management Group to facilitate United Nations system-wide coordination towards the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in a manner fully respectful of the mandates of different multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations;

10. *Urges* Parties, invites other Governments and invites non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, women's groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, the media, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, among others, to reinforce actions to enhance synergies in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral agreements and initiatives at the national level, including through their national coordination, planning, review and reporting processes, including through existing common and voluntary reporting platforms such as DaRT, in line with the options for action at the national level provided in annex I of decision XIII/24, and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;

11. *Encourages* Parties to implement the Convention and other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral agreements to which they are party, in a complementary manner, including in reviewing and updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in order to enable the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

12. *Invites* the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation, with the support of the Secretariat, to prepare a set of complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework aligned with the final version of the framework, other relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, as well as previous experiences with the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as described in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the 2020 Plant Conservation report, to be considered by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice following the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to build on the Bern Process and continue to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions, contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by facilitating a process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related conventions;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and encourages Parties to actively engage in the Bern process on cooperation among Parties to the various biodiversity-related conventions facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme, contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

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

(a) To identify, develop and provide information and technical support that will help to encourage and assist other biodiversity-related conventions, multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other relevant programmes in contributing to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and, in consultation with their secretariats, identify opportunities to cooperate with biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations specifically to help achieve the goals and targets of the Framework, and provide a list of relevant initiatives and action plans for review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;

(b) In consultation with Parties and the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes, building wherever possible on existing mechanisms, to continue to implement key actions outlined in decisions 14/30 and XIII/24 to enhance synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and to cooperate with other relevant multilateral agreements at the international level, in a manner consistent with their mandates;

(c) To continue working with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent on topics related to biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

16. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, subject to the availability of resources, to advance the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, where appropriate in cooperation with relevant initiatives of Parties, other Governments and other organizations, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and other mechanisms, as appropriate;

17. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to exchange information with the World Health Organization on access to pathogens and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in the context of ongoing work under the World Health Organization on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

15/14. Communication

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the communications strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contained in the annex to the present decision;
2. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness¹ until 2030, with members nominated by Parties, considering regional balance, and indigenous peoples and local communities, and ensuring continued representation of youth organizations and other relevant organizations;
3. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness to (a) further develop action-oriented key messages of the communications strategy to inform and mobilize action from all actors, private and public, (b) revise the communications strategy to align it with decision 15/4 on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and (c) advise the Executive Secretary regarding the implementation of the communications strategy in accordance with the timeline set out in the annex to the present decision;
4. *Encourages* Parties and invites all stakeholders to share and make use of the communications messages through relevant media channels and social media, especially action-oriented messages, in order to inform and mobilize action from all actors, private and public, and to endeavour to mobilize adequate human and financial resources to carry out these tasks;
5. *Invites* other international organizations, businesses, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the communications strategy;
6. *Welcomes* the efforts by Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and stakeholders to foster wide public support for a strong Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To convene, subject to the availability of resources, one in-person meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness during each intersessional period, and meetings through virtual means when needed;
 - (b) To support the implementation of the communications strategy for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with advice from the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness;
8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, within available resources and in coordination with Parties and stakeholders, to support the range of communications activities needed for the following initiatives in the upcoming biennium:
 - (a) Continue to work on the activities listed in the note by the Executive Secretary,² including the annual celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity, the CEPA Fair, the development of social media and communication platforms for engagement with stakeholders and partners, and further develop these activities;
 - (b) Continue to develop corporate communications for the Secretariat, including support for a dynamic and growing use of social media, traditional media outreach, continued work to redesign the website, and development of new and ongoing communications campaigns;
 - (c) Update the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness for the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Committee on

¹ Decision VII/24, paragraph 4(ii); decision VIII/6, para. 9.

² CBD/SBI/3/9.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness, and develop further guidance for implementation at the national, subnational and local levels;

(d) Submit a progress report on activities (a) and (b) above, and the updated programme of work on communication, education and public awareness for the Convention on Biological Diversity, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

Annex

**COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

I. BACKGROUND

1. In decision [14/34](#), the Conference of the Parties decided that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be accompanied by an inspirational and motivating 2030 mission as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature, which would be supported by a coherent, comprehensive and innovative communication strategy.

2. The present document sets out the communications strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and is meant to complement decision [XIII/22](#) on a framework for a communications strategy.

II. COMMUNICATION, ACCESS TO INFORMATION, AND AWARENESS

3. The importance of communication and awareness for the achievement of the 2050 Vision for biodiversity was highlighted in Aichi Biodiversity Target 1: “By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.” As noted in *Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA): A Toolkit for National Focal Points and NBSAP Coordinators*,³ public awareness is “a first step in developing understanding and concern, to help people know of the issue, to make the issue part of the public discourse or put the issue on the agenda”. In turn, education “develops understanding, clarifies values, develops attitudes of concern for the environment and develops the motivation and skills to act for the environment”.

4. There is obvious evidence of progress over the course of the decade 2011–2020, as reported, for instance, in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*⁴ and in the awareness tracker of “On the Edge Conservation”.⁵ Other recent reports and initiatives also show increases in awareness:

(a) The “Biodiversity Barometer” of the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) found that, in the core group of countries surveyed in 2020,⁶ 78 per cent of respondents said that they had heard about biodiversity, up from 67 per cent in 2010;⁷

(b) The recent “Eco-Wakening” report by the Economist Intelligence Unit⁸ shows a dramatic rise in the number of people concerned about nature loss, with the most dramatic growth in concern occurring in emerging and developing economies;

5. The rate of the increase identified in these reports is heterogeneous and not monitored in all countries. This apparent increased awareness has also not translated into actions sufficient to reverse biodiversity loss, as evidenced by the failure to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The changes required

³ <https://www.cbd.int/cepa/toolkit/2008/doc/CBD-Toolkit-Complete.pdf>.

⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020). *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*. Montreal.

⁵ <https://ontheedge.org/impact/sentiment-tracker>.

⁶ Brazil, France, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

⁷ <http://www.biodiversitybarometer.org/#uebt-biodiversity-barometer-2020>.

⁸ https://www.fint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/an_ecowakening_measuring_awareness_engagement_and_action_for_nature_final_may_2021.pdf.

to solve the challenge of biodiversity loss make it necessary for this increase in awareness to be matched by actions by all people, be they decision makers in the policy domain, investors, consumers, businesses, citizens, educators or others.

6. Extensive scientific evidence shows that being aware of the problem of biodiversity loss is not sufficient. In order to achieve the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and promote sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature, supporting mechanisms, including communication, must be differentiated for each stage and tailored for specific target-groups and their life circumstances (e.g., youth, political decision makers, the socially vulnerable and high-income earners). Communication must be used to more effectively strengthen the interlinkages between biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, to highlight the importance of addressing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This has implications for any communications strategy in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

7. The communications strategy will need to raise awareness and trigger change. The strategy needs to be designed in such a way as to build up content gradually and allow data-sharing among people deploying the strategy in the short term, while developing ongoing research and evaluation in the medium and long term. This process should focus on better understanding of social actors, their intentions, attitudes and norms, as well as their beliefs, perceptions and choices. This understanding should be used to monitor success and adjust the strategy as time goes on.

8. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework provides an occasion for renewed and updated communication, building on the achievements of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and in the context of the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. Communications management will require an ongoing understanding and evaluation of the state of achievement of the Framework, and it will need to reflect the relationship between climate change and biodiversity. This process will facilitate the creation of content for the communications strategy, while providing continuity and support to ongoing initiatives and to the monitoring of results.

III. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

9. The strategy is meant to be used for communications efforts by the Executive Secretary, and to support communications efforts by all others, including Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, stakeholders, United Nations system actors and others:

(a) By providing a structure for coordination and collaboration among relevant actors; increased and magnified effectiveness is the goal;

(b) As initial guidance to inform the development of specific strategies and action plans at the global, regional, national and subnational levels, by political decision makers, social entrepreneurs, businesses, citizens, youth, and by indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate;

(c) To promote awareness in support of the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, and transformative change towards the 2050 Vision for biodiversity;

10. The communications strategy will need to be implemented and further developed in a participatory, iterative and flexible manner, assisted by experts in communication, and other relevant disciplines, including a strong participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth. Its further development should be led by advice and consultations at the international level, led by the Executive Secretary, which then inform further consultations. Throughout the consultations, the active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, education experts, youth, and representatives of various socioeconomic and sociocultural backgrounds is important, as is the need to ensure the full incorporation of intra- and intergenerational, intercultural and gender considerations. At the global level, immediate to long-term adjustments of the strategy will be coordinated through an open-source coordination mechanism, outlined below.

11. The communications strategy will be kept under review by the Conference of the Parties, with input from the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, and other relevant processes.

12. The elements for such a review would be as follows:

(a) A meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, to be held after the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to elaborate the final details of the communication strategy;

(b) A biennial evaluation of the activities that have been carried out, seeking to identify best practices, changes in awareness, impact and effectiveness, to be reviewed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

(c) Identification of new areas for communication and learning, or the need to adjust existing strategies;

(d) Track communication, education and awareness-raising activities against progress on targets, goals and the 2030 mission;

(e) Identification of new actors or partners to be approached;

(f) Identification of resource needs.

13. Parties are invited to start implementing the elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework relating to communication in an expeditious manner. To this end, Parties are invited to integrate communications components into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) while updating them in line with the Framework, or to develop national or regional communications strategies that support the goals below.

14. Table 1 outlines some of the timelines for activities under the strategy.

Table 1. Timeline for activities

<i>Date</i>	<i>Executive Secretary</i>	<i>National level</i>
As soon as possible following the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	<p>Convene a meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA-IAC) to update the present strategy for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and to develop further guidance for implementation at the national, subnational and local levels</p> <p>Create website</p> <p>Convene informal coordination mechanism for regular coordination</p> <p>Communicate a voluntary guidance document</p>	<p>Encourage existing and/or establish new national and subnational partnerships to deliver the activities of the strategy.</p> <p>Endeavour, as appropriate, to integrate relevant actions from the communications strategy in their planning and reporting mechanisms.</p>
2022–2024	Create international partnerships in support of the strategy	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Executive Secretary</i>	<i>National level</i>
By the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to be negotiated by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting (2024) ⁹	In collaboration with CEPA-IAC and other relevant actors, review and report on activities and their impact, and further update the strategy, if needed	Endeavour, as appropriate, to integrate relevant actions from the communications strategy in their planning and reporting mechanisms.
By the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to be negotiated by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting (2026)	In collaboration with CEPA-IAC and other relevant actors, conduct mid-decade review and report on activities and their impact, update the communications strategy based on advice from the Conference of the Parties	Report on activities in the seventh national report, if appropriate during the biennium, and share relevant information through the CHM, national Bioland CHM sites and adjust as appropriate.
By the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to be negotiated by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting (2028)	In collaboration with CEPA-IAC and other relevant actors, review and report on activities and their impact, and update the communications strategy based on advice from the Conference of the Parties	Endeavour, as appropriate, to integrate relevant actions from the communications strategy in their planning and reporting mechanisms.
By the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to be negotiated by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting (2030)	Create final report on activities, including any observed changes in the perception of biodiversity conservation to contribute to the second stocktaking	Endeavour, as appropriate, to integrate relevant actions from the communications strategy in their planning and reporting mechanisms.

IV. GOALS

15. Communication, education and awareness-raising efforts in the context of this strategy need to support actions throughout the whole of society towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Overall, the strategy is meant to support the realization not only of the 2030 mission, but also of the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

16. Enhancing communication, education, and awareness on biodiversity and the uptake of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by all actors is essential to achieve its effective implementation and behavioural change, and to promote sustainable lifestyles and biodiversity values, including by:

(a) Increasing awareness, understanding and appreciation of the knowledge systems, diverse values of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystems functions and services and traditional knowledge and worldviews of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as of biodiversity's contribution to sustainable development;

⁹ Tentative dates, to be determined by the Conference of the Parties.

(b) Increasing awareness on the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and of the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources for sustainable development, including improving sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication efforts and its overall contribution to global and/or national sustainable development strategies;

(c) Raising awareness among all sectors and actors of the need for urgent action to implement the Framework, while enabling their active engagement in the implementation and monitoring of progress towards the achievement of its goals and targets;

(d) Facilitating understanding of the Framework, including by targeted communication, adapting the language used, level of complexity and thematic content to relevant groups of actors, considering their socioeconomic and cultural context, including by developing material that can be translated into indigenous and local languages;

(e) Promoting or developing platforms, partnerships and action agendas, including with media, civil society and educational institutions, including academia, to share information on successes, lessons learned and experiences and to allow for adaptive learning and participation in acting for biodiversity;

(f) Integrating transformative education on biodiversity into formal, non-formal and informal educational programmes, promoting curriculum on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in educational institutions, and promoting knowledge, attitudes, values, behaviours and lifestyles that are consistent with living in harmony with nature;

(g) Raising awareness on the critical role of science, technology and innovation to strengthen scientific and technical capacities to monitor biodiversity, address knowledge gaps and develop innovative solutions to improve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

17. Within this context, the following are the main goals of the communications strategy:

Goal A – Increase understanding, awareness and appreciation of the different visions and approaches to achieve sustainable development and the multiple values of biodiversity, including the associated systems of knowledge, values and approaches used by indigenous peoples and local communities

18. This goal continues to support the work conducted under Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 during the previous decade but has important distinctions. This goal will require some of the following activities to support its realization:

(a) Recognition and awareness-raising of different visions, approaches and knowledge systems, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities to live in harmony with nature and, as recognized in some cultures and countries, Mother Earth;¹⁰

(b) Creation of awareness-raising campaigns that show the values of biodiversity;

(c) Products and research that integrate and communicate the values of biodiversity represented in the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(d) Support to media and film projects that create multimedia stories and narratives about biodiversity and its values;

(e) Development and/or distribution of education content to education institutions to help spread the values of biodiversity;

(f) Revision of education curricula to include biodiversity values and the importance of a reconnection with nature;

¹⁰ See decision XIII/29.

(g) Promotion of reconnection with nature through formal and informal education, in line with Sustainable Development Goals 4.7 and 12.8 to promote sustainable lifestyles and ensure that people have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Goal B – Raise awareness among all actors of the existence of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and progress made towards their achievement

19. Awareness-raising needs to be linked to transformations of intentions and actions. The goal mandates a broad range of communications actions to support the visibility of the Framework at all levels, and its relevance to all stakeholders. It also supports ongoing efforts to show progress, and to highlight implementation that provides inspiration for further action towards the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

20. Communications also need to promote additional actions related to those goals and targets of the Framework where there has not been sufficient progress. Communications should promote positive results-driven action by supporting efforts in a positive way, offering cautions as to the consequences of failure, or demonstrating ways in which action in other domains can be emulated to produce progress towards the mission.

Goal C – Develop and promote platforms and partnerships, including with media, educators and civil society, to share information on successes, lessons learned and experiences in acting for biodiversity

21. Data on these should be made available in a format that can be easily accessed by media and educators, both traditional and online, and then processed for media articles and educational resources. Partnerships with media outlets and educators that are experts in this regard are important ways forward. Data sources and the rationale for all indicators should be easily available and explained in both technical and non-technical ways and linked to the monitoring framework.

22. Communications related to the monitoring element should be aligned with national reporting periods.

23. Other actors should be encouraged to publish reports that support lessons learned or successes, where appropriate in coordination with the Executive Secretary.

24. Joint communication actions with the Harmony with Mother Earth Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly of the United Nations may be sought to enhance the outreach and visibility of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

25. Collaboration is needed to promote and develop ways to integrate biodiversity into the education system in order to equip and empower learners with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to act for biodiversity and the planet, building on synergies with Sustainable Development Goals 4.7 and 12.8. This can be done by creating and promoting “learning ecosystems” connecting families, schools, community actors, public-facing institutions such as zoos, aquariums, museums, botanical gardens and libraries, and businesses and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which allow for direct translation of biodiversity awareness and knowledge into action on the ground.

26. It is also possible to promote personal and societal transformative action in learners of all ages by providing them with the tools to design new sustainable systems and ways of living. Educational work needs to be coordinated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to assist in engagement with educators in formal, informal and non-formal settings.

Goal D – Demonstrate the relevance of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to poverty eradication, climate change, land degradation, human health, human rights, equity and sustainable development

27. Communication efforts will show the interlinkages between biodiversity and a variety of key issues:

(a) The Sustainable Development Goals. The close linkage of the Convention and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development¹¹ will be an important point for realizing synergy in messaging. The close alignment of these two agendas will make this a more straightforward effort, highlighting the importance of sustainable use and of access and benefit-sharing for poverty eradication efforts;

(b) It will be important to develop messaging on the relationship between climate change and biodiversity and the synergies between the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the commitments adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, in line with their respective mandates. The messaging may also include ecosystem-based approaches to climate change and collective action, including those by indigenous peoples and local communities;

(c) Similarly, the strategy will need to show how the work under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contributes to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Links with land degradation neutrality as well as the goals of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will be highlighted.

28. The importance of marine and coastal areas will also need to be captured, including synergy with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development¹² and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

29. Human health and biodiversity also represent a key area in which the contribution of implementation of the framework needs to be highlighted, taking into account health-biodiversity linkages, including the contribution of the One Health approach and other holistic approaches.

30. Human rights and biodiversity is another area for messaging, including by drawing upon elements in resolution 76/300, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

V. AUDIENCES

31. Given the global audience for the Convention, it is important to identify audience segments and to link communications with each of these to the different goals of the strategy and design messages accordingly, taking into account cultural differences in terms of tone and visuals. For the audience groups below, it is important to note that they will be both audiences receiving messages and groups that transform and/or transmit messages to other subsidiary target groups.

32. Note that some of these audiences are multipliers of the messages and will need to adapt the strategy to their needs. Other audiences are the objects of communications activities.

A. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements

33. The Convention is implemented at the national level by national Governments, and therefore the work of the Executive Secretary for this audience is to provide tools for use by focal points to the Convention and its Protocols as they develop their strategies to reach out to ministries and government departments and build regional or national communication and education coalitions. This is to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity into the work of other sectors, including formal, non-formal and informal education.

34. Subnational governments, cities and other local authorities that plan, coordinate, regulate, monitor and enforce patterns of production and consumption will need to deliver on the biodiversity targets set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It is at the local level where subnational governments and other local authorities, including cities, have the demonstrated capacity to undertake

¹¹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

¹² See General Assembly resolution 72/73, para. 292.

implementation and ensure transformative change. They are both an important audience, but also essential transmitters of information to their residents.

35. Parties should shape national versions of communication and education activities to support access to information and awareness that is consonant with the policies needed to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the national level. Therefore, all the messaging and structure will need to be aligned with national priorities.

B. Specialized audiences of the Convention

36. While Parties are the primary focus of the Convention, there are a number of other actors and stakeholders that provide supportive roles to Parties or also have a role to play in the implementation of the Convention. Because these actors are not Parties, communications addressed to them will have a different character. At the same time, when these actors carry out supportive activities at the national or regional level, they may be included in these campaigns.

37. United Nations system partners that are involved in the work of the Convention, as well as other regional organizations, are also important. These actors will not only transmit the work of the Convention to others, but also will use the opportunity to promote their own work and its relevance to the sustainable development agenda. Lessons are to be learned from previous United Nations campaigns such as #GenerationRestoration, #CleanSeas, #DontChooseExtinction, etc. The United Nations Department of Global Communications will be invited to create a biodiversity communications group, which will work with the Executive Secretary to coordinate communications across the system. The Communications Division of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will also be invited to create a dedicated communications focal point. UNESCO will be invited to contribute its expertise in education, science and culture.

38. Multilateral environmental agreements, both those directly related to biodiversity and those that deal with other issues, will be important multipliers and places for coordination. To this end, the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions¹³ should be invited to ensure that communication is a permanent item on their annual agendas and focal points should be named.

39. Natural history and science museums, botanical gardens and national protected areas systems, and zoos and aquariums are other groups whose work is key to the Convention, both in terms of specific conservation actions and research and in raising awareness about biodiversity. Bringing together these institutions and organizations, as well as research centres and universities, natural reserves and protected areas visitor centres, and museums can help show the importance of nature for humanity.

40. Large international NGOs that have national chapters are also important stakeholders for work. They can retransmit the messages of the strategy and can provide models of reference for promoting good practices related to conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits. The Secretariat and the Parties to the Convention have an extensive history of working with such organizations.

41. The finance and business communities are extremely important audiences to target with communications efforts. As important users of biodiversity and ecosystem services whose operations have direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity, the ability of business to support sustainable consumption and production will be crucial for the achievement of the goals of the Convention. In this context:

(a) The linkage of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use for environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria is important;

¹³ The Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention, the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Whaling Commission.

- (b) A strong basis for communication is the business and financial case for biodiversity action;
- (c) The role of business as a user of genetic resources in the context of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing is also an important element;
- (d) Existing business-led initiatives, business associations, coalitions and networks will be key multipliers to reach out to these audiences.

42. Global, regional and national organizations that are dealing with or responsible for education and learning, like environmental education, education for sustainability, nature education, education for conservation and sustainable use, and global education, play a key role in learning. Therefore, education organizations, from schools to universities, but also permanent and continuing education institutions, authorities and decision makers are relevant stakeholders in achieving the goals of the Convention.

C. Indigenous peoples and local communities

43. It is very important to work with indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure communication of their role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, recognizing different visions and approaches in relation to nature and Mother Earth, as appropriate, and to show how their activities contribute to the implementation of the Convention and other biodiversity-related conventions based on their own systems of knowledge. In this regard, communication should enable indigenous peoples and local communities to share their perceptions of nature and Mother Earth, and to highlight their traditional knowledge and practices related to the conservation of biodiversity in the context of regional and national implementation of the Convention.

44. The work of indigenous peoples and local communities should also be seen as an important source for practices and educational approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. In this regard, communication should seek to celebrate, promote and communicate different visions and approaches, traditional systems of knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the local, national, regional and global levels, including living well and in harmony with Mother Earth. This should be done in coordination with indigenous peoples and local communities representatives and through consultation with the view of obtaining prior and informed consent, free, prior and informed consent, or approval and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, and with respect for the terms of use for all traditional knowledge and practices.

45. In this regard, the global and national strategies should work to develop components of this strategy, including tools and messages that can be translated into indigenous and local languages and contexts.

D. Women

46. As women are key stakeholders in both conservation and sustainable use of resources, special focus should be made in mainstreaming gender in all engagements. The work in the communication strategy should complement and draw upon the Gender Plan of Action adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity in decision 15/11. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) is an important actor with which collaboration and coordination can be undertaken at the international level. Gender considerations need to be mainstreamed in all materials and messages.

E. Youth

47. Youth, including their organizations and representatives, are both key audiences and powerful partners in creating and delivering the activities of a communications strategy. These important actors can be reached via work through United Nations system-wide activities related to youth, including YOUNGO,¹⁴ through the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and its national chapters, and through other initiatives, such

¹⁴ <https://youngoclimate.org>.

as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the United Nations Secretary-General Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.

F. The public

48. While it is true that the audience for communications is a global one and should encompass everyone, it is also clear that the notion that a single public to whom all messages could be directed is overly simplistic and hides some important differences between audience segments. The so-called “public” is a number of different audience segments distinguished by country, culture, gender, socioeconomic level, education, experience, age, and languages, each requiring a targeted approach.

49. The most important segmentation for the public remains at the national level. An understanding of biodiversity, environmental functions and ecosystem services and their relevance to the general public is very much shaped by national and subnational circumstances and national “narratives” about people and nature and how biodiversity provides them with values. Therefore, attempts to engage the public need to be crafted at the national level, based on an overarching narrative.

50. Important ways to reach the public are through awareness campaigns, education and the media – radio, television and print forms, and social media in particular. In this way, the media should be seen as a multiplier and a channel, as is indicated below.

51. It is important to involve the arts and cultural sector, to stimulate new forms of creativity and human imagination that can promote the kind of transformational change needed. Art and new cultural paradigms can become powerful tools for the transformation of intentions.

G. The media

52. The varied platforms, organizations and representatives of the media are key. Media from all regions must be addressed. The large “wire services”, national newspaper chains, and large media conglomerates need to be engaged. Media partnerships should be explored at the international and national levels. The work of such partnerships could include creation of a package of regular news features and capsules; and creation of a shared library of “B-roll” footage, with open-source rights.

53. Engagement with journalist associations that focus on biodiversity and other environmental issues should be a priority, including the Earth Journalism Network and the Society of Environmental Journalists. In working with journalists, particular emphasis should be given to working with journalists that represent indigenous peoples and local communities, youth and women.

54. In addition to news organizations, work with film and television production organizations should be explored. Work should be done to encourage the production of films for television and streaming platforms that highlight the different issues under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In exchange for coverage, agencies can be given freedom to use branding from the Framework. Important global production houses, such as Amazon, BBC Natural History, Disney Nature, Icon Productions, National Geographic and Netflix, should be explored. In addition, regional production houses should be approached, among others.

55. Film festivals should be encouraged around the world. Jackson Wild (formerly the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival), the International Wildlife Film Festival and Wildscreen could have films about the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Other international and regional film festivals in all United Nations regions should be encouraged to create categories of films relating to action that support nature. The possibility of holding a film festival at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties should be considered. A film festival to coincide with the annual celebrations of the International Day for Biodiversity should also be considered.

VI. BRANDING

56. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework should be accompanied by a clear global brand that is extendable to other contexts (national, subnational, local), with easy terms for use and

licensing. Branding can be presented according to the dimensions of brand voice, identity, promise, values, targeting and positioning, as shown in table 2.

Table 2. Elements for branding

Voice	The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is the effort and wishes of the global community to realize a future of life in harmony with nature.
Identity	The visual look, including palette, logo, fonts and visual rules, will need to reflect the voice, the variety of life, and include human representations and align with cultural preferences. The identity should be used throughout the period of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
Promise	The 2050 Vision for biodiversity and the 2030 mission represent the promise of the brand.
Values	The brand values will reflect the objectives of the Convention and the principles of the United Nations.
Targeting	As the overall reach of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is global, there will need to be specific articulations of the brand for different audiences.
Positioning	The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will be presented as a framework relevant to multiple initiatives on biodiversity, supportive of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the biodiversity-related conventions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

57. The creation of the brand will be done after the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It will be led by the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, the United Nations Department of Global Communications, the UNEP Communications Division, and the open-source coordination mechanism articulated below. A marketing company with global reach should be contracted to assist in this.

VII. OPEN-SOURCE COORDINATION MECHANISM, AND CHANNELS AND MULTIPLIERS

58. While the broad outlines of the strategy will be kept under review as per the terms of reference outlined in section III above, implementation of the communications strategy at the global level will best be realized through an open-source coordination mechanism. Such a mechanism needs a low cost of participation, with members free to participate in some elements and not others. The principle of open source should govern the products shared by the group, with inclusivity, transparency and neutrality as important elements.

59. Participation in the mechanism will be voluntary, open to all actors who commit to transparent participation and adherence to the principle of open-source work, and who will contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Representatives of national and subnational governments are encouraged to participate, as are representatives of intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other civil society actors, business, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women. The mechanism will not have formal decision-making power.

60. At the national level, Parties will be free to create mechanisms as appropriate. These mechanisms should be inclusive and transparent and should ensure the full and effective participation of all relevant actors and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, and women.

A. Social media

61. The strategy will need to take advantage of existing social media and new technologies. An exhaustive list of the technologies to use is not appropriate, given that the platforms for these vary across regions and that the pace of change in the field of social media is such that certain platforms are rendered irrelevant over time. Nevertheless, implementation of this strategy should seek to incorporate the most up-to-date platforms and technologies, including through corporate partnerships. The security of data, and protection of all rights to privacy of users, as covered in different legislation, needs to be taken into account.

62. A list of agreed hashtags and common tagging words needs to be created, for each platform, to properly aggregate conversations in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These should be aligned with the messaging outlined in table 3 and translated into other languages. This list should be created by the first coordination meeting, immediately after the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

63. Partnerships with social media organizations, such as Google, Meta, WeChat, Weibo, Twitter and LinkedIn, should be secured, with the goal of highlighting the messages and progress of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in campaigns and other promotions.

B. Events

64. Events represent important communications opportunities, where messages can be disseminated to a variety of audiences, in a setting which is usually media-rich and of interest to a variety of communities. These include, among others, the meetings of the following:

- (a) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (c) The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
- (d) The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO;
- (e) The Conference of the Parties to the other biodiversity-related conventions;
- (f) The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
- (g) The United Nations General Assembly;
- (h) The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
- (j) The United Nations Environment Assembly;
- (k) The World Economic Forum;
- (l) The G7 and G20.

65. National events that may be related to the biodiversity agenda, but are distinct from it, represent important communications opportunities as well. National cultural celebrations or celebrations of independence could also be used to show the linkages of biodiversity with national identity.

66. International days of the United Nations and others also represent important events during which the work of the Convention can be noted and celebrated. For these international days, messaging should be aligned in a way that shows how implementation of the Convention can contribute to the goals for each day. Some of the most important days to consider include the following: World Wetlands Day, World Wildlife Day, World Water Day, International Day of Forests, International Women's Day, World Health Day, Earth Hour, Oceans Day, Earth Day, Mother Earth Day, Earth Overshoot Day, World Environment Day, World Day to Combat Desertification, World Cities Day, World Soil Day and World Food Day.

67. The International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrated on 22 May of each year, should also be an extremely important event for any communications. Guided by the theme determined by the Executive Secretary, national-level actors should use the day as an opportunity to articulate national visions and responses.

C. Champions, Messengers of Peace and Goodwill Ambassadors

68. A programme of “Champions for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” should be created that celebrates successes and inspiring actions in support of the Framework. The Champions programme should have awards, for example for individuals, youth, organizations, businesses, and governments. The programme would declare awards annually on the International Day for Biodiversity. A sponsor which could offer financial resources for the award should be identified, as should a global media partner. The prizes would be awarded according to the recommendations by a panel that includes representatives of UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IPBES, and the World Economic Forum, among others, as well as the Executive Secretary. Nominations would be delivered to the Executive Secretary.

69. The United Nations should be invited to create a Messenger of Peace for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and also to name Goodwill Ambassadors for each of the United Nations regions to support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These Ambassadors will provide support and messages for the Framework.

D. Website in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

70. A dedicated website should be established, with a unique URL and identity, consistent with the branding above. This would be different from the main website of the Convention with the aim of reaching a global audience. Such a website would reflect efforts to capture audiences and directing them to the resources tailored to their needs. The website would be linked to matching social-media campaigns.

71. This would require early and ongoing focus on search engine optimization, accessibility, social media campaigns alignment, analytics, and bidirectional interoperability with other information sources both within the Convention (main Convention website, national and central clearing-house mechanisms, and others), through InforMEA, and with both institutional and thematic partners. Country-specific mailing lists may need to be developed.

72. The website can also serve as the media hub for reusable media material, including both public and partner-only resources. Such resources can also include links to exhibitions of museums, botanical gardens and zoos and aquariums.

VIII. KEY MESSAGING

73. Messaging for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework needs to be consistent with previously developed messaging, in line with decision XIII/22. This includes the messaging for the 2050 Vision for biodiversity, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the conclusions of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*, and the overall messaging for the Convention.

74. Messaging needs to be evidence-based and scientifically credible, drawing upon the work of IPBES and its global assessments, among others. It also needs to be consistent with different knowledge systems, including the relevant traditional knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities.

75. Messages need to be adapted and translated into indigenous and local languages, with resources made available for this purpose.

76. Communicating the importance of awareness and change to promote sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature will be a key element to support the implementation of the Kunming-

Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In order to foster transformative change, key messages will take into account scientific evidence, and, at the national level, they may also address norms, attitudes and consumption choices.

77. Elements for messaging will be the following:

(a) Overall, messages should communicate general elements about the connections of people to biodiversity and show how people are connected to biodiversity in almost all aspects of their lives;

(b) Messages should promote immediate action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, and encourage action by stakeholders in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a means to achieve this goal;

(c) The messages should also highlight the longer time horizon, including the 2050 Vision for biodiversity,¹⁵ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and should include linkages to climate-related targets;

(d) The importance of applying a human rights-based approach for achieving the 2050 Vision for biodiversity;

(e) Messages should also link the goals of the framework with specific national development priorities, as well as with the important roles of local and subnational governments in delivering said priorities, demonstrating how achieving sustainable development at the national level requires integration of biodiversity into these activities;

(f) Specific messages and campaigns should be sensitive to the values of the target audience and should express biodiversity and actions to conserve and sustainably use it in the context of these values. Therefore, audience research is a key element to any message customization;

(g) Messages need to be translated into indigenous and local languages, including a sensitivity to the social and cultural context in which local languages are embedded;

(h) Messages need to be gender-inclusive and in line with the principles of the Gender Plan of Action;¹⁶

(i) The message structure presented in table 3 below is meant to suggest the direction of messages. An overall umbrella set of messages which could apply to public mobilization and advocacy campaigns, is suggested to be used by all actors;

(j) Sector-specific messages will be tailored for specific audiences. These will be developed by organizations which are engaged with these sectors;

(k) The messaging structure will also pursue the principle of “open source” campaign, which maintains core messaging, but also permits different organizations to customize this under their own brand. These messages are also meant to have an iteration designed for national and subnational levels;

(l) Parties, subnational governments, cities and local governments and other relevant organizations are invited to hold national workshops for the creation of messages.

¹⁵ Conference of the Parties, decision [X/2](#).

¹⁶ Decision 15/11.

Table 3. Themes for messaging

Top-line message: By acting for nature/biodiversity, we can all create a just, healthier and more sustainable world		
General theme	Public message	Policy message
We need to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and ensure sustainable development for all	To be determined (TBD)	TBD
Nature/biodiversity is essential for our survival on the planet. It matters for our prosperity, happiness and well-being and for sustainable development	TBD	TBD
Nature/biodiversity has intrinsic value as well as multiple other values	TBD	TBD
The nature/biodiversity crisis poses a threat to humankind and needs to be addressed urgently and in a coherent manner	TBD	TBD
Innovative approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity hold the key to support poverty eradication efforts	TBD	TBD
Protecting nature should leave no one behind	TBD	TBD
The world needs to cooperate to tackle the loss of nature	TBD	TBD
Action for people underpins action for biodiversity	TBD	TBD
Plans to affect the future of our planet need to be fair, inclusive and equitable	TBD	TBD
Economies and societies need transformational change to achieve sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	TBD	TBD
Our relationship with nature/biodiversity can increase the risk of infections and spread of diseases of zoonotic origin	TBD	TBD
Immediate action is required to protect the health of our people and planet	TBD	TBD
We are all accountable for our actions to protect the planet	TBD	TBD
Living well and in harmony with Mother Earth, aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	TBD	TBD

IX. MEASURING PROGRESS

78. The assessment of progress for the strategy needs to be linked with progress in achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as traditional metrics for

reach and impact. Assessment also needs to capture important changes over time and to assess progress towards access to relevant information, and increased awareness and willingness to act for biodiversity.

A. Campaigns, and media reach

79. At the global level, partners to the coordination mechanism should report results of campaigns, and media reach (including social media reach), to the Executive Secretary. Initiatives can be captured by an aggregator tool, such as the People for our Planet Aggregator.¹⁷

80. At the national level, Parties to the Convention should also gather the above data for inclusion in their national reporting.

B. Linkage with the targets

81. The strategy will communicate progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework using the agreed-upon set of indicators under the monitoring and reporting framework.¹⁸ Innovative and multi-channel ways of communicating the information will be developed, with modalities suitable for different Parties.

82. Reports by other bodies and organizations should also provide additional outreach on progress. The WWF *Living Planet Report*, the publications of the World Economic Forum, the *Human Development Report* published by UNDP, and the UNEP *Global Environment Outlook* could all devote issues, during the period of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to results under the Framework.

X. RESOURCES

83. Resources will be needed to support the Executive Secretary and at the national level, with an important focus on the needs of developing countries, especially small island developing States, and economies in transition. The level required will be determined as the communications strategy is further elaborated.

¹⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/article/people-for-our-planet-aggregator>.

¹⁸ Decision 15/5.

15/15. Financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming the importance of the full application of the provisions of Article 21 and of access to the financial mechanism for all eligible Parties for the full implementation of the Convention, and welcoming the valuable role of the Global Environment Facility as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the Convention on an interim and ongoing basis,

Emphasizing the importance for the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient and transparent manner,

Recalling Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention, providing that the Conference of the Parties shall review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

Reaffirming the commitment of the Conference of the Parties to periodically review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in implementing the Convention in the memorandum of understanding with the Council of the Global Environment Facility contained in decision III/8,

Reaffirming also decision XI/5, paragraph 7, on the quadrennial arrangement for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

Recalling decision 14/23, paragraph 13, regarding the terms of reference for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting,

Reaffirming the importance of the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, strategies and programmes,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;¹

2. *Takes note* of the importance of a realistic assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the time of the conclusion of the eighth replenishment;²

3. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols an explanation of how the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility,³ through the elements of its programming directions is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and to the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁴ and its monitoring framework;⁵

4. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to support Parties in their effort to enhance policy coherence as part of biodiversity mainstreaming to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

5. *Adopts* the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the eighth replenishment period (July 2022 to June 2026) of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, contained in annex I to the present decision;

¹ CBD/COP/15/8.

