

Non-paper on agenda item 7

Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas

Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [VII/28](#) of 20 February 2004, [VIII/24](#) of 31 March 2006, [IX/18](#) of 30 May 2008, [X/31](#) of 29 October 2010, [14/8](#) of 29 November 2018, 15/4 of 19 December 2022 and [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024,

Acknowledging that the programme of work on protected areas¹ and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity² continue to provide a strategic framework for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³ in particular Target 3, while noting that complementary activities are needed to enhance its alignment with the Framework and address identified gaps,

Recognizing that ecological connectivity is a foundational condition for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively managed and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures under Target 3 of the Framework, and contributes to the achievement of other relevant targets and Goal A of the Framework,

Welcomes the upcoming IUCN World Congress on Protected and Conserved Areas 2027, to be organized in Panama by the IUCN, the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Ministry of Environment of Panama,

1. *Decides* to revise the name of the programme of work on protected areas to “programme of work on protected and conserved areas” in order to reflect the broader scope of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable in a manner consistent with Target 3 of the Framework and to enhance clarity and coherence;

2. *Endorses* the complementary activities for further or improved guidance contained in the annex to the present decision, as an update to the programme of work in order to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with particular focus on Target 3;

3. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to integrate the updated programme of work in the development and implementation of actions to meet the relevant targets of the Framework, in particular Target 3, subject to national circumstances, legislation and priorities;

3.bis *Invites* developed country Parties, Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties, other Governments and non-sovereign contributors, such as financing mechanisms, the private sector and philanthropic organisations, to mobilise, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention and Target 19 of the Framework, new,

¹ Decision [VII/28](#), annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

additional, predictable, adequate and accessible financial resources to support the implementation of the updated programme of work, particularly for developing countries;

4. *Invites* the secretariats of relevant biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and United Nations entities, including the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, women and youth, to contribute to the implementation of the Framework by supporting knowledge exchange, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and coordinated action in the implementation of the updated programme of work;

5. *Encourages* Parties, as appropriate, to apply a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the updated programme of work, consistent with Section C of the Framework and Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, including by ensuring the full, equitable, inclusive and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, girls and youth, and, as appropriate, the protection of environmental human rights defenders;⁴

5.bis *Encourages* Parties to take into consideration findings from relevant assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services when implementing the updated programme of work, and to engage in the preparations of the methodological assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity.

5.ter *Decides* to establish a fifth programme element on ecological connectivity within the programme of work, as set out in section II of the annex to the present decision, recognizing ecological connectivity as a foundational condition for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively managed and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding duplication with other ongoing initiatives:

(a) To further support the Target 3 Community of Practice as a flexible, inclusive and voluntary platform, with a view to facilitating coordination, knowledge exchange and implementation support, and to invite indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, relevant organizations and initiatives to participate in the Community;

(b) To collaborate with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and other relevant partners in order to deliver targeted scientific and technical support to Parties for meeting Target 3 of the Framework, based on the best available information and the best practices identified pursuant to paragraph 6(c);

(c) To compile, with input from Parties, other governments, observers and other stakeholders, a synthesis report on experiences, lessons learned and different approaches that support the achievement of Target 3 of the Framework and the implementation of the programme of work, with particular focus on the following areas:

- (i) Equitable governance approaches, including the recognition and respect of the rights and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and other groups, including through the implementation of Target 22 of the Framework;
- (ii) Ecological integrity, representativeness, ecosystem restoration and resilience, and ecological connectivity across terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine systems, including in the context of climate change;

⁴ Decision [16/4](#), annex.

- (iii) The recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, including by applying differentiated approaches for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, based on the outcomes of the SB8J Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 as contained in Decision COP/17/xx;
 - (iv) Gender equality and gender-responsive and intergenerational approaches in planning, governance and the management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;
 - (v) The integration of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures into broader landscapes and seascapes, across areas within and beyond national jurisdiction, in line with the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), including through biodiversity-inclusive and participatory spatial planning;
 - (vi) The identification and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, and biocultural diversity, including underrepresented ecosystems and areas supporting belowground ecological networks;
 - (vii) Planning, governance and the effective management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including the integration of climate change considerations and participatory risk assessment to address human-wildlife conflict, as key conditions for achieving management effectiveness, including examples and best practices for other effective area-based conservation measures;
 - (viii) Ecological networks, conservation mosaics, climate-informed spatial planning and corridor design, ecological connectivity at varying scales, transboundary conservation and its contribution to peace, and restoration including in urban and peri-urban contexts;
 - (ix) Monitoring and evaluation systems for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including through the use of relevant new technologies, community-based monitoring, the strengthening of national biodiversity databases, amongst other relevant dimensions, and, where possible, the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable);
 - (x) Sustainable finance approaches, innovative financial mechanisms, including from public and private sources, relevant to the implementation of Target 3 according to national priorities and in line with the implementation of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, including direct and accessible financing approaches for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;
 - (x)bis Good practices related to access to information, participation in decision-making, access to justice and the protection of environmental human rights defenders, consistent with Target 22;
- (d) To report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

