



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
Technical and Technological Advice**
Twenty-eighth meeting
Nairobi, 27 July–1 August 2026
Agenda item 10
Adoption of the report

Report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-eighth meeting

Summary

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held its twenty-eighth meeting in Nairobi, from 27 July to 1 August 2026. It adopted six recommendations, which are contained in section I, while the account of the proceedings of the meeting is contained in section II.

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I. Recommendations adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

28/1. Planning, monitoring, reporting and review

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Invites the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, in line with decision [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025, to agree to the inclusion of the following provisions on the scientific, technical and technological aspects of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹ in the draft decisions to be submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting:

A. Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that, in its decisions [15/4](#) and [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022, and [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct a global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at its seventeenth meeting and that the national reports and the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework would be the primary sources of information for the global review,

Recalling also that, in its decision [16/32](#), the Conference of the Parties also decided that the global review would draw upon relevant recommendations of the subsidiary bodies and working groups and, as relevant, the outcomes of the informal technical dialogue, [which has since been named the Kunming dialogue on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in support of the global review,] the outcomes of the subregional and regional dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, and the global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans,

Recognizing that 129 Parties had submitted national reports in time for consideration in the preparation of the global report, that is, by 8 March 2026, which had provided substantial evidence for preparing the global report,

Recognizing also that additional sources of information identified in decision [16/32](#), such as scientific literature and the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, were used in the preparation of the global report, that those sources further strengthened the evidence base for the global report and that science played an important role in the global review,

Noting with concern that there remain data and information gaps in the national reports, that not all Parties were able to submit national reports in time for them to be considered in the preparation of the global report and that, consequently, the experiences of some Parties, in particular small island developing States, are not well reflected in the global report,

Noting with appreciation the support provided to Parties for developing national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports,

Highlighting that, for many developing country Parties, in particular small island developing States, there continues to be delays in the initiation of the Global Environment

¹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

Facility support for developing national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports, which had an impact on the timeliness and completeness of some national reports,² and recognizing that a range of factors may have contributed to delays,

Recognizing that the information and data gaps identified in the global report do not necessarily represent gaps in the implementation of the Framework or a lack of commitment to the Framework,

Stressing that many Parties face institutional, technical, capacity and resource challenges in preparing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, in particular in relation to the use of the headline indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³ which contribute to the information gaps in the global report,

Acknowledging that, while there were methodological, scientific, technical and data limitations and time constraints related to the preparation of the first global report, the global report is the most definitive source of information on collective progress currently available, that it was developed through a Party-led process and that it provides a [sound] basis for the global review,

Acknowledging also that the planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms, including future global reviews, could be further strengthened by taking into account the experiences and lessons learned in preparing the first global report and the seventh national reports,

Expressing appreciation for the work of the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the Preparation of the Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in guiding the production of the first global report,

1. *Welcomes [with appreciation]* the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and notes its overarching messages and key messages;

2. *[Also welcomes][Recognizes] with appreciation* that the Framework has generated unprecedented global engagement and has driven action, innovation, collaboration and learning;

3. *Further welcomes* the fact that Parties have taken actions across all 23 targets of the Framework showing successful examples of implementation for every target;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that actors other than national Governments, namely, indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities, and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, other multilateral environment agreements, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, research organizations, the business and finance community and representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity have taken action to implement the Framework;⁴

5. *Highlights* the fact that, as indicated in the global report, the review has revealed both progress and gaps in implementation, in particular:

² The timing of disbursement and expenditure for the enabling activities projects funded by the Global Environment Facility is available in document [CBD/SBI/7/INF/17](#) and summarized in the global report.

³ Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

⁴ All references to “actors other than national Governments” are to be understood as described in paragraph 4 (in line with decisions [15/6](#) and [16/32](#)).

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- (a) Scope and coverage
 - (i) Parties have collectively set national targets that had a higher level of scope and coverage of Targets 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Framework, an intermediate level of scope and coverage of Targets 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 17 and 21 and a lower level of scope and coverage of Targets 1, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23;
 - (ii) The consideration of marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems, issues related to the drivers of biodiversity loss and issues related to [section C of the Framework, in particular] [whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, including participation, the engagement of actors other than national Governments, gender responsiveness, equitable governance and mainstreaming], has been less addressed in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and national reports;
 - (b) Action and implementation
 - (i) National targets associated with Targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 13, 20, 21 and 22 of the Framework were most frequently self-assessed by Parties as being on track, while national targets associated with Targets 6, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were least frequently self-assessed by Parties as being on track; however, less than half of the national targets associated with any global target had been reported by Parties as being on track;
 - (ii) While there were data and national monitoring capacity gaps that limited the ability to report national data and, thus, to aggregate them at the global level and conclusively track collective progress towards the global targets, indicators related to the targets of the Framework showed negative trends more commonly than positive ones;
 - (c) Means of implementation
 - (i) Means of implementation remain below what is required for the full and effective implementation of the Framework, especially for developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States;
 - (ii) Since the adoption of the Framework, there has been some, albeit uneven, progress across Parties in domestic and international public finance, positive incentives for biodiversity, capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and technical and scientific cooperation;
 - (iii) Collectively, limited progress has been made in mobilizing and tracking private sector finance and positive incentives and in reducing incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity;
 - (iv) The lack of availability of sufficient and timely means of implementation was identified as the most common barrier to implementation, especially by developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States;
 - (d) Whole-of-government approaches
 - (i) Parties have made progress in strengthening environmental governance, including by engaging all levels of government and all sectors; however, gaps remain with regard to policy coherence, mainstreaming biodiversity and its multiple values into national policy and engaging ministries beyond the environmental sector in implementation;
 - (ii) Gaps remain with regard to progress towards Targets 1 and 14 of the Framework, which relate to integrated planning and mainstreaming and are most directly

related to whole-of-government approaches, especially in relation to integrated spatial planning, integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes and ensuring integration across all levels of government and sectors;

(e) Whole-of-society approaches

- (i) Actors other than national Governments are actively supporting the implementation of the Framework, but indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and persons with disabilities face challenges related to limited resources, technical capacities, access to information and knowledge, effective participation and coordination mechanisms;
- (ii) Collectively, Parties have made progress in engaging actors other than national Governments in planning and implementation; however, many Parties reported challenges in accounting for the contributions of those actors in national implementation efforts;
- (iii) While many Parties reported progress towards some elements of Targets 22 and 23 of the Framework, such as involving to a varying degree indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, persons with disabilities and other actors defined in those targets in biodiversity-related decision-making, issues related to the following were less well reflected in national targets: access to information and justice, rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, and the protection of environmental human rights defenders or gender-responsive biodiversity governance;

(f) Data and knowledge

- (i) Parties have demonstrated improvements to national monitoring and knowledge management systems, including accounting for traditional knowledge and collecting and using information from government agencies, scientific institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and international sources, as reflected in the progress made towards Target 21 of the Framework;
- (ii) A total of 116 Parties reported on at least one headline indicator; the headline indicators on protected area extent (3.1), Red List Index (A.3), international public funding (D.1) and domestic public funding (D.2), which are associated with Targets 3, 4 and 19 of the Framework, were the headline indicators most reported on, while the indicators related to land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities (22.1), benefits from the sustainable use of wild species (9.1), index of coastal eutrophication (7.1) and monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments (C.1), which are associated with Targets 7, 9 and 13, were the indicators least reported on;
- (iii) For 19 of the 23 targets of the Framework, less than half of the reporting Parties submitted any data for a headline, component, complementary or national indicator; the targets with the most reported quantitative data were 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10, while Targets 8, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22 and 23 received the least;
- (iv) The use of disaggregated indicator information, including by ecosystem type, sex, age, indigenous people and local community status or other relevant characteristics, was limited;

- (v) Reporting against the indicators and monitoring efforts have been negatively affected by gaps, challenges and barriers related to methodologies, data availability and access, data fragmentation, technical and technological infrastructure, resource availability and capacity;

6. *Notes with deep concern* that, unless collective implementation is rapidly accelerated, including through enhanced international cooperation, improved actions and efforts and strengthened means of implementation, the 2030 targets and mission of the Framework will not be achieved, and stresses the imperative to address gaps, challenges and barriers in implementation to achieve the 2030 targets and mission;

[7. *Also notes with deep concern* that, if the 2030 targets and mission of the Framework are not achieved, [its 2050 goals and vision may be at risk [unless the provision of means of implementation are rapidly accelerated]]];]

8. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, actors other than national Governments and the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres supporting the implementation of the Framework to make use of the information that is contained in the global report and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and national reports, when executing their respective mandates, and that is within their area of competence, where relevant;

9. *Urges* Parties to further develop and/or strengthen national monitoring and knowledge management systems to address the gaps in data and knowledge mentioned above and to improve evidenced-based decision-making and the tracking of national progress in the implementation of the Framework;

[10. *Encourages* Parties to ensure that the foundational data needed for implementing the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular national ecosystem maps, are in place to support the operationalization of the ecosystem-based headline indicators;]

11. [*Also encourages* Parties, and [requests][invites] the Global Environment Facility and invites other Governments and other organizations, to provide support for addressing the technical and financial challenges faced by Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, in improving their national monitoring and knowledge management systems [and foundational data needed for implementing and monitoring the Framework], including by enhancing the provision of adequate, predictable, accessible and timely financial resources, technology transfer [on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed][on mutually agreed terms], technical assistance and capacity-building and development to developing country Parties in order to enable the effective implementation of the monitoring framework and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁵]

12. *Invites* actors other than national Governments, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations to support the efforts of Parties to improve national monitoring and knowledge management systems;

13. *Encourages* Parties to make full use of existing mechanisms, tools, the technical and scientific cooperation support centres, capacity-building and development initiatives and plans, and enhanced regional cooperation to strengthen monitoring and knowledge management systems;

⁵ The section of paragraph 11 related to the Global Environment Facility will be duplicated in the decision on the financial mechanism to be adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To make the information contained in the submitted national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets, national reports and commitments from actors other than national Governments more easily accessible;

(b) To make the findings from the global report easily accessible, including through the development of information dashboards on the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity;⁶

(c) To continue to coordinate and collaborate with relevant partners to provide capacity-building and development support to Parties and actors other than national Governments aimed at improving national monitoring and knowledge management systems.