² The executive summary is available in CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.2/Rev.1 and the full report is available in CBD/SBI/3/INF/44.

³ Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility refers to replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

⁴ Decision 15/4, annex.

⁵ Decision 15/5, annex I.

6. *Welcomes* the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and notes that its associated programming directions and strategies, including for the biodiversity focal area, have taken into account the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the time of the conclusion of the eighth replenishment;

7. *Urges* relevant Parties to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Global Environment Facility and related agencies, as appropriate, in:

(a) The fast-tracking of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular for the intermediate phase (2023–2024) of the strategy for resource mobilization and in the reporting of progress in the mobilization of new and additional resources to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(b) The development and implementation of the relevant integrated programmes and the country engagement strategy for the eighth replenishment period, promoting the involvement of biodiversity-related conventions and instruments at national level, and promoting synergies and complementarities with other relevant financial instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund, towards the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

9. *Adopts* the consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II A to the present decision, decides to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism and also adopts additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II B to the present decision;

10. *Decides* to adopt, at its sixteenth meeting, a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to inform the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030);

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare elements of a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

12. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to prepare proposals for a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030), for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

13. *Adopts* the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, as contained in annex III to the present decision;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure completion of the assessment according to the terms of reference set out in annex III to the present decision, in time for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

15. *Invites* developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to identify related national funding priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs that could be considered

as eligible for funding under the financial mechanism specifically for the period July 2026 to June 2030, and submit the results to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in the funding needs assessment;

16. *Invites* the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30, and paragraph 10 of decision XIII/21, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

17. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism contained in annex IV to the present decision, and requests the Executive Secretary to ensure that the report on the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism is made available three months prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

18. *Calls upon* the Global Environment Facility to further reform its operations to ensure adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds by establishing easy and effective access modalities, including by scaling fast-track systems, and by facilitating new contributors;

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

19. *Recognizes* the urgency to increase international biodiversity finance and to establish a dedicated and accessible fund in 2023 for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that can quickly mobilize and disburse new and additional resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the Framework;

20. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to establish, in 2023, and until 2030 unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, a special trust fund to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure its timely implementation, taking into account the need for adequacy, predictability, and timely flow of funds;

21. *Also requests* the Global Environmental Facility to prepare a decision to be considered by the Council, on the approval of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, with its own equitable governing body, to be dedicated exclusively to supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

22. *Further requests* the Global Environment Facility to advance the necessary institutional and governance arrangements to allow for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to receive financing from all sources, in addition to official development assistance;

23. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to design and implement a project cycle with a simple and effective application and approval process, providing easy and efficient access to resources of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;

24. *Calls upon* the Global Environment Facility to approve these decisions at the next possible session of the Council and its ratification at the next possible session of the Assembly in 2023;

25. *Calls for* immediate substantive contributions from all sources, in line with Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

26. *Requests* the Global Environmental Facility to engage all multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions in the design and operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, with the view of leveraging additional resources from and for the Fund and channel them through new and existing biodiversity portfolios, which need to be aligned with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

27. *Also requests* the Global Environment Facility to report on the progress in establishing, and on the operations and performance of, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

28. *Decides* to assess the progress made in establishing, and on the operations and performance of, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and to consider and adopt further guidance to the Global Environment Facility and to the governing body referred to paragraph 21 above, on the modalities and operation of the Fund, at its future meetings;

29. *Also decides* to undertake and act upon, at its eighteenth meeting, a stocktake review on the operations and performance of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund regarding its scale, speed, accessibility, and future arrangements.

Annex I

FOUR-YEAR OUTCOME-ORIENTED FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMME PRIORITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD (2022–2026) OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND

A. Objective

1. The present four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities provides guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the eighth replenishment period (GEF-8), 2022–2026, and is within the context of the GEF mandate to provide resources to achieve global environmental benefits and the mandate provided to GEF by the Conference of the Parties. It utilizes the Convention and its Protocols, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to set priorities for the financial mechanism. In particular, the goals and targets of the Framework provide direction for the outcomes of this four-year framework, bearing in mind that GEF-8 and GEF-9 will together cover the expected eight years to the 2030 deadlines of the targets, while recognizing that the three objectives of the Convention should be considered by GEF when designing and implementing biodiversity strategy and programming directions.

2. In that regard, it is envisaged that following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the conclusion of the GEF-8 replenishment under their respective processes, GEF will include in its report to the Conference of the Parties an explanation on how GEF-8, through the elements of its programming directions, is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and to each goal and target of the Framework and its monitoring framework.

3. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities recognizes that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is an overarching framework of high relevance to all biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, and seeks to promote the implementation of complementary measures that may enhance programmatic synergies and efficiencies, among the Convention, its Protocols and other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, relevant to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the mandate of the Global Environment Facility.

B. Elements

4. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2022–2026 consists of the following elements to which effective implementation support is to be provided:

(a) The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its goals and targets which define the outcomes being sought;

(b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);

(c) National biodiversity finance plans;

(d) The implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;

(e) The implementation support mechanisms adopted under the Convention associated with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework related to: mobilizing sufficient resources from all sources towards implementing the Framework and achieving its goals and targets; mainstreaming; capacity-building and development; generation, management and sharing of knowledge for effective

biodiversity planning, policy development and coherence, decision-making and implementation; and technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation. Examples include:

- (i) The strategy for resource mobilization, including the establishment of a global biodiversity framework fund by GEF;⁶
- (ii) The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development;⁷
- (iii) The Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2023–2030);⁸
- (iv) The Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030).⁹
- (f) The mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review;¹⁰
- (g) The enabling conditions outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework required for its implementation;
- (h) The Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹¹ and the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;¹²
- (i) The guidance to the Global Environment Facility on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting, contained in appendix I.

C. Additional strategic considerations

5. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should support the rapid and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by contributing to resource mobilization from all sources, including through increased GEF funding, which is adequate, predictable, sustainable, timely and accessible and through allocations dedicated to the biodiversity focal area and co-benefits for biodiversity across other focal areas and global programmes, including integrated programmes, recognizing the need for streamlined programming and approval process to enable timely disbursement of resources.¹³

6. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize the contribution of multi-country, regional, transboundary and global projects, to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including to the implementation of global initiatives adopted under the Convention and its Protocols, and multi-country, regional, transboundary and global initiatives that leverage contributions from biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.

7. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize that the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements in the context of national biodiversity priorities and strategies will contribute to the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

8. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

⁶ Decision 15/7.

⁷ Decision 15/8, annex I.

⁸ Decision 15/12, annex.

⁹ Decision 15/11, annex.

¹⁰ Decision 15/6

¹¹ Decision CP-10/3, annex.

¹² Decision CP-10/4, annex.

¹³ Such support under GEF-8 would build upon support being provided under GEF-7.

9. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should be developed in a fully transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to ensuring that projects to be funded by GEF during its eighth replenishment are to be developed on a context-specific and country-driven basis, addressing the priority needs of recipient countries.
10. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote agreed global environmental benefits and development pathways that benefit biodiversity and are also carbon-neutral and pollution-free, including through coherence and synergies among the GEF integrated programmes and focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change (both mitigation and adaptation), and chemicals and waste, and within the context of country-driven programmes and priorities.
11. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote and implement, as appropriate, the ecosystem approach,¹⁴ and/or nature-based solutions as defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session.¹⁵
12. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote, synergies, cooperation and complementarity in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention with those of the other conventions served by GEF, as well as with other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, recognizing the important contributions that these instruments can make to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and vice versa.
13. During the GEF-8 period, GEF should further interact and cooperate with multilateral development banks and other public and private financial institutions to integrate the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the contributions of the other biodiversity-related conventions within their activities and report on funding contributing to their implementation.
14. The GEF-8 outcome and impact indicators and associated monitoring processes should be effectively used to assess the contribution of the GEF-8 to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, its Protocols, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through measuring the co-benefits for biodiversity across all relevant GEF activities.
15. The GEF, in its eighth replenishment period, should explore ways to significantly improve the access to funding for all recipient countries.
16. The GEF, in its eighth replenishment period, should explore ways to improve the access to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities.
17. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote engagement with recipient countries to support national resource mobilization and the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans.
18. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy, programming directions and policy recommendations should reinforce the GEF's efforts to mobilize and engage with different stakeholders including the private sector.
19. To improve its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering sustainable results during the GEF-8 replenishment period, GEF should continue to improve its policies regarding governance and the standards its implementing partners are held to.

¹⁴ Defined in [decision V/6](#)

¹⁵ Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.5. Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development), adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022

Appendix I

**ELEMENTS FOR THE FOUR-YEAR OUTCOME-ORIENTED FRAMEWORK OF
PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD OF THE
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND (2022–2026) TO SUPPORT THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

Elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2022–2026) to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting, include:

- (a) Specific priorities for continued capacity-building to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;¹⁶
- (b) Support for the integration and mainstreaming of access and benefit-sharing on genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in policies and activities related to biodiversity and sustainable development;
- (c) Support for the development and sustainment of long-term institutional capacities for managing, monitoring and evaluating national access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

Annex II A

**CONSOLIDATED PREVIOUS GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
FACILITY (2022, THIRD EDITION)**

1. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility should be incorporated into a single decision, including the identification of priority issues which will provide support for cross-cutting issues and capacity-building, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in a manner that: (a) is transparent; (b) allows participation; and (c) allows full consideration of its other decisions.¹⁷
2. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility, for a specific replenishment period, consists of a consolidated list of programme priorities that defines what to be financed, and an outcome-oriented framework, taking into account the strategies and plans under the Convention and its Protocols and associated indicators. With a view to further streamlining guidance to the Global Environment Facility, proposed new guidance will be reviewed to avoid or reduce repetitiveness, to consolidate previous guidance where appropriate, and to prioritize guidance in the context of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹⁸

A. Policy and strategy

3. Financial resources should be allocated to projects that fulfil the eligibility criteria and are endorsed and promoted by the Parties concerned. Projects should contribute to the extent possible to build cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels in the implementation of the Convention. Projects should promote the utilization of local and regional expertise. The conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components is one of the key elements in achieving sustainable development and therefore contributing to combating poverty.¹⁹

B. Programme priorities

4. The Global Environment Facility should provide financial resources to developing country Parties, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States,

¹⁶ Decision NP-4/7, annex.

¹⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 52.

¹⁸ Adapted from decisions XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 53, and 14/23, paragraph 2.

¹⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 1.

as well as Parties with economies in transition, for country-driven activities and programmes, consistent with national priorities and objectives and in accordance with the following programme priorities, recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries, and taking fully into consideration all relevant decisions from the Conference of the Parties.²⁰

Article 1. Objectives

5. Projects that utilize the ecosystem approach, without prejudice to differing national needs and priorities which may require the application of approaches such as single species conservation programmes.²¹

Ecosystem restoration

6. Ecosystem restoration activities, as well as monitoring processes as appropriate, and integrated where relevant into programmes and initiatives for sustainable development, food, water and energy security, job creation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty eradication;²²

Ecosystem resilience and climate change

7. Ecosystem resilience and climate change:²³

(a) Capacity-building with the aim of increasing the effectiveness in addressing environmental issues through their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, inter alia, by applying the ecosystem approach;

(b) Developing synergy-oriented programmes to conserve and sustainably manage all ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands and marine environments, that also contribute to poverty eradication;

(c) Country-driven activities, including pilot projects, aimed at projects related to ecosystem conservation, restoration of degraded lands and marine environments and overall ecosystem integrity that take into account impacts of climate change.

Marine and coastal ecosystems

8. Marine and coastal ecosystems:²⁴

(a) Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity under threat, and implement the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(b) Country-driven activities aimed at enhancing capabilities to address the impacts of mortality related to coral bleaching and physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs, including developing rapid response capabilities to implement measures to address coral-reef degradation, mortality and subsequent recovery;

(c) Implementation of training and capacity-building and other activities related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs);

²⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 2.

²¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 3.

²² Decisions XIII/21, paragraph 24, and XIII/5, paragraph 4

²³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 4.

²⁴ Updated from decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 5.

(d) Support for capacity-building in order to further accelerate existing efforts towards achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in marine and coastal areas.

Forest biological diversity

9. Projects focusing on the identified national priorities, as well as regional and international actions that assist the implementation of the expanded work programme on forest biological diversity considering conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from genetic resources in a balanced way, underscoring the importance of ensuring long-term conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing of native forests, and the use of the clearing-house mechanism to include activities that contribute to halting and addressing deforestation, basic assessments and monitoring of forest biological diversity, including taxonomic studies and inventories, focusing on forest species, other important components of forest biological diversity and ecosystems under threat.²⁵

Inland water ecosystems

10. Projects that assist with the implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and which help Parties to develop and implement national, sectoral and cross-sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, including comprehensive assessments of the biological diversity of inland waters, and capacity-building programmes for monitoring the implementation of the programme of work and the trends in inland water biological diversity and for information gathering and dissemination among riparian communities.²⁶

Arid and semi-arid areas

11. Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in arid and semi-arid areas, including the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.²⁷

Mountainous areas

12. Projects which promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountainous areas.²⁸

Agricultural biodiversity

13. Projects which implement the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity.²⁹

14. National and regional projects that address the implementation of the Plan of Action 2018–2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators,³⁰

Article 5. Cooperation

15. Consideration of establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework based on voluntary contributions.³¹

²⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 6.

²⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 7.

²⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 8.

²⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 9.

²⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 10.

³⁰ Decision 14/6, paragraph 7.

³¹ Updated from decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 11.

Article 6. General measures for conservation and sustainable use

National biodiversity strategies and action plans

16. Review, revision, updating, and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.³²

17. Development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the strategy and targets for resource mobilization agreed to in decision XII/3.³³

Mainstreaming and integration

18. Further development of approaches on the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes.³⁴

19. Country-driven projects that address cross-sectoral mainstreaming.³⁵

Article 7. Identification and monitoring

20. Development and implementation of national biodiversity targets, indicator framework, and monitoring programmes.³⁶

Article 8. In situ conservation

Area-based conservation

21. Community conserved areas, national and regional systems of protected areas, further development of the portfolio on protected areas towards comprehensive, representative and effectively managed protected area systems addressing system wide needs, country driven early action activities of the programme of work on protected areas to enable its full implementation, projects that demonstrate the role-protected areas play in addressing climate change, and address the long-term financial sustainability of protected areas, including through different mechanisms and instruments.³⁷

Diversity of species and genetic resources

22. Projects that promote the conservation and/or sustainable use of endemic species.³⁸

23. Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020.³⁹

24. National and regional taxonomic capacity-building activities for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and project components that address taxonomic needs in the achievement of the Convention's objectives.⁴⁰

Invasive alien species

25. Projects that assist with the development and implementation, at national and regional levels, of invasive alien species strategies and action plans, in particular those strategies and actions related to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems, capacity-building to prevent or minimize the risks of the dispersal and establishment of invasive alien species, improved prevention, rapid response and management measures to address threats of alien invasive species.⁴¹

³² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 12.

³³ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 25, and XIII/1, paragraph 20.

³⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 13.

³⁵ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 28, and XIII/3, paragraph 112.

³⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 14.

³⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 15; XIII/21, paragraph 26, and XIII/2, paragraph 11.

³⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16.

³⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16.

⁴⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16.

⁴¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16; 14/11, para. 14.

Article 8(j) and related provisions

26. Inclusion of perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women, in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services.⁴²

27. Implementation of programmes and projects that strengthen the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, advance community conservation, promote customary sustainable use of biological diversity.⁴³

28. Raising awareness and building capacity relevant to the implementation of the Rutzolijirixaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent”, depending on national circumstances, or “approval and involvement”, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.⁴⁴

29. Raising awareness and building capacity relevant to the implementation of the guidelines (Mo’otz Kuxtal voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge), and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, for fair and equitable benefit-sharing.⁴⁵

Article 9. Ex situ conservation

Article 10. Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

30. Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines at the national level to ensure that the use of biological diversity is sustainable.⁴⁶

31. Sustainable tourism that contributes to the objectives of the Convention.⁴⁷

Article 11. Incentive measures

32. Development and implementation of innovative measures, including in the field of economic incentives and those which assist developing countries to address situations where opportunity costs are incurred by local communities and to identify ways and means by which these can be compensated.⁴⁸

Article 12. Research and training

33. Project components addressing targeted research which contributes to the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components including research for reversing current trends of biodiversity loss and species extinction.⁴⁹

⁴² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 17.

⁴³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 17.

⁴⁴ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 29.

⁴⁵ Decision XIII/18, paragraph 10.

⁴⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 18.

⁴⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 19.

⁴⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 20.

⁴⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 21.

Article 13. Public education and awareness

34. Development and implementation of communication, education and public awareness priority activities at the national and regional levels.⁵⁰

Article 14. Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

Article 15. Access to genetic resources (Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing)

National measures

35. Projects that support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements.⁵¹

Capacity-building

36. Building the capacity to develop, implement and enforce domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components,⁵² including through:

(a) Identification of relevant actors and existing legal and institutional expertise for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;

(b) Taking stock of domestic measures relevant to access and benefit-sharing in the light of the obligations of the Nagoya Protocol;

(c) Development and/or amendment of access and benefit-sharing legislative, administrative or policy measures with a view to implementing their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol;

(d) Establishment of ways to address transboundary issues;

(e) Establishment of institutional arrangements and administrative systems to provide access to genetic resources, ensure benefit-sharing, support compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms and monitor the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, including support for the establishment of check points;

37. Supporting the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.⁵³

Capacity on mutually agreed terms

38. Building the capacity to negotiate mutually agreed terms to promote equity and fairness in negotiations in the development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing agreements, including through enhanced understanding of business models and intellectual property rights.⁵⁴

Endogenous research capabilities

39. Building the capacity of Parties to develop their endogenous research capabilities to add value to their own genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources through, inter alia, technology transfer; bioprospecting and associated research and taxonomic studies; and development and use of valuation methods.⁵⁵

⁵⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 22.

⁵¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and 14/23, paragraph 11.

⁵² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23.

⁵³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23.

⁵⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23.

⁵⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23.

Indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders

40. Addressing the capacity needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, in particular projects that would:⁵⁶

(a) Encourage their participation in legal, policy and decision-making processes;

(b) Assist in building their capacity related to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, such as through the development of community protocols, model contractual clauses and minimum requirements for mutually agreed terms to secure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;

Clearing-house

41. Enabling Parties to actively participate in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and use the best available communication tools and Internet-based systems for access and benefit-sharing.⁵⁷

Awareness-raising

42. Raising awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and related access and benefit-sharing issues, notably through the development and implementation of national and regional awareness-raising strategies.⁵⁸

National reporting

43. Making financial resources available to assist Parties in preparing their national report.⁵⁹

Regional cooperation

44. Issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including regional cooperation projects, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and harnessing associated synergies.⁶⁰

Article 16. Access to and transfer of technology

45. Preparation of national assessments of technology needs for implementation of the Convention, and promotion of access to, transfer of and cooperation for joint development of technology.⁶¹

Article 17. Exchange of information

Article 18. Technical and scientific cooperation

46. Strengthening biodiversity information systems such as, inter alia, training, technology and processes related to the collection, organization, maintenance and updating of data and information, and building capacity for the clearing-house mechanism, such as training in information and communication technologies and web content management that enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fully benefit from modern communication, including the Internet.⁶²

⁵⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23.

⁵⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and 14/23, paragraph 7(b).

⁵⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23.

⁵⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and XIII/21, paragraph 38, 14/23, paragraph 10.

⁶⁰ Decision 14/23, paragraph 7(a).

⁶¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 24.

⁶² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 25.

Article 19. Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits (Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)

National measures

47. Ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.⁶³

48. Development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in particular biosafety legislation,⁶⁴ including those Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol.⁶⁵

Detection and identification

49. Identification of living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.⁶⁶

50. Regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons.⁶⁷

Risk assessment and risk management

51. Building, consolidating and enhancing sustainable human resource capacity in risk assessment and risk management⁶⁸ in the context of country-driven projects.⁶⁹

Socioeconomic considerations

52. Capacity-building on socioeconomic considerations.⁷⁰

Unintentional release

53. Capacity-building to take appropriate measures in cases of unintentional release of living modified organisms.⁷¹

Public awareness

54. Enhancing capacity for public awareness, education and participation regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including for indigenous peoples and local communities.⁷²

55. Effective implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, in the context of relevant project activities and within its mandate.⁷³

Clearing-house

56. Public participation and information sharing, and use of the Biosafety Clearing-House.⁷⁴

⁶³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26.

⁶⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26.

⁶⁵ Decision 14/23, paragraph 8(a); XIII/21, paragraphs 33 and 36.

⁶⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26.

⁶⁷ Decision 14/23, paragraph 9.

⁶⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26, and XIII/21, paragraph 35.

⁶⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26.

⁷⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26.

⁷¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26.

⁷² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26.

⁷³ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 34.

⁷⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26; XIII/21, paragraphs 30 and 31; 14/23, paragraph 7(b).

Capacity-building

57. Further implementation of the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building.⁷⁵

Reporting

58. National reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.⁷⁶

Compliance

59. Implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol.⁷⁷

Regional cooperation

60. Projects and capacity-building activities on issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including regional cooperation projects, such as those using regional and subregional networks to build capacity for the detection of living modified organisms, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and harnessing associated synergies.⁷⁸

Article 20. Financial resources

61. Development and implementation of country-specific resource mobilization strategies.⁷⁹

Article 21. Financial mechanism

Access modalities

62. To consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional national agencies from developing countries, based on its own experiences, including the conclusions of this assessment, and taking into account the experience of other international financial instruments with relevant access modalities.⁸⁰

Gender

63. To include gender in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services.⁸¹

Project procedures

64. To further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, more transparent and more country-driven.⁸²

65. To further simplify and expedite procedures for approval and implementation, including disbursement, for GEF-funded projects, based on a flexible and national demand driven approach, and avoid additional and lengthy processes.⁸³

66. To develop policies and procedures that fully comply with the guidance from the Conference of the Parties in a straightforward and timely manner.⁸⁴

⁷⁵ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 32.

⁷⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26; 14/23, para. 8(b).

⁷⁷ Decision 14/23, paragraph 8(c).

⁷⁸ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 36(b); 14/23, para. 7(a).

⁷⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 27.

⁸⁰ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 4.

⁸¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁸² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁸³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁸⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

67. To increase its flexibility to respond to the thematic longer-term programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties.⁸⁵

68. To improve project information system, including through data sets and web-based data tools, to increase the accessibility of project information and allow for better tracking against the guidance from the Conference of the Parties.⁸⁶

69. To consider the benefits to Parties, particularly small island developing States, of an appropriate balance between national and regional projects in the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties.⁸⁷

Catalytic role and co-financing

70. To mobilize co-financing and other modes of financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, and apply co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient Parties to access GEF funds.⁸⁸

71. To support diffusion, and facilitate replication and scaling-up, of new and innovative financing mechanism initiatives that have proved to be successful.⁸⁹

72. To consider joint financing, in partnership with other international financial instruments, of projects designed to achieve the objectives of more than one Rio convention.⁹⁰

73. To enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing new and additional financial resources while not compromising project goals.⁹¹

Incremental costs

74. To apply in a more flexible, pragmatic and transparent manner the incremental cost principle.⁹²

Sustainability

75. To promote exchange of experience and lessons learned in addressing sustainability of funded projects on biological diversity.⁹³

76. To further improve the sustainability of funded projects and programmes, including sustainable financing of protected areas.⁹⁴

Country ownership

77. To promote genuine country ownership through greater involvement of participant countries in GEF-funded activities.⁹⁵

78. To promote utilization of regional and local expertise and be flexible to accommodate national priorities and regional needs within the objectives of the Convention.⁹⁶

⁸⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁸⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁸⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁸⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28; XIII/21, paragraph 21.

⁸⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁹⁰ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 17.

⁹¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁹² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁹³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁹⁴ Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(c).

⁹⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28; XIII/21, paragraph 6.

⁹⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

79. To encourage collaboration at national level between CBD national focal points for related environmental agreements and for the Global Environment Facility, including through the projects supported by the Facility, and including through regional and national workshops for the focal points.⁹⁷

Compliance and collaboration of agencies

80. To promote efforts to ensure that the implementing agencies fully comply with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria of the Conference of the Parties in their support for country-driven activities funded by the Global Environment Facility.⁹⁸

81. To undertake efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the process of cooperation and coordination between the implementing agencies with a view to improving the processing and delivery systems of the Global Environment Facility, and to avoid duplication and parallel processes.⁹⁹

Partnership

82. To continue to improve the efficiency and accountability of the Global Environment Facility partnership.¹⁰⁰

Monitoring and evaluation

83. To Consult with the Executive Secretary in relevant review processes undertaken by the Global Environment Facility that affect the financial mechanism of the Convention.¹⁰¹

84. To include in its monitoring and evaluation activities the assessment of the compliance with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the Conference of the Parties.¹⁰²

85. To elaborate and transmit to the Conference of the Parties, well-summarized evaluation products and full evaluation reports relevant to biological diversity and to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties.¹⁰³

86. To include in its regular report findings, conclusions and recommendations of all relevant evaluations of the GEF Evaluation Office.¹⁰⁴

Efficiency

87. To support national implementation activities under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in an efficient manner, with a view to enabling Parties to enhance progress towards the goals and targets of the Framework.¹⁰⁵

Small grants programme

88. To continue expansion of the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility to other developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States.¹⁰⁶

Currency risks

89. To consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources

⁹⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁹⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

⁹⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

¹⁰⁰ Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(d).

¹⁰¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

¹⁰² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

¹⁰³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

¹⁰⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

¹⁰⁵ Updated from decision 14/23, paragraph 6.

¹⁰⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28.

for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20 of the Convention.¹⁰⁷

Integrated approach

90. To continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15.¹⁰⁸

Conflict resolution

91. To promote awareness to the existing processes under the Conflict Resolution Commissioner to address complaints related to the operations of the financial mechanism.¹⁰⁹

Article 22. Relationship with other international conventions

92. Projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements.¹¹⁰

Article 26. Reports

93. Preparation of future national reports,¹¹¹ in a timely and expeditious manner.¹¹²

C. Eligibility criteria

Convention on Biological Diversity¹¹³

94. Only developing countries that are Parties to the Convention are eligible to receive funding upon the entry into force of the Convention for them. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, projects that seek to meet the objectives of conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components are eligible for financial support from the institutional structure;

95. The Global Environment Facility continues to provide financial resources to Parties with economies in transition for biodiversity-related projects.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹¹⁴

96. All developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility.

97. All developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national biosafety frameworks and the development of national biosafety clearing-houses and other necessary institutional capabilities to enable a non-Party to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

¹⁰⁷ Decision XIII/21, paragraphs 18, 19 and 20.

¹⁰⁸ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 3; 14/30, paragraph 14; XIII/24, paragraph 7.

¹⁰⁹ Decision 14/23, para. 12(b).

¹¹⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 29.

¹¹¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 30.

¹¹² Decision XIII/21, paragraph 27; XIII/27, paragraph 4; 14/27, paragraph 3(a).

¹¹³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 31-32.

¹¹⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 33-34.

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing¹¹⁵

98. All developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, which are Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility in accordance with its mandate.

99. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national measures and institutional capabilities in order to enable them to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment, accompanied by indicative activities and expected milestones, shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

D. Reporting from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties

Timing

100. The report from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties should be made available three months prior to an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well as with updates as appropriate, and in accordance with rules 28 and 54 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary should make it available in all six official languages of the United Nations.¹¹⁶

Preliminary draft

101. The Global Environment Facility should make available a preliminary draft of its report to the Conference of the Parties, particularly focusing on the response of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties, to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the report will be formally considered, with a view to promoting effective and timely consideration of the information provided in the report.¹¹⁷

Comprehensiveness and conciseness

102. The Global Environment Facility should explore ways to balance the comprehensiveness and conciseness of the report of the Global Environment Facility, acknowledging the need to demonstrate progress in programming resources towards achievement of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹¹⁸

Results-based reporting

103. The Global Environment Facility should improve results-based reporting on the total contribution of the Global Environment Facility to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the Facility's contribution to incremental-cost financing and leveraging co-financing.¹¹⁹

Report on four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities

104. The Global Environment Facility should report on its implementation of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities and how it responds to the individual elements.¹²⁰

¹¹⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 35-36.

¹¹⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 37.

¹¹⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 40.

¹¹⁸ Updated from decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 41.

¹¹⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 38.

¹²⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 39.

105. The Global Environment Facility should include information regarding the individual elements of the consolidated guidance, in particular the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties.¹²¹

Reporting on needs assessment results

106. The Global Environment Facility should indicate in its report to the Conference of the Parties, how it plans to respond to the report on the determination of funding requirements, pursuant to paragraph 5.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding.¹²²

107. The Global Environment Facility will in its regular report to the Conference of Parties indicate how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to the previous assessment by the Conference of the Parties.¹²³

Transparency

108. The Global Environment Facility, in response to the concerns of the Parties on transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects, should include in its report to the Conference of the Parties, information regarding paragraph 3.3(d) of the Memorandum of Understanding.¹²⁴

Safeguards

109. The Global Environment Facility should inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms.¹²⁵

Co-financing

110. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding progress in implementing the new co-financing policy in its report to the Conference of the Parties.¹²⁶

Agencies

111. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies in its report to the Conference of the Parties.¹²⁷

E. Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

112. The review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism will be conducted every four years and this review should coincide with the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.¹²⁸

F. Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

113. The updated list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2 of the Convention, is contained in the annex to decision VIII/18.¹²⁹

114. The developed country Parties and others are invited to increase their financial contributions through the financial mechanism during the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.¹³⁰

¹²¹ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 5.

¹²² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 42.

¹²³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 47; XIII/21, paragraph 15.

¹²⁴ Decision XIII/21, paragraphs 22 and 23.

¹²⁵ Decision 14/23, paragraph 3; 14/15, paragraph 6.

¹²⁶ Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(e)(i).

¹²⁷ Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(e)(ii).

¹²⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 43.

¹²⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 44.

¹³⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 45.

115. The Global Environment Facility is urged, in the process of replenishment, to give due consideration to all aspects of the needs assessment report on the levels of funding for biodiversity.¹³¹

G. Inter-secretariat cooperation

116. Participation of a representative of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility is requested in respective meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel on a reciprocal basis.¹³²

117. The Executive Secretary should promote, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, exchange of experience and good practice in financing for biological diversity.¹³³

118. The Executive Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility should continue to strengthen inter-secretariat cooperation and collaborate with the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility and the Global Environment Facility agencies.¹³⁴

119. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹³⁵

120. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with agencies associated with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, taking into account the need to promote greater synergies between the Global Environment Facility and other financing mechanisms.¹³⁶

Annex II B

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

The Conference of the Parties,

Planning, monitoring, reporting and review

1. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and its agencies to make funds available in a timely and expeditious manner to all eligible countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, to support the updating or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to support the preparation of national reports, so that Parties may begin implementation as soon as possible after the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

Biodiversity and agriculture

2. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, other donors, funding agencies and the private sector to provide financial assistance to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including capacity-building and development activities, for national, subnational and regional projects that address the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity;

Biodiversity and health

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, as appropriate, to consider providing technical and financial support for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages;

¹³¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 46, 48; XIII/21, paragraph 16; 14/23, paragraph 1.

¹³² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 49.

¹³³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 50.

¹³⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 51.

¹³⁵ Decision 14/23, paragraph 18.

¹³⁶ Decision 14/23, paragraph 19.

Gender Plan of Action

4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and relevant bilateral and multilateral funding organizations to provide technical and financial support, as well as capacity-building and development, for implementation of the Gender Plan of Action;

Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to consider further expanding and strengthening its sustainable cities initiatives in its future replenishments, and piloting land- and seascape level initiatives targeted at subnational and local governance, infrastructure, biodiversity-inclusive spatial and land-use planning, and urban-rural linkages, in accordance with the priorities identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support national, regional and global biodiversity monitoring systems, recognizing the need for enhanced international cooperation and capacity-building especially for developing countries;

Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

7. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support eligible activities of the regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity contributing to technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, and capacity-building and development at global, regional, subregional and national levels, as appropriate;

Resource mobilization

8. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to support the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar planning instruments to support efforts by recipient countries to mobilize domestic and international resources to reach their national goals, as defined in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

9. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility:

(a) To strengthen its funding programme dedicated to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to support eligible Parties in implementing the Protocol, the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

(b) To improve and simplify the modalities for access to its funding for the Cartagena Protocol, to support eligible Parties in the implementation of the Protocol, its Implementation Plan and Capacity-building Action Plan;

(c) To continue to make funds available in a timely manner to support eligible Parties in preparing and submitting their fifth national reports under the Cartagena Protocol;

(d) To continue to assist eligible Parties in undertaking activities in the following areas: development and implementation of legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol; risk assessment and risk management; detection and identification of living modified organisms; public awareness, education and participation; socioeconomic considerations; liability and redress; national reporting; information-sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House; knowledge and technology transfer; and the implementation of compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol;

10. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to examine the possibility to create a finance window specifically for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing

11. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue providing and enhancing support for joint projects, at global, regional or national levels, in order to maximize synergies and opportunities for cost-effective sharing of resources, information, experiences and expertise;

12. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to make financial resources available in a timely manner to eligible Parties to assist them in meeting their reporting obligations under the Nagoya Protocol;

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FULL ASSESSMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS FOR THE NINTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND

A. Objective

1. The objective of the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference is to enable the Conference of the Parties to make an assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols, in particular to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, over the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and determine the amount of resources needed, in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 1 and decision III/8.

B. Scope

2. The assessment of funding needs for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols should be comprehensive and primarily directed towards assessing total funding needs required to meet the agreed full incremental costs of measures that developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition that are eligible for GEF support may implement, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in order to fulfil their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols, in particular to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, for the period July 2026 to June 2030.

C. Methodology

3. The funding needs assessment should take into account:

(a) Article 20, paragraph 2, and Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(b) Guidance to the financial mechanism from the Conference of the Parties which calls for future financial resources;

(c) All obligations under the Convention and its Protocols and relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;

(d) The information communicated to the Conference of the Parties in the national reports, information provided by the Parties through the financial reporting framework and information from the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization;¹³⁷

(e) Rules and guidelines agreed by the Council of the Global Environment Facility for determining eligibility for funding of projects;

(f) National strategies, plans or programmes developed in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention;

¹³⁷ Decision 15/7.

- (g) Experience to date, including limitations and successes of projects funded by the Global Environment Facility, as well as the performance of the Facility and its implementing and executing agencies;
- (h) Synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions and other GEF-funded Conventions, including those with respect to operations and impacts;
- (i) The strategy for resource mobilization;
- (j) The report of the Panel of Experts on Resource Mobilization¹³⁸ concerning estimation of resources needed for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and other relevant estimations;
- (k) National biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments, where available;
- (l) Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation).

D. Procedures for implementation

4. Under the authority and with the support of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary shall contract a team of three or five—experts, subject to the availability of resources, with equal representation from developing country Parties and developed country Parties, and one expert from international non-governmental organizations, to prepare a report on the full assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period July 2026 to June 2030, in accordance with the above objective and methodology.

5. In preparing the assessment report, the expert team should undertake such interviews, surveys, quantitative and qualitative analyses, and consultation, as may be required, including:

- (a) Compilation and analysis of the needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans, including country-specific resource mobilization strategies, prepared by GEF-eligible and other relevant Parties pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention;
- (b) Review of reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Articles 6 and 26 of the Convention to identify funding needs in fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention and, as appropriate, its Protocols;
- (c) Estimated financial implications of guidance to the financial mechanism from the Conference of the Parties including support to the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;
- (d) Experience to date in the provision of funds by the financial mechanism for each replenishment period;
- (e) Compilation and analysis of any supplementary information provided by GEF-eligible and other relevant Parties on their funding needs for the implementation of their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols.

6. The Global Environment Facility and the Executive Secretary shall conduct a review of the draft assessment reports of the expert team to ensure accuracy and consistency of data and approach as specified in these terms of reference.

7. The Executive Secretary shall ensure that the assessment report of the expert team will be distributed to all Parties at least one month before a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

¹³⁸ CBD/POST2020/WS/2020/3/2.

8. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation should consider the expert team's assessment report as well as information from the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization and make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

9. The Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth meeting, will take a decision on this assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and communicate the results to GEF accordingly.

E. Consultation process

10. In preparing the assessment report, the expert team should consult widely with all relevant sources of information deemed useful, particularly with developing country Parties through the CBD national focal points.

11. The expert team should design a questionnaire on funding needs for the period July 2026 to June 2030, in consultation with the Secretariat and GEF, and circulate it to all developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in particular through the CBD national focal points and the GEF Operational Focal Points, and include the results in the assessment report.

