



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General  
15 August 2023

Original: English

### Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

#### Twenty-fifth meeting

Nairobi, 15–19 October 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

#### **Findings from the assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention**

### ***Review of findings from the *Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention***

Note by the Secretariat

## **I. Background**

1. In decision [15/19](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the approval by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), at its ninth session, of the *Summary for Policymakers of the Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature*<sup>1</sup> and the acceptance of its chapters, including their executive summaries.
2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also welcomed the groundbreaking efforts of IPBES 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 set out in annex II to decision IPBES-5/1.
3. Also in the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the findings of the assessment and to provide recommendations relating to the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>2</sup> for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.
4. In the Framework, the Conference of the Parties recognized and considered diverse value systems and concepts, including, for those countries that recognize them, the rights of nature and the

\* CBD/SBSTTA/25/1/Rev.1.

<sup>1</sup> See [www.ipbes.net/the-values-assessment](http://www.ipbes.net/the-values-assessment).

<sup>2</sup> Decision [15/4](#), annex.

rights of Mother Earth, and this should inform the implementation of the entire Framework. Additional information on the pertinence of diverse values to the Framework are provided in section II below.

5. In decision [15/10](#), the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to increase efforts to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Convention, including by recognizing, supporting and valuing their customary laws, collective actions, cosmocentric worldviews and diverse values.

6. In the same decision, draft objectives, general principles and elements of work for a new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention, to be discussed at the twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, were proposed. The new proposed programme of work contains several general principles that highlight the need to consider the various values of nature in decision-making processes and to foster a holistic approach consistent with the spiritual and cultural values and customary practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, recognizing their connection to their territories. One of the general principles is that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be valued, given the same respect and considered as useful and necessary as other forms of knowledge, and that genuine collaborations and the co-production of knowledge in ways that respect the knowledge-generation processes and the integrity of each knowledge system should be promoted.

7. In connection with the diverse value systems of nature in the Framework, the Conference of the Parties, in decision [15/22](#), renewed its commitment to the Joint Programme of Work on the links between biological and cultural diversity. The Joint Programme recognizes that different cultures and knowledge systems shape people's relationships with nature and influence their values and perceptions of biodiversity. Its goal is to recognize and promote natural and cultural heritage and diversity as drivers of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and a pathway to the vision of the 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 undertaken under the Convention and other relevant processes, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. In this context, the Joint Programme highlights the role of indigenous peoples, local communities and stakeholders in nurturing the diverse values of nature.

## II. Summary of the background and key messages of the assessment

8. The assessment acknowledges the relationships between diverse worldviews and values and emphasizes the importance of recognizing multiple perspectives in decision-making and policymaking. It offers guidance for navigating pathways towards sustainable development and achieving a balanced quality of life for all while preserving life on Earth. Nature is understood by IPBES and in the assessment in an inclusive way, encompassing diverse perspectives and understandings of the natural world, including those of academia, Governments, practitioners, indigenous peoples and local communities that use and embody such concepts as Mother Earth.

9. The summary for policymakers of the assessment is available online in the six official languages of the United Nations.<sup>3</sup> The following sections provide a summary of the main issues covered in the assessment. For a more comprehensive overview, readers are encouraged to refer to the summary for policymakers.

10. The assessment includes the following background messages:

(a) *Understanding the diverse values of nature.* This section provides an overview of relevant concepts of the values of nature, how those values form and change, and why and how some

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<sup>3</sup> At [www.ipbes.net/the-values-assessment](http://www.ipbes.net/the-values-assessment).

types of values are prioritized over others in economic and political decisions. It highlights the importance of recognizing and respecting the diverse values of nature, which can be enabled by using a comprehensive typology of values of nature. The typology provides guidance on identifying how different types of values can be best handled in different decision-making contexts, to make otherwise neglected values visible, and build common ground across multiple groups of stakeholders by highlighting convergences or overlaps. The typology encompasses the richness of people's relationships to nature by including worldviews and knowledge systems (both of which shape values), broad values (moral principles and life goals), specific values (judgments regarding the importance of nature in particular contexts) and value indicators (qualitative measures and qualitative descriptors of values). The values can be organized in four not mutually exclusive life frames that reflect the multiple ways in which people can relate to nature. The life frames (living from, living in, living with and living as nature) help to understand how certain values are highlighted in particular decision-making contexts. A values typology can coexist in various combinations across different times and contexts. The life frames can be summarized as follows:

- (i) "Living from nature" underscores nature's capacity to supply resources for sustaining livelihoods, addressing both needs and desires. It primarily supports human consumption;
- (ii) "Living in nature" understands the significance of places as settings for people's lives, practices, and cultures. It accentuates the intimate relationship between people and place;
- (iii) "Living with nature" emphasizes the recognition of life-supporting processes, involving connection with "other than humans". It asserts the independent thriving of all living beings in nature, independently of people's needs;
- (iv) "Living as part of nature" or "living as nature" views nature as an integral aspect of life, encompassing physical, mental and spiritual dimensions. Nature holds a sacred or familial value, fostering connections of kinship and interdependence;

(b) *Measuring and making visible the values of nature.* The assessment contains an analysis of more than 50 methods to assess nature's values, applied across diverse socioecological contexts worldwide. A diverse array of valuation methods originating from various disciplines and knowledge systems can be grouped into four non-disciplinary method families: nature-based, statement-based, behaviour-based and integrated. Each of those can assess various types of values of nature and nature's contributions to people, employing distinct approaches and involving various levels of stakeholder inclusion, with a set of opportunities and limitations. Choosing appropriate valuation methods involves identifying their relative strengths and weaknesses, with special consideration given to their relevance, robustness and resource requirements. The primary approaches to valuing nature are:

- (i) The nature-based valuation, by which information about the properties of nature and its benefits to people is collected, measured or analysed;
- (ii) The statement-based valuation, by which people are directly asked to express their values regarding nature;
- (iii) The behaviour-based valuation, by which people's values of nature are identified by observing their behaviours and practices towards nature;
- (iv) The integrated valuation, which combines information from several sources, allowing to make connections among different types of values;

(c) *Leveraging the diverse values of nature for transformative change towards sustainability.* This section presents evidence about how valuation supports policymaking by promoting more equitable and sustainable outcomes when diverse values of nature are acknowledged and power asymmetries among actors are addressed. By providing policymakers and stakeholders with various types of knowledge, valuation activities can inform decision-making and policy design. In this context, respecting and including local values, such as indigenous and local knowledge and

their diversity of values, are necessary to achieve outcomes that respect different ways of living, with a view to ensuring pro-environmental behaviour, civil society capabilities and opportunities to act, which could be achieved through governance structures that create opportunities to act upon sustainability-aligned values. Transformative change towards sustainability requires targeting different values-centred leverage points, including by recognizing diverse values of nature, incorporating valuation into decision-making, reforming policies to internalize nature's values and shifting societal norms and goals;

(d) *Embedding the values of nature for transformative decision-making for sustainability.*

This section discusses the various options to bring diverse values of nature into decision-making in order to achieve transformative change. The assessment of evidence shows that transformative change can be achieved through collective and synergistic actions by various actors to promote the consideration of diverse values of nature in decision-making. Those actions encompass a range of strategies, such as embedding diverse values into decisions, incorporating them into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, implementing policies that articulate diverse values and developing values-centred safeguards. Other actions involve addressing knowledge gaps, mobilizing sustainability-aligned values, fostering policy coherence across sectors on the basis of sustainability-aligned values and advocating the recognition of and respect for diverse values.