B. Further enhancing planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms, including the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [15/4](#), [15/5](#), [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022, [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024 and [16/31](#) and [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025,

Noting that there are still gaps related to the coverage, methodologies and metadata for existing indicators and the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁷

1. *Notes* with concern that the methodological readiness of headline indicators listed in methodological statuses 1, 2 and 3 in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#)⁸ remains low, which impedes national reporting;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the technical updates to the metadata for the headline indicators, as contained in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#), and the support provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its partners to the further development and operationalization of some headline indicators, as described in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/8/Rev.1](#);

[3. *Agrees* to the inclusion of the additional component and complementary indicators contained in annex I to the present decision in the monitoring framework, noting that their use in national reporting is optional and subject to national circumstances;]

[3.Alt. *Takes note* of the additional component and complementary indicators proposed in annex I to the present decision, noting that Parties may use them in national reporting and that their use is optional and subject to national circumstances;]

4. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scientific and technical inputs relevant to the second global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, specifically taking into account the need to address methodological, scientific, technical and data limitations of the first global review, including [further methodological development of headline indicators that remain at a low level of development and methodological readiness,] ways to reflect, among other inputs, the relevant deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular its second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, while recognizing that [the sources of information were agreed in paragraph 18 decision [16/32](#)

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁷ Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

⁸ I.e. indicators B.1, C.1, C.2, D.3, 1.1, 7.2 (pesticide environment concentration), 9.1, 9.2, 15.1, 18.2, 21.1 and 22.1.

and that] the eighth national reports remain the primary source of information for the second global review, and respecting the respective mandates of the Convention and the Platform;

5. *Emphasizes* the scientific and technical importance of maintaining comparability between the seventh and eighth national reports and the first and second global reports, as well as the need to ensure that any changes to the planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms provide continuity, do not disrupt the existing efforts of Parties to establish national monitoring [systems][mechanisms] and do not increase the reporting burden related to the indicators [for the eighth national report, while allowing for development in national monitoring [systems][mechanisms]];

6. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group, with a mandate until the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework, and in particular to support the eighth round of national reporting in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present decision;

7. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework established pursuant to paragraph 6 above, for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

8. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, building on its recommendations [1/3](#) and [1/5](#) of 30 October 2025, to provide advice on the integration of traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and community-based monitoring into the monitoring framework, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to submitting guidance for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) When further developing the functionality of the online reporting tool, to improve its functionality for indicator reporting and data entry [and extraction], ensuring that existing global data are available through the tool, and to identify possible improvements to the tool and make them, as needed;

(b) To collaborate with relevant partners, including the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, other United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and research organizations, including those addressing issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and the private sector, to support the further operationalization of the monitoring framework, including by supporting technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building and development related to the use of the monitoring framework and the development of national biodiversity monitoring systems;

(c) To support the further development of metadata for indicators, under the guidance of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework;

(d) To keep the metadata for all headline and binary indicators under review, as necessary, in order to reflect methodological improvements, but without introducing substantive changes to methodology;

(e) To collect information from Parties related to subparagraphs 2 (a), (d) and (e) of annex II and make this information available to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the

Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for its consideration when undertaking its work;

(f) To identify potential collaborators for the development of headline indicators 1.1[, 7.2 (pesticide environment concentration)] and 9.1;

(g) To encourage the partner organizations providing global data to ensure the timely update and validation of those data.

Annex I

Optional component and complementary indicators to be added to the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<i>Most relevant goal or target</i>	<i>Indicator type</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
A	Complementary	Scorecard of genetic diversity in wild species
A	Complementary	Dendritic connectivity index
4	Complementary	Number and list of tree and other woody plant species that have been included in in situ conservation programmes of forest genetic resources
4	Complementary	Extent of lost farmed types of aquaculture species
4	Complementary	Extent of populations of wild relatives of aquaculture species subject to conservation measures
4	Complementary	Extent of ex situ conservation for important farmed types of aquatic genetic resources
4	Complementary	Extent of non-native species used in aquaculture posing a risk for native biodiversity
7	Complementary	Levels and trends of mercury and mercury compounds in the environment and in human beings due to anthropogenic emissions and releases
7	Complementary	Freshwater eutrophication index
11	Complementary	Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
16	Complementary	Global environmental impacts of consumption indicator
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related market price support
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related non-exempt direct payments
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related other product-specific support
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related product-specific equivalent measurement of support
18	Component	Monetary value of agriculture-related non-product-specific aggregated measurement of support
19	Complementary	Biodiversity investment ratio

Annex II

Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Further Operationalization of the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁹ shall develop:

(a) Technical advice on the further development of the methodology and metadata of the headline indicators listed in methodological statuses 1, 2 and 3 in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#), as appropriate;

(b) Practical advice on the use and operationalization of the metadata for headline indicators in national monitoring and reporting processes, including on the use of disaggregation options.

2. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall work on the basis of decisions [15/4](#), [15/5](#), [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022, [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024, [16/31](#), [16/32](#) of 27 February 2025 and 17/-- of XX¹⁰ and the metadata for the headline indicators¹¹ and take into account:

(a) The experience of Parties in preparing their seventh national reports, including the technical, capacity and resource gaps that they faced in using the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;¹²

(b) The review of the use of indicators in the seventh national reports;¹³

(c) Relevant findings from the global report of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and lessons learned from its preparation;

(d) The reporting burden on Parties;

(e) The capacity, technical, institutional and financial needs of Parties and the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States;

(f) Relevant findings of the methodological assessments on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people and on spatial planning and ecological connectivity being prepared by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(g) The revised guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹⁴

3. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall work with relevant organizations and entities, including the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the organizations and entities identified in table 1 of annex II to document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/2](#), as appropriate.

4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall be composed of 30 technical experts nominated by Parties, including experts on statistics, biodiversity monitoring, national

⁹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁰ Decision on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework to be adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

¹¹ See [CBD/COP/16/INF/4](#) and [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4](#).

¹² Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

¹³ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/11](#).

¹⁴ [CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1](#).

statistical and biodiversity information systems, data management and governance, capacity-building and development, regional cooperation, biodiversity finance, national reporting processes and relevant social and natural sciences, and up to 15 technical experts 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, shall select experts from the nominations submitted by Parties and organizations with due regard to representation of various areas of technical expertise; ensuring balance in expertise on all aspects of the goals and targets of the Framework; also taking into account geographical representation; the representation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth groups and major stakeholders; gender balance; the special conditions of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition; and the special situation of developing countries that are most environmentally vulnerable, such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas.

5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall nominate two co-chairs from among the selected experts, one from a developed country and one from a developing country.

6. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Co-Chairs of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities shall be invited to participate, *ex officio*, in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.

7. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall also seek cooperation with and may also invite, as appropriate, other experts, including representatives of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the organizations and entities identified in table 1 of annex II to document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/2](#), to contribute their expertise and experiences on specific issues related to the terms of reference of the Expert Group while avoiding duplication.

8. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall primarily conduct its work electronically and, subject to the availability of resources, also meet in person, if necessary.

9. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall be established and start its work immediately following approval by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

28/2. Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. [Welcomes][Takes note with appreciation of] *The Methodological Assessment Report on the Impact and Dependence of Business on Biodiversity and Nature's Contributions to People* ("business and biodiversity assessment") of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, [welcomes] its summary for policymakers[and key messages, and notes its relevance to the work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁵ and to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁶];

2. *Recognizes* that all businesses depend and have impacts on biodiversity and can be agents of positive change;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to use, as appropriate, the findings of the business and biodiversity assessment to support the implementation of the Convention and the Framework;

4. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities[, to consider]:

(a) To create or enhance enabling environments for sustainable business [and consumption] practices, including by:

- [(i) Setting up or strengthening and enforcing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that provide incentives or mandate actions by business and financial institutions to contribute to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity;]
- [(ii) Providing available information on the impacts and dependencies of business practices on biodiversity to enable sustainable consumption patterns;]
- [(iii) Integrating biodiversity considerations into relevant policy, legal, financial or regulatory and fiscal frameworks, and progressively aligning incentives and public and private financial flows with the goals and targets of the Framework;
- [(iv) Supporting capacity-building and development activities focused on measuring and managing business impacts and dependencies on biodiversity;
- [(v) Encouraging business and financial institutions, financial actors and other relevant actors to contribute to creating or enhancing the enabling environment for sustainable business practices and engage in the implementation of the Framework and national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- [(vi) Promoting, as appropriate and consistent with national circumstances, transparency and disclosure of business impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities related to biodiversity;]

(b) To [further] identify[, in addition to the gaps identified in the business and biodiversity assessment,] and support efforts to address gaps in knowledge and [the][its]

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁶ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

application [of knowledge] for measuring and managing the impacts and dependencies of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, including by:

- (i) Providing actionable guidance and facilitating the uptake and consistent application of existing methods, knowledge and data for measuring and managing the impacts and dependencies of businesses and financial actors on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people;
- (ii) Enabling the collection and sharing of information[, as appropriate,] on the activities [and locations] of businesses, their operations and value chains, including through [disclosure and] traceability mechanisms;
- (iii) Supporting research and data collection, [ensuring the free, prior and informed consent¹⁷ of indigenous peoples and local communities when undertaking activities affecting them and their territories, where applicable,] including through capacity-building and development, scientific and technical cooperation[, financial support] and the development and strengthening of relevant national data infrastructure[, ensuring the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities when undertaking activities affecting them and their territories, where applicable];
- (iv) Strengthening the interweaving of science and the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments;
- (c) To strengthen meaningful engagement and collaboration with business and financial institutions, financial actors and other relevant actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;
- [(d) To strengthen and promote access to financial instruments and technical support for businesses, considering their size, activities and economic context, while ensuring that companies preserve and sustainably use biodiversity;]

5. *Strongly encourages* business and financial institutions, financial actors and other relevant actors to consider the key messages of the summary for policymakers of the business and biodiversity assessment and take action[, as appropriate,] in line with the options outlined in the assessment, including:

- (a) To identify and use appropriate existing methods to measure, manage[and disclose] their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people;
- (b) To use that information to develop strategies that guide decision-making and actions aimed at addressing risks, seizing opportunities and improving biodiversity outcomes, in line with the Framework;
- (c) To allocate, participate in and benefit from economic instruments and financial incentives that promote biodiversity restoration, conservation and sustainable use while discouraging harmful activities;
- (d) [[Where appropriate,] to share fairly and equitably benefits][To ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits] arising from the utilization of genetic resources[and from digital sequence information on genetic resources], as well as from traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, in line with the Framework;

¹⁷ All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

6. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to engage in the review processes for the preparation of the assessments and other deliverables, where relevant, of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

7. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider, when developing its future work:

(a) The needs, gaps and challenges expressed in the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework;

(b) The outcomes of the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework;

(c) The potential use of tailored knowledge products to enhance the accessibility and usability of its assessments for the implementation of the Framework;

8. *Encourages* the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the Global Coordination Entity to engage in the review processes for the scoping and preparation of the assessments and other deliverables, and to make active use of completed deliverables, where relevant;

9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice[and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation] to consider the outputs of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services according to the schedule contained in the annex to the present decision and to make recommendations, as appropriate;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further strengthen the engagement and cooperation of the Secretariat of the Convention with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in order to support the implementation of the recommendations from the midterm review of the Platform[, including, in particular, those on increasing the policy relevance and uptake of assessments and other deliverables];

[11. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with relevant organizations and initiatives, to strengthen the work of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, with a view to enhancing the uptake of the findings of the business and biodiversity assessment;]

[12. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to develop, in collaboration with relevant organizations, capacity-building activities and technical guidance to support Parties, in particular developing country Parties, in promoting the integration of biodiversity into business and the financial sector, in accordance with the goals and targets of the Framework.]

Annex***Schedule of assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and their consideration under the Convention on Biological Diversity (2026–2030), as updated after the twelfth session of the Plenary of the Platform****

<i>Session number and year of consideration by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services^a</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Meeting number and year of consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity</i>
Thirteenth session (2027)	Methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people ("monitoring assessment") ^b	Meeting of the Subsidiary Body to be held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2028) Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2028)
	Methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity ("spatial planning and connectivity assessment") ^c	
Fourteenth session (2028)	Second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services ^d	Meeting of the Subsidiary Body to be held before the relevant meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Fifteenth session (2029)	Potential deliverable to be determined at the thirteenth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Meeting of the Subsidiary Body to be held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2030)

^a The years of future sessions are indicative.

^b See www.ipbes.net/monitoring-assessment.

^c See www.ipbes.net/spatial-planning-assessment.

^d See www.ipbes.net/second-global-assessment.

* The annex will be updated, as necessary, in the compilation of draft decisions to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

** The original schedule was issued as the annex to decision [16/11](#).

28/3. Synthetic biology

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [14/19](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/31](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/21](#) of 1 November 2024,

[1. *Adopts*][*Takes note of*] the [voluntary] thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁸ and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁹ as contained in annex I to the present decision, as a non-duplicative and complementary tool aimed at supporting Parties in accordance with their national priorities and circumstances[, while recognizing the need for the broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology];]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the outcomes of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology[, and notes that the Group identified the need for further work to strengthen methodologies and scientific approaches for assessing the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology in relation to the objectives of the Convention, as set out in its report];²⁰

[3. *Notes* that there is a lack of clear mechanism or methodology for identifying the most recent technological developments and assessing their impacts on biodiversity;]

4. *Also notes* the current and potential benefits of synthetic biology in relation to the targets of the Framework, as set out in annexes II and III to the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, respectively, recognizing that the examples therein are illustrative and not a result of an assessment by the Expert Group;

5. *Further notes* the preliminary work on the potential positive and potential negative impacts of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology;²¹

[6. *Reminds*][*Urges*] Parties to take a precautionary²² [and science-based approach] with respect to research and development, innovation, environmental releases and use of synthetic biology applications in the context of the Convention;]

[7. *Recognizes* the importance of anticipatory approaches, including horizon scanning and monitoring mechanisms, in supporting the timely identification and assessment of potential positive and potential negative impacts of future developments in synthetic biology;]

I. New technological developments in synthetic biology

[8. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group on synthetic biology, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present decision, to further address the areas of [artificial intelligence and computational biology] [convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology] [and] [applications for conservation use][development of methodologies to assess the potential positive and

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁰ [CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2026/1/3](#).

²¹ See [CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2026/1/2](#), annex II.

²² As provided in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications] in the context of the Convention and the Framework;]

[8.Alt. *Notes* the outcomes of the work undertaken on synthetic biology pursuant to decisions [14/19](#), [15/31](#) and [16/21](#), and decides that, at the present time, the establishment of a new ad hoc technical expert group on synthetic biology is not necessary;]

[

9. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth organizations, academia, research institutions and other relevant organizations to submit information on [artificial intelligence and computational biology][the convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology], [applications for conservation use] and [the development of methodologies to assess the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications] [to support the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group];

10. *Decides* to convene discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology to gather information related to [artificial intelligence and computational biology][the convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology], [applications for conservation use] and [the development of methodologies to assess the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications] [to support the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group];

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

(a) To synthesize the information on synthetic biology submitted pursuant to paragraph 9 above and the discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum referred to in paragraph 10 above [to support the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group];

[(b) To convene at least one in-person meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group before a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

(c) To support the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work related to synthetic biology undertaken under the Convention, in accordance with decision [X/40](#) of 29 October 2010;

(d) To support further the participation of women and youth organizations, academia and research institutions in the work related to synthetic biology undertaken under the Convention;

[12. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the outcomes of [the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group][the synthesis requested under subparagraph 11 (a) above], with a view to submitting a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;]

]

II. Synthesis and review of work relevant to synthetic biology conducted under the Convention and its Protocols

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

(a) To prepare a draft stocktake report containing a consolidation, synthesis and review of the work and processes related to synthetic biology undertaken under the Convention and its Protocols since 2010, with a view to:

(i) Identifying gaps, overlaps, duplication and complementarities with existing processes under the Convention and its Protocols;

- (ii) Mapping the scope and mandate of other relevant international organizations and entities²³ working on synthetic biology in relation to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) To submit the draft stocktake report for peer review in time for finalization and consideration at the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice preceding the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties;

(c) To submit the stocktake report at the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice preceding the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties;

[14. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the stocktake report and prepare a draft recommendation on options for future work on synthetic biology under the Convention for consideration at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

[14.Alt. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the stocktake report and prepare a draft recommendation on options for a coherent, scientifically robust and effective approach to the work on synthetic biology conducted under the Convention, ensuring that any such approach adequately addresses unresolved and emerging issues relevant to the three objectives of the Convention, for consideration at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

Annex I

Thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

I. Introduction

1. The thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology is designed to meet the needs and priorities of Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, in order to implement the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁴ and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework²⁵ in the context of synthetic biology.²⁶

2. In accordance with decision [16/21](#) of 1 November 2024, the thematic action plan has been developed taking the following into account:

²³ E.g. the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Health Organization, the International Gene Synthesis Consortium and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

²⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

²⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

²⁶ Synthetic biology is operationally defined in decision [XIII/17](#) as a further development and new dimension of modern biotechnology that combines science, technology and engineering to facilitate and accelerate the understanding, design, redesign, manufacture and/or modification of genetic materials, living organisms and biological systems.

- (a) The specific needs of Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities,²⁷ to complement the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;^{28,29}
- (b) The identification of areas where capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing are needed for research and development and for assessments in the field of synthetic biology;
- (c) Strategies to facilitate the equitable participation of developing country Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia, the business sector and relevant institutions in research and development in the field of synthetic biology;
- (d) Strategies to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from synthetic biology, in line with Articles 16 and 19 of the Convention and with the Framework;
- (e) Mechanisms for technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and international technical and scientific cooperation to foster innovation, in line with Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention and with the Framework.

II. Structure

3. The table below contains the outcome areas and indicative strategic actions of the thematic action plan. The three outcome areas are:

- (a) Strengthened capacity for research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology;
- (b) Improved access to and transfer of technology relevant to synthetic biology;
- (c) Enhanced knowledge-sharing on synthetic biology, including its development, assessment, governance and regulation.

4. Strategies to facilitate equitable participation in the field of synthetic biology; strategies to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from synthetic biology, in line with Articles 16 and 19 of the Convention; and mechanisms for technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and international technical and scientific cooperation to foster innovation, in line with Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention, have been integrated into the three outcome areas.

5. Where relevant, and to avoid duplication, the thematic action plan includes references to the other action plans developed under the Convention and its Protocols, in addition to relevant documents and resources developed by other intergovernmental organizations.

III. Linkage to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and existing plans

6. The thematic action plan is developed to support Parties and other stakeholders in achieving, in the context of synthetic biology, the three objectives of the Convention, namely, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The plan could therefore help to minimize the potential adverse impacts on biological diversity (Articles 7 (c), 8 (g) and 14 of the Convention), while also facilitating access to and transfer of technology, scientific and technical cooperation and the distribution of benefits arising from biotechnology based upon genetic resources (Articles 16, 18 and 19). The plan can also contribute to the implementation of the goals and targets of the Framework, specifically

²⁷ As identified further to notifications Nos. [2025-065](#) and [2025-088](#).

²⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

²⁹ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

Targets 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23, where applicable and as a complement to other actions that may contribute to their achievement.

7. In addition, the thematic action plan is complementary to the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.^{30,31} The implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol can also support and guide Parties in addressing elements related to biosafety.

IV. Use of the thematic action plan

8. The thematic action plan can be used by any actors. The suggested actions are voluntary and will vary according to national circumstances, priorities and needs, as well as the role of the actors involved. Actions should be taken in line with the guiding principles listed in section V below.

9. To ensure effective implementation, a phased approach is recommended, starting with the identification of needs and priorities related to research and development, access to and transfer of technology, regulation, assessment, monitoring and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology that are relevant to the implementation of the Convention and the Framework. According to national and organizational circumstances, activities can then be prioritized to address the identified needs (see outcome area 1, output 1.1).