12. Interviews and consultation meetings should be organized with participation of relevant key stakeholders, including major groups of Parties, the Convention Secretariat, as well as the secretariat, the Independent Evaluation Office and the agencies of GEF.

13. As far as possible, the expert team should endeavour to undertake regional and subregional consultations, in a balanced manner, taking advantage of regional and subregional workshops organized by the secretariats of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility during the study period.

14. The approaches to assessing the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols should be transparent, reliable and replicable, and demonstrate clear incremental cost reasoning in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2, taking into consideration information gathered from other international funds serving conventions and information submitted by Parties in the application of the concept of incremental costs as well as current rules and guidelines of the Global Environment Facility as approved by the Council of the Global Environment Facility.

15. On the basis of experience with the preparation of the current needs assessment report, the expert team will make recommendations to the Executive Secretary for the elements and modalities of an online system to facilitate submissions by relevant Parties for future needs assessments.

16. The expert team should address additional issues that may be raised by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation during its consideration of the assessment report.

Annex IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SIXTH REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

A. Objectives

1. In accordance with Article 21, paragraph 3, and building upon the experience of the past five reviews, the Conference of the Parties will undertake its sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism at its sixteenth meeting and will take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism as necessary. For this purpose, effectiveness will include:

(a) The conformity of the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism, with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The effectiveness of the financial mechanism in providing and mobilizing financial resources to enable all recipient country Parties to meet the agreed full incremental costs to them of

implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention and its Protocols and to benefit from its provisions, taking into account the need for predictability, adequacy and timely flow of funds;

(c) The effectiveness of mobilizing financial resources from all sources to support national implementation, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national biodiversity finance plans, of the Convention and its Protocols. The efficiency of the financial mechanism in providing and mobilizing financial resources, as well as, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the activities financed by its resources, as appropriate;

(d) The effectiveness of catalysing and enhancing national implementation measures for achieving global biodiversity goals and targets, including those that relate to the Protocols;

(e) The efficiency and effectiveness of the activities funded by the Global Environment Facility on the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of its three objectives, as well as, as applicable, of its Protocols, taking into account the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;

(f) The efficiency and effectiveness of supporting implementation of Sustainable Development Goals that contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols;

(g) The efficiency and effectiveness of processes and procedures for the deployment of resources for programmes;

(h) The effectiveness and efficiency in supporting the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols in synergy with implementation of other pertinent multilateral environmental agreements, in a manner that is consistent with the mandates of respective multilateral environmental agreements.

B. Methodology

2. The review will cover all the activities of the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism, in particular for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022.

3. The review shall draw upon, inter alia, the following sources of information:

(a) Reports prepared by GEF, including its reports to the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Reports of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office that relate to GEF biodiversity activities, including its seventh comprehensive study (OPS7), as well as relevant assessments by the GEF agencies and other partners, including the most recent audit reports and management responses related to GEF projects;

(c) Information provided by Parties regarding the financial mechanism, through national reports and other submissions, responses to surveys and interviews;

(d) Information provided by indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and relevant stakeholders related to GEF-funded projects.

C. Criteria

4. The effectiveness and efficiency of the financial mechanism shall be assessed taking into account, inter alia:

(a) The actions taken by GEF in response to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The extent to which eligible countries receive timely, adequate and predictable funds to enable countries to meet the agreed full incremental cost to them of implementing measures that fulfil the obligations under the Convention and its Protocols, that generate global environmental benefits;¹³⁹

¹³⁹ Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, September 2019.
<http://www.thegef.org/publications/instrument-establishment-restructured-gef-2019>.

- (c) Information provided by Parties related to performance in delivering GEF projects, including effectiveness and efficiency of access modalities and competence and capacity required to use these modalities;
- (d) Percentage of recipient countries that have received financial support from the financial mechanism to implement global biodiversity goals and targets, including those related to the Protocols;
- (e) Percentage of biodiversity funding through the financial mechanism to support the achievement of the global goals and targets;
- (f) Trend in co-financing and non-grant financing in the biodiversity area enabled by the financial mechanism;
- (g) Trend in financing global, regional and subregional biodiversity projects under the financial mechanism;
- (h) Trend in project and programme financing taking into consideration synergies among conventions that have designated GEF to operate their financial mechanism;
- (i) Trend in project financing targeted at biodiversity-related conventions and agreements taking into consideration synergies between them;
- (j) Trend in timeframes for project development and resource disbursement, including time between the approval of the concept notes (PIF) and the first disbursement;
- (k) Trend in project financing targeted at, and/or led by indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;
- (l) Trend in the number of capacity-building activities that enable Parties and stakeholders to access to GEF financing, including information events on the financial mechanism organized for the Parties and stakeholders of the Convention and its Protocols;
- (m) Trend in project financing leading to high sustainability or durability ratings and results achieved from GEF-supported biodiversity programming in relation to expected results planned by GEF through this programming;

D. Procedures for implementation

5. Under the authority of the Conference of the Parties and in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary will, subject to the availability of resources, contract an experienced independent evaluator to undertake the review, in accordance with the above objectives, methodology and criteria.
6. The evaluator will undertake such desk studies, questionnaire survey, interviews, and field visits, as may be required, and collaborate with GEF and its Independent Evaluation Office, if necessary, for the implementation of the review, and prepare a compilation and synthesis of the information received.
7. The draft synthesis report and recommendations of the evaluator will be made available to GEF for its review and comments. Such comments will be included in the documentation and identified by source.
8. Based on the synthesis report and recommendations of the independent evaluator, the Executive Secretary will prepare, in consultation with GEF, a draft decision on the sixth review of the financial mechanism, including specific suggestions for action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism, if necessary, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to provide its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.
9. The Executive Secretary will submit the relevant documents for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

15/16. Knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [14/25](#), [XIII/23](#), XIII/18, [XII/2](#) B and [XI/2](#),

Recalling also the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,¹

Emphasizing the critical importance of easy and timely access to quality data, information and knowledge in supporting the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

1. *Invites* biodiversity-related conventions, organizations, networks, processes and initiatives supporting the generation, discovery, capture, management and use of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge, to contribute to the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, based on existing knowledge management networks, organizations, initiatives and processes, to, among other things, promote and facilitate collaboration, interconnection and networking among them, with a view to making biodiversity data, information and knowledge more readily available and accessible for biodiversity planning, policy and decision-making, implementation, monitoring, and reporting and review;

2. *Takes note* of the outcomes and key messages from the virtual sessions of the Fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the Eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science, in particular the Round Table on Biodiversity Monitoring and Data;²

3. *Also takes note* of the following initiatives:

(a) The initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the European Commission to develop a global knowledge support service for biodiversity,³ notably for tracking progress on targets and goals;

(b) The Data4Nature initiative;⁴

(c) The global partnership PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet,⁵ which supports implementation through knowledge generation, management and sharing for effective biodiversity planning, policy development, decision-making, implementation, transparency and responsibility;

(d) The Bern process supported by the United Nations Environment Programme;⁶

4. *Further takes note* of the Amazon Regional Observatory⁷ of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, which includes information and data for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and invites donors and multilateral organizations to provide international cooperation for strengthening these initiatives, as well as other relevant knowledge platforms;

5. *Takes note* of the progress made in the implementation of the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,¹ and the draft elements of a post-2020 work programme for the clearing-house mechanism, outlined in the note by the Executive Secretary;⁸

6. *Decides* to extend the work programme of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2021–2030, and to update it in line with the Montreal-Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework and

¹ See decision [XI/2](#), para. 11, and [UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31](#).

² [CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/28](#).

³ <https://gkssb.chm-cbd.net>.

⁴ <https://www.gbif.org/data4nature>.

⁵ <https://panorama.solutions/en>.

⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/brc-ws>.

⁷ <https://oraotca.org>.

⁸ CBD/SBI/3/8.

relevant decisions, mechanisms and strategies for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting with a view to its adoption;

7. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation,⁹ as per its mandate, to provide the Executive Secretary with advice on the development and implementation of the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

8. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, as appropriate, to continue providing financial, technical and human resources support to enable developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, to strengthen their national clearing-house mechanisms, and to develop or upgrade their national clearing-house mechanism websites using the Bioland tool, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

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

(a) To further develop, in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations and with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, the draft knowledge management component of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁰ for peer review by Parties and for review by the Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its twelfth meeting, and for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, with a view to its adoption;

(b) To continue to facilitate the efforts of Parties to establish, sustain and further develop their national clearing-house mechanisms, including through:

- (i) Further development of the Bioland tool in response to the needs of Parties and users, and relevant technological developments;
- (ii) Development of training and guidance material on the use of the Bioland tool, in collaboration with Parties and users;
- (iii) Development of guidance for the national focal points to the clearing-house mechanism on the coordination of activities related to the clearing-house mechanism at the national level, to support effective implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (iv) Development of Bioland instances for Parties that have not yet established a national clearing-house mechanism website, using the information provided on the respective country profile pages on the Convention website, for their review and further development;
- (v) Continuation of the award for national clearing-house mechanisms until 2030;

(c) To further develop the central clearing-house mechanism portal to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management, communication and enhanced planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and review processes;

(d) To continue collaboration with relevant initiatives, organizations and networks supporting the generation, capture, management and effective use of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge, including, as appropriate, the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation and Monitoring Centre, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the United Nations

⁹ Decision 15/8, annex III.

¹⁰ Recommendation 3/10 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) and the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT), among others;

(e) To promote the use of relevant digital technologies to, among other things, assist Parties in the improvement of national capacities for the discovery, collection, analysis, aggregation, storage, accessibility, searchability, visualization and exchange of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge, as appropriate;

(f) To prepare, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, a proposal for an updated work programme for the clearing-house mechanism, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and relevant decisions, and to submit the proposal for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting and consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, with a view to its adoption;

(g) To submit a progress report on the above activities for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting.

15/17. Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 6 (b) of the Convention, which requires Parties to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies,

Reiterating the critical importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention, and the urgent need to mainstream biodiversity in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Emphasizing the importance of intensified mainstreaming action to achieve the transformational change needed in order to attain the 2050 vision, while acknowledging the specific challenges faced by developing countries in supporting mainstreaming policies and the need for adequate means of implementation and enhanced international cooperation,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity, as reflected in the progress report of the Executive Secretary to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting¹ as well as the new submissions as compiled in documents CBD/COP/15/INF/10, 11 and 12;

2. *Requests* Parties, and invites other Governments, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to submit their views on the draft long-term approach and associated action plan, and to identify ways forward to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to organize an open-ended online forum through the clearing-house mechanism, to facilitate further views on the reports and outcomes as mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and to compile these views in a report, including on an interim process, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting.

¹ CBD/SBI/3/13.

15/18. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

The Conference of the Parties,

A. Experience with concurrent meetings

Recalling decisions XII/27, XIII/26 and 14/32,

Having reviewed the experience in holding concurrently meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, using the criteria agreed in decisions XII/27 and XIII/26,

Taking into account the views of Parties and observers that participated in the concurrent meetings held in 2016 and 2018 as synthesized and presented in the notes by the Executive Secretary on the review of experience in holding concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and meetings of the Parties to the Protocols,¹

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the concurrent meetings were overall considered to have allowed for increased integration among the Convention and its Protocols, and improved consultations, coordination and synergies among the respective national focal points;

2. *Notes* that most of the criteria were considered as being met or partially met, and that further improvements in the functioning of the concurrent meetings are desirable, in particular to improve the outcomes and effectiveness of the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, in the concurrent meetings, and the importance, in particular, of ensuring adequate participation of representatives in meetings of the Parties to the Protocols by making funding available for such participation, and, in this regard, recalls decision 14/37, paragraphs 36 to 46;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, to further improve the planning and organization of future concurrent meetings on the basis of the experience gained to date and the views expressed by Parties and observers;

B. Experience with virtual meetings

Recalling decision XII/29, paragraph 2, in which the Executive Secretary was requested to explore ways to increase the efficiency of meetings, including convening meetings through virtual means, and further developments in that regard,

Recognizing the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020, which rendered in-person meetings impracticable,

5. *Notes* the expeditious adjustments and arrangements made by the Secretariat, and the understanding and flexibility demonstrated by presiding officers and participants, which allowed the convening of a number of meetings and consultations in a virtual setting in response to the limitations caused by the pandemic situation, notwithstanding the inconveniences arising from such a setting, and the limitations that were agreed with regard to decision-making;

6. *Agrees* that the convening of formal meetings in a virtual setting, while important in terms of responding to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, does not set a precedent for the future organization of similar meetings under the Convention;

7. *Encourages* Parties and observers to continue to participate in hybrid meetings, when applicable, and in extraordinary circumstances, in virtual meetings, while recognizing the need to ensure

¹ See [CBD/SBI/2/16/Add.1](#) and associated information notes ([CBD/SBI/2/INF/1](#) and [INF/2](#)).

the full and effective participation of Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, to promote transparent and inclusive processes under the Convention, as long as no final decisions are taken virtually, with the exception of budgetary and procedural matters;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile views from Parties and relevant stakeholders, and the experience and relevant studies available, especially within the United Nations system, on conducting virtual and hybrid meetings held in 2021 and 2022, and to prepare options for procedures for such hybrid meetings, and under extraordinary circumstances for virtual meetings, taking into account the specific challenges faced by delegations with network and connectivity difficulties, especially by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities and observers, and by those delegations from countries where meetings are scheduled at difficult times, addressing issues about equity, participation and legitimacy for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;

9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to consider the compilation of views, analysis and options referred to in paragraph 8 above and to make recommendations to address the issues to the governing bodies of the Convention and the Protocols for consideration at their next meeting;

C. Other areas to improve effectiveness

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with Parties, Bureau members, partners and stakeholders, an analysis of options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including, inter alia, options to improve negotiating processes, to better follow up on previous decisions, to benefit from innovations in decision-making methods and technologies, and to explore modalities for the engagement of observers in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, while ensuring that the rules of procedure of the Convention are respected, and to submit such analysis of options to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at its fourth meeting.

15/19. Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XII/25 and 14/36,

Also recalling that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice has systematically considered the assessment reports prepared by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which represent best available knowledge on the matter, and has provided pertinent recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, in line with the procedures established in decision XII/25,

1. *Welcomes* the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030, adopted by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in its decision IPBES-7/1, noting with appreciation that the request of the Conference of the Parties set out in decision 14/36 has been met, and that work under the six objectives, including the assessments set out in the work programme, is expected to contribute to and be essential for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

2. *Also welcomes* the ground-breaking efforts of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to advance the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge and diverse knowledge systems in all its assessments and other functions through the implementation of its approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services set out in annex II to decision IPBES-5/1, as well as its engagement with self-organized networks and organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders through the implementation of its stakeholder engagement strategy set out in annex II to decision IPBES-3/4, and invites the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to continue to strengthen these efforts in the implementation of the relevant objectives of the 2030 work programme;

3. *Further welcomes* the fact that the rolling work programme up to 2030 of the Platform includes objectives related to each of the four functions of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as well as strengthening communication and engagement of Governments and stakeholders and improvement of the effectiveness of the Platform, implemented in a manner whereby the objectives are mutually supportive;

4. *Welcomes* the approval by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its eighth session, to undertake thematic assessments on the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (“the nexus assessment”), and on the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision (“the transformative change assessment”), and, at its ninth session, to undertake a methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people (“the business and biodiversity assessment”), as outlined in the respective scoping reports,¹ as well as the important scientific contribution of these assessments for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

5. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations to participate in the assessments referred to in paragraph 4 above, through the formal review processes;

6. *Welcomes* the approval by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its ninth session, of the summaries for policymakers of the

¹ The scoping reports are available in annexes I and II to decision IPBES-8/1 and annex II to decision IPBES-9/1, available at: <https://ipbes.net/documents-by-category/Decisions>

Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature,² and of the *Thematic Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*,³ and the acceptance of the chapters of the respective assessments including their executive summaries, and takes note of the progress made in the preparation of the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control;

7. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the findings of the assessments referred to in paragraph 6 above, and to provide recommendations relating to the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the expert workshop convened by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on biodiversity and pandemics,⁴ and notes its relevance for the work of the Convention, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as to the work carried out under the Convention on the interlinkages between biodiversity and health;

9. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; takes note of the report of the co-sponsored workshop on biodiversity and climate change,⁵ noting the conclusions therein; and encourages the two bodies to continue and further strengthen their collaboration in a transparent and participatory manner, with a view to increasing coherence while avoiding duplication of work;

10. *Invites* Parties to coordinate their work with the national focal points for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in relation to assessments on biodiversity and climate change;

11. *Notes* that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its tenth session, will consider requests, inputs and suggestions received in time for consideration at that session, including for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and for an assessment on ecological connectivity, as well as potential additional fast track assessments,

12. *Invites* the Platform to consider the requests contained in the annex to the present decision;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to regularly and systematically assess and report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on how to consider deliverables from all functions and processes of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the implementation of the Convention, including a forward schedule and regular agenda item in meetings of the Subsidiary Body;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to identify views from Parties on how the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services could, within its defined functions of producing further assessments, building capacity, strengthening knowledge and

² IPBES (2022). *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.

³ IPBES (2022). *Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

⁴ IPBES (2020). Workshop report on biodiversity and pandemics of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. IPBES secretariat, Bonn. <https://ipbes.net/pandemics>. This workshop report and any recommendations or conclusions contained therein have not been reviewed, endorsed or approved by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

⁵ IPBES/IPCC (2021) IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change. This workshop report and any recommendations or conclusions contained therein have not been reviewed, endorsed or approved by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

supporting policy, contribute to the review and monitoring process of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

15. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁶

16. *Notes* the information contained in the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary,⁷ as well as the progress in a number of countries in elaborating national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

17. *Encourages* all Parties and other Governments, as well as subnational governments, to carry out national or subnational assessments, with the full engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, academia and business, adapting the process of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the local contexts, so that these national or subnational assessments can be used as potential input to the rolling work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urges Parties, and invites other Governments and organizations in a position to do so, to provide technical assistance, capacity-building and financial support, as appropriate.

Annex

**REQUESTS FROM THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE PLENARY OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM
SERVICES AT ITS TENTH SESSION**

A. Request from the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding a second global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services

1. A second global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services should be prepared by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to:

(a) Support Governments and all stakeholders to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as its Protocols, related agreements and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to achieving the 2050 vision for Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Support the Convention to assess progress in the achievement of the 2030 targets and towards the 2050 goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(c) Provide the scientific and technical basis for the follow-up to the Framework after 2030.

2. The second global assessment should be comprehensive, broadly similar in scope to the first assessment, but building upon it to avoid repetition or unnecessary duplication. It should address the three objectives of the Convention (the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources) in a balanced and integrated way. It should cover terrestrial, inland water and marine and coastal biodiversity.

3. The second global assessment should cover the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services / nature's contributions to people over the past, present and future, using quantitative and qualitative models and scenarios, in a consistent and seamless manner, as far as possible. Where possible, information on past status and trends should cover natural reference states, including pre-industrial time

⁶ Decision 15/5.

⁷ CBD/SBSTTA/24/8.

periods, when relevant, and future status and trends should project to 2050 and 2100, drawing upon the IPBES assessment on scenarios and models and the latest advances in these fields. The assessment should make use of relevant indicators, including those adopted under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

4. The second global assessment should address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity change, drawing upon all relevant IPBES assessments, including the nexus and transformative change assessments, as well as relevant assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

5. The second global assessment should include, where appropriate and feasible, existing regional, subregional and national assessments as well as ecosystem level analysis in a fully integrated manner.

6. The second global assessment should incorporate the best available knowledge, including indigenous and local knowledge, fully respecting existing IPBES procedures for the ethical use and management of knowledge, which include taking into account the challenges faced by developing countries, and incorporate diverse values and multiple worldviews, taking into account, inter alia, the IPBES Values Assessment.⁸

7. The second global assessment should consider the knowledge gaps identified in the first assessment.

8. The second global assessment should be finalized for approval by the IPBES Plenary in the fourth quarter of 2028 (or in the first quarter 2029 at the latest).

B. Requests from the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding potential additional assessments for inclusion in the rolling work programme of the Platform

The following fast-track assessments should be considered by the Platform:

(a) A fast-track assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity considering such elements as land- and sea-use change and restoration;

(b) A fast-track assessment on monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services and tracking progress towards the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and on baselines for assessing biodiversity loss;

(c) A fast-track assessment on the impacts of pollution on biodiversity and approaches to avoid, reduce and mitigate such impacts;

(d) A fast-track assessment on Living Well in balance and harmony with nature and living in harmony with Mother Earth.

⁸ IPBES (2022). *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.

15/20. In-depth dialogue on the thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues conducted by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the in-depth dialogue on the topic “contribution of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, and cultural diversity to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” conducted by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its eleventh meeting,

Recognizing that the contribution of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in addressing global biodiversity loss is fundamental to achieve the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature,

Recognizing also that embracing the vision of the Convention requires embracing cultural diversity and acknowledging the intimate relationship between nature and people,

Recognizing further that diverse accumulations of knowledge, including intergenerational language transmission, can provide human and ecological systems with greater adaptive capacity to cope with current and future disturbances and strengthen economic, social and ecological resilience,

Recognizing the importance of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity for biocultural diversity,

1. *Invites* Parties to acknowledge, encourage and incorporate the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities through their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and their collective actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as, more broadly, the links between biological and cultural diversity, in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

2. *Also invites* Parties to fully integrate considerations, adopted voluntary guidelines and principles regarding the links between cultural and biological diversity in their national implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, according to national legislation and international obligations;

3. *Decides* that the topic for the in-depth dialogue to be discussed at the twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions will be: “the role of languages in the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices”.

15/21. Recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the note by the Executive Secretary,¹

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations emanating from the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue to inform the Permanent Forum of developments of mutual interest;

2. *Welcomes* the invitations of the Forum to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to:

(a) A study on the contributions of indigenous peoples to the management of ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity;

(b) A set of actions and commitments in relation to conservation and human rights in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(c) A comparative legal study that analyses the rights of indigenous peoples and the emerging rights of local communities;

3. *Decides* to take the results of these activities under consideration in the development of its new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities from the perspective of the relevance of the knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to contribute to the above-mentioned activities, to provide information to the Forum about these and other relevant activities of the Convention, and to carry out commitments to indigenous peoples, in accordance with the Secretary General's system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.²

¹ [CBD/WG8J/11/6](#).

² [E/C.19/2016/5](#) and [Corr.1](#).

15/22. Nature and Culture

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision X/20, paragraph 16, in which it welcomed the Joint Programme of Work between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the links between biological and cultural diversity, and decision 14/30, in which it recognized the Joint Programme of Work as a useful coordination mechanism for advancing the implementation of the Convention and deepening global awareness of the interlinkages between cultural and biological diversity,

Welcoming the lessons learned from the international and regional initiatives conducted under the auspices of the Joint Programme of Work (2010–2020),¹

Noting that the Joint Programme of Work remains relevant for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²

1. *Decides* to renew its commitment to the Joint Programme of Work on the links between biological and cultural diversity, to be promoted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, as well as other relevant partners, including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, and, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities, taking a whole-of-society view and an integrated approach with full respect for human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, with the aim of supporting national and subnational implementation, including mainstreaming, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in accordance with national circumstances, fully incorporating the added value of biocultural diversity, building on biological and cultural heritage, and strengthening the links between biological and cultural diversity, including through environmental education, in order to achieve the goals of the Convention at all levels and the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature;³

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, including the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, along with other relevant international agencies and processes, to explore and consider, subject to the availability of resources, inter-agency mechanisms, such as the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, to ensure complementarity of efforts, respecting individual mandates, avoiding unnecessary overlap and duplication, and maximizing efficiencies, to identify and overcome challenges, and promote lessons learned at a relevant scale towards the goal of the post-2020 Joint Programme of Work contained in the annex to the present decision;

3. *Encourages* Governments and Parties to all the relevant conventions, including the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the United Nations special rapporteurs, academia, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and civil society, to strengthen collaboration and coordination and to contribute to and support the Joint Programme of Work on the links

¹ See the compilation of declarations on the links between nature and culture (CBD/WG8J/11/INF/2).

² Decision 15/4, annex.

³ Decision X/2.

between biological and cultural diversity, drawing on the elements and tasks contained in the annex to the present decision, and to implement lessons learned, according to national circumstances, in considering biological and cultural diversity throughout their respective work;

4. *Welcomes* the elements and tasks described in the annex to the present decision, which build on the existing Joint Programme of Work, for enhancing collaborations across the international system in pursuit of mutually supportive goals;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and other relevant international agencies, Parties and other Governments, along with a broad coalition of partners, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, to implement, subject to the availability of resources, the elements and tasks described in the annex to the present decision, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and other mechanisms, as appropriate.

Annex

ELEMENTS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE JOINT PROGRAMME OF WORK ON THE LINKS BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Goal: To recognize and promote natural and cultural heritage and diversity as enablers and drivers of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and a pathway to the vision of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of living in harmony with nature by 2050, the Sustainable Development Goals, and climate action, with a commitment to strengthening the links between biological and cultural diversity and considering lessons learned across the work of the Convention and other relevant processes, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Element 1

A joint strategy to stop the ongoing and often dramatic decline in global diversity of both nature and culture

Task 1.a

The Secretariat of the Convention will work together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant organizations, and, making use of the recommendations, studies, initiatives and documents developed through relevant bodies, such as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, will develop a joint strategy consistent with conventions and agreements related to biological diversity and culture, to contribute to actions to stop the ongoing and often dramatic decline in global diversity of both nature and culture.

Task 1.b

The Secretariat of the Convention, together with UNESCO, IUCN, and other relevant bodies, will develop tools and guidance to ensure that the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably with indigenous peoples and local communities, in order to preserve their culture, health and well-being.

Element 2**Science dialogue, knowledge dialogue, equivalence of knowledge systems, indicators and monitoring efforts****Task 2.a**

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, together with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will review and update the four adopted traditional knowledge indicators⁴ which were adopted in decision XIII/28 and are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the ongoing work on biological and cultural diversity and human well-being.

Task 2.b

The Secretariat of the Convention will continue efforts at the international level to operationalize the existing indicators and relevant indicators developed in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in partnership with the UNESCO, IUCN and other relevant bodies, and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Task 2.c

The Secretariat of the Convention will continue efforts at the international level to explore the full potential of community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) as methods and tools for monitoring the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, taking into consideration the elements of most relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities, and explore synergies in the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and other global processes.

Task 2.d

The Secretariat of the Convention, UNESCO and IUCN, together with other relevant organizations, and Parties, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent and attending to the adequate protection of traditional knowledge, will, with respect to biocultural diversity, create events, spaces and platforms to promote the transmission and exchange, between scientific and traditional knowledge systems, of values, knowledge, experiences, methods and results relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and facilitate sustained capacity-building and the development and promotion of open frameworks for knowledge dialogues and knowledge co-production at the international, national and regional levels.

Element 3**Biocultural diversity and linkages between nature and culture in integrated socio-ecological systems****Task 3.a**

The Secretariat of the Convention, in partnership with UNESCO, IUCN, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Parties, other relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities, will contribute to initiatives to strengthen the links between biological and cultural diversity, in line with the Joint Programme of Work.

Task 3.b

The Secretariat of the Convention will work with UNESCO, IUCN, Parties and relevant organizations, to facilitate the development, support and implementation of specific efforts to enable indigenous peoples and

⁴ In decision XIII/28, the Conference of the Parties adopted the following indicators for status and trends in the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity: (a) Trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages; (b) Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities; (c) Trends in the practice of traditional occupations; and (d) Trends in degree to which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through: full integration, participation and safeguards in national implementation of the Strategic Plan.

local communities to record, document, protect and transmit traditional languages and dialects, in particular indigenous languages, with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities and with their full and effective participation, where this would support the objectives of the Convention.⁵

Task 3.c

The Secretariat of the Convention will work with UNESCO, IUCN, Parties and relevant organizations to enable indigenous peoples and local communities to record, document and transmit traditional knowledge, with their free, prior and informed consent, with a focus on traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation of nature and culture and the sustainable use of natural resources. This information could be made available with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, taking into account national circumstances.

Task 3.d

The Secretariat of the Convention will work with UNESCO, IUCN, Parties and relevant organizations to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and co-management with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Element 4**Develop new approaches to communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)****Task 4.a**

The Secretariat of the Convention will work together with UNESCO, IUCN, other relevant bodies, and indigenous peoples and local communities to develop communication and educational materials to raise awareness, across society and all sectors, of the interdependence and interlinkages between biological, cultural and linguistic diversity, for human well-being and environmental sustainability, to strengthen recognition of traditional knowledge and the sustainable use practices of traditional knowledge holders. Such materials should be culturally appropriate to the needs of different audiences, and, as appropriate, be made available in formats and languages understandable to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Task 4.b

The Secretariat of the Convention will work together with UNESCO, IUCN, other relevant agencies, and indigenous peoples and local communities to help Parties and other stakeholders to develop communication and education materials, and awareness strategies on indigenous languages.

⁵ Recalling that UNESCO is the lead agency on languages, as proposed by participants in the Online Forum on the integration of Article 8(j) and provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and its Protocols.

15/23. Sustainable wildlife management

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that the legal and sustainable use of biodiversity, including management of wildlife, contributed to progress towards several of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals and continues to be relevant for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Recognizing also that unsustainable wildlife management hindered progress towards several of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing further the progress made in the consideration of the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector in the tropics and the sub-tropics,

Welcoming the existing collaboration on issues related to sustainable wildlife management between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, as well as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and others involved in law enforcement,

Recognizing that achieving legal and sustainable use of biodiversity requires innovative strategic approaches and topics, efficient implementation and actions to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity into all relevant sectors,

Noting that demand reduction strategies and alternative livelihood approaches to wild meat consumption, and to wildlife use in general, are more likely to be necessary when consumption or use are illegal and/or unsustainable, as sustainable wildlife management can significantly contribute to biodiversity conservation, as opposed to alternatives that may result in land-use changes that may be harmful to the environment and ecosystems,

Taking note of recommendation 23/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on sustainable wildlife management,

Taking note with appreciation of the *Thematic Assessment on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,¹

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, and other relevant stakeholders and right holders, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To complete the work mandated in decision 14/7, including identifying other areas beyond the wild meat sector that may require complementary guidance, such as other geographical areas, species and uses, making full use of the outcomes and the findings of the report of the Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Wildlife Management Beyond 2020² and the results of the survey on sustainable wildlife management;

(b) To continue close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including on the implications of the thematic assessment on the sustainable use of wild species of the Platform for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

¹ IPBES (2022). *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

² See [CBD/WG2020/1/INF/3](#).

(c) To collaborate with all relevant actors and stakeholders in order to promote the mainstreaming of the sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular that of wild species, into all relevant sectors;

(d) To further collaborate and enhance synergies in the field of sustainable use of wildlife with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

(e) To report on the progress of the activities listed above and formulate recommendations for the future work of the Convention on the issues surrounding sustainable wildlife management for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

15/24. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions IX/20, X/29, XI/18, XII/23, XIII/9, XIII/10, XIII/11, XIII/12, 14/8, 14/10 and 14/30 with respect to cooperation and collaboration with relevant global and regional organizations and initiatives,

Recognizing the need to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with competent intergovernmental organizations, including organizations with competence in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in support of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, applying the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach,¹ and using the best available science and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent,² within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention and its Protocols,

Acknowledging the importance of science for decision-making and welcoming the work under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,

Recognizing the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity as one of the key cross-cutting elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and as critical to achieving the 2050 Vision for biodiversity,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Executive Secretary on the compilation and synthesis of information on:

(a) Impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and means to minimize and mitigate these impacts;

(b) Impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats, and means to minimize and mitigate these impacts;

(c) Experiences with the application of marine spatial planning;

(d) Efforts to implement the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems;³

(e) Efforts to implement the Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention.⁴

2. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments, subnational governments and relevant organizations to use the information referred to in paragraph 1 above in their efforts to conserve and sustainably use marine and coastal biodiversity, taking into account national and subnational priorities and circumstances, where appropriate;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the compilation, synthesis and sharing of information and guidance on efforts to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with respect to various thematic issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity, in line with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Welcomes* the report of the Thematic Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework,⁵ convened pursuant to decision 14/34 with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of Sweden, and requests the Executive

¹ Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

² In this decision, 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”.

³ Decision XII/23, annex.

⁴ Decision XIII/11.

⁵ CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2.

Secretary to compile submissions from Parties, other Governments, subnational governments and relevant organizations, to develop a strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity in the context of supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on the basis of these submissions, and to prepare a draft update to the programme of work on the basis of this strategic review and analysis, taking into account, where appropriate, the outcomes of the above-referenced workshop, to be circulated for comments by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and made available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile submissions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, to develop a strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on island biodiversity in the context of supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on the basis of these submissions, in collaboration with the Global Islands Partnership and building on other relevant efforts to review progress towards global commitments and goals for island biodiversity, and to prepare a draft update to the programme of work on the basis of this strategic review and analysis, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to take into account the assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, in efforts to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity;

7. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to acknowledge the critical importance of marine and coastal biodiversity in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, based on the best available scientific information and the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent, particularly for the most vulnerable marine and coastal ecosystems and areas of particular importance for biodiversity, highlighting the need for area-based marine conservation as set out in the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including Target 3, addressing the direct drivers of biodiversity loss identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and through appropriate access to marine genetic resources and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of marine genetic resources, within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention and its Protocols, and recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and their key role in conserving and sustainably using marine and coastal biodiversity;

8. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to strengthen national, subregional, and regional efforts toward ocean accounting and economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by marine and coastal biodiversity and use this information to support decision-making for conservation and sustainable use;

9. *Notes* the role of relevant global and regional bodies and initiatives, including, inter alia, the United Nations Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the World Meteorological Organization, regional fishery bodies, regional seas conventions and action plans, the International Coral Reef Initiative, as well as the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, and invites them to support the implementation of the Kunming-

Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity and to contribute to monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Framework, as appropriate;

10. *Notes* the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the global implementing body related to fisheries, and, acknowledging the work done to mainstream biodiversity into the fisheries sector globally, in particular the work done to facilitate the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on sustainable fisheries, invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider developing guiding material, conducting regular capacity-building programmes, providing technical support and facilitating technology transfer to advocate and facilitate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with respect to fisheries among its member countries;

11. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments participating in the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument 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, to take into consideration the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in its negotiations, as appropriate;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, upon the adoption of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea⁶ on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, to identify potential options for modalities for collaboration and cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations in the context of this instrument;

13. *Welcomes* the establishment, by the United Nations Environment Assembly, of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and urges Parties and invites other Governments to support work under this process to develop an ambitious, international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution that addresses the full life cycle of plastics;

14. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments as well as indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders, to take measures, as appropriate and within their competencies, and in accordance with national and international laws, to avoid, minimize and mitigate the potential significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to support the implementation of marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management, including through capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and partnership activities under, inter alia, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and other relevant initiatives, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders, in accordance with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international human rights law, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, including women and youth;

16. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments to ensure that, before deep seabed mineral exploitation activities take place, the impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity are sufficiently researched and the risks understood, the technologies and operational practices do not cause harmful effects to the marine environment and biodiversity, and appropriate rules, regulations and procedures are put in place by the International Seabed Authority, in accordance with the best available science and the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent, and the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, and in a manner that is consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant international law;

17. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Secretariat of the Convention on

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

Biological Diversity to support efforts to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue this cooperation in an open and transparent manner, building on the guidance and advice contained in decision 14/8, the results of the Expert Meeting on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures in the Marine Capture Fishery Sector⁷ and the guidelines of the International Union for Conservation of Nature on “Recognizing and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures”,⁸ including for the development of voluntary guidance on identifying and applying other effective area-based conservation measures in fisheries, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to prepare a compilation and synthesis of information on efforts for the identification and recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures and for the establishment and management of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in marine and coastal areas;

19. *Welcomes* the capacity-building, experience-sharing and partnership activities being facilitated by the Executive Secretary, notably through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, at the national, regional and global levels, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, subnational governments, where appropriate, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, and relevant organizations, expresses its gratitude to donor countries and many other partners for providing financial and technical support for the implementation of activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue to facilitate capacity-building activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in order to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its monitoring framework, with respect to marine, coastal and island biodiversity;

20. *Also welcomes* the collaborative efforts among the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, regional seas conventions and action plans, regional fishery bodies, large marine ecosystem projects/programmes and other relevant regional initiatives to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation at the regional and global scale in order to accelerate progress to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue this collaboration in the context of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to enhance cooperation and synergies with other global and regional organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international human rights law, women and youth, and other stakeholders with respect to various thematic issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁹ and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to enhance cooperation and synergies with efforts under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;

22. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to enhance cooperation and synergies with global and regional organizations with respect to climate change and marine and coastal biodiversity, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹⁰ and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in the context of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, taking into account the Glasgow Climate Pact and noting that nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, including through marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, are critical elements of

⁷ Rome, 7–10 May 2010. See <https://www.fao.org/3/ca7194en/ca7194en.pdf>.