11. The assessment includes the following 10 key messages:

- Key message 1: the causes of the global biodiversity crisis and the opportunities to address them are tightly linked to the ways in which nature is valued in political and economic decisions at all levels;
- Key message 2: despite the diversity of nature's values, most policymaking approaches have prioritized a narrow set of values at the expense of both nature and society, as well as of future generations, and have often ignored values associated with indigenous peoples' and local communities' worldviews;
- Key message 3: the diversity of nature's values in policymaking can be advanced by considering a typology of nature's values that encompasses the richness of people's relationships with nature;
- Key message 4: valuation processes can be tailored to equitably take into account the values of nature of multiple stakeholders in different decision-making contexts;
- Key message 5: more than 50 valuation methods and approaches, originating from diverse disciplines and knowledge systems, are available to date to assess nature's values; choosing appropriate and complementary methods requires assessing trade-offs between their relevance, robustness and resource requirements;
- Key message 6: despite increasing calls to consider valuation in policy decisions, scientific documentation shows that less than 5 per cent of published valuation studies report its uptake in policy decisions;
- Key message 7: achieving sustainable and just futures requires institutions that enable a recognition and integration of the diverse values of nature and nature's contributions to people;
- Key message 8: transformative change needed to address the global biodiversity crisis relies on shifting away from predominant values that currently overemphasize short term and individual material gains to nurturing sustainability-aligned values across society;
- Key message 9: working with a combination of four values-based leverage points (i.e. undertaking valuation, embedding values in decision-making, reforming policy and shifting societal goals) may catalyse transformation towards sustainable and just futures;
- Key message 10: information, resource (i.e. technical and financial) and capacity gaps hinder the inclusion of diverse values of nature in decision-making. Capacity-building and

development, and collaborations among a range of societal actors, can help to bridge these gaps.

12. The assessment emphasizes the need to recognize and respect the diverse values associated with nature, including those embedded in indigenous and local knowledge systems. The assessment calls for inclusive and equitable decision-making processes incorporating diverse perspectives and values and promoting transformative change towards sustainability and justice. Those findings have important implications for the Framework, emphasizing the need to integrate diverse values, promote inclusive decision-making and support transformative change to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the well-being of both people and nature.

13. The assessment calls for a shift from the dominant global focus on short-term profits and economic growth, which often excludes the consideration of multiple values of nature in policy decisions, to a more respectful relationship among human beings and towards nature, which would require changing the paradigms about how to pursue a meaningful life and aligning societal goals with such values as justice, stewardship, unity and responsibility.

### **III. Diverse value systems in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

14. As noted above, diverse value systems and concepts are recognized and considered in the Framework, specifically in its section C, on considerations for the implementation of the Framework. The diverse value systems of nature held by different people encompass such concepts as biodiversity, ecosystems, Mother Earth and systems of life. Both nature and nature's contributions to people are vital for human existence and a 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 also recognizes and considers those diverse value systems and concepts, including, for those countries that recognize them, the rights of nature and the rights of Mother Earth, as being an integral part of its successful implementation.

15. Target 14 of the Framework is aimed at ensuring that the multiples values of biodiversity are fully reflected or mainstreamed at all levels in all relevant decision-making leading to the alignment of all activities, and all financial flows, with the goals and targets of the Framework.

16. The vital roles and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities as guardians of biodiversity and valuable partners in its conservation, restoration and sustainable use are also acknowledged in the Framework. The Framework provides for the protection and promotion of the rights, knowledge, innovations, worldviews and values of indigenous peoples and local communities.

17. Targets 21 and 22 of the Framework also promote the inclusivity of diverse values and knowledge systems by ensuring the equitable participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders, which embody those diverse values in decision-making processes related to biodiversity.

18. Target 21 is aimed at ensuring that the best available data, information and knowledge, including traditional knowledge, are accessible to decision makers. This entails that various knowledge systems and worldviews of nature should be given due consideration. In addition, Target 21 recognizes the importance of ensuring that access to the traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technology of indigenous peoples and local communities is only granted with their free, prior and informed consent.

19. Target 22 focuses on the inclusion of diverse perspectives in decision-making processes related to biodiversity. It is aimed at ensuring the full, equitable and gender-responsive representation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, considering their cultures and rights over land, territories, resources and traditional knowledge. Target 22 also highlights the importance of including women and girls, children and young people and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.