10. The implementation of any relevant elements of the thematic action plan should be considered in the light of existing capacity-building and development activities, access to and transfer of technology initiatives and knowledge-sharing endeavours related to biosafety, access and benefit-sharing and the Framework implementation mechanisms, with the goal to avoid duplication.

[11. The suggested actions may be further prioritized or updated to address gaps in capacity in the light of future developments in the field of synthetic biology, as needed [and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities]. Such developments may be identified[, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources,] through [information-sharing,] [coordinated] [[broad and regular] horizon scanning and foresight activities], and engagement with experts, as necessary.]

V. Guiding principles

12. The thematic action plan is aimed at contributing to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework. Thus, all indicated actions should be taken in the context of the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework.

13. In line with decision [16/21](#), the general principles and strategies for enhancing capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and knowledge-sharing of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development should apply to the thematic action plan and be taken into consideration when planning activities.³²

14. When using the thematic action plan, actors should:

- (a) Take a precautionary approach, as provided in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;
- (b) Adopt a science-based and case-by-case approach;

³⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

³¹ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

³² See decision [15/8](#), annex I, paras. 8 and 9.

- (c) Take a needs-based approach in line with national priorities and circumstances;
- (d) Consider the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications on the three objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework;
- (e) Consider the potential impacts [and risks] in relation to the intended use and the likely potential receiving environment [(e.g. unmanaged or wild settings; semi-managed, managed or urban settings; and contained settings);³³]
- (f) Take a multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary or interdisciplinary approach to research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology;
- (g) Recognize the diverse values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity, the environment and ecosystem services;³⁴
- (h) Recognize and respect diverse knowledge systems and gender-specific elements in accordance with national legislation;
- (i) Recognize and respect traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;
- (j) Foster a whole-of-society approach that ensures the full, effective and meaningful participation of all actors, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;
- (k) Ensure the free, prior and informed consent³⁵ of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;
- (l) Promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;³⁶
- (m) Support international and regional scientific and technical cooperation to strengthen activities related to research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology in the context of the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework;
- (n) Take a coordinated, non-duplicative and complementary approach with respect to synthetic biology and other related fields;³⁷
- [(o) Recognize and respect the diverse ethical, religious and cultural values of societies.]

15. As appropriate, other principles, frameworks and guidelines containing complementary actions can be taken into account when planning activities and considering the use of synthetic biology in the context of the Convention and the Framework.³⁸

³³ See [CBD Technical Series No. 100](#).

³⁴ See *The Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

³⁵ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

³⁶ In line with Article 2 of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

³⁷ Including by building on the work conducted under the Protocols to the Convention and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as appropriate.

³⁸ E.g. the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol, the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines, the Mo’otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines, the plan of action on customary sustainable use of biological diversity, the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization recommendation on Open Science, the World Health Organization global guidance framework for the responsible use of life sciences, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Science and Innovation Strategy and its corresponding action plan, the International Union

VI. Means of implementation

16. Making adequate and predictable resources available in a timely manner is crucial for the effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the Framework in the context of synthetic biology. Thus, there is a need to mobilize resources from all sources, including those in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and to identify and select the financial resources that will support the thematic action plan. Such resource mobilization should be needs-based and accessible, in line with national circumstances and priorities and aimed at supporting the implementation of the Convention and the Framework. Particular consideration should be given to the least developed countries, small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, as well as the most environmentally vulnerable countries, in accordance with paragraph 7 of Article 20 of the Convention.

17. The thematic action plan can be used as a reference for guiding the development of programmatic directions for the financial mechanism of the Convention and its Protocols (the Global Environmental Facility and its Global Biodiversity Framework Fund), as well as the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, regional initiatives, other funds and donors.

18. National Governments are also invited to incorporate dedicated funding in their national finance plans or other similar planning instruments in the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in accordance with national priorities and capacities (see also output 1.1).

19. The implementation of the thematic action plan should be needs-driven, and financial, technical and institutional support should be provided, in accordance with national priorities, circumstances, needs and legislation, as appropriate.

VII. Role of the Secretariat and of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres

20. While the thematic action plan is directed to national Governments and relevant stakeholders, the Secretariat of the Convention will support Parties in their efforts in implementing the plan, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention. Its support can include undertaking activities in response to requests from the Conference of the Parties, including gathering, synthesizing and sharing information through the clearing-house mechanisms and facilitating capacity-building activities.

21. The regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres forming part of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism established by decision [15/8](#) and operationalized in decision [16/3](#) can support Parties, upon request, with identifying gaps in scientific capacity, supporting technology transfer and innovation, facilitating scientific and technical cooperation and assisting with knowledge-sharing activities when implementing the thematic action plan.

22. To monitor the implementation of the thematic action plan, the Secretariat may request the voluntary submission of information to complement relevant information from other possible sources, including national reports requested under the Convention and its Protocols, as necessary.

for Conservation of Nature policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation (8.086), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development framework for anticipatory governance of emerging technologies and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development agile mechanisms for responsible technology development.

VIII. Monitoring and reporting on progress in the implementation of the thematic action plan

23. The monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the thematic action plan will be conducted in conjunction with the monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism.

24. The thematic action plan may be reviewed, as necessary, upon request of the Conference of the Parties in the light of experiences in using the plan and of new developments in the field of synthetic biology.

Outcome areas and indicative strategic actions to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Outcome area 1: strengthened capacity for research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology Objective: actors have improved capacity and infrastructure for undertaking research and development, [responsible innovation], assessment[, monitoring, governance and regulatory] oversight of synthetic biology applications that are relevant to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicative strategic actions</i>
1.1 Identification of needs and priorities	(a) Assess capacities and identify needs related to research and development, access and transfer of technology, regulation, assessment, monitoring and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology; (b) Prioritize activities for short-, medium- and long-term action on the basis of identified needs and national circumstances; (c) Integrate synthetic biology research and development and assessment needs into various sectoral budget plans, and identify capacity-building and development needs.
1.2 Strengthened physical infrastructure	(a) Establish, strengthen or provide access to technical laboratory infrastructure, while taking biosafety and biosecurity into account; ³⁹ (b) Develop governance mechanisms, technical support and sustainability models to ensure long-term functionality and equitable use of laboratory infrastructure; (c) Develop in silico infrastructure; ⁴⁰ (d) Establish or strengthen laboratories at the national, subregional or regional level; (e) Promote continued and sustainable financing for the maintenance of infrastructure and the procurement of reagents and materials; (f) Integrate physical and digital biosecurity protocols and cyberbiosecurity protocols into the design, operation and maintenance of laboratory and in silico infrastructure.
1.3 Support for personnel capacity	(a) Institutionalize capacity-building and development processes and ensure continued capacity-building through global, regional and national institutions, including for assessment and monitoring[, regulation and governance]; (b) Provide scholarships, internships and mentorships at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels for areas related to research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology, in particular for students and women from developing countries and indigenous peoples and local communities; (c) Support the development or use of existing exchange programmes as mechanisms to build capacity, transfer knowledge and promote sustained communication and collaboration across relevant stakeholders;

³⁹ Where needed to complement infrastructure supported under the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, for Parties to those respective instruments.

⁴⁰ For example, computational facilities for data processing, computer-aided design, modelling, bioinformatics and artificial intelligence; software; and servers.

	(d) Develop interdisciplinary training programmes for research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology, including for assessment and monitoring, in national or regional universities and on e-learning platforms, including specialized courses for regulators and decision makers; (e) Foster the training of members of indigenous peoples and local communities in research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology in locally relevant languages and in line with their self-determined needs and priorities.
1.4 Development of capacity for local research and development	(a) Develop national or regional road maps for research and development [and responsible innovation] in synthetic biology, including through convening national or regional workshops; [(b) Support international standardization within the field of synthetic biology;⁴¹] (c) Establish regional and international centres of excellence, networks of laboratories or research consortiums, in particular in developing countries, for activities conducted in the field of synthetic biology; (d) Strengthen research on local genetic resources, including through the provision of grants for local research.
1.5 Enhanced assessment capacity	[(a) For Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,⁴² use associated actions under Goals A.5 and A.9 of the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol⁴³ for synthetic biology applications considered to be living modified organisms;] [(b) [Introduce, use or] strengthen existing national and international procedures, where appropriate, for the environmental impact assessment of components, organisms and products of synthetic biology that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity, in line with Article 14 of the Convention and avoiding the creation of duplicative regulatory processes;] (c) Ensure public participation and engagement with a diverse range of experts, including from indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia and other relevant stakeholders, in the assessment of synthetic biology applications; (d) Fund and strengthen research programmes to improve assessment and monitoring capacity for the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology; [(e) Undertake broad and regular horizon scanning, assessment and monitoring to identify recent developments in synthetic biology with potential positive and potential negative impacts on the objectives of the Convention;] [(f) Develop tools and methodologies to assess the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology on the objectives of the Convention and the Framework;] (g) Develop science-based standards to assess and ensure the reliability of biocontainment systems, in accordance with national legislation.
Outcome area 2: improved access to and transfer of technology relevant to synthetic biology Objective: access to and the transfer of technology are essential for the attainment of the three objectives of the Convention and the Framework. Thus, the objective of outcome area 2 is to ensure access to synthetic biology technology that is relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and does not result in significant damage to the environment, and to create enabling environments that facilitate the transfer of such technology, in line with Articles 16 and 19 of the Convention	
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicative strategic actions</i>
2.1. Increased access to and transfer of technology	(a) Establish public-private, public-private-academic and academic-private partnerships on technology relevant to research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology; (b) Develop and maintain an accessible database of tools and methodologies for detection, identification and assessment;

⁴¹ Such as that carried out by the International Gene Synthesis Consortium, the Synthetic Biology Open Language, the International Biosecurity and Biosafety Initiative for Science, the Synthetic Biology Standards Consortium, the iGEM Registry of Biological Parts and the Engineering Biology Research Consortium.

⁴² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁴³ Goal A.5: Parties carry out scientifically sound risk assessments of living modified organisms and manage and control identified risks to prevent adverse effects of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity taking also into account risks to human health; Goal A.9: Parties that choose to do so take into account socioeconomic considerations when making decisions on the import of living modified organisms and cooperate on research and information exchange in accordance with Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol (decision [CP-10/4](#), annex).