⁸ IUCN-WCPA Task Force on OECMs, (2019). Recognizing and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹⁰ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1771, No. I-30822.

rebuilding and strengthening the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to the effects of climate change.

15/25. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean and adjacent areas

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Acknowledges* that, following the requests from the Conference of the Parties at its tenth and eleventh meetings,¹ the Executive Secretary has successfully completed the series of regional workshops, covering most of the world's ocean, facilitating the description of 338 areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Parties, other Governments, organizations and stakeholders that have contributed to this process, and encourages continued efforts to describe areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas using the best available scientific information, and to increase the number and coverage of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas around the world;
3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Sweden for hosting the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean, as well as the Governments of Denmark, France, Germany and Sweden for providing financial support for the workshop, and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission for providing valuable scientific and technical input;
4. *Welcomes* the summary reports prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-third meeting, which are annexed to the present decision and are based on the report of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean;²
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include the summary reports in the EBSA repository, and to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and its relevant processes, as well as Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations, in line with the purpose and procedures set out in decisions [X/29](#), [XI/17](#), [XII/22](#), [XIII/12](#) and [14/9](#).

Addendum

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE DESCRIPTION OF AREAS MEETING THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN AND ADJACENT AREAS

BACKGROUND

1. Pursuant to decision [X/29](#), paragraph 36, decision [XI/17](#), paragraph 12, decision [XII/22](#), paragraph 6, decision [XIII/12](#), paragraph 8, and decision [14/9](#), paragraph 4, a regional workshop was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) in the North-East Atlantic Ocean (Stockholm, 23-27 September 2019).³
2. The description of areas as meeting the criteria for EBSAs does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Nor does it have economic or legal implications; it is strictly a scientific and technical exercise.

¹ See decisions [X/29](#), para. 36, and [XI/17](#), para. 12.

² CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/5.

³ For the report on the workshop, see CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/4.

3. Pursuant to decision XI/17, paragraph 12, a summary of the results of this regional workshop is provided in table 1 below, while full descriptions of how the areas meet the criteria for EBSAs are provided in an annex to the report on the workshop.

4. In decision X/29, paragraph 26, the Conference of Parties noted that the application of the EBSA criteria is a scientific and technical exercise, that areas found to meet the criteria may require enhanced conservation and management measures, and that this can be achieved through a variety of means, including marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and impact assessment. It also emphasized that the identification of EBSAs and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.⁴

Key to the tables

RANKING OF EBSA CRITERIA

Relevance

H: High

M: Medium

L: Low

-: No information

CRITERIA

- **C1:** Uniqueness or rarity
- **C2:** Special importance for life-history stages of species
- **C3:** Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats
- **C4:** Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery
- **C5:** Biological productivity
- **C6:** Biological diversity
- **C7:** Naturalness

⁴ [United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1833, No. 31363.](#)

Table 1. Description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria in the North-East Atlantic Ocean and adjacent areas

(Details are provided in the report of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean ([CBD/EBSA/WS/2019/1/4](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/aa9a/bde9/eaf24f73bd471d64e8094722/ebsa-ws-2018-01-04-en.pdf)))

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
1. Danish Skagerrak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: This area is situated in the Danish part of the Skagerrak. The area reaches westwards to 6°45'E, to Skagen, the northern tip of Jutland, and stretches northeast from Skagen. It comprises an area of 7,876 km² and reaches depths from the coastline to 465m. The northern and western parts cover the southern reach of the Norwegian Trench. This area focuses on a highly productive upwelling zone along the southern edge of the Norwegian Trench. This area has high fish biomass and diversity, and the upwelling zone also provides valuable feeding grounds for a number of cetacean and bird species. 	H	H	M	L	H	M	L
2. Danish Kattegat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The Kattegat area comprises the northern part of the inner Danish waters. It is bordered to the south by the north coast of Sealand, to the west by the northeast Jutland coast, to the east by the Danish-Swedish border and to the north by a line from the northernmost point of Denmark to the northeast. It covers a total area of 14,995 km². The existing EBSA (Area no. 9: Fladen and Stora and Lille Middelgrund), described in the CBD regional EBSA workshop for the Baltic Sea, borders this area (see workshop report here: https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/aa9a/bde9/eaf24f73bd471d64e8094722/ebsa-ws-2018-01-04-en.pdf). The Danish part of Kattegat hosts a landscape comprising shallow sandy flats, deeper muddy channels and areas with boulder reefs and bubbling reefs. The area has a diverse avifauna, with elements from pelagic environments in the North Sea, as well as wintering birds from breeding grounds in the Russian Federation and Scandinavia. Parts of the area are difficult to access for human activities and thus serve as valuable moulting sites for seaducks, such as common scoter and velvet scoter. The area is a meeting site for two subpopulations of harbour porpoise. Eelgrass meadows exist here, although they are smaller than they were in the year 1900. Seaweed forests and rich fauna are found on boulder reefs and bubbling reefs in this area, and infauna communities have high biomasses. Horse-mussel beds are found primarily in the southern part of Kattegat, where they form biogenic reef structures. <i>Haploopsis tubicola</i>, a small crustacean, is present in the area, but no longer forms a specific habitat with high densities. 	H	H	H	H	M	M	M
3. Cantabrian Sea (Southern Bay of Biscay) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is located in the south of the Bay of Biscay and is bounded by the parallels 43° 25'N and 45° 00'N and meridians 2° 10'W and 7° 00'W. The feature for which this area is described also extends eastwards and northwards, beyond the boundaries currently described. The Cantabrian Sea ecosystem includes the continental shelf and slope and the deep abyssal basin (5000 m water depth) located along the northern border of the Iberian Peninsula (Southern Bay of Biscay), from the Capbreton Canyon head to Estaca de Bares Cape, on the Galician coast. It is a highly complex area, where the narrow 	H	H	H	H	H	H	L

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
continental shelf is deeply affected by the action of tectonic compression. The area contains important geomorphological elements, such as large submarine canyons and seamounts. The hydrology is also complex due to the interaction between waters formed in the Atlantic and waters of Mediterranean origin. This area includes a variety of benthic habitats, including habitats that are considered hotspots of biodiversity. These habitats serve as spawning grounds for several commercial species. The area also contains habitats for endangered, threatened and declining species and for migratory pelagic species, including cetaceans.							
4. West Iberian Canyons and Banks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is located in waters surrounding Portugal and Spain. Its total area is 189,239 km² and is divided into three sections: North Western Iberian Peninsula, Center Western Iberian Peninsula and South Western Iberian Peninsula. The area includes 12 submarine canyons, five seamounts structures, banks, islands and an archipelago. The area includes marine protected areas (including six OSPAR Marine Protected Areas), one UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, 12 Natura 2000 Sites of Community Interest and 10 Natura 2000 Special Protection Areas for seabirds. The area is divided into three sections: North Western, Centre Western and South Western. The features in the area are hotspots of marine life, and they represent areas of enhanced productivity, especially when compared with surrounding areas. The area has a high diversity of benthic communities and spawning grounds for several species, and it is an important area for cetaceans. A total of 3,411 species are listed in the area, 11 per cent of which are protected under international or regional law. 	H	H	H	H	H	H	L
5. Gulf of Cádiz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is located to the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula. Its eastern boundary is the Strait of Gibraltar, on the western border of the Mediterranean Sea. It is bounded by the parallels (37° 00'N and 35° 56'N) and meridians (6° 00'W and 7° 24'W). The area is very structurally complex and contains important geomorphological elements such as large submarine canyons and seamounts. The hydrology is also complex due to the interaction between waters formed in the Atlantic and waters of Mediterranean origin. This area includes a variety of benthic habitats, both on soft and rocky bottoms, that are considered hotspots of biodiversity, and which serve as various habitats for endangered, threatened and declining species. It is also a seasonal migratory pathway for large migratory pelagic species and is, in particular, an important area for cetacean species. 	H	H	H	H	H	H	L
6. Madeira – Tore Location: The area is bounded by the parallels 39°28'4.39"N and 33°31'17.04"N, and the meridians 13°31'12.88" W and 14°25'58.54"W. This area includes 19 remarkable structures, 17 of which are seamounts. Seamounts are hotspots of marine life and, in general, they are areas of enhanced productivity, especially when compared with surrounding abyssal areas. Madeira – Tore has an area of 197,431 km ² , with depths ranging from 25m (top of Gettysburg seamount) to 4930m (bottom of Tore seamount). The area includes a proposed Site of Community Importance (Gorringe Bank) and an OSPAR	H	H	H	H	H	H	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
High Seas Marine Protected Area (Josephine seamount). A total of 965 species are present in this area, 7 per cent of which are protected under international or regional law.							
7. Desertas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: This area includes the marine areas adjacent to the Desertas Islands. It has an area of 455 km² and is located southeast of Madeira Island, Portugal (32.47N/-16.52W). The Desertas Islands hold some of the most important colonies of seabirds in the Atlantic, with large populations of Procellariiforms, including the only population of vulnerable Desertas petrel (<i>Pterodroma deserta</i>). They also contain important reproductive and resting habitats for the endangered monk seal (<i>Monachus monachus</i>) in the form of pupping caves and resting beaches. 	H	H	H	H	-	-	-
8. Oceanic Islands and Seamounts of the Canary Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is located in and around the Canary Islands, between the parallels 24°60'N and 32°27'N and meridians 20°96'W and 30°33'W. It includes volcanic edifices (e.g., emerged islands, seamounts and banks) and has a maximum depth of 3000 m. The area around the Canary Islands includes a set of islands and seamounts influenced by magma-driven processes over tens of millions of years over the Canary hotspot. The archipelago is made up of seven major islands, a group of islets in the northeast and three seamount fields: one in the northeast of the archipelago, one in the southwest and another between the islands. Some of these seamounts (Concepción Bank, El Banquete and Amanay) as well as coastal areas of the Canary region have been intensively studied. Thirty-nine marine Special Areas of Conservation and two Sites of Community Importance (both under the Natura 2000 network), as well as three marine reserves are located in the area. This region, with its subtropical oceanographic conditions, represents the southern distribution limit for many pelagic and benthic species. It includes a variety of benthic habitats, including some that are considered hotspots of biodiversity. These habitats serve as spawning grounds for several commercial species. The area also includes habitats for endangered, threatened and declining species and for migratory pelagic species, including cetaceans. 	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
9. Tropic Seamount <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The Tropic Seamount is located in the North-East Atlantic (23°55' N, 20°45' W), along the north-western African continental margin. The Tropic Seamount is home to numerous vulnerable taxa, including high-density octocoral gardens, <i>Solenosmilia variabilis</i> patch reefs, xenophyophores, crinoid fields and deep-sea sponge grounds. A recent study offered the first biological insight to ground-truth the occurrence of potential vulnerable ecosystems on the Tropic Seamount, alongside predictive models to increase the spatial coverage beyond surveys conducted by remotely operated and autonomous underwater vehicles. Predicted habitat for the glass sponge (<i>Poliopogon amadou</i>), a biogeographically restricted hexactinellid forming extensive near-monospecific grounds, was found to favour the deep seamount flanks of this area within a very narrow oceanographic regime. 	H	-	H	H	M	H	H

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
10. Atlantis-Meteor Seamount Complex Location: The area is situated roughly 700 km south of the Azores and about 1500 km northwest of Africa. It has a total area of 134,079 km ² , with depths ranging from 265m (top of Atlantis seamount) to 4800m (bottom of Great Meteor seamount). The area is bounded by the parallels 35°30'0,000''N and 29°12'0,000''N and meridians -27°0'0,000''W and -31°30'0,000''W. The Atlantis-Meteor Seamount Complex comprises 10 seamounts. These seamounts are hotspots of marine life and areas of enhanced productivity, especially when compared with surrounding abyssal areas. This seamount complex has a total area of 134,079 km ² , with depths ranging from 265m (top of Atlantis seamount) to 4800m (base of Great Meteor seamount). A total of 437 species are present in this area (with 16 per cent of mega- and macrofauna and up to 91 per cent of meiofauna endemic to the seamount group), 3.9 per cent of which are protected under international or regional law.	H	H	H	H	M	H	M
11. Ridge South of the Azores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is located on the Atlantic Ocean – South of the Azores. This area has structures at depths ranging from 3460 m (inferred depth – south Oceanographer FZ), to the mid-range at 2320 m (measured depth – Rainbow), to the shallowest at Albert Monaco Ridge. This area encompasses the axial valley and ridge crests of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, from the Menez Gwen hydrothermal vent field area to the Haynes fracture zone. At the east ridge crest, the area includes part of the Alberto Monaco Ridge and seamount-like features associated with the western portions of the ridge. The area includes three marine protected areas (part of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas) – Lucky Strike, Menez Gwen and Rainbow vent fields. The features in this area are both hotspots of marine life and areas of enhanced productivity when compared with surrounding bathyal and abyssal areas. The hydrothermal temperatures range between 10° C (Menez Hom and Saldanha) and 362° C (Rainbow). The area also includes other seafloor features at the ridge crest that host sponge aggregations, cold-water corals and other charismatic fauna. 	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
12. Graciosa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: This area encompasses the surrounding waters of Graciosa Island and two smaller islands: Baixo and Praia islets. It has an area of 277 km² and is the northernmost island of the Azores, Portugal (39.05N/-27.99W). This is a key area for the only breeding population of the vulnerable and endemic Monteiro's storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates monteiroi</i>) and is also important for the breeding population of the Audubon's shearwater (<i>Puffinus lherminieri baroli</i>), which is listed by OSPAR as a threatened and/or declining species. Many other seabirds occur in these waters, such as band-rumped storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates castro</i>), Cory's shearwater (<i>Calonectris borealis</i>), common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) and roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>). All of these species have low recovery rates and are highly sensitive to environmental degradation or depletion by human activity. 	H	H	H	H	-	-	-

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
13. North Azores Plateau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is spread over a wide part of the Atlantic Ocean, north of the Azores. The area is home to multiple types of structures (i.e., hydrothermal vent field, Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores High Seas Marine Protected Area, seamounts), which are very distinct in terms of biology and geology, and which have different compositions, locations and ages. This area is composed of several seamounts, one hydrothermal vent field, an undersea trough and a large portion of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores Plateau. The structures in this area are hotspots of marine life and, in general, are areas of enhanced productivity, especially when compared with surrounding abyssal areas. The Moytirra is the first known deep-sea hydrothermal vent field on the slow-spreading Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores, making this area highly unique. A total of 536 species have been observed in this area, 6 per cent of which are protected under international or regional law. 	H	H	H	H	M	H	M
14. Mid-North-Atlantic Frontal System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: This area has a well-defined western boundary (front), coinciding with the maritime boundary of the OSPAR Commission. It extends north along the east flank of the Grand Banks, where it forms a loop called the Northwest Corner and continues to the east. The northern boundary is defined by the northern extent of the Subpolar Front at 54°N. The North Subarctic Front is topographically fixed at the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone at 30°W. It is known that the North Atlantic Current and frontal branches vary strongly, with latitudinal shifts up to 250-300 km. Thus, maps of annual means have been used to ensure that the area's full temporal variability has been captured. This is a remote area of intense mesoscale activity with near stationary eddies and numerous thermal fronts aligned in zonal bands. These fronts and eddies enhance primary productivity and retain and concentrate secondary productivity both vertically and horizontally. The combination of localized high- intensity mixing in the eddies results in patchy, high-surface productivity at fine scales. Tracking data collected for seabirds, whales, sea turtles, tunas and sharks (several of which are globally threatened) confirm that this is an area of high productivity with a high intensity of foraging activity, suggesting that this productivity cascades to higher trophic levels. 	-	H	M	H	H	H	H
15. Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone <p>Location: This area extends from 48°N and 55°188'N along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone occurs at 52°30'N. The area extends from about 25°W to 45°W, with the transform faults occurring between 30°W and 35°W. The eastern boundary of the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone is detectable beyond 42°W. The southern ridge continues uninterrupted to 45°W. This area encompasses the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone, the meandering Sub-polar Frontal Zone and the benthic communities of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in this area, including individual seamounts.</p> <p>Fracture zones are common topographic features of the ocean that arise through plate tectonics. The Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone is an unusual left lateral strike-slip double transform fault in the North Atlantic Ocean, along which the rift valley of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge is offset by 350 km near 52°30' N. It opens the deepest connection between the northwest and northeast Atlantic (maximum depth of approximately 4500 m) and is approximately 2000 km in</p>	H	-	H	H	-	H	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
length, extending from about 25° W to 45° W. It is the most prominent interruption of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge between the Azores and Iceland and the only fracture zone between Europe and North America that has an offset of this size. Two named seamounts are associated with the transform faults: Minia and Hecate. The area is a unique geomorphological feature in the North Atlantic. Further, it captures the Earth's geological history, including significant ongoing geological processes. The sub-polar front is also representative of a pelagic frontal system. The area is described based on its importance as a section of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge and is a biogeographically representative section of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. There is evidence of both deep-sea sponge aggregations and cold-water corals in this area. In addition, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge is the only extensive hard substrate available for the propagation of benthic suspension feeders off the continental shelves and isolated seamounts in the region.							
16. Southern Reykjanes Ridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Situated, partly, on the continental shelf of Iceland, the northern boundary of the area is Iceland's Exclusive Economic Zone. The southern boundary of this area is 55°188'N, well north the Sub-Polar Front, which separates the warm- and cold- water masses and is usually found between 52°N and 53°N. The 2,500 m depth contour was used to define the boundaries of the area, as this captures most of the Ridge crest and known distribution of deep-water corals (maximum 2,400 m). Reykjanes Ridge is part of a major topographic feature of the Atlantic Ocean, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge separates the Newfoundland and Labrador Basins from the West-European Basin and the Irminger Sea from the Iceland Basin, influencing hydrography and circulation. The ridge crest is generally cut by a deep rift valley along its length, bordered by high rift mountains, which are bordered by high fractured plateaus. This region is largely composed of volcanic rock, which is the foundation of the area and provides a hard-bottom substrate for the colonization of benthic communities, including vulnerable and habitat-forming species. The area supports several endangered and threatened shark and ray species. The Ridge itself and its complex hydrographic setting contributes to enhanced vertical mixing and turbulence, resulting in areas of increased productivity above it. The 2,500 m depth contour is used to delineate the boundary of the area, capturing most of the Ridge crest and known distribution of deep-water corals. 	H	M	H	H	M	H	-
17. Hatton and Rockall Banks and Basin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The area is situated in the North-East Atlantic approximately 400-500 km west-northwest of Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and 400-500 km south-southeast of Iceland. It comprises the seabed and pelagic zones shallower than 3000m overlying the Rockall and Hatton Banks, together with the Rockall-Hatton Basin between them. The 3,000 m contour has been selected as delineating the boundary of this feature because: (i) it marks the accepted boundary between the bathyal and abyssal environments; (ii) review of oceanographic data suggests the 3,000 m contour corresponds well with the oceanographic influence of the feature and thus its likely influence on pelagic communities and (iii) new data on birds and mammals suggest that species use the pelagic areas just off the bank, which are captured by the boundary of this area. 	H	M	H	H	M	H	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	See the above key to the tables						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hatton and Rockall Banks, as well as their associated slopes and connecting basin, represent offshore pelagic and bathyal habitats from the surface to 3,000 m deep that collectively constitute a unique and prominent feature of the North-East Atlantic. The area has high habitat heterogeneity and supports a wide range of benthic and pelagic species and associated ecosystems. Its comparatively remote oceanic location several hundred kilometres from the continental shelf afford it a level of protection and isolation from many human activities that are known to degrade the natural marine environment. 							

15/26. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: further work

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming Articles 4 and 22 of the Convention, as well as decisions X/29, XI/17, XII/22, XIII/12, in particular paragraph 3, and 14/9 of the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution [76/72](#) on oceans and the law of the sea and its preambular paragraphs on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,^{1, 2, 3}

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

Noting the negotiations underway in the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument 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, following United Nations General Assembly resolution [72/249](#),

Noting also the report of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and the recommendations contained therein, which address, among other issues, area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, including standards and criteria for areas requiring protection through the establishment of area-based management tools, as well as the designation, implementation, and monitoring and review of area-based management tools,

Noting further the competence of the International Maritime Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with respect to shipping and fishing in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, respectively, and the competence of the International Seabed Authority with respect to the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the international seabed Area,

Noting that the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is an important scientific and technical process which may contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Belgium and Germany for their financial support for the organization of the Expert Workshop to Identify Options for Modifying the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas and Describing New Areas, and takes note of the report of the workshop;⁴

2. *Welcomes* the capacity-building activities facilitated by the Executive Secretary at the regional level in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to facilitate efforts to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, acknowledges that such activities may comprise an important element of an updated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity,

¹ Türkiye dissociates itself from the reference made to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which it is not a party. The participation of Türkiye in the discussions under this agenda item during COP-15 cannot be construed as a change in the well-known legal position of Türkiye with regard to the said instrument.

² Colombia reaffirms that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is not the only legal instruments governing all of the legal activities carried out in the oceans and seas. The participation of Colombia in the discussions under this agenda item during COP-15 does not affect its status or rights, nor can it be interpreted as a tacit or express acceptance of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, an instrument to which Colombia is not a party.

³ The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is not the only legal instrument that governs activities related to the seas and oceans. Therefore, Venezuela disassociates itself from the reference to said international instrument, and participation in the discussions under this agenda item during COP-15 cannot be considered as a change in Venezuela's national position regarding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

⁴ CBD/EBSA/WS/2020/1/2.

and requests the Executive Secretary to continue facilitating such capacity-building activities in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

3. *Decides* to extend the term of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to convene an expert workshop to review the technical aspects of the modalities outlined in the annex to recommendation 24/10 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,⁵ and an expert workshop to review the legal issues pertaining to these modalities, on the basis of the outcomes of the above-noted workshop, to provide the outcomes of this work for discussion through virtual modalities, such as global and/or regional webinars, open comment by Parties and other Governments, and discussion by the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, and to provide the outcomes of this work to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and/or of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, for consideration prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to adopting modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and for describing new areas at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to develop draft terms of reference for a “relevant expert advisory body” in the context of modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas, annexed to recommendation 24/10 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,⁵ without prejudicing future discussions on this issue, for subsequent consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to develop voluntary guidelines on peer-review processes for the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and other relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria, for subsequent consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments to take into consideration the experiences and outcomes of the process to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the deliberations on an international legally binding instrument 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;

8. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to take into account the experiences and outcomes of the process to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas when analyzing the risks and implications of deep-seabed mining, including in the context of deliberations under the International Seabed Authority;

9. *Encourages* further collaboration and information-sharing between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the secretariats of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as regional fishery bodies, regional seas conventions and actions plans, and other relevant international organizations, regarding the use of information on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, including the best available scientific information and the traditional knowledge of indigenous

⁵ Also considering the information contained in documents CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/41 and CBD/EBSA/OM/2022/2/1.

peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent⁶ as one of the key pieces of information that can be used, inter alia, for guidance and cross-learning regarding the use of area-based management tools, including vulnerable marine ecosystems, particularly sensitive sea areas, and areas of particular environmental interest, important marine mammal areas, among other approaches, with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

⁶ In this decision, 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”.

15/27. Invasive alien species

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with concern that invasive alien species are one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss worldwide, as reported by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in its 2019 *Global Assessment Report*,¹

Noting the increasing volume of international consignments containing living organisms and propagules, as well as changes in trade patterns and consumer behaviour and habits,

Recognizing that anthropogenic changes in the environment, including climate change, land- and sea-use change, overexploitation and pollution, add further complexity and increased risk of biological invasions and consequent threats to biodiversity,

Emphasizing the need for increased collaboration among Parties, other Governments, subnational governments, where appropriate, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant organizations and all relevant sectors, including business,

Recalling decisions XII/16, XIII/13 and 14/11, and recognizing that voluntary guidance in relation to invasive alien species and trade in live organisms may also apply to e-commerce,

1. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species² and of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species including:³

(a) Methods for cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis which best apply to the management of invasive alien species, and risk analysis on the potential consequences of the introduction of invasive alien species on social, economic and cultural values;

(b) Methods, tools and measures for the identification and minimization of additional risks associated with cross-border e-commerce in live organisms and the impacts thereof;

(c) Methods, tools and strategies for the management of invasive alien species as it relates to prevention of potential risks arising from climate change and associated natural disasters and land-use changes;

(d) Use of existing databases on invasive alien species and their impacts, to support risk communication;

(e) Additional advice and guidance on invasive alien species management.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to organize a peer-review process to solicit advice, pursuant to decision 14/11, on annexes I to VI to the present decision, taking into account the earlier decisions of the Conference of the Parties and those of existing international instruments, and regional differences, to convene a moderated open-ended online forum on the results of the peer-review process and to make the outcomes available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, with a view to making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to enhance the inclusion of diverse social and cultural values of biodiversity across communities at the national and/or subnational levels, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and the elderly, noting the methodological assessment on the diverse values and valuation of nature prepared by the

¹ IPBES (2019): *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

² CBD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/INF/1.

³ CBD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/1/3.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,⁴ and in accordance with the rights and obligations derived from relevant multilateral agreements, when assessing the costs, benefits and prioritization of management of invasive alien species, and to build on existing processes, and international and national best practices for engagement of relevant actors, in order to feed effectively into decision-making processes based on scientific evidence, traditional knowledge and risk assessments;

4. *Welcomes* the inclusion of invasive alien species by the World Customs Organization in the Technical Specifications under its Framework of Standards on Cross-border E-Commerce;

5. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to develop national, regional or international open access portals or other websites directed to the general public, to raise cooperation, awareness and understanding of the threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and ecosystems, and offering practical help for identification and management of invasive alien species, as well as to enlist the help of the public in reporting occurrences, and in controlling and managing invasive alien species;

6. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to foster monitoring of the effects of large-scale changes of pathways and releases of alien translocated or captive raised populations of, for example, fish, trees and game species, on the genetic diversity of local native populations and their long-term ability to adapt to a changing environment, to take adequate actions to address any detrimental effects on native populations, and to share knowledge and best practices with other Parties, as appropriate;

7. *Invites* the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the World Customs Organization, the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Codex Alimentarius, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, within the scope of their respective mandates, to support the national implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with regard to targets and actions related to invasive alien species, including their monitoring and reporting;

8. *Notes* that the Economic and Social Council's Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods will consider including environmentally hazardous living organisms in chapter 2.9, class 9, of the United Nations *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods - Model Regulations*,⁵ at its upcoming session, taking into account the risk of unintentional introduction of invasive alien species, including pathogens, in collaboration with the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and other experts;

9. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and organizations to submit information to the Executive Secretary on experiences and relevant initiatives of horizon scanning, monitoring and managing emerging infectious diseases affecting biodiversity and, especially, the health of wild animals and plants, caused by alien pathogens or parasites and invasive alien species acting as vectors or hosts for pathogens or parasites;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control;

11. *Invites* the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature to undertake assessments on the magnitude of the negative impacts from alien pathogens or parasites and invasive alien species that may transmit pathogens or parasites that may affect biodiversity

⁴ IPBES (2022). *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.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.19.VIII.1.

and make the information available through the Global Invasive Species Database of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and other related databases;

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

(a) To prepare a draft proposal to the Economic and Social Council's Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on a globally harmonized labelling system for consignments of environmentally hazardous living organisms or propagules, consistent and in harmony with the rules of the World Trade Organization and other international agreements and in consultation with the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and the Secretariat of the Sub-Committee;

(b) To collaborate with the World Tourism Organization to consider joint efforts in addressing tourism, among the major sectors for introducing invasive alien species and the management thereof;

(c) To continue collaboration with the International Plant Protection Convention, as well as other members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, towards developing a globally harmonized and operational voluntary guidance on the cleanliness of sea containers and their cargos;

(d) To continue and enhance collaboration with members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, including with a view to determining how approaches for the prevention, control and management of invasive alien species may be usefully applied to biological invasions of pathogenic agents, in particular zoonotic pathogens;

(e) To develop, on the basis of the national reports and in cooperation with the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and other relevant organizations, advice on the evaluation of existing capacity and needs for monitoring, preventing and controlling the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and their harmful effects to biodiversity, taking into account relevant multilateral instruments, and thereafter as relevant, update the online toolkit on invasive alien species of the Convention on Biological Diversity and develop additional training materials for such topics as management of priority species and pathways of introduction, identification and management of priority areas, as well as the application of international data standards in national and regional databases containing information on invasive alien species;

(f) To collaborate with members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and other relevant organizations, with a view to identifying gaps in knowledge, monitoring, and management of emerging infectious diseases affecting biodiversity and human health that relate to or are facilitated by invasive alien species, and to propose measures for mitigating and minimizing the negative effects on biodiversity and human health and preventing the further introduction and spread of relevant invasive alien species;

(g) To report the progress on the above to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex I

DRAFT METHODS FOR COST-BENEFIT AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS WHICH BEST APPLY TO THE MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (A))

1. Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 states the need for invasive alien species and pathways to be identified and prioritized and for priority species to be controlled or eradicated. The extended technical rationale for this target (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/INF/12/Rev.1) includes the statement that "Given the multiple pathways for invasive species introductions and that multiple alien species are already present in many countries, it will be necessary to prioritize control and eradication efforts to those species and pathways which will have the greatest impact on biodiversity and/or which are the most resource effective to address." Accordingly, a clear need exists to develop methods to prioritize invasive alien species and the active management thereof.

2. Established cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness methods are widely available and already in use in some regions to assist invasive alien species management decision-making, including prioritization. However, these existing analyses typically require detailed information, for example on costs, and may need technical expertise to apply. Including consideration of biodiversity, animal welfare and public acceptability in cost-benefit analyses can also be problematic as, although possible, these are often difficult to represent in simple financial terms.

3. The final decision to eradicate or manage an invasive alien species carries significant costs and risks. While these rapid methods may produce “short lists” of priority species to consider for management, more detailed pilot studies and economic assessments are recommended before commitments to management are made.

4. To support risk management, methods may be required when large numbers of species need to be rapidly assessed, where detailed information is often lacking and where non-monetary based inputs on social and cultural values are required.

A. Multi-criteria methods

5. Multi-criteria methods can be used in circumstances where more detailed, but data-hungry approaches, such as cost-benefit analysis, may be impractical. Multi-criteria methods provide a route to the rapid assessment of options and are already widely used to support invasive alien species decision-making – for example through the risk assessment process. There is scope to use multi-criteria methods more widely to support decision-making to answer questions such as how to prioritize species for management, when to choose between prevention, eradication or long-term management objectives, how to produce rapid assessments of large numbers of species, or how to compare the feasibility of different management options?

6. Multi-criteria decision-making is concerned with structuring and solving decision and planning problems involving multiple criteria. By breaking problems down into their different components they can be used to assess decisions in a transparent and rational manner, they can be rapidly applied to large numbers of cases, and by using expert opinion, or the knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities with their prior and informed consent, free prior and informed consent or approval and involvement, they can still be applied where published information is lacking. These modelling and methodological tools are designed to find optimal solutions to complex problems where assessment criteria or data are measured in different currencies.

7. Because multi-criteria approaches often operate in the absence of published data, this may raise concerns over the use of opinion or unsubstantiated information. The way in which multiple criteria are combined to support an overall conclusion can also be problematic and is often based on pragmatism rather than a validated approach. Nevertheless, multi-criteria methods and cost-benefit analysis complement each other, for example an initial prioritization based on a large number of options may be undertaken using a multi-criteria approach, but the proposed priorities may then be more fully assessed using a more rigorous approach such as cost-benefit before resources are committed.

B. Advice for actions

8. Coordinated national, subnational and local response strategies should be developed to minimize incursions and impacts of invasive alien species, such as national, subnational and local invasive species strategies and action plans as a part of national, subnational and local biodiversity strategies and action plans. This could include strengthening and coordinating existing programmes, identifying and filling gaps with new initiatives, and building on the strengths and capacities of partner organizations, including academia and scientific institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth at the national, regional and local levels.

9. The best available prioritization methods should be applied to prioritize management of dispersal pathways of invasive alien species within as well as between countries, and for assessing feasibility and cost-effectiveness. These methods should be in a form compatible with and complementary to existing

approaches to risk assessment. Methods used for risk-prioritization of invasive alien species include cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness and risk analysis. However, the detailed information required to undertake cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses are often in short supply or uncertain, and these analyses require sufficient technical expertise. A number of science-based prioritization methodologies for invasive alien species, horizon-scanning, and impact and management for single or multiple types of invasive alien species have been developed by Parties or independent international science teams and are worth consideration by other countries.

10. Knowledge exchange should be promoted, as well as training and capacity-building to apply the best available prioritization methods consistently across environments.

11. The best available methods for prioritizing the invasive alien species to be managed and for assessing feasibility and cost-effectiveness should be used, in a form compatible and complementary to existing approaches to risk assessment. Multi-criteria decision-making approaches should be used to support risk-based prioritization for management when information required to undertake cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis is lacking or uncertain.

12. States, sectoral authorities and organizations and subnational governments are encouraged to share information on their best practices regarding tools and technologies for the management⁶ of invasive alien species that can be implemented across sectors at all levels.

13. *Multi-criteria decision-making* approaches can be used, wherever possible, when applying risk analysis, cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses to support risk-based prioritization. Invasive alien species prioritized by actual or potential impacts using such rapid methods can then be considered in more detail to ensure that management, based on clear objectives, is indeed cost-effective and feasible. Multi-criteria decision-making can consider such aspects as effectiveness, practicality, feasibility, likelihood of success, cost, public acceptability, including to indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth of proposed actions as well as any unintended negative impacts of management alongside the risks and impacts posed by the targeted invasive alien species, in line with relevant multilateral agreements. These methods involve a structured process and can help resolve issues associated with decision-making and planning that involve multiple criteria and are designed to find optimal solutions to complex problems where assessment criteria or data are measured in different ways. They can also be used with expert elicitation when only incomplete or imprecise information is available.

14. Multi-criteria methods to support invasive species prioritization, risk management and decision-making need to be developed further. Opportunities for development include:

(a) There is considerable variation in the methods and approaches to prioritization and decision making used in different countries – reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of other approaches to this issue would be valuable;

(b) Risk management as part of a larger risk analysis process is widely used in other fields, such as plant health – increased dialogue with experts from these fields would help to develop best-practice;

(c) Other considerations will be needed when applying the approach to different management questions;

(d) Cases in which multi-criteria methods have been applied to invasive alien species management decision making are still limited – more trials and applications would help refine the approach;

(e) Where possible, published quantitative data should be used to underpin decision-making, in order to better identify and access key information.

15. It is suggested that guidelines be developed in order to more explicitly include social and cultural values when assessing the costs, benefits and prioritization of management. This could build on existing

⁶ This refers to the “application of measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate invasive alien species” (see [CBD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/1/2](#), para. 13(e)).

processes (for example, Socio-economic Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (SEICAT)) and international best practices on stakeholder engagement in decision-making. Decisions and risk analyses should be based on science and should follow international standards agreed under relevant international organizations, such as the agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, as appropriate.

16. It is recommended that efforts be made to increase the accessibility of data and vocabulary on management activities across species and ecosystems to support evidence-based management prioritization and decision-making. This will be assisted by the creation of common approaches to sharing and reporting experience and information, common data formats that include information on the taxon, management objective, cost and/or effort, area covered and the outcome of management. To promote the production of prioritized lists for action, there is a need for knowledge exchange, training and capacity-building.

17. It is recommended that, in communicating risks associated with invasive alien species it be highlighted that these risks can affect biodiversity and the economy of indigenous regions/peoples and local communities as well as public health.

Annex II

DRAFT METHODS, TOOLS AND MEASURES FOR IDENTIFICATION AND MINIMIZATION OF ADDITIONAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE IN LIVE ORGANISMS AND THE IMPACTS THEREOF

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (B))

A. Suggested actions for national and/or subnational authorities/border agencies

1. Legislation and policy set by States

1. Investigate and evaluate the risks posed by all forms of e-commerce to the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and their parts and, if necessary, develop and implement appropriate risk management activities. See also decision XII/17, paragraph 9 (d).

2. Implement when addressing trade with invasive alien species through e-commerce, decision XIII/13, paragraphs 7 and 8, and use the voluntary guidance on devising and implementing measures to address the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food (decision XII/16) and the supplementary guidance for avoiding unintentional introductions of invasive alien species associated with trade in live organisms (decision 14/11), as relevant.

3. Review existing national and/or subnational legislation, regulations and policies to verify that e-commerce is adequately addressed or make changes as needed to ensure that enforcement actions can be taken, in accordance with decision XIII/13, paragraph 2.

4. Establish mechanisms to identify commodities of concern that may be obtained via e-commerce with a focus on high and potential high-risk consignments, such as soils, growing media, and living organisms.

5. Consider the use of lists that specify which species may be imported and restrict the remainder, rather than lists that only identify those species whose import is prohibited or restricted, in the interests of preventing the unintended introduction of invasive alien species, and especially in the case of countries that are vulnerable to invasive alien species, such as small island developing States, island countries, and countries with islands. These considerations should be consistent with the guidance contained in decisions XII/16, paragraph 23,⁷ and decision 14/11, paragraph 11(a),⁸ as well as other applicable international obligations and standards, including those recognized by the World Trade Organization Agreement on the

⁷ States should maintain lists of species with the assessed potential to become invasive and associated with unacceptable risks for biodiversity and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism or other appropriate means. Decision XII/16, para. 23.

