

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,  
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE  
Twenty-fourth meeting  
Online, 3 May – 9 June 2021  
Agenda item 3

**FIFTH EDITION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK AND ITS SUMMARY FOR  
POLICYMAKERS**

**Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair**

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice* recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. Welcomes the publication of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*,<sup>1</sup> including its summary for policymakers, as well as the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*<sup>2</sup> and the *2020 Plant Conservation Report*;<sup>3</sup>

2. Acknowledges with appreciation the financial support provided by Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

3. Takes note of the following general conclusions from the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*:

(a) Biodiversity is critical to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is crucial to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(b) At the global level, none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets has been fully achieved, but there are important examples in which actions in support of the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020<sup>5</sup> have generated successful outcomes;

(c) On the current trajectory, biodiversity and the services it provides will continue to decline, but it is not too late to slow, halt and eventually reverse this trend;

(d) There is no single pathway towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, but a significant shift towards sustainable development will be necessary, including transitions in the management of land and forests, of freshwater ecosystems, of fisheries and oceans, of agriculture, of the food system, of cities and infrastructure, of climate action, and of biodiversity and human health;

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

<sup>2</sup> 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) (see [www.localbiodiversityoutlooks.net](http://www.localbiodiversityoutlooks.net)).

<sup>3</sup> 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*.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>5</sup> Conference of the Parties decision [X/2](#), annex.

(e) The current level of biodiversity financing would not appear to be sufficient in relation to needs;

4. *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*, including:

(a) The need for still greater efforts to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, including through integrated and holistic approaches to planning and implementation, and greater interaction among government ministries, economic sectors and society generally.

(b) The need to strengthen further the integration of gender, the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and the level of stakeholder engagement;

(c) The need to strengthen national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and associated planning processes, including their adoption as whole-of-government policy instruments;

(d) The need for well-designed goals and targets formulated with clear, and, simple language, and with quantitative elements (i.e. according to “SMART” criteria);

(e) The need to reduce time lags in planning and implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to account for unavoidable time lags in implementation;

(f) The need for increased ambition of national commitments, and for the regular and effective review of national activities;

(g) The need for learning and adaptive management, including through greater efforts to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, and to understand the reasons for the effectiveness or otherwise of policy measures;

(h) The need for greater attention to implementation, and sustained and targeted support to countries;

5. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and local and subnational governments as well as relevant organizations, as appropriate, to use the report and to take steps to widely disseminate its findings, including by translating the report into local languages and producing other appropriate communication products for different stakeholders, and to make use of the report when implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

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