20. In line with the considerations in section C of the Framework, the recognition and consideration of diverse value systems and concepts to inform the implementation of the entire Framework are also based on the following:

(a) Integrating diverse values of nature is integral to the implementation of Targets 1, 2 and 3. Indigenous peoples, local communities and stakeholders incorporate such values into their local spatial planning, often manifested as local development plans. Target 1 is aimed at ensuring that all areas are under a planning process or managed to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero and embodies a holistic approach to ensuring that areas of biocultural significance are safeguarded. Target 2 calls for the restoration of 30 per cent of degraded areas. It is premised on the fact that diverse values should guide the restoration of ecosystem functions and services that hold spiritual and cultural significance. Target 3 calls for the conservation of 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and of marine and coastal areas and acknowledges the importance of indigenous and traditional territories, as they can strengthen local governance systems, thereby contributing to the effective management of areas located in indigenous and traditional territories;

(b) Targets 5 and 9 emphasize the importance of ensuring that the use and harvesting of, trade in, and management of wild species are conducted sustainably and legally, while also recognizing and respecting the customary sustainable practices of indigenous peoples and local communities. Those targets are aimed at fostering a balance between the need to promote the conservation of nature and the need to ensure the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities through the recognition of their knowledge systems, worldviews and values;

(c) Target 16 is aimed at promoting sustainable consumption choices and reducing the global footprint of consumption. In this context, the diverse values of nature and the principle of living in harmony with Mother Earth could help to emphasize the crucial role of establishing supportive policies and of improving education and access to accurate information to encourage sustainable consumption behaviours;

(d) Diverse values of nature form an integral part of Target 18, which calls for the elimination, phasing out or reform of incentives, including subsidies, that are harmful to biodiversity, as well as the scaling up of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

21. The Framework facilitates transformative change that can be leveraged by the four values-based points identified in key message 9 of the assessment: (a) undertaking valuation; (b) embedding values in decision-making; (c) reforming policy; and (c) shifting societal goals.

## IV. Recommendations

22. The Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of Parties,*

*Recalling its decision [15/19](#) of 19 December 2022,*

*Noting that, in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>1</sup> it recognized and considered diverse value systems and concepts, including for those countries that recognize the rights of nature and the rights of Mother Earth, and that this should inform the implementation of the entire Framework,*

*Also noting that, in Target 14 of the Framework, it called for the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into decision-making at all levels,*

*1. Welcomes the *Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem**

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<sup>1</sup> Decision [15/4](#), annex.

*Services*,<sup>2</sup> including the summary for policymakers approved by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its ninth session;

2. *Notes* the relevance of the findings of the assessment, which calls for the recognition and consideration of diverse value systems, valuation, concepts and worldviews of nature in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>3</sup> and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

3. *Endorses* the key messages contained in the summary for policymakers of the assessment;

4. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment to promoting the implementation of the Joint Programme of Work on the links between biological and cultural diversity<sup>4</sup> and the process of developing 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;

5. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples, local communities and stakeholders to make use, as appropriate, of the information contained in the assessment in the implementation of the Convention and the Framework, including through the update and revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the preparation of their seventh and subsequent national reports;

6. *Encourages* Parties to develop capacities, as appropriate, to take into account and consider the findings of the assessment in national implementation process, and invites developed country Parties, Parties in a position to do so and relevant organizations to provide support to developing countries in this regard;

7. *Encourages* Parties, according to their national needs, capacities and circumstances, to take, as appropriate, steps to:

(a) Undertake a valuation that recognizes the diverse values of nature;

(b) Meaningfully include the diverse values of nature in decision-making;

(c) Reform policies and institutions, and their underlying norms and societal goals, to internalize the diverse values of nature and align them with the global objectives of sustainability and justice;

8. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth, in line with Targets 22 and 23 of the Framework, in incorporating diverse values and perspectives of nature and knowledge systems into decision-making.

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<sup>2</sup> Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, *Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (Bonn, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/10/INF/3, annex I.