⁸ Encourages Parties and invites other Governments (a) to develop and share a list of regulated invasive alien species, based on the results of risk analysis, where appropriate. Decision 14/11, para. 11 (a).

General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) that are relevant for cross-border e-commerce, as well as in accordance with decisions XII/16, paragraph 22 and 14/11, paragraph 11(a).

2. *Indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders' engagement*

6. In accordance with decision XIII/13, paragraph 7, develop mechanisms, in collaboration with e-commerce stakeholders, for identification of e-commerce traders, their locations and other stakeholders with a view to facilitating inter-agency and multi-stakeholder participation and cooperation.

7. Engage with indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, as well as the wider community and general public for detection of early incursion, establishment or spread of invasive alien species, including from e-commerce, across traditional lands and waters, as well as the wider community and general public.

8. Ensure, in accordance with decision 14/11, paragraph 10, compliance with the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary import requirements of importing countries among e-commerce customers and traders by providing quality information on the risks to the customer's country (legal, environmental and health related).

9. Strengthen coordination with postal and express courier services to ensure that relevant information on the risks and preventive measures are conveyed to e-commerce users in accordance with decision XII/16, paragraph 24, and taking into consideration decision 14/11, annex I, paragraphs 7, 9-11, 13 and 29.

10. Ensure, in collaboration with national and regional trade authorities, that import/export requirements are up-to-date, clear and accessible to e-commerce traders, indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders.

11. Aim to inform both sellers and buyers about potentially invasive alien species, focusing on their legal responsibility. Both social media and specialized media, such as pet magazines/journals/books, especially journals from pet or plant association/society and multi-agency targeted publicity campaigns should be used to disseminate correct information, aiming to shift consumer values (e.g. towards native and non-invasive species) and to change behaviours (e.g. to prevent impulse purchase of invasive alien species) in accordance with decision XIII/13, paragraph 7(a).

12. Encourage, taking into consideration decision XIII/13, paragraph 7, e-commerce platforms and e-payment service providers, postal and express courier services to adhere to national regulations, international standards and guidance on invasive alien species in their operations, in consistency with other international obligations.

13. Consider implementing the Single Window⁹ approach, which allows the sharing of standardized information and documents with a single-entry point to fulfil all import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements. Its implementation at the national and/or subnational level may facilitate reporting on regulated articles (including live alien organisms with phytosanitary and sanitary risks, and risks to biodiversity), taking into account decision XII/16, paragraph 6, decision XIII/13, paragraph 7(c) and decision 14/11, annex I, paragraph 33.

14. Establish legal and policy frameworks that allow for the advanced international electronic sharing and exchange of data between all actors involved in the international supply chain, as appropriate, and use these data to triage packages and determine the level of inspection needed (risk-based inspection).

3. *Monitoring and compliance*

15. Gather data, taking into consideration decision 14/11, annex I, paragraphs 34-36, and in compliance with national legislation and circumstances, using all available means and tools (e.g. crowdsourcing) to

⁹ A single window is defined as a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements (see <http://www.wcoomd.org/~media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/tf-negotiations/wco-docs/info-sheets-on-tf-measures/single-window-concept.pdf>).

monitor compliance and to evaluate the efficacy of activities that are implemented to mitigate risks associated with e-commerce. The data collected should be used, together with other relevant information including compliance history, and relevant information from indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent, to inform risk-based inspections and determine if investigation or enforcement action is needed. Data analytics should be applied to discern any abnormal trends and patterns, including potential invasive alien species incursion and impact risks.

16. Disseminate good practices and risk-based interventions using best practice methods of data analytics to facilitate legitimate e-commerce and, at the same time, identify and stop illicit trade. Wherever possible, prioritize the use of non-intrusive inspection (NII) technologies, and promote the adequacy of existing technologies e.g. scanners, sniffer dogs and other available tools for the detection of invasive alien species, and the further development of automated biosensors to improve efficient detection of prohibited and restricted articles moving through the express courier and postal systems.

17. Develop and implement training and tools to facilitate appropriate level of monitoring and inspection in e-commerce markets. This could include developing guidance on monitoring of e-commerce platforms and on the issuance of warnings, notices and other enforcement actions when non-compliances are found in e-commerce transactions, and the proper handling of restricted items seized in compliance with national and/or subnational law.

B. Suggested actions for web marketplaces (sale platforms) and e-payment service providers, postal and express courier services

18. Web marketplaces (sale platforms) and e-payment service providers, postal and express courier services are strongly encouraged to:

(a) Consider the information available from relevant international bodies, national and/or subnational authorities and other sources, regarding the risks (both legal and environmental) posed by invasive alien species and take steps accordingly to make their users aware of them, taking into account decision 14/11, annex I, paragraphs 11-13;

(b) Monitor e-commerce taking place within their platforms or jurisdiction and, consistent with relevant national and/or subnational legislation, alert relevant authorities where there is evidence of illegal or otherwise potentially damaging trade in invasive alien species taking place;

(c) Develop and apply improved management measures to minimize the risks of introduction of invasive alien species through e-commerce, consistent with international and national obligations.

C. Suggested actions for international bodies/agreements and cross-jurisdictional collaboration

19. International bodies/agreements, in collaboration with regional organizations and national authorities, as relevant, are strongly encouraged to undertake the following:

(a) Collaborate to share data, information, technology and expertise on e-commerce in potential invasive alien species;

(b) Draw on guidance from other international bodies, including the ongoing work by the World Customs Organization and in the Bern Convention;

(c) Continue to monitor e-commerce with potential invasive alien species at the global and regional levels with a view to identifying trends and risks in trade of invasive alien species;

(d) Prepare guidance to assist national border agencies in responding to non-compliance, considering that both domestic and international actions may be required to respond effectively;

(e) Improve collaboration between national border agencies in order to enhance opportunities to link existing security initiatives with invasive alien species risk management and targeted (risk-based) inspections. This will also provide a mechanism for timely information-sharing among national border agencies and other relevant ministries/departments on issues related to cross-border e-commerce trade;

(f) Conduct joint capacity-building activities with relevant organizations, Parties and other Governments and provide technical assistance and resources for implementing existing international guidelines and standards, and developing national and/or subnational regulatory frameworks or measures to address the risks associated with e-commerce for all relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities;

(g) Expand the concept of “authorized economic operators”¹⁰ (AEO); trusted trader to cross-border e-commerce and include invasive alien species risks in AEO criteria and requirements. Implementing AEO and trusted trader programmes in the e-commerce environment for postal operators, express carriers and e-platforms, which would result in a lower frequency of inspections;

(h) Establish frameworks that allow for the advanced electronic exchange of data between all parties involved in the international supply chain and use these data to triage packages and determine the level of inspection needed (risk-based inspection).

D. Suggested actions for relevant international expert organizations

20. Relevant international expert organizations are strongly encouraged to:

(a) Raise awareness among international, national organizations and e-commerce stakeholders about import/export requirements and what can be done to minimize the risk of introduction and spread of alien and potentially invasive species associated with e-commerce, taking into account decision XIII/13 paragraph 7(a);

(b) Building on such frameworks as EICAT,¹¹ establish an international invasive alien species risk-based labelling system, to be used for all species sold via e-commerce and provide guidance on the handling and care of organisms. On consignments of live alien species, such labelling should include information to enable identification of hazards for biodiversity and the identification of species or lower taxa (e.g., scientific name, taxonomic serial number or its equivalent), taking into account decisions XII/17 and 14/11 as well as the ongoing work of the Economic and Social Council’s Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

Annex III

**DRAFT METHODS, TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AS IT RELATES TO PREVENTION OF POTENTIAL RISKS ARISING FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND ASSOCIATED NATURAL DISASTERS AND LAND USE CHANGES
(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (C))**

1. The interactions of climate change, associated changes in land and marine ecosystems and biological invasions will have profound consequences for biodiversity. These interactions are considered and potential responses enumerated in CBD/AHTEG/IAS/2019/1/2.

2. Climate change is aiding increased rates (and risk of) spread of many alien species. Human adaptations to climate change will alter land-use and increase disturbances in the ecosystem that, in turn, facilitate the establishment of alien species.

3. Not all invasive alien species incursions are successful, nor will all invasive alien species benefit from climate change, as some may become less abundant under particular changing climates. Some invasive

¹⁰ See also WCO *Compendium of Authorized Economic Operator Programmes* (2019), <http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/instruments-and-tools/tools/safe-package/ao-compdium.pdf?db=web>

¹¹ IUCN *Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa*, <https://ipbes.net/policy-support/tools-instruments/environmental-impact-classification-alien-taxa-eicat>

alien species will decline in importance while some currently low impact alien species may become significant invasive alien species.

4. Climate change may exacerbate existing problems and impacts of invasive alien species, with both direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity and socioeconomic values. Changing ocean currents will have huge impacts on species movements in marine environments as well as influence climatic conditions on land. Loss of permanent sea ice is opening up new sea transport routes and shipping in the Arctic is creating greater probability of invasive alien species introduction and establishment in the Arctic terrestrial and marine environments.

5. Climate change is associated with more frequent extreme weather events like cyclones and flooding. Extreme weather events cannot only transport invasive alien species to new areas, but also cause disturbances in habitats which enable invasive alien species to establish themselves and spread. Climate-induced extreme weather events can also lead to sudden human population movements and displaced people can inadvertently transport invasive alien species.

6. Prevention and management of invasive alien species under climate change becomes an even greater challenge with climate change. New prioritization actions will be required.

7. For more information on tools that support management of invasive alien species in the face of climate change, see the synthesis report of the Online Forum.¹²

A. Prediction

8. Managing the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services requires knowledge of the manner in which the actual and potential impact will vary as a result of climate change so that management priorities can be adapted accordingly.

9. States, organizations and relevant stakeholders, taking into account, among other things, decision 14/5, are strongly encouraged:

(a) To undertake horizon scanning to forecast/predict future changes in actual and potential risks and impacts of invasive alien species arising from climate change;

(b) To identify changes in invasive alien species pathway risks arising from climate change. Climatically similar regions posing the greatest current mutual risks today are likely to change in the future along with changes in vectors and pathways, including changes in trade and the movement of people between these regions;

(c) To prioritize invasive alien species on the basis of potential direct and indirect impacts in the context of climate change;

(d) To identify effects of climate change on new potential invasive alien species introductions or pathways of introductions and establishment into pristine and invaded communities;

(e) To determine and prioritize for action sites at the greatest risk from climate change and invasive alien species;

(f) To prioritize efforts to maintain ecosystem goods and services, as well as ecosystem structures and functions on sites at the greatest risk from climate change and invasive alien species;

(g) To apply climate models to understand the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services arising from climate change, and to further develop models for use on a broad scale by developing countries;

(h) To develop better methods to integrate (i) climate change models, (ii) land-use scenarios and (iii) trends in trade with invasive alien species data analysis to improve prediction capability;

¹² (CBD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/1/INF/1).

- (i) To define scenarios to understand where invasive alien species may indirectly increase the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services by transforming ecosystems;
- (j) To modify/fine-tune invasive alien species risk analysis, and identify potential alien invasive species¹³ (including disease vectors) that remain only casual under current conditions without significant impact and are likely to become established and/or invasive and have an increased impact due to rapid population growth as a result of climate change;
- (k) To identify and study potential future invasive alien species that can establish and spread and have an increased impact as a result of climate change. This can be done by using such approaches as sentinel sites to monitor changes in abundance, spread and impacts of such species or by carrying out trait- and impact-based risk assessments;
- (l) To identify invasive alien species that are likely to benefit under increased CO₂ levels, rising temperatures, increased frequency of extreme events, fire regimes of increased frequency and intensity, high salt-water incursions, changes in ocean currents and changes in precipitation patterns, and prioritize management to prevent their spread and impacts, including humane methods of eradication and control;
- (m) To improve knowledge of the risks of invasive alien species adapting to new environmental conditions, including rapid evolution and hybridization;
- (n) To identify impacts of invasive alien species arising from climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- (o) To ensure the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, use of their biocultural indicators, early identification and warning systems and traditional knowledge in the development of predictions of invasive alien species under climate change with their “free, prior and informed consent” or “free, prior informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances.

B. Planning and prevention

10. States are encouraged, in collaboration with experts, subnational government, indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders:

- (a) To develop climate change relevant risk analysis for prioritizing invasive alien species for management (e.g. fire-enhancing weeds);
- (b) To develop and implement management strategies to eradicate, contain or control high ranking potential alien species and introduced or established invasive alien species before they can respond to climate change. Those strategies should be object of an appropriate risk analysis, in order to avoid unnecessary biosafety concerns;
- (c) To monitor the spread and impact of all established and potential alien species, particularly in sites or regions where biodiversity and ecosystem services are likely to deteriorate rapidly under climate change. Best-practice approaches using, for example, remote sensing or sensor networks are suggested to be undertaken;
- (d) To minimize the potential of biological invasions or develop spatial response planning for areas in which communities are threatened with a high risk of extreme weather events (e.g. relocate zoos, botanical gardens, exotic aquaculture facilities from extreme-event-prone areas);
- (e) To adapt current pathway management with a view to reducing changes in risks arising from climate, including predicted associated changes in trade and movement of people;

¹³ Sleeper alien species: alien species whose population persistence is limited by the current climate and which are expected to exhibit greater rates of establishment as a result of climate change.

- (f) To engage all sectors, including agriculture and public health agencies and industries, in invasive alien species planning activities where climate change risks are cross-sectoral;
- (g) To raise public awareness of changing invasive alien species threats arising from climate change and include the participation of the public and all relevant sectors in response planning;
- (h) To collect best practices of indigenous peoples and local communities on the monitoring, controlling and mitigation of the impacts of invasive alien species caused by climate change;
- (i) To engage with regional and local specialists when considering prevention, planning and mitigation measures.

C. Management

11. It is suggested that States take the following actions:

- (a) Apply adaptive management approaches to future prioritized management actions in the context of climate change and share the information with other Parties to improve outcomes;
- (b) Take steps to increase the long-term functional resilience of threatened ecosystems and habitats to climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters and associated invasive alien species incursions, particularly for islands and coastal systems, taking into account guidance in decision 14/5, paragraphs 3(h), 4(b) and annex, as well as decision X/33, paragraph 8(n);
- (c) Undertake focused management actions, including containment, eradication when possible or control of invasive alien species in areas that could act as non-native sources for spread into identified vulnerable areas and/or native communities;
- (d) Collate existing knowledge into international online databases to allow the interoperable collection and dissemination of data and knowledge on the effectiveness of actions to mitigate impacts of invasive alien species arising from climate change. An example of such a database is the Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications (DIISE);¹⁴
- (e) Develop and integrate invasive alien species management strategies into “threatened climate vulnerable species movement-assisted translocation actions” to avoid unintended consequences, taking into account decision X/33, paragraph 8(e);
- (f) Collect best practices of indigenous peoples and local communities on the monitoring, control and mitigation of the impacts of invasive alien species, diseases and shifting species distributions caused by climate change.

D. National and international cooperation

12. States and relevant international organizations are strongly urged to integrate pathway and invasive alien species risk based multi-criteria prioritization approaches into all levels of planning to obtain multiple benefits and shared outcomes, including the following:

- (a) National and international climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, environmental impact assessments, and response planning activities in accordance with decision X/33, paragraph 8(p);
- (b) Other relevant conventions (e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) and providing relevant United Nations implementing agencies with policy guidance;
- (c) National and international commitments and actions under the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (d) Market incentive programmes and other actions funded by multilateral agencies or forums, such as the Global Environment Facility, the Clean Development Mechanism and the Green Climate Fund.

¹⁴ <http://diise.islandconservation.org>.

13. It is suggested that relevant international organizations organize training for governmental and non-governmental development assistance agencies and operatives engaged in disaster relief, identify risks of introducing and spread of invasive alien species with their activities and undertake rapid response with appropriate measures, such as quarantine of equipment and goods, emergency response, eradication, containment and control.

Annex IV

DRAFT RISK ANALYSIS ON THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL VALUES

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (D))

1. It is suggested that guidelines be developed in order to more explicitly include social and cultural values when assessing the costs, benefits and prioritization of management. This could build on existing processes (for example, Socioeconomic Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (SEICAT)) and international best practices on engagement of indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders in decision-making. New Zealand incorporates cultural knowledge, values and perspectives (mātauranga) in the management of invasive alien species. Māori are involved in the governance of invasive alien species management, especially when culturally and spiritually significant (taonga) species are at risk. This system is worthy of emulation. States should seek formal participation and ensure bidirectional data streams between data holders and generators through the national data portals (where applicable) to the global-level aggregators. Country membership status, capacity, resources and other aspects should be understood by all Parties. Open access to data and seamless integration of this data between data tools used by indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders is an imperative for better management and monitoring of this threat. This will (a) increase data flows necessary for analysis at the level of the Convention on Biological Diversity and international decision-making and (b) open opportunities for national capacity-building and resourcing.

2. It is suggested that efforts be made to increase qualitative and quantitative knowledge and data on socioeconomic and cultural impacts of invasive alien species on communities and society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and methods to use this knowledge when prioritizing invasive alien species for impact and management feasibility and likelihood of success. It will be important to define socioeconomic, cultural and community well-being criteria in order to collectively evaluate such impacts, for example how the impacts of invasive alien species on treasured, sacred, culturally and spiritually significant native species can be measured, and impact thresholds understood and addressed.

3. Enhanced risk communication is essential to facilitate dialogue and understanding between and among indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders, who may include the general public and indigenous peoples and local communities. Risk communication seeks to reconcile the views of all interested parties in order to achieve a common understanding of the risks posed by invasive alien species, develop credible risk management options and consistent regulations, and promote awareness of issues concerning invasive alien species.

4. There is a lack of well-documented semi-quantitative criteria for socioeconomic, cultural and community well-being on which not only to evaluate impacts, but also to evaluate the effectiveness of the applied risk management option.

5. Social impact assessment offers a structured process for identifying, evaluating and addressing social costs and benefits. It has potential value for enabling public participation in planning and as a key component of integrated assessments of management options.

Annex V

**DRAFT USE OF EXISTING DATABASES ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND THEIR
IMPACTS, TO SUPPORT RISK COMMUNICATION**

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (E))

1. This advice is aimed at assisting Parties, other Governments and organizations in developing and maintaining efficient, timely and up-to-date data and information for management of invasive alien species.
2. Enhanced risk communication is essential to facilitate dialogue and understanding between and among indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders. Risk communication seeks to reconcile the views of all interested Parties in order to achieve a common understanding of the risks posed by invasive alien species, develop credible risk management options and consistent regulations, and promote awareness of issues concerning invasive alien species.
3. It is essential that regularly updated and curated data is maintained on invasive alien species distribution, impact and management action and relevant knowledge. Relevant publicly available data should be shared with the key global data aggregators to support processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international and regional agreements.
4. It is essential that Parties, other Governments and organizations engage with key global aggregators and data providers (e.g. Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS)) and ensure bidirectional data streams between data holders and generators through the national data portals (where applicable) to the global-level aggregators. Open access to data, seamless integration of this data between data tools and availability of the data to indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders are imperative for better management and monitoring of invasive alien species. National or central coordination of data streams is essential for timely, comprehensive and fair availability of the occurrence data on invasive alien species from multiple sources. This will (a) increase data flows necessary for global and regional analysis and decision-making and (b) open opportunities for national capacity-building and resourcing.
5. It is important to facilitate data sharing and, where appropriate, use common international data standards, standard terminology in national, regional, local and thematic databases, even if languages differ between data portals.
6. It is also important to obtain free, prior and informed consent from indigenous peoples and local communities when using their traditional knowledge.
7. Real-time data sharing is recommended to allow access to up-to-date information to enable early detection and rapid response.
8. There is a great need for States, organizations and the scientific community to identify gaps in knowledge and information on alien species in existing databases and strive to improve knowledge and data, especially for organism groups on which knowledge is especially poor, such as alien marine species, invertebrates, microorganisms and fungi. Increased interaction between data generators, data providers and experts may provide improvements in the quality of data. Collaboration between experts in collating existing databases using existing standards could also contribute to filling these information gaps. Errors in current databases should be identified and corrected in existing databases.
9. Existing global invasive alien species data providers, such as the IUCN-Invasive Species Specialist Group (IUCN-ISSG), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and CABI, could be invited to provide a global platform for sharing information, experiences and analysis of the results of management activities for invasive alien species, best practices in policy and regulatory mechanisms and codes of conduct to address activities that lead to the introduction and spread of alien and invasive species, aquariums and local productive activities.

10. IUCN-ISSG and partners could be invited to index, collate and archive the development of policy response indicators within the Biodiversity Indicators Framework (BIP) and Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.8.1.
11. States, organizations and experts are invited to continue supporting the ongoing development of the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) and other expert networks focused on collation and curation of new and existing data.
12. GBIF could be invited to include distribution data on invasive alien species in their global biodiversity databases.
13. States, sectoral authorities, international, regional and local organizations and relevant stakeholders could be invited to contribute to and use the CABI Invasive Species Compendium, which is an encyclopedic resource of scientific information on invasive alien species to help inform decision-making.
14. States, sectoral authorities, international, regional and local organizations, experts and relevant stakeholders are invited to use and further develop, as needed, impact assessment frameworks (e.g, EICAT and SEICAT) to develop science-based policies and prioritization of invasive alien species management actions.¹⁵

Annex VI

DRAFT ADDITIONAL ADVICE AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES MANAGEMENT

A. Advice on the use of sanitary and phytosanitary measures

1. The application of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures to regulate import/export of alien organisms at the national level requires close collaboration between national authorities and other relevant ministries and departments. Some countries closely coordinate their activities on import requirements for alien organisms among relevant ministries and agencies, including national plant protection organizations and the veterinary authorities (e.g., coordination in Australia between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Energy).
2. Environmental authorities, national plant protection organizations and veterinary authorities should be advised to establish strong partnerships with national, regional and local governments in connection with mandates for alien species management. This will help prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and support early detection, rapid response and effective management. Such partnerships could include collaboration in setting national and regional priorities, completing risk assessments, carrying out surveillance, developing response plans, sharing information and exchanging expertise.
3. A large number of the international standards that are recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) are relevant for protecting biodiversity. These SPS measures should be applied more widely, not only in the context of agriculture, but also to protect the health of wild fauna and flora.
4. A number of guides, manuals and training materials have been developed under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to build capacity and support the implementation of international

¹⁵ For more information on using these tools, see CBD/AHTEG/IAS/2019/1/2, pp. 31-35.

standards. These materials should be used to raise awareness and build capacity among partner organizations to address the issue of invasive alien species.

5. There is a need for capacity-building among developing countries, for implementing existing IPPC and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) international guidelines and standards and for developing national regulatory frameworks to address the risks associated with invasive alien species.

6. Regional cooperation and partnerships should be further developed to support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and beyond, through regular coordination and communication, identification of common priorities and alignment of efforts on a regional basis. This could be supported through IPPC by using the model of regional plant protection organizations to foster cooperation on invasive alien species.

7. A key gap that needs additional attention and guidance is pathogens affecting wildlife and invasive alien species that may be a vector or host of pathogens or parasites and other organisms that do not meet the IPPC definition of quarantine pests, the pathogens causing diseases listed under OIE and other organisms (e.g. invasive ants) that are not covered by IPPC or OIE.

8. As countries adopt different approaches in regulating invasive alien species (e.g., lists of restricted, prohibited and permitted species or hybrids), guidelines could be developed on how such approaches can be implemented in compliance with the SPS Agreement, with a view to facilitating the development of better regulation and ensure transparency.

B. Advice on management-specific pathways

1. Inter-basin water transfer and navigational canals

9. The ratification and application of relevant international maritime agreements (e.g. the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention), mentioned in paragraph 25 of decision VIII/27, and the Guidelines for the control and management of biofouling mentioned in paragraphs 29 and 30 of decision VIII/27) should be promoted in order to diminish the spread of invasive alien species through new shipping routes opening up as a result of climate change.

10. Regional cooperation among States should be enhanced on planning, monitoring and data exchange on invasive alien species specifically related to inter-basin water channels to establish early warning and rapid response systems as well as researching and employing methodologies to reduce new invasions through these channels.

11. Measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species in the procedures for planning, development and management of the inland waterway infrastructure should be promoted, as appropriate. Relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and other stakeholders, including local fishers and other groups that are dependent on the waterways (e.g., boaters, recreational boat users, outfitters), should be consulted and engaged when planning and designing such measures.

2. International aid programmes

12. Developing countries need capacity-building, resource mobilization and information sharing for assessing and managing the invasive alien species risks associated with international aid programmes.

13. Aid agencies should ensure that any initiatives/projects/programmes/agreements avoid the introduction of invasive alien species into the area.

Emergency relief, aid and response

14. Environmental authorities should consult the relevant enforcement agencies to comply with the SPS Agreement or the country's quarantine regulation to prevent risk of biological invasions associated with emergency relief, aid and response.

15. Documenting any case of invasive alien species in aid-recipient countries should be initiated across broad sectors.

16. The risk of invasive alien species should be incorporated into emergency response strategies.
17. The responsibilities of aid-providers and aid-recipients should be identified to avoid any invasive alien species introduction through contaminants in aid transports and transfers.

3. *Air transport*

18. Relevant organizations should engage indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders at all levels to develop standards to prevent hitchhiker or stowaway species arriving by air.
19. Relevant organizations, including IPPC, OIE, ICAO, WCO and IATA, should collaborate to develop harmonized operating standards related to air cargo, with input from indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders.
20. States should avoid the introduction and spread of invasive alien species through the transport of living organisms, in accordance with the guidance annexed to decisions XII/16 and 14/11.

4. *Tourism*

21. Parties, in collaboration with travel operators and non-governmental organizations, should develop awareness programmes and campaigns to educate tourists, tourism agencies, local communities and policymakers on the risk and management of invasive alien species, and strategies and techniques to minimize risks.
22. Minimizing the impact of touristic activity to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species should be prioritized, taking into account vulnerable ecosystems, such as in protected areas, and island ecosystems.
23. The Secretariat should collaborate with the World Tourism Organization to consider joint efforts in addressing tourism as a major possibility for introducing invasive alien species and the management thereof.

5. *Sea containers and cargos*

24. Parties and other Governments should be aware that sea containers may carry invasive alien species with any cargoes, including industrial products, not only cargoes containing living organisms.
25. Relevant organizations should engage indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders at all levels to develop guidelines to prevent invasions of hitchhiker or stowaway species through sea containers.
26. Relevant organizations, including IPPC, OIE, IMO and WCO, should further collaborate to develop harmonized operational standards to address the pathways of biological invasion (contaminants and stowaway) via sea containers, in close cooperation with the relevant business sector and input from indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders, taking into account the appropriate treatment of sea containers prior to loading cargos.
27. The introduction and spread of invasive alien species through the transport of sea containers should be avoided, in accordance with the guidance annexed to decision XIII/13 and take appropriate actions to prevent the unintentional spread of invasive alien species via sea containers, taking into account paragraphs 10, 34, 35 and 36 of the guidance annexed to decision 14/11 and other relevant international guidance, for example, the IPPC Guidance from the International Plant Protection Convention's Sea Container Task Force.¹⁶
28. Trade partners involved in operation of sea containers should act proactively to prevent unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

¹⁶ Reducing the spread of invasive pests by sea containers (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca7670en/CA7670EN.pdf>).

C. Advice on capacity-building activities

29. The capacity-building programme under the Convention, should include capacity-building in invasive alien species management.

30. Training programmes at the international, national, subnational or local level should be established by inviting broad sectors, especially academics and scientific expert organizations and other relevant organizations, including indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth.

31. The evaluation of existing capacity and the development of training packages for relevant topics, such as taxonomy, ecology, invasion biology, risk analysis – in particular horizon scanning, biological control, management of priority species and pathways should be considered within the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building.

32. There is a need to develop technical resources, including technical manuals for broad sectors, as follows:

(a) Taxonomic identification of organisms, including identification keys based on morphology, and the link to databases with images and to lists of specialists, DNA barcoding, artificial-intelligence-aided identification and citizen science;

(b) How to apply sanitary and phytosanitary measures to prevent spread of invasive alien species;

(c) How to publish and use data on invasive alien species using international data standards to ensure cross-linking national, subnational and regional and global thematic databases;

(d) Best practices published on successful eradications, and other useful information resources on technical advice on websites;

(e) How to use shared information on invasive alien species for national and subnational policy-setting and implementation;

(f) How to apply classical biological control agents against invasive alien species and under what circumstances;

(g) How to apply an ecosystem-based approach to control invasive alien species;

(h) Multi-criteria decision support manual for policymakers;

(i) If needed, a model regulatory act on invasive alien species with shared responsibility among broad sectors;

(j) Management manuals for broad sectors to communicate on invasive alien species among different stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth.

15/28. Biodiversity and agriculture

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions III/11, V/5, [VI/5](#), [VIII/23](#) and [X/34](#),

Acknowledging the importance of soil biodiversity in underpinning the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems and, therefore, most of the services it delivers,

Recognizing that activities to promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services they provide, are key in the functioning of sustainable agricultural systems for food and nutrition security for all, for climate change mitigation, adaptation and co-benefits, for the transition towards more sustainable agricultural and food systems and to enhance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Adopts* the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, as contained in the annex to the present decision, and considers it an instrument for supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;

2. *Takes note* of the report entitled *State of Knowledge on Soil Biodiversity - Status, Challenges and Potentialities*,¹ prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils of the Global Soil Partnership, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative, the European Commission and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to support the implementation of, and capacity-building and development for, the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity through, among other things, the integration of appropriate measures into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, sustainable soil management and relevant agricultural policies, plans, legislation, standards, programmes and practices, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

4. *Urges* Parties to address the direct and indirect drivers of soil biodiversity loss and land degradation;

5. *Encourages* Parties to integrate the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity into agricultural systems, other managed ecosystems and other relevant sectors, land and soil management, development programmes and relevant policies;

6. *Invites* academic and research bodies, relevant organizations, networks and indigenous peoples and local communities, farmers, women and youth, to increase knowledge and promote awareness-raising activities on the importance of soil biodiversity and to promote further research in order to address gaps identified in the plan of action, including through different modalities of technology transfer, capacity-building and development, in accordance with the Convention;

7. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including through the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, to facilitate the implementation of the plan of action, involving Parties, including their ministries of agriculture and environment at the national level, as appropriate;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils of the Global Soil Partnership and the Global Initiative for Soil Biodiversity to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with regard to soil-related targets and actions, including their monitoring and reporting;

¹ FAO, ITPS, GSBI, SCBD, and EC. 2020. *State of knowledge of soil biodiversity - Status, challenges and potentialities*, Report 2020. Rome, FAO.

9. *Urges* Parties, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and invites other Governments and organizations in a position to do so, to provide financial and technical support, as appropriate, to enable developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to promote the research, technology transfer, monitoring and assessment of soil biodiversity;

10. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, other donors, funding agencies and the private sector to provide financial assistance to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including capacity-building and development activities, for national, subnational and regional projects that address the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity;

11. *Invites* Parties to provide, on a voluntary basis, information on their activities and results from the implementation of the Plan of Action, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as appropriate, and requests the Executive Secretary to compile the submissions and to make them available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to bring the present decision to the attention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, other United Nations organizations, programmes and biodiversity-related conventions and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030).²

Annex

PLAN OF ACTION (2020–2030) FOR THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOIL BIODIVERSITY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since the launch of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, a significant amount of new scientific, technical and other types of knowledge relevant to soils and their biodiversity has been released.

2. The Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity is based on the review of the Initiative, the *Status of the World's Soil Resources* report³ and on the findings of the report on the *State of Knowledge on Soil Biodiversity - Status, Challenges and Potentialities*,⁴ prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.

3. Improved management of soil and its biodiversity offers solutions for all sectors that rely on soils, including forestry and farming, while it can simultaneously increase carbon storage, improve water and nutrient cycling, resilience to climate change, while preventing and avoiding potential impacts arising from the implementation of soil mitigation approaches and practices on indigenous peoples and local communities, including through nature-based solutions,⁵ and/or ecosystem-based approaches, and mitigate

² See General Assembly resolution 73/284 of 1 March 2019.

³ FAO and ITPS. 2015. *Status of the World's Soil Resources* (SWSR) – Main Report. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, Rome, Italy.

⁴ FAO, ITPS, GSBI, SCBD, and EC. 2020. *State of knowledge of soil biodiversity - Status, challenges and potentialities*, Report 2020. Rome, FAO.

⁵ At its fifth session, the United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution on “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development”, formally adopted the definition of nature-based solutions as being “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.”

pollution. Soil biodiversity depends on the type of climate, mineral soil and type of vegetation and, in turn, this biodiversity has an effect on soil. In order to maintain or restore the biodiversity of soils, it is necessary to maintain or restore their biophysical, biochemical and biological properties. Soil biodiversity and its biotic interactions are important levers to improve soil quality and function, highlighting the importance of research, monitoring and management that is geared directly at soil biodiversity, as an integrative part and key element of soil quality. Soil biodiversity is also crucial to improve not only soil health,⁶ but also plant, animal and human health.

4. However, soil is one of the world's most vulnerable resources in the face of pollution, climate change, desertification, land degradation, drought, land-use change, unsustainable agriculture practices, biodiversity loss, increased demand for water and food production, urbanization and industrial development. Therefore, in order to safeguard soils and ecosystems, it is necessary to prevent the loss of soil and soil biodiversity from anthropogenic drivers related to climate change, such as the increase in temperature, droughts or extreme rainfall, and to land-use change.

5. The present plan of action presents global actions to support the integration of soil biodiversity considerations into the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as within and across productive sectors.

6. The elements of this plan of action recognize the need to mainstream soil biodiversity across sectors and the need for integrated approaches to better address the complex interactions that come into play as the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity usually involve economic, environmental, cultural and social factors. The importance of implementation at the field level with due consideration of gender roles, local context and specificities is another element reflected in the plan, while awareness-raising, sharing of knowledge, capacity-building and research remain key to ensuring a better understanding of the role of soil biodiversity for sustainability.

7. The present plan of action has been prepared jointly by FAO, the Secretariat of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in consultation with other partners and relevant experts, pursuant to decision [14/30](#).

II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

8. The *Status of the World's Soil Resources* report identified 10 threats critical to soil functions. The loss of soil biodiversity was identified as one of these threats, and a respective call for action was strongly recommended. The Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management⁷ provide a framework for reverting it through a number of policies, research and field actions.

9. The *purpose* of this plan of action is to provide ways to encourage conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity and to support Parties, other Governments, subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, relevant organizations and initiatives, in accelerating and upscaling efforts towards the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, and towards the assessment and monitoring at the corresponding level of soil organisms to promote their conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration, and to respond to challenges that threaten soil biodiversity.

10. The *overall objective* of this plan of action is to mainstream soil biodiversity science, knowledge, and understanding into public policies, at all levels, and to foster coordinated action to invest in soil biodiversity assessments at the global level to safeguard and promote the conservation, restoration and

⁶ Soil health is defined as: "The capacity of soil to function as a living system. Healthy soils maintain a diverse community of soil organisms that help to control plant disease, insect and weed pests, form beneficial symbiotic associations with plant roots, recycle essential plant nutrients, improve soil structure with positive repercussions for soil water and nutrient holding capacity, and ultimately improve crop production". FAO. 2011. *Save and Grow: A Policymaker's Guide to the Sustainable Intensification of Smallholder Crop Production*. ISBN 978-92-5-106871-7112.

⁷ FAO. 2017. *Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.

sustainable use of soil biodiversity and its ecosystem functions and services, which are essential for sustaining life on Earth, while acknowledging that economic, environmental, cultural and social factors contribute to sustainable soil management, and to promote investment in soil biodiversity research, monitoring and assessment at the corresponding level. Achieving this objective will ensure that soil biodiversity recovers and continues to provide a full range of functions. It will also formally promote sustainable soil management practices, including artisanal forms of food production, which can enhance soil biodiversity while maintaining the productivity of managed ecosystems.

11. The *specific objectives* of this plan of action are to help Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and other stakeholders, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, consistent with the Convention and other applicable international obligations, as well as relevant organizations and initiatives, with the following:

(a) Implementing coherent and comprehensive policies for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels, considering the different economic, environmental, cultural and social factors of all relevant productive sectors and their soil management practices, and mainstreaming their integration into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and strategies;

(b) Encouraging the use of sustainable soil management practices and existing tools, sustainable traditional practices, guidance and frameworks to maintain and restore soil biodiversity and to encourage the transfer of knowledge and enable women, particularly rural women, indigenous peoples and local communities and all stakeholders to harness the benefits of soil biodiversity for their livelihoods, taking into account national circumstances;

(c) Promoting education, awareness-raising and developing capacities in the public and private sectors on the multiple benefits and application of soil biodiversity, sharing knowledge and improving the tools for decision-making, fostering engagement through collaboration, intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities and partnerships, and providing practical and feasible actions to avoid, reduce or reverse soil biodiversity loss;

(d) Developing voluntary standard protocols to assess the status and trends of soil biodiversity, as well as monitor activities, in accordance with national legislation, to address gaps in knowledge and foster relevant research, and to enable compilation of large data sets to support research and monitoring activities;

(e) Recognizing and supporting the role, and land and resource rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, as well as the role of women, smallholders and small-scale food producers, particularly family farmers, in maintaining biodiversity through sustainable agricultural practices.