	(c) Encourage the development and use of open-source tools, low-cost technology platforms and distributed manufacturing models; (d) Invest in and strengthen supply chains, including through cold-chain facilities, national and regional manufacturing and diversified suppliers; (e) Facilitate the import processes for research supplies; (f) Promote and facilitate the sharing of facilities in line with national needs and priorities; (g) Encourage the use of exchange programmes and organize matchmaking events and technology fairs to support the establishment of links among technology providers, regulators, assessors and potential users, including at the regional level; (h) Develop tools and guidance for access to and the transfer of synthetic biology technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources, do not result in significant damage to the environment and are adapted to local economic, social and cultural contexts; (i) Encourage voluntary licensing arrangements on mutually agreed terms for indigenous peoples and local communities; (j) Encourage voluntary reduced licensing rates and transfer of technical knowledge for use in local innovation and non-commercial research in developing countries.
2.2. Establishment of robust regulatory environments aligned with existing regulation	[(a) Establish, maintain and further develop functional biosafety frameworks, which for Parties to the Cartagena Protocol should be in accordance with Goal A.1 of the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol;⁴⁴ (b) Review biosafety regulatory frameworks to identify any potential gaps related to synthetic biology and update biosafety systems to address such gaps, as necessary; (c) Establish national coordination mechanisms for activities related to synthetic biology; (d) Promote the use of guidelines to strengthen the governance of synthetic biology aligned with national needs, priorities and existing regulation; (e) Encourage North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, including through the exchange of scientific knowledge, technical expertise, regulatory experience and best practices related to synthetic biology, while respecting national legislation, national circumstances and the sovereign right of Parties to establish and implement their own regulatory frameworks; (f) Promote measures to respect, preserve and maintain the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant to synthetic biology to ensure that their access and use are obtained only with the free, prior and informed consent⁴⁵ of the indigenous peoples and local communities concerned and that benefits arising from their utilization are shared in a fair and equitable manner, in accordance with relevant intellectual property frameworks.]
2.3. Strengthened access and benefit-sharing from synthetic biology technology	[(a) For Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,⁴⁶ use the capacity-building and development action plan for the Protocol⁴⁷ to strengthen access and benefit-sharing systems; (b) Mobilize financial resources from beneficiaries of synthetic biology technology to enable developing countries to participate in research and development in and the assessment of synthetic biology; (c) Encourage equitable and inclusive non-monetary benefit-sharing, in particular for developing countries and indigenous peoples and local communities; (d) Include reciprocity and co-benefit clauses in public-private, public-academic and other partnership or licensing agreements;

⁴⁴ Goal A.1: Parties have in place functional national biosafety frameworks (decision [CP-10/4](#), annex).

⁴⁵ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

⁴⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁴⁷ Decision [NP-5/3](#), annex.

	(e) Develop appropriate tools and mechanisms to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from research and development in and the application of synthetic biology technology.
Outcome area 3: enhanced knowledge-sharing on synthetic biology, including its development, assessment, governance and regulation Objective: knowledge relevant to synthetic biology research, development, assessment, governance and regulation is shared widely, in line with Article 17 of the Convention, and made available for use by all actors for research and development in and the assessment, governance and regulation of synthetic biology	
<i>Output</i>	<i>Indicative strategic actions</i>
3.1. Improved access to scientific knowledge	(a) Promote the publication of open access scientific articles in the field of synthetic biology [and in areas related to its assessment, governance and regulation] [while respecting national legislation on the protection of confidential information and sovereignty over genetic resources]; [(b) Promote the publication of relevant information in public databases in line with the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR principles) and of collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE principles); (c) Encourage capacity-building on data stewardship, data curation and long-term data management, including or improving transparency, metadata standards and the handling of confidential information; (d) Promote the sharing of scientific and technical knowledge related to synthetic biology and its assessment, including through the clearing-house mechanisms of the Convention and its Protocols; (e) Support facilitated access to scientific journals and technical databases for researchers and students from developing countries; (f) Establish synthetic biology information hubs to improve access to relevant information.]
3.2. Establishment of knowledge-sharing initiatives and mechanisms	[(a) Convene national, regional and international knowledge-sharing events on synthetic biology and related areas, including regulatory aspects, assessment and oversight, and promote participation in relevant regional and international gatherings, in particular for developing countries; (b) Support the participation of researchers and students in dedicated competitions; (c) Establish knowledge-sharing and cooperation agreements among institutions and promote participation in international or regional research networks; (d) Provide international scholarships and internships for knowledge-sharing initiatives on synthetic biology, in particular for developing countries, women and youth; (e) Facilitate the participation of researchers from developing countries and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in international knowledge-sharing events; (f) Encourage regulatory exchanges among countries with developed regulatory systems and those with developing regulatory systems; (g) Promote knowledge-sharing activities that are inclusive of all relevant rights holders and stakeholders; (h) Promote regional, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on synthetic biology and ecological research.]
3.3. Expanded communication and outreach	[(a) Encourage the publication of technical materials and scientific publications in local languages; (b) Support the development of risk communication, biosecurity, ethics and access and benefit-sharing modules in local languages, co-developed with stakeholders; (c) Facilitate public awareness through the use of a variety of media and of local languages; (d) Conduct dialogues and awareness campaigns that are accessible, multilingual and adapted to diverse audiences, including the general public, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth; (e) Hold dedicated forums and public consultations with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society organizations, women, youth, regulators and the scientific community; (f) Promote the organization of public research discovery days in universities to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge related to synthetic biology and its potential impacts;

	(g) Establish a community of practice for dialogues between regulators and scientists in synthetic biology to identify emerging issues for regulatory oversight.]
3.4. Promotion of inclusive knowledge-sharing	[(a) Prioritize intercultural dialogues in knowledge construction through mechanisms that respect and integrate diverse knowledge systems, languages and transmission modes, while ensuring effective participation based on free, prior and informed consent, culturally appropriate engagement and respect for traditional knowledge and gender perspectives; (b) Foster two-way learning between scientific institutions and indigenous peoples and local communities.]

[

Annex II

Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology shall be convened in compliance with section H of the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice⁴⁸ [with membership expanded to [four] experts by region]. [The selection of experts is to be conducted ensuring geographical and gender balance, as well as a balanced representation of expertise in research and development, innovation, biosafety, risk assessment, regulation, capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and scientific and technical cooperation, [with particular attention to][including] expertise from developing country Parties.]

[2. Experts should be selected on the basis of topics to be addressed, while ensuring appropriate representation of the multidisciplinary fields of expertise relevant to synthetic biology.]

3. The procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups set out in the annex to decision [14/33](#) of 29 November 2018, as amended in decision [16/26](#) of 1 November 2024, shall apply to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.

4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group is to:

[(a) Develop and apply a transparent, structured and scientifically robust methodology for assessing the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology, building on previous work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity⁴⁹ and its Protocols. The methodology could, as appropriate:

- (i) Assess the quality, relevance and limitations of the available information and evidence;
- (ii) Identify appropriate baselines and comparators;
- (iii) Consider the cumulative and long-term impacts, irreversibility and distribution of potential impacts and uncertainties;
- (iv) Take into account the intended use;]

[(b) Assess, using the methodology referred to in subparagraph 4 (a) above, the potential positive and the potential negative impacts of [synthetic biology, including][placeholder for one subject only][artificial intelligence and computational biology][the convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology] and [applications for conservation use] on the objectives of the Convention and the

⁴⁸ Decision [VIII/10](#), annex III.

⁴⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁵⁰ including biosafety, economic, social, ecological, cultural, traditional, religious and ethical considerations;]

[(c) Review the methodology for horizon scanning, as provided in annex IV to document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/4](#), with a view to its continued application to emerging trends and issues in synthetic biology;]

(d) Prepare a report on the outcomes of its work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall take into consideration the particular needs and priorities of [Parties, including] developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States[, and Parties with economies in transition and megadiverse countries].

6. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall build on previous work conducted under the Convention and its Protocols, while ensuring a coordinated, complementary and non-duplicative approach.

7. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall work on the basis of the synthesis prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to subparagraph 11 (a) of the present decision and, as necessary, other relevant scientific and technical information.

8. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group shall, as appropriate, take into account the work of other international organizations in relation to the areas of [synthetic biology][artificial intelligence and computation biology][convergence of artificial intelligence and computational biology with synthetic biology], and [applications for conservation use].

]

⁵⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

28/4. Sustainable wildlife management

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [VII/12](#) of 20 February 2004, [14/7](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/4](#) of 19 December 2022, [15/23](#) of 10 December 2022, [16/6](#) and [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024 and [16/15](#) of 25 October 2024,

Recognizing that sustainable wildlife management contributes to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵¹ and the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁵² and provides important ecological, economic, social, cultural and spiritual benefits,

Recognizing also the critical role of indigenous peoples and local communities as key stewards of biodiversity,

1. *[Adopts and welcomes with appreciation]* the voluntary global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices [with a focus on: (a) inclusive and participatory decision-making; (b) the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights; and (c) the equitable distribution of costs and benefits], as contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational and all other levels of governments, including local governments, and relevant organizations and actors, to integrate, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, the voluntary global guidance, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national development plans, wildlife policies, relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, legal and institutional frameworks, programmes and other instruments as a contribution to the broader implementation of the sustainable use objective of the Convention;

3. *[Also encourages][Urges]* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational and local governments, and relevant organizations and actors, to strengthen local, regional and transboundary cooperation on sustainable wildlife management for shared species and ecosystems, including on access to relevant technology, information and data [and, as appropriate, taking into consideration other dimensions of the sustainable use of biodiversity] in a manner that respects national laws and priorities;

4. *Further encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations and actors, to engage the private sector and financial institutions in integrating the voluntary global guidance into their policies, strategies, plans, programmes, projects and practices[, including through the disclosure of risks and impact on wildlife along supply chains consistent with emerging biodiversity-related disclosure frameworks and national legislation and through the monitoring of biodiversity-related illicit financial activities], in line with Target 15 of the Framework;

5. *Encourages* Parties[, in line with Article 20 of the Convention], and invites other Governments, subnational and local governments and relevant organizations and actors in a position to do so, to support the implementation of the voluntary global guidance, in particular