Update to the programme of work on protected and conserved areas

The table below shows the mapping of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁵ against complementary activities that could support the implementation of the programme of work.⁶ It highlights areas of strong alignment, opportunities to strengthen existing provisions and gaps where further development is needed. It is based on the findings of a strategic review of the programme, related submissions and a peer review analysis. The activities are categorised as follows: (A) those that have existing strong alignment with Target 3 of the Framework and its interlinkages with other targets; (B) those which address targets that are partially covered by the programme of work and where implementation can be strengthened; and (C) areas for further development that the programme of work does not cover or only covers in a limited manner and where additional guidance is needed. For Targets 9, 13, 16, 17 and 18, no specific actions relevant to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures are proposed.

The implementation of the updated programme of work should be conducted in line with section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and in accordance with national circumstances, legislation and priorities.

Complementary activities to strengthen the programme of work on protected and conserved areas and its alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 1	1. Integrate protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures into broader landscape and seascape planning to improve, in accordance with national legislation, biodiversity outcomes, ecological representativeness and connectivity, through participatory and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning processes while recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.	A
Target 2	2. Promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems within and protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and beyond, including buffer zones, ecological corridors and freshwater and riverine ecosystems, with a view to restoring ecological integrity and ecological connectivity across landscapes and seascapes, including through the development of criteria for identifying priority restoration areas and approaches for measuring restoration success, ensuring inclusive and gender-responsive implementation of the restoration efforts, as appropriate.	B
Target 3	3. Incorporate the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework across implementation of the programme of work, updating relevant timelines and terminology, and ensuring coherence with related processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the programme of work on Article 8(j) and	A

⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁶ Decision [VII/28](#), annex.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030. 3.bis Strengthen guidance related to improving monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems to improve the assessment of biodiversity outcomes, including in relation to ecological representativeness, connectivity, integrity, conservation effectiveness, management effectiveness, governance quality, and through the use of appropriately disaggregated indicators, such as by ecosystem type and level of protection. 4. Enhance guidance related to the recognition, respect, promotion and protection of indigenous and traditional territories where applicable, in the context of Target 3, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities. This encompasses differentiated approaches to ensure comprehensive protection, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact. 5. Increase the uptake of practical frameworks, guidance, emerging innovative tools, case studies and national experiences, lessons learned and different approaches to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, including the definition and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecological networks, climate-informed corridor design, large-scale ecological connectivity, including belowground ecological processes, other effective area-based conservation measures and transboundary conservation. 6. Strengthen the operationalization of equitable and effective governance in the planning, governance and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including by: shifting from beneficiary-based approaches to recognizing, respecting, promoting and protecting the rights and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities; promoting standards and good practices for participation, shared governance and co-management arrangements; ensuring culturally appropriate access to information; respecting and strengthening, where applicable, the implementation of free, prior and informed consent. 7. Strengthen inclusive monitoring and evaluation systems for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including by identifying available tools, and facilitate the use of relevant new technologies to better assess ecological representativeness, integrity and connectivity, biodiversity outcomes, management effectiveness, governance quality, as well as by the integration of relevant disaggregated indicators. 8. Promote the use of relevant and new approaches such as ecological connectivity in the planning and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including through the development of ecological	

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	networks, ecological corridors, stepping stones and transboundary connectivity initiatives and climate-informed corridor design across wider landscapes and seascapes. [9. DELETED]	
Target 4	10. Integrate systematic human-wildlife conflict risk assessment into the establishment, expansion and zoning of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including through the application of environmental and social impact assessment processes, in order to anticipate, prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict. 11. Strengthen capacities for participatory risk assessment, rapid response mechanisms, where possible, and inclusive community engagement approaches to address human-wildlife conflict in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.	B
Target 5	12. Provide guidance on addressing and managing the use of wild species within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, where such use is allowed, in a manner that mitigates risks to biodiversity and human health, consistent with site-specific conservation objectives and zoning while ensuring the sustainable, legal and safe use across relevant stages of the use chain, including, as appropriate, through the application of One Health risk assessment frameworks and respecting and protecting customary sustainable use practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.	B
Target 6	13. Strengthen prevention, early detection and rapid response to invasive alien species in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including through community-based monitoring and surveillance systems, and biosecurity and trade-related measures.	B
Target 7	14. Address pollution pressures from all sources affecting protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including plastic pollution, pesticide use and run-off, noise pollution, cumulative impacts and land-sea interactions.	B
Target 8	15. Strengthen the restoration and use of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, as nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. 16. Promote climate-informed system design that anticipates future range shifts, including by identifying additional climate refugia, connectivity corridors and areas of future biodiversity importance.	C
Target 9	No specific actions identified.	n/a
Target 10	18. Strengthen guidance on how sustainably managed production landscapes and biodiversity-friendly practices can complement protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in improving ecological connectivity, ecosystem functions and resilience across landscapes and seascapes, in particular by promoting nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and integrated land-use	C