12. The plan of action seeks to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 2, 3, 6, 13, 14 and 15, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2050 vision, the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors,⁸ the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)⁹ and the objectives, commitments and initiatives under other conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,¹⁰ the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed

⁸ FAO. 2020. *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome.

⁹ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Conference of the Parties, thirteenth session, decision 7/COP.13 (see ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1).

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade¹¹ and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,¹² and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

III. SCOPE AND PRINCIPLES

13. The *scope* of this updated plan of action focusses on soils across agricultural, other productive landscapes and other relevant ecosystems. It is wide and far-reaching and context-dependent to ensure that it responds to specific situations and farmer typologies and that it prioritizes actions on the basis of country goals and the needs of direct beneficiaries.

14. The International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity continues to be implemented as a cross-cutting initiative by Parties to the Convention, the Secretariat, FAO and its Global Soil Partnership in partnership with the work of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative, the Science-Policy Interface under UNCCD, education, academic and research bodies, donor agencies and the private sector, as well as relevant organizations, farmers, land owners and land managers, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, subnational governments and civil society.

15. When linked to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,¹³ the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals,¹⁴ the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement,¹⁵ and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and land degradation neutrality targets, the scope of this plan of action can achieve multiple co-benefits of soil biodiversity processes for improved and more sustainable land-use practices.

16. The plan of action adheres to the *principles* of the ecosystem approach,¹⁶ which is aimed at providing better biological, physical, economic and human interactions associated with sustainable and productive ecosystems.

17. The plan of action focuses on the improvement of livelihoods, on the implementation of integrated and holistic solutions adapted to national and subnational contexts and in developing synergies for better soil biodiversity research, monitoring and assessment at the corresponding level while ensuring multi-stakeholder participation.

18. The plan of action recognizes the role of farmers, smallholders, small-scale food producers, family farmers, peasants, landowners, land managers, foresters, ranchers, indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth, education, academia and research bodies, civil society, subnational governments, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity and for the implementation of the plan.

19. FAO is invited to facilitate the implementation of the plan of action, and it is intended to align activities on soil biodiversity more closely with other FAO-related activities including the International Network on Soil Biodiversity and the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory, to monitor and forecast the conditions of soil biodiversity and soil health as well as with regional and country offices in order to create synergies and provide broader support. The full implementation of the plan of action at the national and subnational levels will depend on the availability of resources.

IV. GLOBAL ACTIONS

20. To support the implementation of coherent and comprehensive policies for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity at all levels, the following global actions have been

¹¹ Ibid., vol. 2244, No. 39973.

¹² Ibid., vol. 2256, No. 40214.

¹³ See General Assembly resolution 73/284 of 1 March 2019.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

¹⁶ Decision [V/6](#).

identified and can be considered, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, by Parties and other Governments, in collaboration with relevant organizations:

- (a) Develop protocols, adopt harmonized methods and use tools to collect and digitize soil biodiversity data and to improve mapping capabilities of Parties, acknowledging the differences in soil types across regions;
- (b) Include soil biodiversity as an important component of soil description surveys using a large range of tools, including state-of-the-art methods and technology, and the development of bioindicators;
- (c) Establish or strengthen, as appropriate, a monitoring network to assess and keep track of the abundance and diversity of multiple soil taxa or units and of the changes in soil biodiversity and its functioning, in accordance with national legislation;
- (d) Develop or identify and implement feasible indicators of soil biodiversity that are related to key ecosystem functions and services;
- (e) Strengthen education, research and capacity-building to use tools to monitor soil microbiobiodiversity and contribute to human, plant and soil health;
- (f) Promote ecosystem-based approaches to conserve, restore and sustainably manage soil biodiversity in response to numerous challenges, such as loss of soil organic carbon and the need for sustainable management of soil in the context of climate change, soil degradation, the control, prevention and suppression of soil-borne diseases, enhancement of soil nutrients, food security and food safety, reducing water scarcity and disaster risk;
- (g) Engage with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to pursue restoration of degraded soils and their multifunctionality, including the utilization of restored areas and degraded agricultural areas for food production and avoiding expansion to natural areas where feasible;
- (h) Encourage civil society groups, research bodies, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, traditional authorities from indigenous peoples and local communities, to become involved in the implementation of the plan of action;
- (i) Encourage awareness-raising on the importance of soil biodiversity and its functions and services through subnational, national, regional and global platforms, such as FAO and GSP, which provide existing channels to be leveraged;
- (j) Promote both in-situ and ex-situ conservation, restoration and sustainable use activities and management practices while strengthening the systems of knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (k) Identify the cumulative impacts of multiple sectors on the quality of soil biodiversity;
- (l) Promote good agricultural practices, including integrated pest management in order to prevent and address possible negative impacts of fertilizers and pesticides on soil biodiversity, based on risk assessment approaches and scientific evidence;
- (m) Identify sources of financial resources for the implementation of the action plan.

V. KEY ELEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

21. The plan of action comprises four main elements that could be undertaken, as appropriate, by Parties and other Governments, in collaboration with relevant organizations:

- (a) Policy coherence and mainstreaming;
- (b) Encouraging the use of sustainable soil management practices;

- (c) Awareness-raising, sharing of knowledge, technology transfer and capacity-building and development;
- (d) Research, monitoring and assessment.

Element 1: Policy coherence and mainstreaming

Rationale

Soil loss and soil biodiversity loss is a cross-cutting issue, and policies should be designed to integrate considerations not only into the context of sustainable agriculture and sustainable forest management, but also within other sectors, especially infrastructure, mining, energy, transport and spatial planning. Appropriate and coherent national and subnational policies are needed to provide an effective and enabling environment to support activities by farmers, with emphasis on small-holders, small-scale food producers, family farmers, women farmers, peasants, and land managers, foresters, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth and all relevant stakeholders. Inclusive policies that take soil biodiversity into consideration and promote its conservation, restoration and sustainable use can provide multiple benefits by linking agriculture, food production, forestry, marine, water, air, human health, culture, spiritual and environmental policies.

Activities

- 1.1** Promote the importance of mainstreaming soil biodiversity, including the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of soil biodiversity into policies aimed at the sustainability of agriculture, and other relevant sectors and support the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive policies for the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of soil biodiversity at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels;
- 1.2** Foster activities to safeguard and promote the importance as well as the practical application of soil biodiversity, and integrate them into broader policy agendas for food security, ecosystem and landscape restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation, urban planning and sustainable development, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- 1.3** Promote the implementation of good practices of sustainable soil management¹⁷ as a vehicle to promote integrated and holistic solutions that recognize the key role of above-ground/below-ground biodiversity interactions and of indigenous peoples and local communities and their traditional knowledge and practices, and that consider local contexts and integrated land-use planning, in a participatory manner;
- 1.4** Promote integrated ecosystem approaches for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, considering, as appropriate traditional sustainable agricultural practices;
- 1.5** Promote policies that protect or help increase soil biodiversity;
- 1.6** Develop policies and actions based on the recognition that soil biodiversity is central for sustaining all ecosystems and a key asset in restoring soil multi-functionality in degraded and degrading ecosystems;
- 1.7** Strengthen synergies between scientific evidence, conservation, restoration and sustainable practices, farmer-researcher community practices, agricultural advisory services and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to better support policies and actions;
- 1.8** Address linkages between soil biodiversity and human health, nutritious and healthy diets and pollutants exposure;
- 1.9** Promote ways and means to overcome obstacles to the adoption of good practices in sustainable soil management associated with land tenure, the rights of users of land and water, in particular women, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the rights of peasants and other people working in

¹⁷ FAO. 2017. *Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Rome.

rural areas, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, recognizing their important contributions through their knowledge and practices, gender equality, access to financial services, agricultural advisory services and educational programmes;

1.10 Consider the use and implementation of existing tools and guidance at the national, subnational, regional and global levels, such as the FAO agroecology knowledge hub, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management,¹⁷ the FAO's Revised World Soil Charter,¹⁸ the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management,¹⁹ the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers,²⁰ and the Committee on World Food Security's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest in the Context of National Food Security;²¹

1.11 Encourage Parties to include soil biodiversity in national reports and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and coordinate at the national and subnational levels, in order to increase and improve public and private actions that improve soil biodiversity;

1.12 Promote coordinated spatial planning and other approaches to reduce the loss of soil and soil biodiversity and implement adequate monitoring of soil sealing.

Element 2: Encouraging the use of sustainable soil management practices

Rationale

Management practices and land-use decisions undertaken by farmers, ranchers, landowners, land managers, foresters, indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth and all relevant stakeholders influence ecological processes, including soil-water-plant-atmosphere interactions with biodiversity. There is increasing recognition that the sustainability of agriculture and other managed systems depends on the optimal use of the available natural resources, biogeochemical cycles, biodiversity, including soil biodiversity, its functions and its contribution to ecosystem services. Improvement in sustainability requires the optimal use and management of soil fertility and soil physical properties and soil restoration, which rely, in part, on soil biological processes and soil biodiversity. Direct and indirect drivers of soil biodiversity loss need to be addressed at multiple scales, and special attention is needed at the farm and forestry level and across entire ecosystems.

Activities

2.1 Promote the improvement of soil health and the enhancement of soil organism abundance and diversity, by improving their food, water and habitat conditions through sustainable agricultural practices, such as, inter alia, integrated pest and nutrient management, organic agriculture, agroecological practices, soil and water conservation practices, conservation agriculture, agroforestry, silvopastoral systems, irrigation management, small or patch systems and practices to improve animal welfare²² and the restoration of degraded soils to increase ecosystem connectivity and restore production areas;

2.2 Develop, enhance and implement science-based risk assessment procedures, in conformity with risk assessment techniques developed by relevant international organizations, on a regular basis, considering field-realistic exposures and longer-term effects of pollutants, to enhance the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity and ecosystem services;

2.3 Facilitate, for all relevant stakeholders, access to information, policies, tools and enabling conditions, such as access to technologies, innovation and funding, as well as to traditional practices that promote the

¹⁸ FAO. 2015. *Revised World Soil Charter*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Rome.

¹⁹ FAO & WHO. 2014. *International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Rome.

²⁰ FAO. 2019. *The International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Rome.

²¹ FAO. 2022. *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security*. First revision. Rome.

²² IPBES (2019): *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity at the field level, taking into account the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, education, academia and research bodies, subnational governments and stakeholders in the implementation of this Initiative;

2.4 Encourage sustainable agricultural practices, recognizing the wide range of approaches to enhance the sustainability of agricultural systems;

2.5 Facilitate site-specific remediation of contaminated soils,²³ preferring those alternatives that show minor risks to biodiversity, while exploring the implementation of bioremediation strategies that use native microorganisms;

2.6 Prevent the introduction and spreading, and minimize the impact of invasive alien species that present a direct and indirect risk to soil biodiversity, and monitor the dispersion and eradicate, control or manage those already established;

2.7 Protect, restore and conserve soils that provide significant ecosystem services, including through the use of sustainable soil management practices;

2.8 Promote sustainable soil and associated water and land management practices that maintain, restore and promote the resilience of carbon-rich soils (such as peatlands, black soils, mangroves, coastal wetlands, seagrasses and permafrost);

2.9 Promote sustainable soil and associated water and land management practices that support the achievement of land degradation neutrality;

2.10 Promote ecosystem-based approaches to avoid land-use changes that cause soil erosion, the removal of surface cover and loss of soil moisture and carbon, and implement mitigation measures to alleviate degradation while considering potential impacts on indigenous peoples and local communities, small-scale food producers and peasants;

2.11 Promote conservation, restoration and sustainable management of soil biodiversity, and implement where appropriate, ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction while considering potential impacts on indigenous peoples and local communities, small-scale food producers and peasants;

Element 3: Awareness-raising, sharing of knowledge and capacity-building

Rationale

Increased awareness and understanding are critical for the development and promotion of improved practices for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, and ecosystem management. This requires collaboration that ensures the full and effective participation of, and feedback from, a broad range of stakeholders, including farmers, landowners, land managers, smallholders and small-scale food producers, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, decision makers, education, academia and research bodies and relevant institutions and organizations to ensure effective actions and collaborative mechanisms. Strengthening capacities to promote integrated and multidisciplinary approaches is needed to ensure the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and enhancement of soil biodiversity. This will further improve information flows and cooperation among actors to identify best practices and foster the sharing of knowledge and information.

²³ The importance of special soils creating environments for specific soil biota (for example, natural extremely acidic or alkaline soils; natural hypersaline soils; natural soils containing high quantities of rare elements) should be recognized. Although they are not necessarily productive or high biodiverse soils, they host important communities as gene reserves and merit protection as they may contain unknown, adapted organisms that can be useful in the future.

Activities

3.1 Increase understanding and appreciation of the role of soil biodiversity and soil health in agroecosystems, forests, silvopastoral and other managed ecosystems, and of their effect on land management practices and ecosystem health;

3.2 Increase understanding and appreciation of the causes and consequences of soil biodiversity decline in specific agroecosystems, other managed ecosystems and natural environments and engage targeted key stakeholder groups, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, civil society, education, academia and research bodies, the mass media, and consumer organizations on the importance of soil biodiversity for health, well-being and livelihoods;

3.3 Strengthen understanding and appreciation of the impacts of sustainable land-use and soil-management practices, as an integral part of agricultural and their importance for sustainable livelihoods;

3.4 Promote awareness-raising and sharing of knowledge through tools and digital technology, and promote capacity-building and mutual learning, including at the local and field levels by developing collaborative activities, such as peer-to-peer learning, for the promotion of best practices for soil biodiversity assessment, management and monitoring for all land management activities;

3.5 Enhance education on, and knowledge of, soil biodiversity, soil health and the ecosystem functions and services they provide, through the update of educational curricula for professionals, in such fields as economy, agronomy, veterinary, taxonomy, microbiology, zoology and biotechnology, and through the creation and dissemination of training and information materials on soil biodiversity;

3.6 Support citizen science campaigns and awareness-raising activities to engage relevant stakeholders in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, including celebrations on 5 December of World Soil Day, which was designated by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2013;²⁴

3.7 Build and strengthen the capacities of farmers, landowners, land managers, foresters, ranchers, the private sector, education, academia and research bodies, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and vulnerable communities, as appropriate, in designing and implementing sustainable soil management practices and the sustainable application of soil biodiversity and consider traditional knowledge and practices;

3.8 Compile, protect, maintain and promote traditional knowledge, innovations and sustainable practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, as appropriate, related to soil biodiversity maintenance, soil fertility and sustainable soil management and promote work mechanisms between traditional agricultural knowledge and scientific knowledge that contribute to implementing sustainable agricultural practices in accordance with local agroecological and socioeconomic contexts and needs;

3.9 Develop partnerships and alliances that support multi-disciplinary approaches, foster synergies and ensure multi-stakeholder participation with respect to sustainable soil management;

3.10 Foster scientific and technical cooperation and transfer of technology to promote access to the latest technologies and molecular tools for modern soilless agriculture, soil biodiversity assessment and monitoring in developing countries.

Element 4: Research, monitoring and assessment

Rationale

Assessing and monitoring the status and trends of soil biodiversity, of measures for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity and of the outcomes of such measures, is fundamental to inform adaptive management and to guarantee the functioning of all terrestrial ecosystems, including the long-term productivity of agricultural soils. Soil biodiversity data that can be globally

²⁴ See General Assembly resolution [68/232](#) of 20 December 2013 on World Soil Day and International Year of Soils.

aggregated is needed to guide the decision-making process, with particular focus on those regions and areas currently lacking data. Education, academia and research bodies and relevant international organizations and networks should be encouraged to undertake further research, taking into consideration soil biodiversity functions, regional pedodiversity,²⁵ and relevant traditional knowledge, free, prior and informed consent, as appropriate, to address gaps in knowledge, and to expand research and to support coordinated global, regional, national, subnational and local monitoring efforts.

Activities

4.1 Increase national capacities on soil biodiversity taxonomy and address taxonomic assessment needs in different regions, and design targeted strategies to fill the existing gaps;

4.2 Promote further research to identify ways to integrate the application of soil biodiversity into farming systems as part of efforts to improve yield quantity and facilitate the harmonization of protocols for research, data collection, management and analysis, storage and curation of samples;

4.3 Promote further research to identify risks to soil biodiversity under climate change and potential adaption measures and mitigation tools, as well as risks caused by the use of hazardous or toxic chemicals, including the potential loss of key species and their habitats, as well as the role of soil biota in wider ecosystem resilience and restoration that contributes, as appropriate, to the formulation of policy plans;

4.4 Promote research and implementation of integrated pest management practices that support functions and services provided by soil biodiversity;

4.5 Promote capacity-building and research in order to qualify and quantify soil biodiversity in agriculture and in other managed ecosystems and cultural landscapes, and to develop consistent and comparable protocols to monitor soil quality;

4.6 Promote research, information management and dissemination, data collection and processing, community-based monitoring, transfer of knowledge and technologies and networking;

4.7 Promote access to the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources in the soil, considering the potential to develop new products and medicines, in line with the third objective of the Convention and with the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;

4.8 Mobilize targeted participatory research and development, promote gender-responsive approaches to ensure gender equality, women's empowerment, youth engagement and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in all stages of research and development;

4.9 Develop and apply tools to assess the status of soil biodiversity in all regions and to address gaps in knowledge in all levels, by using a range of available tools, from traditional macroorganisms and soil fauna observation and analysis, national and subnational statistics, soil surveys, to cutting-edge approaches and new technologies, as appropriate;

4.10 Generate data sets on soil biodiversity, pedodiversity and on soil degradation at the national, subnational and regional levels through a standard monitoring process that allows the creation of regional, national, subnational and local visual maps, georeferenced information systems and databases to indicate the status and trends of soil biodiversity and crop-specific vulnerability to support informed decision-making and comparisons;

²⁵ The term "pedodiversity" and many tools for studying pedodiversity were adapted from biology. Pedodiversity, for example, can be measured just as biodiversity is measured by means of special indices showing the abundance of species and the taxonomic distances between them. A set of mathematical methods, both parametric and non-parametric, can be applied to quantify soil spatial heterogeneity

4.11 Promote dissemination, co-creation of knowledge and exchange of information and data, in line with Articles 8(j) and 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, through transdisciplinary approaches, ensure that all decision makers and stakeholders have access to reliable and up-to-date information;

4.12 Encourage the development of harmonized definitions, standard baselines, indicators and national and subnational-level monitoring activities of soil biodiversity with the inclusion of a vast range of soil organisms, from microorganisms to fauna, as well as monitoring the effectiveness of soil management interventions in the field;

4.13 Promote regional cooperation to compile, systematize and share data and lessons resulting from experiences or case studies on the implementation of sustainable soil management practices in the context of agricultural practices with positive impacts on soil biodiversity;

4.14 Encourage and support the development of community-based monitoring and other information systems or simplified assessment methodologies and tools for measuring soil biodiversity;

4.15 Promote research and capacity-building on sustainable soil management practices that ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity;

4.16 Promote development of commercial application, in a sustainable manner, of products based on soil biodiversity.

VI. SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE, TOOLS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOIL BIODIVERSITY

22. Relevant voluntary guidance and tools developed under the Convention, and those developed by partner and relevant organizations and initiatives, such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management and the World Soil Charter, issued by FAO, will be made available in the clearing-house mechanisms.

15/29. Biodiversity and health

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XII/21, XIII/6 and 14/4 on biodiversity and health and decision XIII/3 on the mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity within and across sectors,

Recalling also the Sharm El-Sheikh declaration on the theme of “*Investing in biodiversity for people and planet*” and the Kunming declaration on the theme of “*Ecological civilization: building a shared future for all life on Earth*”,

Noting resolution 76/300 entitled “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and resolution 50/13 entitled “Access to medicines, vaccines and other health products in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health” adopted by the Human Rights Council,

Noting also resolution 5/6 on biodiversity and health of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Taking note of the definition of One Health by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel:

“One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.”

Noting that this definition has not been discussed or agreed by the Conference of the Parties or by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols,

Noting also the One Health Joint Plan of Action by the Quadripartite for One Health (comprising the World Health Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme),

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of the relationship between health and well-being, and biodiversity, including the urgent need to reduce pressures on habitats, and to decrease ecosystem degradation and consequently reduce the risk of pathogen spillover and outbreaks, the importance of early warning, surveillance and prompt information-sharing for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and the need to address inequities in global health, including with respect to equitable access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical equipment,

Recognizing also the relevance of sustainable consumption and production patterns on biodiversity and health linkages,

Recognizing further that the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, could contribute to the reduction of the risk of diseases of zoonotic origin, vector-borne and other infectious diseases, and to health and well-being for all, also recognizing the need for the equitable access to tools and technologies including medicines, vaccines and other health products required to implement the One Health approach and other holistic approaches,

Taking note of the 2019 *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*¹ stating that zoonotic and vector-borne diseases are significant threats to human health, and that emerging infectious diseases in wildlife, domestic animals, plants or people can be exacerbated by human activities,

¹ IPBES (2019): *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

Emphasizing the critical role of genetic resources, digital sequence information on genetic resources, and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, in the research and development of health products and services, and the importance of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization in this regard, in line with the Convention and its Protocols, as applicable and in a mutually supportive manner with other relevant international agreements and instruments,

Noting ongoing efforts to draft and negotiate a World Health Organization convention, agreement or other international instrument to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as ongoing negotiations on potential amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), and the need to be consistent with, and not run counter to, the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols,

1. *Encourages* Parties and their subnational and local governments, and invites other Governments, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, where appropriate, and relevant stakeholders:

(a) To take actions for a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and thereby contribute to minimizing the risk of future diseases of zoonotic origin, taking into account the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches;

(b) To further integrate the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and national health plans, as appropriate, to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(c) To further support capacity-building and development for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages into the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(d) To strengthen compliance with international and national provisions on access and benefit-sharing, in order to enhance the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, in the relevant health sectors;

2. *Invites* the Quadripartite for One Health, the One Health High-Level Expert Panel, and other relevant expert groups and initiatives:

(a) To take into account in their work the linkages between health and biodiversity, the need for the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, pursuant to decisions XIII/6 and 14/4, recognizing social determinants of health and socioeconomic inequities between developing and developed countries, particularly health inequalities, as well as equity and solidarity;

(b) To contribute with guidance, interdisciplinary education and training, to the implementation of health-related elements and the application of the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(c) To contribute to the development of, and reporting on, health-related indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(d) To collaborate with the Executive Secretary in providing Parties with capacity-building, technology transfer, and resource mobilization opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages;

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, as appropriate, to consider providing technical and financial support for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages;

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and all relevant donors and funding organizations in a position to do so, to consider providing technical support and mobilizing resources for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Quadripartite for One Health, to complete the work pursuant to decision 14/4, paragraph 13 (b) and (c) on targeted messages and a draft global action plan, drawing on the deliberations of the resumed session of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as follows:

(a) To produce an updated version of the draft global action plan and targeted messages based on the inputs received from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, and other relevant stakeholders, recognizing the issues of equity, including through the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources;

(b) To invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, and other relevant stakeholders to review the updated version of the draft global action plan;

(c) To make the outcomes of this work available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a future meeting, with a view to making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

15/30. Biodiversity and climate change

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [VII/15](#), [IX/16](#), [X/33](#), [XI/19](#), [XII/20](#), [XIII/4](#), and [14/5](#), and, in particular, the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

1. *Requests* Parties, and invites other Governments and international organizations, to submit their views and information on biodiversity and climate change;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile these views and information and to make the compilation available to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
3. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to further review the item on biodiversity and climate change on the basis of views and information from Parties, other Governments and international organizations, as referred to in paragraph 1 above, as well as relevant scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change, at its meeting to be held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

15/31. Synthetic biology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XII/24, XIII/17 and 14/19 of the Conference of the Parties which provided guidance and mandated work on synthetic biology in relation to the three objectives of the Convention,

Recalling also Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommendation 23/7, paragraph 2, by which the Subsidiary Body deferred consideration of the submission that synthetic biology should be classified as a new and emerging issue to its twenty-fourth meeting,

Noting the analysis on the relationship between synthetic biology and the criteria for new and emerging issues established in decision IX/29 performed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology,¹

Recalling decision 14/19, in which it agreed that broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessing of the most recent technological developments is needed for reviewing new information regarding the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention and those of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing,

Recalling also paragraph 7 of decision 14/19, emphasizing the need for a coordinated, complementary and non-duplicative approach on issues related to synthetic biology under the Convention and its protocols, as well as among other conventions and relevant organizations and initiatives,

Noting the relevance of digital sequence information for synthetic biology, recalling decision 14/20 on digital sequence information on genetic resources and ongoing discussions and noting also the need for a coordinated, complementary and non-duplicative approach on issues related to digital sequence information on genetic resources,

Recalling paragraphs 9 to 11 of decision 14/19, and calling upon Parties and other Governments, taking into account the current uncertainties regarding engineered gene drives, to apply a precautionary approach, in accordance with the objectives of the Convention,

Recognizing the importance of capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, technology transfer and financial resources for addressing issues related to synthetic biology,

Welcoming the outcomes of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology held in Montreal, Canada, from 4 to 7 June 2019,²

A. Considerations for new and emerging issues and associated criteria

1. *Recognizes* the various challenges experienced by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology in performing analysis on the relationship between synthetic biology and the criteria for new and emerging issues;

2. *Also recognizes* that decisions X/13, XI/11, XII/24, XIII/17 and 14/19 mandated work on synthetic biology under the Convention, and that the results of the application of the criteria as set out in decision IX/29 to the issue of synthetic biology have been inconclusive in determining whether synthetic biology is a new and emerging issue or not and decides not to require further analysis on whether synthetic biology is a new and emerging issue;

3. *Notes* that this should not be seen as setting a precedent regarding synthetic biology as a permanent item under the Convention, nor on the permanent adoption of procedures established in this decision, such as horizon scanning, nor on future processes to consider any proposed new and emerging issues;

¹ CBD/SBSTTA/24/4/Rev.1, annex I, sect. VI.

² CBD/SBSTTA/24/4/Rev.1, , annex I.

B. Process for broad and regular horizon scanning monitoring and assessment

4. *Establishes* a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology as set out in section A of the annex to the present decision and agrees to start its work for one intersessional period;

5. *Establishes* a multidisciplinary ad hoc technical expert group on synthetic biology to support the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in section B of the annex;

6. *Decides* that the trends in new technological developments in synthetic biology identified by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology³ and by the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to Support the Process for Broad and Regular Horizon Scanning, Monitoring and Assessment, will inform the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the following intersessional period;

7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary information relevant to the trends referred to in paragraph 6 above to inform the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment;

8. *Calls upon* Parties and other stakeholders to facilitate broad international cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge-sharing, including through the Biosafety Clearing-House, for products of synthetic biology that are considered to be living modified organisms, and capacity-building on synthetic biology, taking into account the needs of Parties and of indigenous peoples and local communities;

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

(a) To convene online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology to support the work of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, as well as the overall process outlined in paragraph 4 above;

(b) To synthesize the information submitted in response to paragraph 7 above as well as the information provided through the online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology to inform the deliberations of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;

(c) To convene at least one meeting of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to work according to the terms of reference as set out in section B of the annex;

(d) To prepare reports on the outcomes and operation of the horizon scanning process referred to in paragraph 4 above and to submit those reports for peer review to support the review of the effectiveness of the process by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its meeting prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) To facilitate international cooperation, and promote and support capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing, regarding synthetic biology, taking into account the needs of Parties and of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(f) To continue to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the discussions and in the work on synthetic biology under the Convention, in accordance with decision X/40;

10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outcomes of the horizon scanning process contained in the report of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, and to make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting and, as appropriate, by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting

³ Ibid., annex I, sect. I.

of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting and by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fifth meeting;

11. *Also requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the report on effectiveness of the horizon scanning process established in paragraph 4 above, at its meeting prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and to make a recommendation on the need to extend that process;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue pursuing cooperation with other regional and international organizations, conventions and initiatives, including academic and research institutions, on issues related to synthetic biology.

Annex

BROAD AND REGULAR HORIZON SCANNING, MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE MOST RECENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

A. Process for the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment

1. The process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment (hereinafter “the process”) consists of the following steps:

- (a) Information gathering;
- (b) Compilation, organization and synthesis of information;
- (c) Assessment;
- (d) Reporting on outcomes.

2. The coordinating actors for the steps 1(a) and 1(b) of the process will be the Secretariat with the support of consultants, as appropriate; for 1(c) the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; for 1(d) the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Conference of Parties, and the Conference of Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Conference of Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. The actors involved in the process will, when possible, make use of digital tools for disseminating and collecting information, including among others, submissions of information; outreach to relevant institutions and organizations; online fora; and collaborative activities, as appropriate.

3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall review the outcomes of the process and make recommendations on technological developments in synthetic biology and their potential positive and negative impacts for the objectives of the Convention.

4. The effectiveness of the process shall be considered by the Conference of the Parties.

B. Terms of reference for the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to Support the Process for Broad and Regular Horizon Scanning, Monitoring and Assessment

1. The multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, building on the previous relevant work under the Convention and its Protocols, including the work of the previous Ad Hoc Technical Expert Groups on Synthetic Biology, shall:

(a) Make use of existing tools and approaches to enable a participatory process to review and assess the information gathered through the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment and, on this basis, consider technological developments in synthetic biology and their potential

positive and negative impacts vis-à-vis the objectives of the Convention, taking into account the 2019 report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology,⁴ as appropriate;

(b) Identify and prioritize trends and issues regarding developments of synthetic biology that need to be considered vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention;

(c) Identify capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing needs based on priorities determined by Parties on issues related to synthetic biology and in the light of the outcomes of the horizon scanning process;

(d) Prepare a report on the outcomes of its assessment to be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

(e) Make recommendations to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on specific issues that may require further consideration by the Conference of the Parties and/or Conference of Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and Conference of Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

2. The multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology will be convened to start its work for one intersessional period and according to section H of the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including, whenever possible, expertise from a broad range of scientific disciplines, as well as interdisciplinary and intercultural expertise, indigenous peoples and local communities.

3. The procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups set out in the annex to decision 14/33 shall apply to the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.

4. The multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology will work through a combination of face-to-face meetings, held physically and/or online, supported, as needed by online discussions.

⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2074/26e7/a135b1b57dabe8e8ed669324/synbio-ahteg-2019-01-03-en.pdf>

15/32. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision XIII/33 and XIV/38,

1. *Decides* that, following the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, meetings of the Conference of the Parties will be held every two years unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Also decides* that the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, should be held in Türkiye in the last half of 2024;

3. *Reiterates* its invitation to Parties from the regional group of Eastern European States to notify the Executive Secretary of their offers to host the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol;

4. *Invites* Parties from the regional group of Latin American and Caribbean States to notify the Executive Secretary of their offers to host the eighteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

15/33. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking into account the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant decisions,

1. *Notes* that the Conference of the Parties will review progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at each of its meetings to 2030;

2. *Decides* that the development of further guidance for policy development and implementation should support achievement of the goals and targets set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the outcome of the global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including the national targets, and global review of collective progress in implementation, as well as new information that may become available, including through scientific assessments;

3. *Takes note* of the preliminary list of issues to be addressed by meetings of the Conference of the Parties during the period 2023–2030 contained in the annex to the present decision;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to complete the list of issues to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, as specified in the annex, in the light of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, to make the list available on the Convention's website, and to take into account the issues listed when preparing the agendas for relevant meetings under the Convention;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to propose specific elements that are aligned with the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as other closely related themes, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting, with a view to completing the list of issues to be considered at the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as suggested in the annex to the present decision;

6. *Decides* to address, at each of its meetings, standing items consistent with previous decisions, as well as other issues arising from the decisions of the Conference of the Parties in relation to particular programmes of work and cross-cutting issues, and to maintain sufficient flexibility in the multiyear programme of work in order to accommodate emerging issues or opportunities as may be identified by the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE MAIN ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES DURING THE PERIOD 2023–2030¹

Meeting	Strategic issues
COP 16 (2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including the national targets. • Strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. • Four-year framework for outcome-oriented programme priorities and assessment of funding needs to inform the replenishment process for GEF-9 (2026–2030). • Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and related provisions.

¹ The list contained in this table will be updated in accordance with the requests in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the present decision.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications for the work of the Convention of the IPBES assessments on values, sustainable use and invasive alien species. • <i>[to be completed]</i>
COP 17 (2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global review of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and related means of implementation on the basis of, inter alia, the seventh national reports. • Strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. • <i>[to be completed]</i>
COP 18 (2028)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and related means of implementation. • Strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. • Four-year framework for outcome-oriented programme priorities and assessment of funding needs to inform the replenishment process for GEF-10 (2030–2034). • Considerations for a follow-up to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. • <i>[to be completed]</i>
COP 19 (2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final assessment of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on the basis of the eighth national report. • <i>[to be completed]</i>

15/34. Budget for the integrated programme of work of the Secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 14/37, decision CP-9/16 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and decision 3/16 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing,

Recalling also its decision EM-2/1, in which it approved the extension of the budget for the biennium 2019–2020 and, on an exceptional basis, a core interim budget for 2021,

Recalling further its decision 15/1, in which it approved the extension of the budget for the biennium 2019–2020 and, on an exceptional basis, a core interim budget for 2022,

1. *Decides* to adopt an integrated programme of work and budget for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing;

2. *Also decides* to share all costs for secretariat services among the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol on a ratio of 72:15:13 for the biennium 2023–2024;

3. *Approves* a core (BY) programme budget for the Convention of 14,350,752 United States dollars for the year 2023 and of 15,634,440 United States dollars for the year 2024, representing 72 per cent of the integrated budget of 19,931,600 United States dollars for the year 2023 and 21,714,500 United States dollars for the year 2024 for the Convention and the Protocols, for the purposes listed in the tables 1a and 1b below;

4. *Also approves* the use of unspent balance of the BY, BG and BB trust funds for the biennium 2021–2022 of 410,000 United States dollars to offset contributions from the Parties to the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol for the biennium 2023–2024 for the following areas: 160,000 United States dollars to support the work of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, established, respectively, in decisions 15/7 and 15/5; and 250,000 United States dollars for the functional review requested in paragraph 35 below;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to Canada as the host country for its renewed support to the Secretariat and welcomes the contribution of 2,112,535 Canadian dollars for the year 2023 and 2,153,215 Canadian dollars for the year 2024, from the host country, Canada, and the Province of Quebec, to the rental and associated costs of the Secretariat, which will be allocated on a ratio of 72:15:13 to offset contributions from the Parties to the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol, respectively, for the biennium 2023–2024;

6. *Notes with concern* the ongoing renovations at the conference centre of the International Civil Aviation Organization and that on an exceptional basis, meetings might have to be moved to an alternative venue with cost implications attached to that, within the current adopted framework of the budget, and invites Parties that may be in a position to do so to express interest in hosting such meetings;

7. *Adopts* the scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for 2023 and 2024, in accordance with the current scale of assessments of the United Nations,¹ as contained in table 6 of the present decision;

8. *Also adopts* the staffing table of the Secretariat for the biennium 2023–2024 (table 2 below) used for costing purposes to set the overall budget;

9. *Recalls* that the staffing arrangement of the Secretariat should ensure that the legal obligations under the Convention and its Protocols are met;

¹ As per General Assembly resolution 76/238.

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Bureau and provide it with all necessary information, including with regard to the application of the administrative arrangements between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to ensure the guiding role of the Bureau with regard to preparations for and conduct of meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to enter into commitments up to the level of the approved budget, drawing on available cash resources, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income, in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and with the Financial Rules and Regulations of the United Nations Environment Programme; and requests the Executive Secretary to make these disclosures in a timely manner;

12. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to transfer resources among the programmes between each of the main appropriation lines set out in table 1b below up to an aggregate of 15 per cent of the total programme budget, provided that a further limitation of up to a maximum of 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply;

13. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to further reduce the environmental impact of the operations of the Secretariat and to report on the actions taken to the Conference of the Parties;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, as a means to further enhance efforts to foster transparency and accountability, to maintain the section on the website of the Convention that provides links to up-to-date information relevant to the governance of the Convention, including, inter alia, completed and accepted audit reports, applicable financial rules and regulations, and any other relevant budgetary and financial information to facilitate due diligence and financing decisions by Parties and other potential donors;

15. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in accordance with Article 14 of the Financial Rules, to have an audit undertaken on a regular basis by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and to ask for reports on the United Nations Environment Programme from the United Nations Board of Auditors, and to have the reports submitted as part of the documentation for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, together with the management response;

16. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, to expeditiously respond to the outstanding audit observations and recommendations, included in annex II to document CBD/COP/15/7, and to those recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in 2019 that have not yet been addressed, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting on actions undertaken;

17. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core programme budgets (BY, BG and BB) are due on 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted and to pay them promptly, and requests that Parties be notified of the amount of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which the contributions are due;

18. *Notes with concern* that a number of Parties to the Convention and its Protocols have not paid their contributions to the core budgets (BY, BG and BB Trust Funds) for 2022 and prior years, including Parties that have never paid their contributions, and also notes that, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards adopted by the United Nations,² arrears estimated at 1,918,753 United States dollars for the Convention, 556,128 United States dollars for the Cartagena Protocol and 275,653 United States dollars for the Nagoya Protocol are outstanding at the end of 2021 and are deducted from the fund balance to cover doubtful debt and so cannot be used for the benefit of all the respective Parties, and requests the United Nations Environment Programme to accept contributions from all Parties to the Convention in a timely manner;

² See General Assembly resolution 60/283, sect. IV.