⁵¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁵² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, including through capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and the mobilization of adequate, predictable, accessible and timely financial resources [from all sources, in line with Target 19 of the Framework];

6. *Also encourages* Parties, to ensure, when implementing the voluntary global guidance and [relevant One Health approaches[, including in the context of the WHO Pandemic Agreement]], that responses to disease risks, in particular zoonotic risks, are informed by the best available scientific evidence and traditional knowledge, taking into account potential impacts on biodiversity, wildlife health, public health and customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities;

7. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and subnational and local governments, and invites indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and relevant organizations and actors, to: (a) raise awareness of the voluntary global guidance; (b) monitor [and evaluate] its use and effectiveness; and (c) share information, best practices and lessons learned relating to its implementation;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and the secretariats of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements:

- (a) To promote awareness of, and facilitate the use of, the voluntary global guidance;
- (b) To support actions by Parties to address drivers of biodiversity loss and challenges to the sustainable management of wild species;
- (c) To compile the information, best practices and lessons learned referred to in paragraph 7 above and make them available through the clearing-house mechanism and to the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;
- (d) To facilitate, in collaboration with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant organizations, capacity-building for Parties on sustainable wildlife management;
- (e) To report on progress related to subparagraphs 8 (a) to (d) above in an information document for the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

[9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and building on decisions [VII/12](#), [15/4](#), [16/12](#) and [16/15](#), to initiate [a][an inclusive] consultation process on options for [strengthening the implementation of sustainable use, including through] a potential programme of work on the sustainable use of biodiversity[, including sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity] by requesting information from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant organizations and actors, and to submit the options for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

Annex

Voluntary global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices [with a focus on inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits]

I. Context

1. In decision [14/7](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵³ recognized sustainable wildlife management as an integrated approach contributing to the objectives of the Convention, namely, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The present voluntary guidance builds on that decision and subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties and will contribute to the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.⁵⁴ In particular, the voluntary guidance will contribute to the achievement of Targets 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 22 and 23 of the Framework, which provide a basis for advancing species conservation and recovery, ensuring that the use of and trade in wild species are sustainable, safe and legal and enhancing benefits for people.
2. In the present voluntary guidance, the definition of the term “sustainable wildlife management” is based on the definition used in decision [14/7](#), that is, the sound management of wildlife species to sustain their populations and habitat over time, considering the socioeconomic needs of human populations.
3. Sustainable wildlife management is supported by a broad international normative framework created, inter alia, by the Convention on Biological Diversity (in particular Articles 6 to 8 and 10), 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 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Also relevant in that regard are the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity⁵⁵ and other decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including decisions [14/7](#), [15/23](#) and [16/15](#), on sustainable wildlife management. The Framework further reinforces commitments related to halting species extinction, ensuring the sustainable and legal use of wild species, restoring ecosystems and enhancing benefit-sharing.
4. Wildlife continues to provide essential ecological, economic, cultural and social benefits, especially in regions where it supports livelihoods, food systems and cultural continuity. While many wild species are used at unsustainable levels, others are effectively conserved and managed, demonstrating the importance of context-specific approaches. Those dynamics underscore the need for coordinated, risk-informed, transparent and adaptive management that addresses cumulative pressures and cumulative values, integrates multiple systems of knowledge and ensures that wildlife management remains ecologically sustainable and aligned with conservation objectives.
5. According to *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, many wildlife populations and species are declining, in particular where such pressures as

⁵³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁵⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁵⁵ Decision [VIII/12](#), annex II.

land- and sea-use change, including habitat loss and fragmentation, direct exploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species, are not effectively managed. Those interacting pressures increase extinction risk, erode ecosystem functioning, undermine nature's contributions to people and are intensified by broader indirect socioeconomic drivers, including population growth, increasing per capita consumption and expanding demands for land and sea use. Existing risks, including those caused by the dynamics of wildlife disease, increases in illegal wildlife trade and trafficking and human-wildlife conflict, may further exacerbate vulnerabilities, in particular for species with declining populations or restricted ranges and indigenous peoples and local communities closely linked to wildlife.

II. Mandate

6. The present voluntary guidance has been developed pursuant to decision [16/15](#), in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and with inputs from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women, youth and relevant organizations, to prepare draft global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices, with a focus on: (a) inclusive and participatory decision-making; (b) the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights; and (c) the equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

III. Purpose and scope

7. In accordance with decision [16/15](#), the voluntary global guidance applies to multiple species across terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems and to both extractive and non-extractive practices, including fishing, the gathering of plants, fungi and algae from the wild, logging, the harvesting of terrestrial and aquatic animals and wildlife-based tourism.

8. The voluntary guidance addresses gaps identified in the gap analysis to identify areas not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations⁵⁶ and the additional analysis of available guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management that might require complementary guidance.⁵⁷ Moreover, the voluntary guidance responds to submissions received further to invitations extended in notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#) and relevant findings outlined in the aforementioned *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*.

9. The purpose of the voluntary guidance is to support Parties in strengthening policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable wildlife management, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the Framework. In line with decision [16/15](#), its objectives are:

- (a) To promote inclusive and participatory decision-making;
- (b) To facilitate the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights;
- (c) To promote the fair and equitable distribution of costs and benefits arising from wildlife use and management.

10. The voluntary guidance, which reflects the recognition that cross-sectoral policy coherence and coordination are important for facilitating its implementation, includes the

⁵⁶ [CBD/COP/16/INF/6](#).

⁵⁷ [CBD/COP/16/INF/7](#).

objective of enhancing policy coherence and institutional coordination across sectors and levels of government. That need featured prominently in submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#).

11. The voluntary guidance sets out general principles, safeguards and broad areas for action that Parties may refer to when strengthening national approaches to sustainable wildlife management [and promotes legal, scientifically sound, and regulated harvesting practices, including hunting, fishing and the harvesting of non-timber forest [resources], as essential components of sustainable wildlife management that contribute to biodiversity conservation, rural livelihoods, and food security]. While it does not provide detailed operational guidance or species-specific technical standards, those issues may, as needed and in accordance with national circumstances, be addressed through complementary national measures and relevant sectoral or taxon-specific instruments, when possible, with the facilitation of the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres.

12. The species groupings and practice categories used in the voluntary guidance (see box below), which are based on the typology applied in the aforementioned thematic assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, are intended to support application across multiple species and practices, while allowing Parties to tailor implementation to national, subnational and local contexts.

Species groupings and practice categories used in the present voluntary guidance

(a) **Species groupings:** the voluntary guidance applies to wild species across terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems, including aquatic and terrestrial animals, trees and other plants, fungi and algae;

(b) **Practice categories:** the voluntary guidance addresses both extractive and non-extractive practices. Extractive practices include fishing, the gathering of plants, fungi and algae from the wild, logging and the harvesting of terrestrial and aquatic animals, including the complete or partial removal of organisms, as well as the collection of parts or derivatives from wildlife. Non-extractive practices include wildlife-based tourism and wildlife observation, as well as cultural, spiritual and educational services associated with wildlife;

[(c) The application of the guidance to fishing and other aquatic practices should complement, and not duplicate or prejudice, measures adopted under national fisheries frameworks and by competent regional and international fisheries bodies, while recognizing the rights, food security contributions and knowledge of small and customary fisheries;]

(d) **Use of categories:** those categories are used solely to organize the voluntary guidance across multiple species and practices. Parties are encouraged to apply them flexibly and in a manner consistent with national legislation, customary governance systems, where applicable, and relevant international obligations. Use of such categories in the guidance does not imply that all species or practices are appropriate for sustainable use. In particular, where alien species pose risks to biodiversity, ecosystem function or native species, management responses should prioritize prevention and control.

IV. Principles

13. The present guidance draws on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, decision [14/7](#), the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its Targets 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 22 and 23, and relevant findings from *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. It is underpinned by principles and approaches reflecting the objectives of the Convention (see table 1) that inform the design, interpretation and implementation of sustainable wildlife management in support of biodiversity conservation, human well-being and equitable governance.

Table 1

Principles and approaches informing the voluntary global guidance on sustainable wildlife management

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
Ecological sustainability and the precautionary approach	Resource managers and users have the responsibility to ensure that the use of wildlife does not exceed the capacity of ecosystems to maintain or recover ecological processes, species populations, genetic variability and the continued provision of ecosystem functions and services on which both biodiversity and people depend.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (decision VII/12 , annex II)
	Parties should apply the precautionary approach in their management decisions.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	Where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.	Convention on Biological Diversity (preamble)
	To be considered sustainable, wildlife management should consider ecological limits, cumulative impacts and uncertainty and avoid actions that risk irreversible harm to biodiversity, including through early action when evidence indicates high risk.	<i>The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species</i> (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)
	Ensure that the use and harvesting of and trade in 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.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 5)
	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.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 10)
[Human rights-based approach and inclusive participation] [Full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation of]	Subject to its national legislation, each Party shall respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8 (j))

^a The sources of information in the "Basis" column were used in the development of the principles and safeguards and have not been cited verbatim in all cases.

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
indigenous peoples and local communities]	arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices.	
	Each Party shall, as appropriate, protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 10 (c))
	Recognize that cultural and spiritual values and practices of indigenous and local communities play an important role in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and transmitting its importance to the next generation.	Decision XII/12 B , annex
	[[States shall] consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples and local communities concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent ^b before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.]	[United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ^c article 19]
	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.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 22)
	[Parties must consider women's roles, knowledge and practices with respect to wildlife management, and apply the gender-responsive approach, while securing their rights and safety.]	[Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 23) Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) (decision 15/11 , annex)]
Equity and fair distribution of benefits	The needs and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities should be reflected in the equitable distribution of the benefits from the management of wildlife.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	The costs of management and conservation of wildlife should be internalized and reflected in the distribution of the benefits from its use.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	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.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 9)

^b All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

^c General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
Integration of systems of knowledge and adaptive management	Adaptive wildlife management should be practised, based on multiple systems of knowledge.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	Adaptive management should be practised on the basis of iterative, timely and transparent feedback derived from monitoring the use, environmental, socioeconomic impacts and the status of the resource being used.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	When using traditional and local knowledge, Parties should take appropriate actions to ensure that the free, prior and informed consent, consistent with national circumstances, and approval of the holder of that knowledge has been obtained.	Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines (decision XIII/18 , annex)
Policy coherence and institutional alignment	Supportive policies, laws and institutions should be in place at all levels of governance, and there should be effective linkages between these levels.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	As far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife should be integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 6 (b))
	Each Party undertakes to provide, in accordance with its capabilities, financial support and incentives in respect of national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, in accordance with its national plans, priorities and programmes.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 20 (1))
	The rights and obligations of Parties deriving from any existing international agreement are not affected by the provisions of the Convention, except where the exercise of those rights and obligations would cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 22 (1))
	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.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 20)

V. Safeguards

14. Safeguards in the present voluntary guidance (see table 2) are procedures and measures intended to ensure that sustainable wildlife management interventions avert or minimize unintended adverse impacts on biodiversity and promote ecological integrity, social equity and accountability. Safeguards may include environmental and social impact assessments and public participation and should be applied in a context-specific, transparent and continuously improvable manner in line with national circumstances and legislation.