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	planning approaches, recognising the value of traditional knowledge and practices. 18.bis Promote the sustainable ecosystem-based extraction of species in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, especially in marine areas.	
Target 11	19. Highlight the role of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures to restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.	B
Target 12	20. Integrate protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures into urban and peri-urban planning, including through green and blue infrastructure, to enhance ecological connectivity, climate change adaptation, to support physical and mental health and well-being, and equitable access to nature especially for the most vulnerable.	C
Target 13	21. No specific actions identified.	n/a
Target 14	22. Integrate protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures into cross-sectoral policies, legislation, planning and development processes, where relevant for their planning and effective management.	B
Target 15	23. Support and promote the implementation of legal, administrative or policy measures that encourage and enable businesses and financial institutions to assess, disclose and progressively reduce biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including across their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios, in order to promote sustainable value chains and reduce risks to biodiversity. 24. Facilitate clearer direction on engaging financial actors and private sector in support of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures on a voluntary basis to also develop the field of conservation, protection and restoration as a key economic area.	B
Target 16	25. No specific actions identified.	n/a
Target 17	26. No specific actions identified.	n/a
Target 18	27. No specific actions identified.	n/a
Target 19	28. Promote the identification of: (a) adequate, timely, predictable and accessible financial resources for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including international financial resources for developing country Parties, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, complemented, as appropriate, by sustainable finance approaches and voluntary private and other non-public funding; and (b) innovative mechanisms in support of effective implementation, including access to international biodiversity financing mechanisms, public-private partnerships and other innovative mechanisms, consistent with national priorities and with environmental and social safeguards, and (c) approaches for strengthening the long-term financial sustainability and institutional resilience of protected areas and other effective	A

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	area-based conservation measures, including mechanisms for mobilising public, private, philanthropic and innovative sources of finance. 29. Promote accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, where applicable under Target 3, in accordance with national circumstances.	
Target 20	30. Strengthen capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for establishing and managing protected and conserved area, including with respect to new technologies and institutional support for the conservation workforce, including rangers and other relevant personnel.	A
Target 21	31. Strengthen the application of advances in biodiversity monitoring, data management and knowledge-sharing through targeted capacity-building on comprehensive biodiversity monitoring and the use of innovative technologies, including digital technologies, remote sensing and national biodiversity databases, to improve monitoring, evaluation and decision-making relating to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including through nationally appropriate approaches and indicators.	B
Target 22	32. Strengthen access to information and the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. 32.bis Ensure access to justice by indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and persons with disabilities, including through the establishment of effective and accessible grievance mechanisms to address issues related to the establishment, management and governance of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. 32.ter Ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders engaged in activities related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.	B
Target 23	33. Promote gender equality and integrate a gender-responsive approach, including the use of gender-disaggregated indicators, across the programme of work.	A

Programme element 5: Ecological connectivity

Objective

To maintain, enhance and restore structural and functional ecological connectivity across terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine systems, including by integrating ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures into wider landscapes and seascapes.

Goal 5.1 – Integrated planning and implementation

Integrate ecological networks, ecological corridors, stepping stones and other measures that maintain, enhance or restore ecological connectivity into biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, climate change adaptation and relevant sectoral and infrastructure planning, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and legislation.

Goal 5.2 – Equitable governance and enabling conditions

Promote equitable and effective governance, the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, the recognition and respect for their rights, including over their traditional territories, and the application of free, prior and informed consent, as applicable, while strengthening financial resources, capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and access to and transfer of technology.

Goal 5.3 – Cooperation and coordination

Strengthen, as appropriate, national, transboundary and cross-sectoral cooperation on ecological connectivity and promote synergies with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives, in accordance with their respective mandates and while avoiding duplication.

Goal 5.4 – Monitoring and knowledge

Strengthen nationally appropriate approaches and indicators for monitoring structural and functional ecological connectivity, drawing on scientific information and indigenous and local knowledge, subject to free, prior and informed consent, as applicable, and taking into account relevant findings of the IPBES assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity once approved by the IPBES Plenary.