19. *Urges* Parties that have still not paid their contributions to the core budgets (BY, BG, BB Trust Funds) for 2022 and prior years to do so without delay or conditionalities, and requests the Executive Secretary to publish and keep up-to-date the information on the status of contributions to the trust funds of the Convention (BY, BG, BB, BE, BZ and VB) and to keep the members of the Bureaux of the Convention and its Protocols updated so that they can provide information on unpaid contributions and their consequences to the respective regions as indicated in paragraph 21 below;

20. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in its capacity as Trustee, to utilize all available diplomatic channels to communicate to the relevant Parties the arrears in their contributions to the trust funds of the Convention on Biological Diversity (BY, BG and BB) from 2022 and prior years with a view to the payment of such arrears in full for the benefit of all Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Bureau and the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting on the status of these arrears;

21. *Confirms* that, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2005 onwards, Parties whose contributions are in arrears for two (2) or more years will not be eligible to become a member of the Bureaux of the Convention, its Protocols or the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice or to nominate a member of a compliance committee, and decides that this will only apply in the case of Parties that are not least developed countries or small island developing States;

22. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to enter into arrangements with any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years to mutually agree on a “schedule of payments” for such a Party to clear all outstanding arrears within six years depending on the financial circumstances of the Party in arrears and pay future contributions by the due date, and report on the implementation of any such arrangement to the Bureau at its next meeting and to the Conference of the Parties;

23. *Decides* that a Party with an agreed arrangement in accordance with paragraph 22 above and that is fully respecting the provisions of that arrangement will not be subject to the provisions of paragraph 21 above;

24. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and invites the President of the Conference of the Parties, through a jointly signed letter, to notify Parties whose contributions are in arrears inviting them to take timely action and to thank those Parties that have responded in a positive manner in paying their outstanding contributions;

25. *Notes* that the trust funds for the Convention and its Protocols (BY, BG and BB) should be extended for a period of two years beginning 1 January 2024 and ending 31 December 2025, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to seek the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly for their extension;

26. *Acknowledges* the funding estimates for:

(a) The Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BE) for Contributions in Support of Additional Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols for the period 2023–2024, included in table 3 below;

(b) The Special Trust Fund (BZ) for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity) for the period 2023–2024, contained in table 4 below;

(c) The Special Voluntary Trust Fund (VB) for Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for the period 2023–2024, contained in table 5 below;

27. *Recalls* rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the Convention, and stresses the need to have a wide range of Parties attending meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, especially in order to reach the level of two thirds of Parties present needed to provide a quorum for the meeting allowing decisions to be taken;

28. *Reaffirms* the importance of full and effective participation of the developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, in the meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols and, in this context, requests the Executive Secretary to take into account the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of the Parties to its Protocols on concurrent meetings and on improving the efficiencies of the structures and processes of the Convention and its Protocols;

29. *Strongly encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, including in the context of South-South cooperation, to provide the necessary financial resources to the BZ Trust Fund in order to enable the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

30. *Recalls* paragraph 31 of decision IX/34, and requests the Executive Secretary, when allocating the funding from the BZ Trust Fund, to continue to accord first priority to funding for least developed countries and small island developing States;

31. *Encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, to facilitate engagement by the Secretariat with potential alternative donors to the BZ Trust Fund, including private and philanthropic bodies, to assist in funding the participation of eligible developing countries in meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols;

32. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to remind Parties in January of each fiscal year of the need to contribute to the BZ Trust Fund at least six months prior to the ordinary meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, to issue requests in December of each year covering the needs of all relevant meetings in the subsequent year, and to issue early invitations to other donors to make contributions;

33. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureaux, to continue to monitor the availability of voluntary contributions to the BZ Trust Fund, with a view to allowing members of those Bureaux to bring any shortfalls in contributions to the attention of member Parties, and potential donors, as appropriate, in their regions;

34. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparation for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its Protocols, to provide a list of work addressed to the Executive Secretary in draft recommendations and decisions and its implications where applicable, and as appropriate, in order to inform Parties and without prejudice to decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

35. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparation for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its Protocols, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to undertake an external in-depth functional review of the structure of the Secretariat, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and of the implementation of the programme of work of the Secretariat, taking into account the results-based budgeting framework and the preliminary risk assessment included in document CBD/COP/15/7/Add.1, the recommendations of the audit report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the risks identified, with a view to updating its structure and the grading of posts in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³ and a focus on implementation by Parties, to be submitted for consideration and action by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

³ Decision 15/4, annex.

36. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare and submit an updated, detailed and integrated programme of work for the period 2025–2026, which sets out the objectives, tasks to be completed by the Secretariat, and results expected in regard to each budget item, for the Convention and its Protocols, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Parties to its Protocols at their next meetings, and a corresponding programme budget following the format of the proposed programme budget for the United Nations Environment Programme, including the supplementary information statement, for the biennium with two alternatives, taking into account the list requested in paragraph 34 above:

(a) Maintaining the programme budget (BY, BG and BB trust funds) at the total 2023–2024 level in real terms minus the amount of the unspent balances used for the biennium 2023–2024;

(b) Maintaining the programme budget (BY, BG and BB trust funds) at the total 2023–2024 level in nominal terms minus the amount of the unspent balances used for the biennium 2023–2024;

37. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to introduce all possible measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat, and to reflect these measures in the two scenarios above;

38. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to its Protocols at their next meetings on income and budget performance, unspent balances, and the status of surplus and carry-overs as well as any adjustments made to the budget for the biennium 2023–2024;

39. *Notes with concern* the late delivery of budgetary documents in advance of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and urges the Executive Secretary to take the measures necessary to ensure that documents for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties are circulated in full respect of the rules in force and to keep the Bureau informed on the progress of budget preparation.

Table 1a. Biennial budget for the trust fund of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period 2023-2024 (by object of expenditure)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
A. Staff costs	11,890.2	12,267.1	24,157.3
B. Temporary assistance/overtime	100.0	100.0	200.0
C. Consultants/subcontractors	50.0	50.0	100.0
D. Training	5.0	5.0	10.0
E. Structural review	250.0	0.0	250.0
F. Bureau meetings	108.0	170.9	278.9
G. Expert meetings	130.0	350.0	480.0
H. Meetings of intergovernmental bodies*	2,241.6	3,343.0	5,584.6
I. Public awareness material/communications	50.0	50.0	100.0
J. Translation of CHM website/website projects	65.0	65.0	130.0
K. Travel on official business	320.0	320.0	640.0
L. Rent and associated costs	1,445.7	1,473.0	2,918.7
M. Information technology	65.0	65.0	130.0
N. General operating expenses	726.6	726.6	1,453.2
Subtotal (I)	17,447.1	18,985.6	36,432.7
II. Programme support costs (13%)	2,268.1	2,468.1	4,736.2
Subtotal (I + II)	19,715.2	21,453.7	41,168.9
III. Working Capital Reserve	216.4	260.8	477.2
Grand total (I+II + III)	19,931.6	21,714.5	41,646.1

Convention share of the integrated budget (72%)	14,350.8	15,634.4	29,985.2
Less contributions from host country	-1,176.2	-1,198.4	-2,374.6
Less use of reserve	-147.6	-147.6	-295.2
<i>Net total (to be shared by Parties)</i>	<i>13,026.9</i>	<i>14,288.4</i>	<i>27,315.4</i>

* Meetings funded from the core budget:

Twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.

Twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice.

Fourth and fifth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention / Eleventh meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol / Fifth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol held concurrently.

Table 1b. Integrated biennial budget for the trust funds of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period 2023-2024

	2023	2024	2023-2024
	<i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
A. Governing and Subsidiary bodies	2,479.6	3,863.9	6,343.5
B. Executive direction and management	2,909.8	3,028.0	5,937.8
C. Programme of work	8,909.1	9,094.9	18,004.0
D. Administrative support	3,148.6	2,998.8	6,147.4
Subtotal	17,447.1	18,985.6	36,432.7
Programme support costs	2,268.1	2,468.1	4,736.2
Working Capital Reserve	216.4	260.8	477.2
Total requirements	19,931.6	21,714.5	41,646.1
Convention share of the integrated budget (72%)	14,350.8	15,634.4	29,985.2
Less contributions from host country	-1,176.2	-1,198.4	-2,374.6
Less reserve	-147.6	-147.6	-295.2
<i>Net total (to be shared by Parties)</i>	<i>13,027.0</i>	<i>14,288.4</i>	<i>27,315.4</i>

Table 2. Secretariat staffing requirements from the core budgets of the Convention and its Protocols for 2023-2024

Category and level	Approved 2022	Approved 2023-2024*
Professional and higher		
ASG	1	1
D-1	3	3
P-5	10	10
P-4	13	14
P-3	13	15
P-2/1	9	10
Subtotal	49	53
General Service	29	29
Total	78	82

* New posts approved by COP 15: Programme Management Officer - Results-based budgeting (P-4); Programme Management Officer – Monitoring (P-3); Programme Officer Biosafety Clearing-House (P-3); Associate Finance Officer (P-2)

Table 3. Resource requirements from the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BE) for Contributions in Support of Additional Approved Activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols for the period 2023-2024

A. Convention on Biological Diversity

(United States dollars)

Consultancy and other contracts	
Article 8(j)	100,000
Business and mainstreaming	100,000
Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation	486,000
Communication	420,000
Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity	52,000
Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations	50,000
Digital sequence information on genetic resources (Studies)	405,000
Digital sequence information on genetic resources (General support)	52,000
Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas	26,000
Effectiveness of the process	180,000
Engagement with subnational governments, cities	215,000
Financial mechanism	350,000
Global Biodiversity Framework - implementation facilitation/engagement	100,000
Gender Plan of Action	50,000
Health	60,000
Invasive alien species	81,000
Indigenous peoples and local communities	20,000
Knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism	720,000
Monitoring - Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	60,000
Planning, monitoring, reporting and review	100,000
Resource mobilization	330,000
Sustainable wildlife	10,000

Synthetic biology	60,000
Subtotal	4,027,000
Staff travel	
Biodiversity and agriculture	20,000
Biodiversity and climate change	20,000
Biodiversity and health	20,000
Business engagement	30,000
Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation	60,000
Communication	50,000
Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity	18,000
Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations	50,000
Effectiveness of the process	15,000
Engagement with subnational governments, cities	55,000
Global Biodiversity Framework - implementation facilitation/engagement	50,000
Gender Plan of Action	20,000
Invasive alien species	20,000
IPBES	20,000
Indigenous peoples and local communities	20,000
Monitoring - Global Biodiversity Framework	40,000
Planning, monitoring, reporting and review	50,000
Resource mobilization	20,000
Sustainable wildlife	20,000
Synthetic biology	40,000
Subtotal	638,000
Workshops	
Article 8(j)	373,000
Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation	705,000
Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity	263,000
EBSAs	263,000
Engagement with subnational governments, cities	70,000
Global Biodiversity Framework - implementation facilitation/engagement	200,000
Gender Plan of Action	80,000
Knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism	550,000
Indigenous peoples and local communities	190,000
Nature and culture	190,000
Planning, monitoring, reporting and review	162,500
Synthetic biology	131,500
Subtotal	3,178,000
Expert meetings and committees	
Article 8(j)	157,000
Communication	75,000
Gender Plan of Action	80,000
Monitoring – Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	70,000
Resource mobilization	600,000
Synthetic biology	294,000
Subtotal	1,276,000
Other costs	
Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation	100,000
Communication	100,000
Engagement with subnational governments, cities	60,000
Financial mechanism	50,000

Gender Plan of Action	10,000
Invasive alien species	15,000
Planning, monitoring, reporting and review	100,000
Subtotal	435,000
Staff resources	
Programme Officer - Communications (P-3)	252,000
Programme Officer - Digital sequence information on genetic resources (P-4)	330,000
Programme Officer - Biodiversity Mainstreaming (P-4)	330,000
Programme Officer - Biodiversity and Business (P-3)	252,000
Programme Officer - One Health (P-3)	252,000
Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5)	380,400
Programme Assistant (G-6)	113,000
Programme Officer - Reporting/NBSAP Support (P-4)	330,000
Programme Officer - Monitoring (P-4)	330,000
Programme Officer - Monitoring (P-2)	218,700
Programme Officer - Cooperation (P-3)	252,000
Programme Officer (P-3) - Engagement with subnational governments, cities	252,000
Programme Support - Nature and culture (G-7)	113,000
Programme Officer - Sustainable use (P-3)	252,000
Programme Support - Resource mobilization (G-7)	113,000
RBB Programme Support (G-6/G-5), 2 posts	226,000
Meeting Assistants (G-6), 5 posts	565,000
Programme Officer - Restoration (P-3)	252,000
Junior Programme Officer - Digital sequence information (P-2)	218,700
Programme Officer - Global taxonomy/Species-based conservation (P-3)	252,000
Programme Officer - Resource mobilization (P-4)	330,000
Programme Officer - Technical scientific cooperation (P-4)	330,000
Programme Officer - Financial mechanism (P-3)	252,000
Subtotal	6,195,800
Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources*	
Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Digital Sequence Information	780,000
Subtotal	780,000
Subtotal I (Convention on Biological Diversity)	16,529,800
II. Programme support costs (13%)	2,148,874
TOTAL COST (I + II) (Convention on Biological Diversity)	18,678,674

* Norway pledged NOK 10 million to support DSI-related activities

B. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

(United States dollars)

Consultancy	
Biosafety Clearing-House	100,000
Compliance	30,000
Financial mechanism and resource mobilization	60,000
Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	100,000
Monitoring and reporting (Art. 33)	26,800

Socioeconomic considerations	30,000
Ratification support for Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress	10,000
Risk assessment and risk management	160,000
Subtotal	516,800
Official travel	
Biosafety Clearing-House	30,000
Ratification support for Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress	75,000
Risk assessment and risk management	40,000
Subtotal	145,000
Staff resources	
Biosafety Associate Programme Officer (P-2)	218,700
Subtotal	218,700
Workshops	
Biosafety Clearing-House	103,000
Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	250,000
Ratification support for Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress	351,000
Risk assessment and risk management	234,000
Subtotal	938,000
Expert meetings	
Biosafety Clearing-House	40,000
Detection and identification of living modified organisms	234,000
Subtotal	274,000
Subtotal I (Cartagena Protocol)	2,092,500
II. Programme support costs (13%)	272,025
TOTAL COST (I + II) (Cartagena Protocol)	2,364,525

C. Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing

(United States dollars)

Consultancy	
Capacity-building, capacity development and awareness-raising	80,000
ABS Clearing-House and information-sharing	100,000
Financial mechanism and resources	50,000
Subtotal	230,000
Official travel	
ABS Clearing-House and information-sharing	30,000
Subtotal	30,000
Staff resources	
Programme Officer (P-3)	252,000
Programme Officer - ABS Capacity-Building (P-3)	252,000
Subtotal	504,000
Workshops	
ABS Clearing-House and information-sharing	250,000
Subtotal	250,000
Other costs	
Capacity-building, capacity development and awareness-raising	10,000
ABS Clearing-House and information-sharing	6,000
Subtotal	16,000

Subtotal I (Nagoya Protocol)	1,030,000
II. Programme support costs (13%)	133,900
TOTAL COST (I + II) (Nagoya Protocol)	1,163,900
Convention on Biological Diversity	18,678,674
Cartagena Protocol	2,364,525
Nagoya Protocol	1,163,900
Grand total (including programme support costs)	22,207,099

Table 4. Resource requirements from the Special Trust Fund (BZ) for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period 2023-2024

<i>Description of meetings</i>	<i>2019-2020 (Thousands of United States dollars)</i>
I. Meetings	
COP-16, Cartagena Protocol COP-MOP 11 and Nagoya Protocol COP-MOP 5*	2 621.50
Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 25 and SBSTTA 26)**	1 796.40
Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8J 12)**	853.2
Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 4 and SBI 5)***	1 638.9
Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources***	695.7
Subtotal cost	7 605.7
II. Programme support costs	998.7
Total cost (I+II)	8 604.4

*Three delegates funded from each eligible Party.

**Two delegates funded from each eligible Party (SBSTTA 25 back-to-back with WG8J 12, SBSTTA 26 back-to-back with SBI 4).

*** Two delegates funded from each eligible Party (SBI 5 back-to-back with WG-DSI).

Table 5. Special Voluntary Trust Fund (VB) for Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for the period 2023-2024

<i>Description</i>	<i>2023-2024 (Thousands of United States dollars)</i>
I. Meetings:	
Support to indigenous peoples and local communities*	792.4
Subtotal	792.4
II. Programme support costs	103.0
Total costs (I+II)	895.4

*Two participants funded from each region.

Table 6. Contributions to the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity for the biennium 2023-2024⁴

Party	Scale of assessments 2022-2024	Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01%	Contribution due as of 1 January 2023 (US\$)	Contribution due as of 1 January 2024 (US\$)	Total 2023-2024 (US\$)
Afghanistan	0.006	0.008	977	1,072	2,049
Albania	0.008	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Algeria	0.109	0.136	17,750	19,469	37,220
Andorra	0.005	0.006	814	893	1,707
Angola	0.010	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Argentina	0.719	0.899	117,087	128,425	245,512
Armenia	0.007	0.009	1,140	1,250	2,390
Australia	2.111	2.639	343,770	377,060	720,830
Austria	0.679	0.849	110,573	121,281	231,854
Azerbaijan	0.030	0.038	4,885	5,358	10,244
Bahamas	0.019	0.024	3,094	3,394	6,488
Bahrain	0.054	0.068	8,794	9,645	18,439
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Barbados	0.008	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Belarus	0.041	0.051	6,677	7,323	14,000
Belgium	0.828	1.035	134,837	147,895	282,732
Belize	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Benin	0.005	0.006	814	893	1,707
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.019	0.024	3,094	3,394	6,488
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.015	1,954	2,143	4,098
Botswana	0.015	0.019	2,443	2,679	5,122
Brazil	2.013	2.516	327,811	359,555	687,366
Brunei-Darussalam	0.021	0.026	3,420	3,751	7,171
Bulgaria	0.056	0.070	9,119	10,003	19,122
Burkina Faso	0.004	0.005	651	714	1,366
Burundi	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Cambodia	0.007	0.009	1,140	1,250	2,390
Cameroon	0.013	0.016	2,117	2,322	4,439
Canada	2.628	3.285	427,962	469,404	897,367
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Chad	0.003	0.004	489	536	1,024
Chile	0.420	0.525	68,396	75,019	143,415
China	15.254	19.069	2,484,070	2,724,617	5,208,688
Colombia	0.246	0.308	40,060	43,940	84,000
Comoros	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Congo	0.005	0.006	814	893	1,707
Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Costa Rica	0.069	0.086	11,236	12,325	23,561
Côte d'Ivoire	0.022	0.028	3,583	3,930	7,512
Croatia	0.091	0.114	14,819	16,254	31,073

⁴ As per United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/238.

Party	Scale of assessments 2022-2024	Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01%	Contribution due as of 1 January 2023 (US\$)	Contribution due as of 1 January 2024 (US\$)	Total 2023-2024 (US\$)
Cuba	0.095	0.119	15,470	16,969	32,439
Cyprus	0.036	0.045	5,862	6,430	12,293
Czechia	0.340	0.425	55,368	60,730	116,098
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	0.006	814	893	1,707
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Denmark	0.553	0.691	90,054	98,775	188,829
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Dominica	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Dominican Republic	0.067	0.084	10,911	11,967	22,878
Ecuador	0.077	0.096	12,539	13,753	26,293
Egypt	0.139	0.174	22,636	24,828	47,463
El Salvador	0.013	0.016	2,117	2,322	4,439
Equatorial Guinea	0.012	0.015	1,954	2,143	4,098
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Estonia	0.044	0.055	7,165	7,859	15,024
Eswatini	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
European Union		2.500	325,673	357,210	682,884
Fiji	0.004	0.005	651	714	1,366
Finland	0.417	0.521	67,907	74,483	142,390
France	4.318	5.398	703,174	771,266	1,474,440
Gabon	0.013	0.016	2,117	2,322	4,439
Gambia	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Georgia	0.008	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Germany	6.111	7.639	995,159	1,091,526	2,086,685
Ghana	0.024	0.030	3,908	4,287	8,195
Greece	0.325	0.406	52,925	58,050	110,976
Grenada	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Guatemala	0.041	0.051	6,677	7,323	14,000
Guinea	0.003	0.004	489	536	1,024
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Guyana	0.004	0.005	651	714	1,366
Haiti	0.006	0.008	977	1,072	2,049
Honduras	0.009	0.011	1,466	1,608	3,073
Hungary	0.228	0.285	37,129	40,725	77,854
Iceland	0.036	0.045	5,862	6,430	12,293
India	1.044	1.305	170,012	186,476	356,488
Indonesia	0.549	0.686	89,403	98,061	187,464
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371	0.464	60,416	66,267	126,683
Iraq	0.128	0.160	20,844	22,863	43,707
Ireland	0.439	0.549	71,490	78,413	149,903
Israel	0.561	0.701	91,357	100,204	191,561
Italy	3.189	3.987	519,320	569,608	1,088,928
Jamaica	0.008	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Japan	8.033	10.042	1,308,151	1,434,827	2,742,978
Jordan	0.022	0.028	3,583	3,930	7,512
Kazakhstan	0.133	0.166	21,659	23,756	45,415
Kenya	0.030	0.038	4,885	5,358	10,244

Party	Scale of assessments 2022-2024	Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01%	Contribution due as of 1 January 2023 (US\$)	Contribution due as of 1 January 2024 (US\$)	Total 2023-2024 (US\$)
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Kuwait	0.234	0.293	38,106	41,796	79,903
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.007	0.009	1,140	1,250	2,390
Latvia	0.050	0.063	8,142	8,931	17,073
Lebanon	0.036	0.045	5,862	6,430	12,293
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Liberia	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Libya	0.018	0.023	2,931	3,215	6,146
Liechtenstein	0.010	0.013	1,628	1,786	3,415
Lithuania	0.077	0.096	12,539	13,753	26,293
Luxembourg	0.068	0.085	11,074	12,146	23,220
Madagascar	0.004	0.005	651	714	1,366
Malawi	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Malaysia	0.348	0.435	56,671	62,159	118,829
Maldives	0.004	0.005	651	714	1,366
Mali	0.005	0.006	814	893	1,707
Malta	0.019	0.024	3,094	3,394	6,488
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Mauritania	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Mauritius	0.019	0.024	3,094	3,394	6,488
Mexico	1.221	1.526	198,836	218,091	416,927
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Monaco	0.011	0.014	1,791	1,965	3,756
Mongolia	0.004	0.005	651	714	1,366
Montenegro	0.004	0.005	651	714	1,366
Morocco	0.055	0.069	8,957	9,824	18,781
Mozambique	0.004	0.005	651	714	1,366
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Namibia	0.009	0.011	1,466	1,608	3,073
Nauru	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Nepal	0.010	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Netherlands	1.377	1.721	224,241	245,955	470,196
New Zealand	0.309	0.386	50,320	55,193	105,512
Nicaragua	0.005	0.006	814	893	1,707
Niger	0.003	0.004	489	536	1,024
Nigeria	0.182	0.228	29,638	32,508	62,146
Niue	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
North Macedonia	0.007	0.009	1,140	1,250	2,390
Norway	0.679	0.849	110,573	121,281	231,854
Oman	0.111	0.139	18,076	19,826	37,902
Pakistan	0.114	0.143	18,565	20,362	38,927
Palau	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Panama	0.090	0.113	14,656	16,075	30,732
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.013	1,628	1,786	3,415
Paraguay	0.026	0.033	4,234	4,644	8,878
Peru	0.163	0.204	26,544	29,115	55,659
Philippines	0.212	0.265	34,524	37,867	72,390

Party	Scale of assessments 2022-2024	Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01%	Contribution due as of 1 January 2023 (US\$)	Contribution due as of 1 January 2024 (US\$)	Total 2023-2024 (US\$)
Poland	0.837	1.046	136,303	149,502	285,805
Portugal	0.353	0.441	57,485	63,052	120,537
Qatar	0.269	0.336	43,806	48,048	91,854
Republic of Korea	2.574	3.218	419,169	459,759	878,928
Republic of Moldova	0.005	0.006	814	893	1,707
Romania	0.312	0.390	50,808	55,728	106,537
Russian Federation	1.866	2.333	303,873	333,299	637,171
Rwanda	0.003	0.004	489	536	1,024
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Samoa	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
San Marino	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Saudi Arabia	1.184	1.480	192,811	211,482	404,293
Senegal	0.007	0.009	1,140	1,250	2,390
Serbia	0.032	0.040	5,211	5,716	10,927
Seychelles	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Singapore	0.504	0.630	82,075	90,023	172,098
Slovakia	0.155	0.194	25,241	27,686	52,927
Slovenia	0.079	0.099	12,865	14,111	26,976
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Somalia	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
South Africa	0.244	0.305	39,735	43,582	83,317
South Sudan	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Spain	2.134	2.668	347,516	381,168	728,684
Sri Lanka	0.045	0.056	7,328	8,038	15,366
State of Palestine	0.011	0.014	1,791	1,965	3,756
Sudan	0.010	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Suriname	0.003	0.004	489	536	1,024
Sweden	0.871	1.089	141,840	155,575	297,415
Switzerland	1.134	1.418	184,669	202,551	387,220
Syrian Arab Republic	0.009	0.011	1,466	1,608	3,073
Tajikistan	0.003	0.004	489	536	1,024
Thailand	0.368	0.460	59,928	65,731	125,659
Timor-Leste	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Togo	0.002	0.003	326	357	683
Tonga	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Trinidad and Tobago	0.037	0.046	6,025	6,609	12,634
Tunisia	0.019	0.024	3,094	3,394	6,488
Türkiye	0.845	1.056	137,606	150,931	288,537
Turkmenistan	0.034	0.043	5,537	6,073	11,610
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Uganda	0.010	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Ukraine	0.056	0.070	9,119	10,003	19,122
United Arab Emirates	0.635	0.794	103,408	113,422	216,829

Party	Scale of assessments 2022-2024	Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01%	Contribution due as of 1 January 2023 (US\$)	Contribution due as of 1 January 2024 (US\$)	Total 2023- 2024 (US\$)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.375	5.469	712,456	781,448	1,493,904
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Uruguay	0.092	0.115	14,982	16,433	31,415
Uzbekistan	0.027	0.034	4,397	4,823	9,220
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	163	179	341
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.175	0.219	28,498	31,258	59,756
Viet Nam	0.093	0.116	15,145	16,611	31,756
Yemen	0.008	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Zambia	0.008	0.010	1,303	1,429	2,732
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.009	1,140	1,250	2,390
Total	78.013	100	13,026,935	14,288,410	27,315,345

15/35. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 15/32 of 19 December 2022,

Noting the withdrawal by the Government of Türkiye of its offer to host the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹ owing to the challenges of recovery from the damage caused by the tragic earthquakes suffered by the country in February 2023,

Recalling notification No. [2023-082](#) of 31 July 2023, in which the Secretariat invited Parties to submit as soon as possible their expression of interest in hosting the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety² and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization,³

1. *Expresses* its sympathy and solidarity to the people and Government of Türkiye for the losses that they have suffered in the aftermath of the earthquakes;

2. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary expedite consultations with Parties on the date and venue of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol and, in the absence of any viable offer from a Party by the end of December 2023, explore, in consultation with the Bureau, arrangements to hold the meetings at the seat of the Secretariat.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

A. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held its fifteenth meeting in conjunction with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

2. Owing to the circumstances surrounding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the meeting was held in two parts. The first part was held online with limited in-person participation in Kunming, China, on 12 and 13 October 2021. The second part was held in person. It commenced in Montreal, Canada, on 7 December 2022, was suspended on 19 December 2022, resumed in Nairobi on 19 October 2023 and was closed on 20 October 2023.

3. The present report contains the proceedings of the second part of the meeting.¹

4. The second part of the meeting was preceded by a ceremonial welcome by the Traditional Chief of the Onondaga Nation, Tadodaho Sid Hill, followed by statements by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Minister of Ecology and Environment of China and President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Huang Runqiu, the Premier of Quebec, François Legault, the Mayor of Montreal, Valérie Plante, and the Mayor of Kunming, Liu Jiachen, as well as by a cultural presentation, on 6 December 2022.

B. Attendance

5. All States were invited to participate in the second part of the meeting. The following Parties to the Convention attended:

Albania ^a	Botswana	Cyprus ^a
Algeria	Brazil	Czechia
Angola	Bulgaria	Democratic People's
Antigua and Barbuda	Burkina Faso	Republic of Korea ^a
Argentina	Burundi	Democratic Republic of the
Armenia	Cabo Verde	Congo
Australia	Cambodia	Denmark
Austria	Cameroon	Djibouti
Azerbaijan	Canada	Dominica ^a
Bahamas ^a	Central African Republic	Dominican Republic
Bahrain ^a	Chad	Ecuador ^a
Bangladesh	Chile	Egypt
Barbados	China	El Salvador ^a
Belarus	Colombia	Equatorial Guinea
Belgium	Comoros	Eritrea
Belize ^a	Congo ^a	Estonia
Benin	Cook Islands	Eswatini
Bhutan	Costa Rica	Ethiopia
Bolivia (Plurinational State	Côte d'Ivoire	European Union
of) ^a	Croatia	Fiji
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Cuba	Finland

¹ The report of the first part of the fifteenth meeting was issued as document CBD/COP/15/4.

France	Marshall Islands	Serbia ^a
Gabon	Mauritania	Seychelles
Gambia	Mauritius	Sierra Leone
Georgia	Mexico	Singapore
Germany	Micronesia (Federated States of) ^a	Slovakia
Ghana	Monaco ^a	Slovenia
Greece	Mongolia ^a	Solomon Islands ^a
Grenada	Montenegro ^b	Somalia
Guatemala	Morocco	South Africa
Guinea ^a	Mozambique	South Sudan
Guinea-Bissau	Namibia	Spain
Guyana ^a	Nauru ^a	Sri Lanka
Haiti	Nepal ^a	State of Palestine
Honduras ^a	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Sudan
Hungary	New Zealand	Suriname ^a
Iceland	Nicaragua	Sweden
India	Niger	Switzerland
Indonesia	Nigeria	Syrian Arab Republic
Iran (Islamic Republic of) ^a	Niue ^a	Tajikistan
Iraq ^b	North Macedonia ^a	Thailand
Ireland	Norway	Timor-Leste ^a
Israel ^a	Oman	Togo
Italy	Pakistan	Tonga
Jamaica	Palau ^a	Trinidad and Tobago
Japan	Panama ^a	Tunisia
Jordan	Papua New Guinea ^a	Türkiye
Kazakhstan ^a	Paraguay ^a	Turkmenistan
Kenya	Peru	Tuvalu
Kiribati	Philippines	Uganda
Kuwait	Poland ^a	Ukraine
Kyrgyzstan ^a	Portugal	United Arab Emirates
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Qatar	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Latvia	Republic of Korea	Ireland
Lebanon ^a	Republic of Moldova	United Republic of Tanzania
Lesotho	Romania	Uruguay
Liberia	Russian Federation	Uzbekistan ^a
Libya ^a	Rwanda	Vanuatu
Liechtenstein ^a	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Lithuania	Saint Lucia	Viet Nam ^a
Luxembourg	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ^a	Yemen
Madagascar	Samoa ^a	Zambia
Malawi	Sao Tome and Principe	Zimbabwe
Malaysia	Saudi Arabia	
Maldives	Senegal	
Mali		
Malta ^a		

Note: Parties with indicator “a” were represented at the Montreal segment of the second part of the meeting only; those with indicator “b” were represented at the Nairobi segment of the second part of the meeting only; and those with no indicator were represented at both segments.

6. The following States not party to the Convention were also represented: Holy See (Montreal segment only) and United States of America (Montreal and Nairobi segments).
7. The list of organizations represented at the meeting is set out in document CBD/COP/15/17/Add.1.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

8. The 1st plenary session was held jointly with those of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, on 7 December 2022. The President of the three bodies, the Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, declared the second part of the meetings open at 10.25 a.m.
9. Opening remarks were delivered by the President, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada, Steven Guilbeault, and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
10. In his statement, the President said that the current part of the meeting – for which the first part had laid a solid foundation – was the chance to conclude a peace pact with nature by adopting the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In that context, he looked forward to a demonstration of international cooperation, political determination, the utmost goodwill, flexibility, compromise on key issues and positive commitments to continued increases in funding aimed at promoting the consultation process. The primary focus should be on resolving difficulties and forging the greatest possible consensus so as to achieve a framework document that would represent a landmark and write a new chapter in global biodiversity governance.
11. In her remarks, the Executive Director of UNEP said that the Conference must secure the future of the planetary life support system by delivering an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that not only tackled changing land and sea use, species overexploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species, but also addressed the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and recognized and protected the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. The framework would also need to dovetail with the Paris Agreement and other instruments of relevance, be adequately resourced and be implemented with great transparency and accountability on progress. It was vital to accelerate the negotiating pace, with all stakeholders bearing a unique responsibility for agreeing on a plan for making peace with nature as the irreplaceable essence of life.
12. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada stressed that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework must halt and reverse the drivers causing rapid ecosystem collapse and put nature on a path to recovery. Crucially, the framework must include a commitment to conserving a minimum of 30 per cent of the world's lands and oceans by 2030. Ambitious goals must be matched by real action. Government had a central role but must work closely with civil society, the private sector, foundations, academia, citizens and the indigenous and First Nations peoples. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework must unite all people in efforts to halt biodiversity loss and set the world on a path to living in harmony with nature by 2050.
13. The Executive Secretary thanked the Government of China for its strong support for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework preparation process. She also thanked the many donor countries and stakeholders present, the generosity of which had made the participation of developing countries and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities possible. She urged participants to blend their individual voices as a chorus and to develop a text that reflected consensus, compromise and ambition.
14. The Conference of the Parties also heard general statements by representatives of regions, groups of countries, individual countries, United Nations entities and major groups and other stakeholders.

15. Statements were delivered by the representatives of the following Parties: Costa Rica (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Palau (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific States) and Senegal (on behalf of the African States).

16. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the small island developing States), Ethiopia (on behalf of the Group of Like-minded Megadiverse Countries), European Union and its 27 member States, Mexico (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the European Union and its 27 member States, Gabon, Japan, Malawi, Monaco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Vanuatu, Zambia and the United States), New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States) and Philippines (on behalf of the States members of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and the Global Ocean Alliance).

17. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the latter on behalf of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.

18. Statements were further made by the representatives of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity (coordinated by Regions4 and the government of Quebec), the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

19. The representative of the Russian Federation made a statement in exercise of his right of reply.

20. At its 2nd plenary session, on 10 December 2022, the Conference of the Parties heard additional statements by the representatives of FAO and of major groups and other stakeholders.

21. A statement was made by a representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

22. Statements were also made by representatives of BirdLife International (also on behalf of Conservation International, the Campaign for Nature, the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, Panthera, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Zoological Society of London), the Business for Nature Coalition, the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, the Grantham Institute – Climate Change and Environment, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

23. Statements that were submitted to the Secretariat are available on the Conference website.²

Resumed second part

24. Following the suspension of the meeting on 19 December 2022, the meeting was resumed on 19 October 2023, at the 6th plenary session of the Conference of the Parties.

25. The resumed meeting was opened at 4.05 p.m. by the Chair, Guomei Zhou, representing the President, Runqiu Huang, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China.

26. Opening remarks were made by the Chair and the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, David Cooper.

27. In her opening remarks, the Chair said that the full and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and how to translate consensus into action, was an issue of common concern to the international community. She emphasized that Parties needed to accelerate the updating of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Framework, and she welcomed the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, launched in August 2023 at the seventh Assembly of

² See www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/cop-15/documents, under "Statements".

the Global Environment Facility. She said that the international community was looking forward to the successful conclusion of the present meeting and she called for all stakeholders to work together to implement the Framework and to restore global biodiversity.

28. In his opening remarks, the Acting Executive Secretary acknowledged the procedural hurdles that had required the suspension of the meeting in December 2022 and he called for cooperation, flexibility and understanding to ensure the finalization of outstanding items, including the election of officers. It was important, he said, to continue to strengthen multilateralism and work together to achieve the goals and targets of the Framework. He thanked members of the Bureau for their guidance and expressed gratitude to those Parties that, through their financial contributions, had enabled the Secretariat to support the participation of representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition party to the Convention.