Table 2
Safeguards for the sustainable management of wildlife

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
Ecological integrity	Wildlife management measures should maintain ecological integrity and biodiversity, ensuring that management does not result in population decline of species, habitat degradation, loss of ecosystem function or the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8, in particular 8 (h))
	Interventions should not transfer ecological or social risks from one species, ecosystem or community to another, nor exacerbate cumulative pressures across landscapes and seascapes.	Decision V/6 , annex II (principles 3 and 5)
	Wildlife-related interventions should, as appropriate, be subject to environmental, social and economic impact assessments and supported by biodiversity monitoring, including through participatory activities involving indigenous peoples and local communities, and evaluation and include cumulative impact assessments where multiple interventions or pressures affect the same species, ecosystems or communities.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 14)
	Wildlife management measures should prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species by identifying and managing pathways for their introduction and supporting their eradication or control, especially in priority sites.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 6)
Social equity and human well-being	Sustainable wildlife management measures should be science-based and ensure that the use and harvesting of and trade in 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.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Targets 5 and 9)
	Sustainable wildlife management measures should enable progress towards human-wildlife coexistence and should, where relevant, explicitly identify, prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict, recognizing that wildlife can pose a direct threat to safety, livelihoods and well-being of people and that unmanaged conflict can drive retaliation and undermine conservation and sustainable development objectives.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 4)
	Management actions affecting customary access, subsistence use or culturally significant practices should involve affected communities and, where appropriate, include fair and effective forms of redress.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Articles 8 (j) and 10 (c))
	Benefit-sharing arrangements should be transparent and based on clear rules, and should not exacerbate existing inequalities, including gender-based disparities.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (principle 12, operational guidelines)
	Where major wildlife-related interventions are proposed, including species translocations, invasive	Decision VIII/28 , annex and decision VII/16 F

^a The sources of information in the “Basis” column were used in the development of the principles and safeguards and have not been cited verbatim in all cases.

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis^a</i>
	species management or the establishment of protected areas, impact assessments should, as appropriate, identify cultural values and potential trade-offs, with full and effective participation of affected indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders.	
Transparency and accountability	Sustainable wildlife management frameworks should promote transparent governance, including access to relevant information and data relating, for example, to monitoring results, harvests, licensing systems and revenue allocation.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 21)
	Wildlife harvest, handling and trade practices should, as appropriate, comply with animal welfare, ethical and safety standards, norms and values of indigenous peoples and local communities, national legislation and applicable international obligations.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Articles 8 (l) and 10 (b))

VI. Key elements for developing and implementing policies on sustainable wildlife management

15. Pursuant to decision [16/15](#), the present voluntary guidance is based on the seven key elements of effective policy actions, derived from *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*, which were identified for use in developing and implementing policies on the sustainable use of wild species. Those key elements are:

- (a) Inclusive and participatory decision-making;
- (b) Inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and recognition of rights;
- (c) Equitable distribution of costs and benefits;
- (d) Policies tailored to local socioecological contexts;
- (e) Monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices;
- (f) Coordinated and aligned policies across sectors;
- (g) Robust institutions, from customary to statutory.

16. Elements (a), (b) and (c) are addressed principally in sections VII.B, C and D below, respectively, while elements (d), (e), (f) and (g) are integrated across the present voluntary guidance, including in section VII.A and sections IV and V.

17. The key elements were identified in *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as enhancing the sustainability of the use of wild species and as a prerequisite for stronger implementation across practices. They influence the effectiveness of sustainable wildlife management by strengthening legitimacy, supporting adaptive and context-specific implementation, improving policy coherence and coordination and reinforcing the institutional conditions needed to respond to socioecological change.

VII. Actions for implementation of sustainable wildlife management

18. The present section comprises a set of four possible actions that Parties may consider in the context of supporting the implementation of sustainable wildlife management: crosscutting elements to support policy coherence and cross-sectoral integration; inclusive and participatory decision-making; inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights; and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits. Subsections B, C and D reflect the focus of the areas specified in decision [16/15](#), and subsection A was added because its

subject matter figured prominently in the submissions received following the issuance of notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#).

19. Implementation of the present voluntary guidance may be adapted to national and local contexts, taking into account ecological conditions, cultural diversity and governance systems. In adapting the voluntary guidance, Parties may consider differences among ecological regions, including temperate, tropical, subtropical, arid, polar, mountain, island, coastal and urban contexts, recognizing that implementation needs, pressures, data availability and governance arrangements may vary across regions and practices.

20. Moreover, regional, practice-specific and technical tools may, as appropriate, complement the voluntary guidance in areas where more detailed methodologies, indicators, scenario analyses or operational standards are needed.

A. Cross-cutting elements: policy coherence and cross-sectoral integration

21. Policy coherence and cross-sectoral integration are important because sustainable wildlife management is influenced by interacting drivers across sectors and governance levels and within diverse socioecological contexts. In the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services assessment, coordinated and aligned policies, robust customary and statutory institutions, monitoring of socioecological conditions and practices and policies tailored to local socioecological contexts are identified as key elements for enhancing sustainability. Those approaches can help to align measures across relevant sectors and scales, strengthen institutional support for implementation, reduce fragmentation and policy inconsistencies and enable adaptive responses to changing socioecological conditions. The following actions should consequently be taken as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities:

(a) Promoting coherent policy, legal and institutional conditions for the sustainable and inclusive management of wildlife, including sustainable wildlife economies consistent with conservation objectives and ecological limits, traceability requirements, equitable benefit-sharing and the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant organizations and actors, including small-scale harvesters;

(b) Enhancing cross-sectoral regulations and coordination to address key pressures on wildlife management by identifying lead agencies, coordination and monitoring mechanisms, and relevant protocols for:

- (i) Prevention of wildlife crime, illegal harvesting and unsustainable use, take or trade;
- (ii) Prevention of habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation;
- (iii) Mitigation of and adaptation to climate-related risks and climate change impacts;
- (iv) Prevention of biosecurity risks, invasive alien species and disease risks, in particular zoonotic risks;
- (v) Reduction of pollution;
- (vi) Management of legal, sustainable and traceable wildlife use and trade;

(c) Promoting the embedding of ecological connectivity and habitat conservation in spatial and development planning by mapping and safeguarding key habitats, corridors and migratory pathways, as well as areas of cultural and socioecological importance, incorporating them into zoning and strategic environmental assessment processes and aligning actions with national land- or sea-use plans and, where relevant, regional and global connectivity initiatives;

(d) Promoting stronger integration of sustainable wildlife management issues into green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas, where appropriate, through the adoption of nature-based solutions and ecosystems-based approaches and by ensuring biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, updating urban wildlife management guidelines, establishing protocols for the prevention of and response to human-wildlife interactions in urban areas and supporting, through the significant increase in the area, quality and connectivity of, access to and benefits from such spaces in urban and densely populated areas, cross-sectoral initiatives that enhance wildlife literacy and encourage urban residents' engagement in the stewardship of neighbourhood wildlife;

(e) Strengthening regional and transboundary cooperation for shared populations, species and ecosystems by establishing or using existing regional platforms and developing and integrating bilateral or multilateral arrangements for coordinated conservation actions, monitoring, harmonized harvest or trade controls and the joint management of transboundary protected areas and corridors;

(f) Supporting business, private and financial sectors, as appropriate, in undertaking biodiversity mainstreaming within and across all sectors, with a view to ensuring the sustainable management of wild species, including by ensuring that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal; eliminating wildlife crime and unsustainable use, take and legal trade; and regulating the disclosure by businesses, companies and financial institutions of risks, dependencies and impacts on wildlife along their supply chains, including through the monitoring of biodiversity-related illegal financial transactions;

(g) Addressing challenges to the sustainable management of wild species, such as landscape and seascape changes, climate change, pollution, invasive alien species, overexploitation and zoonotic diseases;

(h) Strengthening cooperation and coherence with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations, including through the use of existing instruments and available data, as appropriate, to avoid duplication;

(i) Promoting more systematic integration of climate-related risks into wildlife management, in particular in climate-vulnerable developing countries, through ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions and by assessing, where relevant, the effects of climate change on species populations, habitats, ecological connectivity, disease dynamics, human-wildlife interactions and the sustainability of use and by adjusting management responses in the light of those effects;

(j) Strengthening or establishing national wildlife inventories, monitoring systems and adaptive management frameworks to support the periodic review and evidence-informed adjustment of management instruments, including quotas, permits and management plans, in the light of ecological evidence, risks and uncertainty;

(k) Strengthening minimum monitoring and reviewing arrangements, as appropriate, by establishing baseline ecological, economic and social information, the periodic review of management measures, the monitoring of outcomes and cumulative pressures and transparent reporting mechanisms that support adaptive management and timely adjustment where practices are found to be unsustainable or inequitable;

(l) Advancing targeted formal, non-formal and informal education, awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives in response to specific implementation needs, through training of trainers and partnerships with academic institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and community institutions;

(m) Supporting the mobilization of adequate human, technical and financial resources by integrating costs associated with wildlife management into sectoral budgets, gaining access

to biodiversity finance mechanisms, including by facilitating access to international biodiversity financing mechanisms, in accordance with national priorities, circumstances and capacities, and, where appropriate, leveraging sustainable financing instruments consistent with national priorities and safeguards;

[(n) Ensuring that international cooperation, technology transfer and mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the present voluntary guidance are based on the principles of sovereign equality and no interference and are not hindered by unilateral coercive measures that are contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations.]