Item 2. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

29. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties noted that the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur who had served during the first part of the fifteenth meeting would continue to fulfil their functions, with the exception of two of the Vice-Presidents, who had since been replaced.³

30. At the 5th plenary session, on 19 December 2022, the regional representatives announced the names of the representatives nominated to serve on the Bureau for a term of office commencing upon the closure of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ending at the closure of its sixteenth meeting. Given their turn in the rotation to nominate a candidate, the Eastern European States and the Asia-Pacific States also announced, through their representatives, their nominees for chairing the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

31. The Bureau member from Georgia presented the nominations for Bureau members from the Eastern European States.

32. The representative of the Russian Federation opposed some of the nominations and requested that a vote by secret ballot be held, subject to a quorum of two thirds of the Parties to the Convention, in accordance with the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

33. A representative of the Secretariat conducted a roll call of the Parties present with valid credentials and determined that the quorum of two thirds of Parties to the Convention required for decision-making, pursuant to rule 30 of the rules of procedure, was not met and that, therefore, the election could not be held, and the election of officers could not be finalized.

34. Consequently, the President announced that, at the end of the session, he would propose:

(a) To suspend the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol in order to allow Parties to consider the pending matter at a resumed session of the meetings, to be convened at a later date;

(b) To request members of the Bureau of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and officers of other bodies to remain in office until the conclusion of the meetings at a resumed session.

35. The representative of Tajikistan requested that the Secretariat review or clarify the list of countries that were members of the Eastern European States.

³ Vinod Mathur (India) was replaced by Naresh Pal Gangwar, and Andrea Meza Murillo (Costa Rica) was replaced by Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma.

Resumed second part

36. At its 6th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties agreed that Leina al-Awadhi (Kuwait) would serve as Rapporteur for the resumed second part of the meeting, as proposed by the Bureau.

Election of Vice-Presidents of the Bureau

37. At its 6th plenary session, in accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties elected the following representatives, by acclamation, to serve as members of the Bureau for a term of office commencing upon the closure of its fifteenth meeting and ending at the closure of its sixteenth meeting:

Hlobisile Sikhosana (Eswatini)
Abderahmane Zino Izourar (Algeria)
Krishneel Nand (Fiji)
Somaly Chan (Cambodia)
Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica)
María Teresa Becerra Ramírez (Colombia)
Norbert Bärlocher (Switzerland)

38. The Conference of the Parties agreed to proceed to the election of the Bureau members from the Eastern European States and the second Bureau member from the Western European and other States by secret ballot, in accordance with rule 49 of the rules of procedure.

39. At the invitation of the Chair, Mariela Canepa Montalvo (Peru), Bilal Qtishat (Jordan) and Agnes Yemisi (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

40. The Conference of the Parties first proceeded to the election of the Bureau members from the Eastern European States.

41. The meeting was briefly suspended to allow for the counting of votes.

42. Subsequently, the Chair reported the results as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	130
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	128
Abstentions:	12
Number of Parties present and voting:	116
Required majority:	59
Number of votes obtained:	
Teona Karchava (Georgia)	84
Angela Lozan (Republic of Moldova)	79
Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation)	47

43. Having obtained the required majority, Ms. Karchava and Ms. Lozan were elected as members of the Bureau for a term commencing at the end of the fifteenth meeting and ending at the close of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

44. The Conference of the Parties then proceeded to the election of the second Bureau member from the Western European and other States.

45. Before the voting procedure started, a statement was made by the representative of Spain (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States).

46. The meeting was briefly suspended to allow for the counting of votes.

47. Subsequently, the Chair reported the results as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	130
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	130
Abstentions:	31
Number of Parties present and voting:	99
Required majority:	50
Number of votes obtained:	
Eric Schauls (Luxembourg)	99

48. Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Schauls was elected as a member of the Bureau for a term commencing at the end of the fifteenth meeting and ending at the close of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Election of officers of subsidiary bodies and other meetings

49. At its 6th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties elected Chirra Achalender Reddy (India) as Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, by acclamation, for a term of office extending until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

50. There being two nominees for the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Conference of the Parties agreed to proceed to an election by secret ballot, in accordance with rule 49 of the rules of procedure.

51. At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Canepa Montalvo, Mr. Qtishat and Ms. Yemisiacted as tellers.

52. The meeting was briefly suspended to allow for the counting of votes.

53. Subsequently, the Chair reported the results as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	130
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	129
Abstentions:	11
Number of Parties present and voting:	118
Required majority:	60
Number of votes obtained:	
Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	69
Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation)	49

54. Having obtained the required majority, Ms. Barudanović was elected as Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for a term of office commencing at the end of the fifteenth meeting and ending at the close of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

B. Adoption of the agenda

55. The agenda for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as adopted during the first part of the meeting, was as follows:

I. Organizational matters

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organizational matters.

3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Pending issues.
5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

II Reports

6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings.

III. Administration and budget

7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds.

IV. Review of implementation

8. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

V. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework, related matters and mechanisms for enhancing implementation

9. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
10. Enhancing integration with respect to provisions related to Article 8(j) and related provisions.
11. Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
12. Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism.
13. Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and communication.
14. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.
15. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.
16. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.
17. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols.
18. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.

VI. Further technical issues

19. Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
20. Marine and coastal biodiversity.
21. Invasive alien species.
22. Sustainable wildlife management.
23. Biodiversity and climate change.
24. Biodiversity and agriculture.
25. Biodiversity and health.
26. Nature and culture.
27. Synthetic biology.

VII. Final matters

28. Other matters.
29. Adoption of the report.

30. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

56. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered a note by the Executive Secretary on the proposed organization of work for the second part of its fifteenth meeting (CBD/COP/15/1/Add.4/Rev.1) and agreed to organize its work as set out therein. The three bodies established two working groups to serve them and elected Rosemary Paterson (New Zealand) as Chair of Working Group I and Helena Jefferey-Brown (Antigua and Barbuda) as Chair of Working Group II.

First stocktake session

57. On 10 December, the Conference of the Parties held its 2nd plenary session, which served in part as a stocktake session. The session was held jointly with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, and the Chairs of Working Groups I and II and of the contact group on budget reported on the progress made to date.

58. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Brazil (also on behalf of the African States, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Paraguay, the Philippines and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Colombia (also on behalf of Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru), the European Union and its 27 member States, Honduras and New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States).

First meeting of the heads of delegation

59. On 14 December, a meeting of the heads of delegation was held jointly with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, to discuss the progress made to date on the key issues under consideration.

60. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Australia, Bahamas (on behalf of the small island developing States), Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union and its 27 member States, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom and United Republic of Tanzania.

Ministerial consultations

61. On 15 December, the Conference of the Parties held the opening plenary session of the high-level segment of the meeting jointly with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. The President informed the participants that he had established a process of ministerial consultations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and had invited six ministers to lead consultations on unresolved issues that might benefit from political guidance. Thus, Jochen Flashbarth (Germany) and Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya (Rwanda) would lead consultations on resource mobilization; Espen Barth Eide (Norway) and Maisa Rojas (Chile) would lead consultations on digital sequence information on genetic resources; and Yasmine Fouad (Egypt) and Steven Guilbeault (Canada) would lead consultations on the key unresolved elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Second stocktake session

62. On 17 December, the Conference of the Parties held its 3rd plenary session, which served as a second stocktake session. The session was held jointly with the Conference of the Parties serving as the

meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, and the Chairs of Working Groups I and II and of the contact group on budget reported on the progress made to date.

63. The Conference of the Parties also heard reports from the ministers leading the ministerial consultations under the process established by the President during the high-level segment.

64. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of small island developing States), Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile (also on behalf of Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru), Colombia, Costa Rica, European Union and its 27 member States, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Saint Lucia, Senegal (on behalf of the African States), South Africa, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

65. Statements were also made by the representatives of CBD Alliance, CBD Women Caucus, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

66. The Conference of the Parties subsequently agreed to the path forward proposed by the President, whereby he would prepare a set of texts constituting a package covering the agenda items closely related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, namely, item 9 A, on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; item 9 B, on monitoring frameworks for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; item 11, on digital sequence information on genetic resources; item 12 A, on resource mobilization; item 13 A, on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation; and item 14, on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

Second meeting of the heads of delegation

67. On 18 December, a second meeting of the heads of delegation was held jointly with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol to review the draft decisions prepared by the President for the key agenda items associated with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

68. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia (on behalf of the Group of Like-minded Megadiverse Countries), European Union and its 27 member States, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal (on behalf of the African States), South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

Consideration of a package of draft decisions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption

69. At the 4th plenary session, on 19 December 2022, the President introduced a set of draft decisions proposed for adoption by the Conference of the Parties as a package, which covered the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/COP/15/L.25), the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/COP/15/L.26), mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (CBD/COP/15/L.27), capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation (CBD/COP/15/L.28), resource mobilization (CBD/COP/15/L.29) and digital sequence information on genetic resources (CBD/COP/15/L.30).⁴

70. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Cameroon, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Mexico, Namibia, Rwanda and Uganda.

⁴ The adoption of each individual draft decision is reflected under the relevant section of the present report.

71. Following the statement by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the representatives of Cameroon and Uganda stated that they wished to put on record their reservations on the procedure under which the set of decisions was adopted, to avoid setting a precedent for future proceedings of the Conference of the Parties.

72. At the 5th plenary session, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, asking that her comments be reflected in the present report, said that, while her Government welcomed the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the five related decisions, it had reservations with respect to Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to decision 15/7, on resource mobilization, with regard to funding and the funding mechanism, and that it called for the implementation of Article 21 of the Convention, in particular through the creation of a special fund dedicated to biodiversity, under the authority of the Convention.

Resumed second part

73. At its 6th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered a document prepared by the Secretariat on the proposed organization of work for the resumed second part of its fifteenth meeting (CBD/COP/15/1/Add.5, annex II) and agreed to organize its work as set out therein, except that the election of officers, under agenda item 2, would be held immediately after the consideration of credentials (agenda item 3).

Item 3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

74. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties noted that, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau had reviewed the list of observers admitted to the meeting (CBD/COP/15/INF/2) and would examine the credentials of delegations and report thereon at a later session.

75. Accordingly, at the 2nd plenary session, Eric Okoree (Ghana), designated by the Bureau during the first part of the fifteenth meeting as its representative to report on credentials, informed the Conference of the Parties that 179 Parties were registered as attending the meeting. The Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of 136 Parties that were attending the meeting. The credentials of 117 delegations were in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while those of 19 delegations did not fully comply with it and a further 43 delegations had not presented their credentials to date.

76. At the 4th plenary session, Ms. Jeffrey-Brown, speaking on behalf of Mr. Okoree, presented the revised and final report on credentials (CBD/COP/15/INF/26/Rev.1). She informed the Conference of the Parties that 188 Parties were registered as attending the meeting. The Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of 164 Parties that were attending the meeting. The credentials of 150 delegations were in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while those of 14 delegations did not fully comply with it and a further 24 delegations had not presented their credentials to date.

77. The Bureau also reported that it received two communications concerning the representation of Myanmar that conveyed different sets of nominees as the representatives of that country at the meeting. In line with the measures taken by the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations in similar situations, the Bureau informed the Conference of the Parties that it had deferred the competing credentials received from the authorities of Myanmar and advised not to accredit any delegate from Myanmar. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the Bureau on credentials.

78. A number of heads of delegations had signed a declaration to the effect that they would submit their credentials, in the proper form and in their original version, to the Executive Secretary within 30 days of the closure of the meeting and no later than 19 January 2023. In keeping with past practice, the Conference of the Parties agreed to the Bureau's proposal that those delegations that had yet to submit their credentials or that had submitted credentials that did not fully comply with the provisions of rule 18 should be allowed to participate in the meeting on a provisional basis.

79. Accordingly, as at 19 December 2022, formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority, as provided for in rule 18 of the rules of procedure, had been submitted for the representatives of the following 150 Parties participating in the second part of the fifteenth meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

80. As at 19 January 2023, 10 additional Parties had submitted valid credentials: Gabon, Honduras, Malaysia, Mali, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

81. Credentials from the two non-party States, the Holy See and the United States, were also received.

Resumed second part

82. At the 6th plenary session, Mr. Okoree informed the Conference of the Parties that 143 Parties were registered as attending the resumed second part of the meeting. The Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of 134 Parties that were attending the meeting. The credentials of 133 delegations were in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while those of 1 delegation did not fully comply with it and a further 9 delegations had not presented their credentials to date.

83. The Conference of the Parties took note of the report on credentials.

84. At the 7th plenary session, on 20 October 2023, the Secretariat provided an update on credentials. As at that date, valid credentials had been received from the following 134 Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Item 4. Pending issues

85. The Conference of the Parties had considered agenda item 4 during the first part of the fifteenth meeting and did not consider it again during the second part.

Item 5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

86. The Conference of the Parties had previously decided, by decision XIII/33, that its sixteenth meeting would be held in Türkiye.

87. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties noted that the seventeenth meeting was expected to be hosted by a party from the Eastern European States and agreed that its President would consult with the Parties and prepare a draft decision on the dates of the sixteenth and future meetings, taking into account recommendation 3/19 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions (CBD/COP/15/2).

88. At the 2nd plenary session, a statement was made by the representative of Türkiye, in its capacity as host of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

89. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.35, submitted by the President, and adopted it as decision 15/32.

Resumed second part

90. At its 7th plenary session, resuming its consideration of the agenda item, the Conference of the Parties noted that, on 25 July 2023, the Government of Türkiye had informed the Secretariat that it had decided to withdraw from hosting and presiding the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, owing to a case of force majeure caused by the earthquakes that had occurred in February 2023. That information had been communicated to the Parties through notification No. 2023-82 of 31 July 2023.

91. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Canada, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

92. The representative of the Russian Federation, asking that his statement be reflected in the report of the meeting, said that the host of the sixteenth meeting must issue visas to all participants in due manner.

93. The Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.36, submitted by the President, and adopted it as decision 15/35.

II. REPORTS

Item 6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings

94. At its 1st plenary session, the Conference of the Parties had before it reports on intersessional work undertaken since the first part of the fifteenth meeting, namely, the report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-fourth meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/24/12), the report of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on its third meeting (CBD/SBI/3/21) and the reports of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on the second part of its third meeting and on its fourth and fifth meetings (CBD/WG2020/3/7, CBD/WG2020/4/4 and CBD/WG2020/5/5, respectively).

95. The Conference of the Parties then heard oral reports from the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

96. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided and agreed to consider the subsidiary bodies' recommendations under the relevant agenda items.

III. ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

Item 7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds

97. At the 1st plenary session, the Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the Secretariat and presented the proposed budget for the programmes of work of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2023–2024 (CBD/COP/15/7).
98. The three bodies established a contact group on budget, chaired by Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt), with the mandate to consider the proposed budget for the biennium 2023–2024 in detail.
99. The Chair of the contact group on budget reported on the group's work at the two stocktake plenary sessions.
100. At the 5th plenary session, the Chair of the contact group on budget presented his final report on the group's work.
101. The Conference of the Parties then considered draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.31 submitted by the Chair of the contact group on budget and adopted it as decision 15/34.
102. The representative of Norway announced that his Government would contribute 10 million Norwegian kroner (the equivalent to 1 million United States dollars) to intersessional work on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

IV. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

Item 8. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

A. Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

103. Working Group I considered sub-item 8 A of the agenda at its 1st meeting, on 7 December. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendations 23/1 and 24/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.
104. Working Group I agreed that its Chair would hold informal consultations on the few outstanding issues and prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.
105. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 December 2022, Working Group I considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.3.
106. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/2.

B. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020

107. Working Group I considered sub-item 8 B of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on the review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, prepared on the basis of recommendation 3/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions, and a note by the Executive Secretary on the review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (CBD/COP/15/9) and addenda thereto (CBD/COP/15/9/Add.1 and CBD/COP/15/9/Add.2).
108. Working Group I agreed that its Chair would hold informal consultations on the few outstanding issues and prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

109. At its 2nd meeting, Working Group I considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.4.

110. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/3.

V. THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, RELATED MATTERS AND MECHANISMS FOR ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION

Item 9. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework

A. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework

111. Working Group I considered sub-item 9 A of the agenda at its 1st meeting, in conjunction with agenda item 13 of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. It had before it a draft decision on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, drawn from recommendation 4/1 of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework itself, as set out in the annex to recommendation 5/1 of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

112. Working Group I established a contact group, co-chaired by Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. van Havre, to continue to discuss the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with a view to finalizing it.

113. During its 3rd plenary session, which served as a stocktake session, the Conference of the Parties agreed that its President would prepare a set of texts constituting a package covering the agenda items closely related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including sub-item 9 A, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

114. At its 4th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.25, as set out in the set of draft decisions submitted by the President, and adopted it as decision 15/4.

B. Monitoring frameworks for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

115. Working Group I considered sub-item 9 B of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on monitoring, which included an assessment of headline indicators and proposals for additional indicators, as well as component and complementary indicators for monitoring the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The draft decision, which had been developed by the Executive Secretary on the basis of recommendation 24/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, was set out in the compilation of draft decisions. The Group also had before it the report of the expert workshop on the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/2).

116. Working Group I requested the contact group established under sub-item 9 A to consider the headline indicators. It also established a group of friends of the Chair, led by Hesiquio Benítez (Mexico) and open to all interested parties, to examine the draft decision under the sub-item and address any cross-cutting issues arising from the contact group's review of the headline indicators.

117. During its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties agreed that its President would prepare a set of texts constituting a package covering the agenda items closely related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including sub-item 9 B, for its consideration.

118. At its 4th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.26, as set out in the set of draft decisions submitted by the President, and adopted it as decision 15/5.

C. Communication strategy

119. Working Group I considered sub-item 9 C of the agenda at its 1st meeting, in conjunction with sub-item 13 C, on communication. It had before it a draft decision on the communication strategy for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and another draft decision on communication, based on recommendations 3/18 and 3/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, respectively, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

120. Working Group I agreed that its Chair would hold informal consultations on the few outstanding issues and prepare revised draft decisions for the Group's consideration.

121. At its 3rd meeting, on 17 December, Working Group I considered a single combined revised draft decision on communication submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.23.

122. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/14.

D. Gender plan of action

123. Working Group I considered sub-item 9 D of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on a gender plan of action based on recommendation 3/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

124. Working Group I agreed that its Chair would hold informal consultations on the few outstanding issues and prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

125. At its 3rd meeting, Working Group I considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.24.

126. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/11.

Item 10. Enhancing integration with respect to provisions related to Article 8(j) and related provisions

A. Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and related provisions

127. Working Group I considered sub-item 10 A of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on the development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, based on recommendation 11/2 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

128. Working Group I agreed that its Chair would hold informal consultations on the few outstanding issues and prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration, on the understanding that the bracketed text in annex II to the draft decision did not need to be resolved at the present meeting, as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group would consider the new programme of work on Article 8(j) further at its twelfth meeting.

129. At its 2nd meeting, Working Group I considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.8.

130. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/10.

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

B. In-depth dialogue on Article 8(j) and related provisions

132. Working Group I considered sub-item 10 B of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on the thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues, based on recommendation 11/1 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

133. Working Group I agreed that its Chair would submit the draft decision as a conference room paper for the Group's consideration.

134. At its 2nd meeting, Working Group I considered the draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.6.

135. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/20.

C. Recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

136. Working Group I considered sub-item 10 (c) of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the Convention on Biological Diversity, based on recommendation 11/4 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

137. Working Group I agreed that its Chair would submit the draft decision as a conference room paper for the Group's consideration.

138. At its 2nd meeting, Working Group I considered the draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.7.

139. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/21.

Item 11. Digital sequence information on genetic resources

140. Working Group I considered agenda item 11 at its 1st meeting, in conjunction with agenda item 14 of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. It had before it a draft decision in the form of recommendation 5/2, prepared by the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework taking into account its recommendations 3/2 and 4/2 and the information provided in the note by the Executive Secretary on digital sequence information on genetic resources (CBD/WG2020/5/3).

141. Working Group I established a contact group, co-chaired by Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway) and Laticia Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa), to prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

142. During its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention agreed that its President would prepare a set of texts constituting a package covering the agenda items closely related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including item 11, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

143. At its 4th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.30, as set out in the set of draft decisions submitted by the President, and adopted it as decision 15/9.

Item 12. Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism

A. Resource mobilization

144. Working Group I considered sub-item 12 A of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before a draft decision based on recommendation 3/6 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

145. Working Group I established a contact group, co-chaired by Ines Verleye (Belgium) and Shonisani Munzhedzi (South Africa), to prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

146. During its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties agreed that its President would prepare a set of texts constituting a package covering the agenda items closely related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including sub-item 12 A, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

147. At its 4th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.29, as set out in the set of draft decisions submitted by the President, and adopted it as decision 15/7.

148. At the 5th plenary session, the representative of Switzerland, asking that his comments be reflected in the present report, said that his country would continue its support for developing countries that needed assistance with the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and that it expected other countries in a capacity to do so to do the same. He added, however, that his Government was not convinced of the added value of the new global biodiversity fund to be established under the Global Environment Facility with a focus on official development assistance as the main source of funding, and that it did not intend to contribute to the new fund unless it was certain that its contributions would trigger additional complementary funding from private sources and that the new fund was innovative in terms of access and instruments.

B. Financial mechanism

149. Working Group I considered sub-item 12 B of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 3/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions, and a note by the Executive Secretary on matters related to guidance to the Global Environment Facility (CBD/COP/15/10).

150. The representative of the Global Environment Facility presented the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD/COP/15/8).

151. Working Group I established a contact group, co-chaired by Greg Filyk (Canada) and Laura Bermúdez (Colombia), to prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

152. At its 4th meeting, on 19 December, Working Group I heard a report from the Co-Chairs of the contact group on the group's work.

153. Working Group I then considered a revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.33.

154. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 15/15.

155. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, asking that his comments be reflected in the present report, said that, as the Global Environment Facility was the official financial mechanism under the Convention, it was inappropriate that certain countries eligible for funding faced barriers and political restrictions in gaining access to funding from that entity, and that such barriers and political restrictions needed to be removed.

Item 13. Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and communication

A. Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation

156. Working Group I considered sub-item 13 A of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation, based on recommendation 3/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions, and a note by the Executive Secretary containing a summary report on the review of the technical and scientific cooperation programmes (CBD/COP/15/12).

157. Working Group I established a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Bermúdez and Hayo Haanstra ((Kingdom of the Netherlands), to prepare a revised version of the draft decision, including the annexes thereto, for the Group's consideration.

158. During its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties agreed that its President would prepare a set of texts constituting a package covering the agenda items closely related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including sub-item 13 A, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

159. At its 4th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.28, as set out in the set of draft decisions submitted by the President, and adopted it as decision 15/8.

B. Knowledge management

160. Working Group I considered sub-item 13 B of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on knowledge management, based on recommendation 3/10 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions, and a note by the Executive Secretary setting out a progress report on knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism (CBD/COP/15/INF/9).

161. Working Group I requested the contact group established under sub-item 13 A to also address sub-item 13 B, including the proposed draft decision, focusing on determining a way forward, once it had finished its work on capacity-building.

162. At its 4th meeting, Working Group I considered a revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.32.

163. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/16.

C. Communication

164. Working Group I considered sub-item 13 C of the agenda at its 1st meeting, in conjunction with sub-item 9 C (see paras. 85–88).

Item 14. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review

165. Working Group I considered agenda item 14 at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, based on recommendation 3/11 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

166. Working Group I established a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Guthrie and Andrew Stott (United Kingdom), to prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

167. During its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties agreed that its President would prepare a set of texts constituting a package covering the agenda items closely related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including item 14, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

168. At its 4th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.27, as set out in the set of draft decisions submitted by the President, and adopted it as decision 15/6.

Item 15. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

A. Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

169. Working Group II considered agenda item 15 A at its 2nd meeting, on 8 December. It had before it a draft decision, based on recommendation 24/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions, and documents containing updated information on the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (CBD/COP/15/13) and supporting information for possible requests to be considered in the rolling work programme up to 2030 of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (CBD/COP/15/INF/7). The Chair noted that the draft decision required updating.

170. The Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, made a brief presentation, highlighting the synergies between the work of the Platform and that of the Conference of the Parties.

171. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, European Union and its 27 member States, India, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

172. Working Group II established a contact group, co-chaired by Mr. Benítez and Janina Heim (Germany), to seek solutions to the outstanding issues.

173. At its 7th meeting, on 13 December, Working Group II heard a report from the Co-Chairs of the contact group, following which it considered a draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.11.

174. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/19.

B. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

175. Working Group I considered agenda item 15 at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 3/12 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions, and a note by the Executive Secretary on information documents submitted by partner organizations (CBD/COP/15/14).

176. Working Group I heard brief presentations by the representatives of secretariats of conventions and organizations the governing bodies of which had recently met and addressed matters relevant to their cooperation with the Convention and to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, namely, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Whaling Commission and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

177. A statement was made by the representative of Japan.

178. Working Group I agreed that its Chair would hold informal consultations on the few outstanding issues and prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

179. At its 3rd meeting, Working Group I considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.21.

180. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 15/13.

Item 16. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors

A. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors: long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity

181. Working Group I considered sub-item 16 A of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision on a long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, based on recommendation 3/15 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions, and three information documents with compilations of the submissions received from Parties and observers on said approach and the voluntary action plan to complement it (CBD/COP/15/INF/10, CBD/COP/15/INF/11 and CBD/COP/15/INF/12).

182. Working Group I established a contact group, co-chaired by Carlos Albuquerque (Portugal) and Stanislas Mouba (Gabon), with the mandate to discuss the issue and prepare a proposal on the way forward.

183. At its 4th meeting, Working Group I considered a revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.34.

184. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/17.

B. Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

185. Working Group I considered sub-item 16 B of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 3/14 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

186. Working Group I agreed that its Chair would hold informal consultations on the few outstanding issues and prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

187. At its 3rd meeting, Working Group I considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.22.

188. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/12.

Item 17. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

189. Working Group II considered agenda item 17 at its 2nd meeting, in conjunction with agenda item 13 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and agenda item 12 of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 3/13 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as set out in the compilations of draft decisions of the three bodies (CBD/COP/15/2, CBD/CP/MOP/10/1/Add.5 and CBD/NP/MOP/4/1/Add.5, respectively).

190. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, European Union and its 27 member States, Mexico and United Kingdom.

191. Working Group II agreed that its Chair would prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration, taking account of the statements made.

192. At its 5th meeting, on 9 December, Working Group II considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair.

193. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union and its 27 member States, Mali, Namibia, New Zealand, South Africa, Tajikistan, Togo, United Kingdom and United Republic of Tanzania.

194. Working Group II agreed that multilateral discussions would be held among certain Parties to resolve outstanding issues.

195. At its 6th meeting, on 10 December, Working Group II resumed its consideration of the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.9.

196. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/18.

Item 18. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

197. Working Group II considered agenda item 18 at its 2nd meeting. It had before it a draft decision, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions, and a note by the Executive Secretary (CBD/COP/15/15).

198. A statement was made by the representative of Canada.

199. Working Group II agreed that its Chair would prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration, taking account of the statement made.

200. At its 10th meeting, on 16 December, Working Group II considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.20.

201. During the discussion, Working Group II agreed that the following comment by the representative of Japan would be reflected in the present report. The representative of Japan said that, with respect to the implementation of the work programme by the Secretariat, it was important to remind Parties of the need to take into account the budget limits and for the Secretariat to use its resources effectively and efficiently when conducting its work.

202. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 15/33.

VI. FURTHER TECHNICAL ISSUES

Item 19. Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

203. Working Group II considered agenda item 19 at its 2nd meeting. It had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on global status, gaps and opportunities of protected areas and other area-based conservation measures (CBD/COP/15/INF/3).

204. The representative of Zimbabwe made a statement on behalf of the African States.

205. Working Group II took note of the information in document CBD/COP/15/INF/3.

Item 20. Marine and coastal biodiversity

A. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

206. Working Group II considered sub-item 20 A of the agenda at its 1st meeting, on 7 December, noting that there were two separate outcomes to be considered, arising from the discussions on the matter at the twenty-third and twenty-fourth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

1. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean and adjacent areas

207. In considering the first part of the sub-item, Working Group II had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 23/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

208. Working Group II agreed that its Chair would submit the draft decision as a conference room paper for the Group's consideration.

209. At its 7th meeting, Working Group II considered the draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.13.

210. During the discussion, Working Group II agreed that the following comments by representatives would be reflected in the report of the meeting. The representative of the European Union and its 27 member States said that the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas was a geographical, and not legal, process the outcomes of which should continue to result from a scientific and technical exercise and that it should not be used to prejudge any issues related to the sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction of coastal States or the rights of other States. Recalling that, at its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had emphasized that, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the selection of conservation and management measures were matters for States, the representative of the United Kingdom said that her Government wished to see a process that required agreement from all States concerned for proposals where ecologically or biologically significant marine areas overlapped with areas under national jurisdiction or fell within disputed areas.

211. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/25.

2. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: further work

212. In considering the second part of the sub-item, Working Group II had before it recommendation 24/10 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the Subsidiary Body's report on its twenty-fourth meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/24/12), as well as a report of the online discussion forum on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD/EBSA/OM/2022/2/1) and proposals submitted by Parties and observers on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas under agenda item 6 of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/41).

213. Working Group II established a contact group, co-chaired by Marie-May Jeremie (Seychelles) and Renée Sauvé (Canada), with the mandate to discuss the unresolved issues and prepare a draft decision based on the work of Subsidiary Body and the outcome of the online discussion forum.

214. At its 6th and 7th meetings, Working Group II heard interim reports on the work of the contact group.

215. At its 8th meeting, on 13 December, Working Group II considered a draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.14.

216. Working Group II agreed to reflect in the present report the Chair's comments acknowledging the representatives' frustration with the lack of time available to discuss the draft modalities for modifying descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and for describing new areas, and their request for allocating sufficient time to discuss the topic at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as at the preceding meetings of its subsidiary bodies, with a view to finalizing and adopting modalities for those descriptions at the sixteenth meeting.

217. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 15/26.

B. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

218. Working Group II considered sub-item 20 B of the agenda at its 1st meeting. It had before it recommendation 23/9 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the Subsidiary Body's report on its twenty-third meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/23/9), as well as a report of the online discussion forum on conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD/MCB/OM/2022/1/1) and proposals submitted by Parties and observers on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity under agenda item 6 of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/42).

219. Working Group II agreed that the contact group established under sub-item 20 A.2 would also be mandated to address the unresolved issues under sub-item 20 B and prepare a draft decision, based on the work of the Subsidiary Body and the outcome of the online discussion forum.

220. At its 4th meeting, on 9 December, and 6th meeting, Working Group II heard interim reports on the work of the contact group.

221. At its 7th meeting, following a report by the Co-Chairs of the contact group, Working Group II considered a draft decision submitted by its Chair.

222. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, European Union and its 27 member States, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa and United Kingdom.

223. At its 8th meeting, Working Group II continued its consideration of the draft decision and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.15.

224. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 15/24.

Item 21. Invasive alien species

225. Working Group II considered agenda item 21 at its 2nd meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 24/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

226. Working Group II established an open-ended group of friends of the Chair, facilitated by Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Azalia binti Mohamed (Malaysia), to discuss the matter further.

227. At its 7th meeting, Working Group II heard a report from the co-facilitators of the group of friends of the Chair, following which it considered a revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.12.

228. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/27.

Item 22. Sustainable wildlife management

229. Working Group II considered agenda item 22 at its 2nd meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 23/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

230. Working Group II agreed that its Chair would submit the draft decision as a conference room paper for the Group's consideration.

231. At its 4th meeting, Working Group II considered the draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.5.

232. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/23.

233. A statement was made by the representative of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management.

Item 23. Biodiversity and climate change

234. Working Group II considered agenda item 23 at its 2nd meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 23/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions, as well as a note by the Executive Secretary containing supplementary information to the review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change and potential implications for the work of the Convention (CBD/COP/15/INF/21).

235. Working Group II established an open-ended group of friends of the Chair, co-facilitated by Sigurdur Thrainsson (Iceland) and Rita El Zaghoul (Costa Rica), to discuss the matter further and enable the Chair to prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

236. At its 4th meeting, Working Group II heard an interim progress report on the work of the group of friends of the Chair.

237. At its 9th meeting, on 16 December, Working Group II heard a report from one of the co-facilitators of the group of friends of the Chair, which had subsequently been converted to a contact group. Working Group II then considered a revised draft decision submitted by its Chair.

238. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, European Union and its 27 member States, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

239. Working Group II agreed that its Chair would prepare a further revised draft decision for the Group's consideration, taking account of the statements made.

240. At its 10th meeting, Working Group II considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.19.

241. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/30.

242. Following the adoption, the representative of the European Union and its 27 member States, asking that her comments be reflected in the present report, voiced regret that, owing to the opposition of some Parties, the decision made no reference to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5, on nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development, which had been acknowledged as an important milestone in recognizing the crucial link between biodiversity and climate change in recent decisions by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat.

Item 24. Biodiversity and agriculture

243. Working Group II considered agenda item 24 at its 2nd meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 24/6 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

244. Working Group II established a contact group, co-chaired by Hendrik Segers (Belgium) and Mr. Okoree, to discuss the matter further.

245. At its 4th meeting, Working Group II heard a report from the Co-Chairs of the contact group on the work of their group and agreed that the Chair of Working Group II would prepare a revised draft decision for the Working Group's consideration on the basis of the outcome of the contact group's work.

246. At its 7th meeting, Working Group II considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair.

247. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union and its 27 member States, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United Republic of Tanzania.

248. At its eight meeting, the Working Group continued its consideration of the revised draft decision and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.16.

249. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 15/28.

Item 25. Biodiversity and health

250. Working Group II considered agenda item 25 at its 2nd meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 24/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

251. Working Group II agreed that its Chair would undertake informal consultations with a view to preparing a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

252. At its 6th meeting, Working Group II established a group of friends of the Chair, co-facilitated by Barbara Engels (Germany) and Andrew Rhodes-Espinoza (Mexico), to address the unresolved issues and enable its Chair to prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

253. At its 9th meeting, Working Group II heard a report from the co-facilitator of the group of friends of the Chair, following which it considered a draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.17.

254. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision 15/29.

Item 26. Nature and culture

255. Working Group II considered agenda item 26 at its 2nd meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 11/3 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions and recommendation 23/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

256. Working Group II agreed that its Chair would undertake informal consultations with a view to addressing the unresolved issues and preparing a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

257. At its 6th meeting, Working Group II considered the revised draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.10.

258. At its 2nd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/22.

Item 27. Synthetic biology

259. Working Group II considered agenda item 27 at its 1st meeting. It had before it a draft decision based on recommendation 24/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as set out in the compilation of draft decisions.

260. The representative of Brazil made a statement.

261. Working Group II established a contact group, co-chaired by Ntakadzeni Tshidada (South Africa) and Werner Schenkel (Germany), with the mandate to address the text in brackets in the draft decision and to prepare a revised draft decision for the Group's consideration.

262. At its 4th and 9th meetings, Working Group II heard interim progress reports on the work of the contact group. At the latter meeting, the Group also heard a brief report on the work of the United Nations Biorisk Working Group from a representative of the World Health Organization. It then considered a draft decision submitted by its Chair and approved it, as orally amended, for transmission to the plenary session as draft decision CBD/COP/15/L.18.

263. At its 5th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision as decision 15/31.

VII. FINAL MATTERS

Item 28. Other matters

264. In view of the suspension of the meeting as described under agenda items 2 A and 30 in the present report, the Conference of the Parties did not consider item 28 until the meeting was resumed.

Resumed second part

265. At the 7th plenary session, statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

266. The representatives of the Russian Federation and Ukraine each made a further statement in exercise of their right of reply.

Item 29. Adoption of the report

267. Owing to the suspension of the meeting as described under agenda items 2 A and 30 in the present report, the Conference of the Parties did not consider item 29 until the meeting was resumed.

Resumed second part

268. At its 7th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties considered the draft report of the second part of the meeting presented by the Rapporteur (CBD/COP/15/Part-II/L.1/Rev.2).

269. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Cameroon, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Russian Federation and Spain (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States).

270. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft report, as orally amended, on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

Item 30. Closure of the meeting

271. As indicated under item 2 A of the agenda, it did not prove possible to conduct the election of officers and conclude the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties at the 5th plenary session.

272. Accordingly, the President proposed to suspend the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to allow Parties to resolve their differences relating to the election of officers at a resumed session of the meeting, to be convened at a later date, and requested members of the Bureau of the meeting and officers of other bodies to remain in office until the conclusion of the resumed session. No Party expressed any view otherwise.

273. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President suspended the meeting at 1 a.m. on 20 December 2022.

Resumed second part

274. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 1.15 p.m. on 20 October 2023.