B. Inclusive and participatory decision-making

22. Inclusive and participatory decision-making strengthens legitimacy, improves the quality and acceptability of decisions and supports the implementation of sustainable wildlife management that is responsive to socioecological contexts. Consistent with submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#), effective wildlife management depends on the transparent, structured, full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society organizations, scientists and relevant authorities, and participation should extend beyond consultation to include shared decision-making, co-management and co-design, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances. The following actions should be taken to support sustainable wildlife management, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities:

(a) Facilitating fit-for-purpose participatory processes by ensuring early stakeholder mapping, clear roles and responsibilities, accessible information in relevant languages, adequate timelines and financial resources for participation, and documentation on how inputs were considered;

(b) Promoting the early engagement of stakeholders in the design of wildlife management measures and policies, including harvest regimes, spatial planning and restoration initiatives, applying free, prior and informed consent procedures, as applicable;

(c) Supporting the participation in decision-making processes, as appropriate, of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant stakeholders, such as public authorities, private landowners, wildlife managers, civil society, academia, private sector actors and health and veterinary authorities;

(d) Promoting or strengthening participatory governance mechanisms through clear terms of reference, decision-making procedures and mechanisms for managing interactions where statutory, customary and private systems intersect;

(e) Recognizing and supporting community-based governance instruments, as applicable, such as biocultural community protocols, community forestry arrangements, co-management approaches and buffer zone governance systems, and recognizing the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and their knowledge systems, including cultural, spiritual and relational values associated with wildlife, through technical assistance, legal support, capacity-building and appropriate funding, consistent with national legislation and relevant international obligations;

(f) Promoting and, where appropriate, strengthening tenure and access arrangements through the recognition of the role of customary wildlife management systems in the development of policy instruments and tools, where applicable, and clarifying how tenure and use rights relate to wildlife governance, benefit-sharing and responsibilities for stewardship;

(g) Facilitating transparent access to relevant socioecological and economic information by publishing management plans, harvest or quota rationales, monitoring summaries, benefit-sharing arrangements, licensing rules and revenue allocation, while

protecting sensitive information when disclosure, for example, of poaching hotspots or confidential traditional knowledge, could increase risks;

(h) Promoting balanced representation in wildlife governance bodies through such measures as quotas and the rotation of seats and by addressing barriers faced by women, youth and underrepresented groups, including those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, in line with national legislation;

(i) Facilitating the establishment of accessible grievance prevention, dispute resolution and conflict management mechanisms and ensuring that outcomes are monitored and used to improve policy and practice;

(j) Applying participatory risk assessments, scenario planning and trade-off analyses when decisions with significant ecological or social implications are being taken. Parties may consider providing, where needed, facilitation, technical support and capacity-building to enable equitable participation;

(k) Promoting inclusive dialogue and joint action in contexts of human-wildlife conflict and zoonotic disease risk by linking wildlife authorities with communities, health and veterinary services and relevant sectors and by using practical measures, such as early warning systems, community response teams and agreed protocols for safe handling and reporting.

C. Inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and recognition of rights

23. Sustainable wildlife management can be strengthened when it draws on multiple systems of knowledge and is implemented in ways that ensure the recognition of relevant rights, governance systems and responsibilities. Submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#) highlighted that scientific knowledge is often more effective when considered alongside traditional knowledge and that respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including with regard to customary governance systems, tenure arrangements and rights relating to knowledge, is an important condition for effective and equitable implementation. Parties should advance sustainable wildlife management through the following actions, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities:

(a) Providing recognition for local and customary governance systems, tenure arrangements and rights, and community-defined rules relevant to sustainable wildlife management, consistent with national legislation and relevant international obligations, including through legal recognition, support for customary institutions and negotiated agreements where systems overlap;

(b) Encouraging approaches that support the application of appropriate protocols and procedures for seeking the free, prior and informed consent and approval of knowledge holders, while respecting intellectual property over traditional knowledge, data sovereignty, culturally appropriate benefit-sharing from knowledge use and community-defined access rules;

(c) Facilitating the establishment of mechanisms for integrating scientific and traditional systems of knowledge as distinct and complementary sources of evidence in wildlife planning, monitoring and review;

(d) Facilitating community-based knowledge documentation systems and locally governed repositories, such as community-managed archives, databases or other systems for storing and transmitting knowledge, where communities agree to them, while respecting community-defined access, use and sharing protocols;

(e) Fostering intergenerational knowledge transfer and adaptive learning processes to allow management systems to respond to socioecological change, through community

exchanges, mentorship programmes and learning-by-doing approaches embedded in management cycles;

(f) Enabling, where appropriate, the integration of community-based biodiversity monitoring and citizen science into national biodiversity inventories and reporting systems, using standardized yet adaptable methods, training and resourcing for data collection, management and feedback to communities, including participatory discussions on the interpretation of results and their use in management decisions;

(g) Incorporating, where relevant and appropriate, attention to population structure, connectivity and wild genetic diversity, drawing on scientific and traditional systems of knowledge and applying safeguards relating to consent, culturally appropriate use of knowledge and data governance;

(h) Strengthening capacities for species inventories and population assessments, as well as for monitoring of habitat, genetic diversity and taxonomy, ecological monitoring, the use of digital technologies and the management of biodiversity databases, by prioritizing risk-based and ecosystem-based approaches in data-poor contexts and promoting open and FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) principles, where feasible;

(i) Encouraging transparent access to monitoring and management information, as appropriate, while applying safeguards for sensitive data, for example, geospatial data on habitats, the locations of threatened species or confidential traditional knowledge, the disclosure of which may harm [national interests,] conservation efforts [and biosecurity measures] [or be against national legislation];

(j) Advancing the One Health approach by integrating wildlife and livestock health surveillance into sustainable wildlife management frameworks; establishing information-sharing channels among environment, forestry, fisheries, agriculture and health authorities; and incorporating safe handling, biosecurity and risk communication measures into wildlife management plans, as appropriate and consistent with the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health⁵⁸ and the One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026) of the Quadripartite collaboration on One Health;

(k) Encouraging, where One Health approaches are applied, the monitoring and periodic review of outcomes for wildlife populations, ecosystem integrity, human well-being, domestic animal health and spillover risk reduction, to strengthen evidence-based learning and adaptive management;

(l) Facilitating through technology transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and access to financial resources, the use of emerging technologies, such as remote sensing, acoustic monitoring, eDNA, digital permitting and traceability tools, in monitoring and enforcement, ensuring equity, accessibility and cultural appropriateness.

D. Equitable distribution of costs and benefits

24. The equitable distribution of costs and benefits is important for sustainable wildlife management, as it strengthens fairness, legitimacy and long-term effectiveness, in particular where the burdens and benefits associated with wildlife use, conservation and coexistence are unevenly distributed. In the submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#), it was highlighted that wildlife management was more likely to be effective and durable when those who bore the costs of living with wildlife, including indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, derived tangible, intangible and equitable benefits from their stewardship, sustainable use and conservation efforts. Parties should

⁵⁸ Decision [16/19](#), annex.

advance sustainable wildlife management through the following actions, as appropriate and in accordance with national policies, legislation, circumstances and priorities:

(a) Ensuring that benefit-sharing arrangements encompass both monetary and non-monetary benefits, such as capacity-building, technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, equitable access to information and monitoring results, institutional strengthening, the recognition of customary governance systems and support for cultural traditions, traditional knowledge, practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and subsistence use;

(b) Facilitating fair, equitable, transparent, participatory and accountable benefit-sharing arrangements on the basis of clear eligibility, governance structures and grievance mechanisms, while considering other social and environmental safeguarding measures;

(c) Giving due attention to the differentiated costs borne by those living with wildlife, such as human-wildlife conflict, opportunity costs and regulatory burdens, through preventive, mitigative and incentive-based measures, giving particular attention to gender-differentiated impacts, women's participation and leadership, and persons in vulnerable situations;

(d) Promoting measures to protect the safety and rights of [stakeholders and local communities involved in sustainable wildlife management] [environmental human rights defenders, with consideration given to [gender][gender-differentiated violence][gender-responsive approaches]] [and challenges experienced by defenders], in line with national legislation, priorities and circumstances;

(e) Facilitating, where appropriate, the establishment or strengthening of insurance mechanisms, compensation and relief schemes and other incentive-based instruments to address crop damage, livestock loss and other costs associated with human-wildlife interactions in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, thereby supporting coexistence and reducing social and economic vulnerability;

(f) Enabling legal and policy frameworks that allow benefits from sustainable wildlife use, trade and tourism and other sustainable wildlife economy activities to reach indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders by clarifying revenue-sharing formulas, devolving appropriate fiscal authority and supporting social enterprises and businesses of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

(g) Strengthening accountability for benefit-sharing of wildlife revenues through independent oversight, regular financial and performance audits, the disclosure of revenue flows and allocations and accessible grievance and remedy mechanisms, together with protections against retaliation, in accordance with national policies and legislation;

(h) Recognizing the roles of small-scale harvesters, processors and social enterprises within wildlife value chains and ensuring that regulatory measures do not disproportionately disadvantage actors operating within local and customary systems;

(i) Promoting diversified and climate resilient livelihood strategies linked with sustainable wildlife management, including sustainable use;

(j) Applying sustainability safeguards, such as biodiversity monitoring, to sustainable wildlife management activities, for example wildlife observation and nature-based tourism, including ecotourism;

(k) Exploring innovative and sustainable financial mechanisms, such as biodiversity-related levies, payments for ecosystem services, public-private partnerships and biodiversity credit schemes, with clear socioecological safeguards, including additionality, avoidance of perverse incentives, the monitoring of biodiversity outcomes and respect for rights of stakeholders involved in sustainable wildlife management;

(l) Promoting access to markets for sustainably sourced wildlife parts and derivatives, while ensuring that commercialization remains aligned with conservation objectives and within ecological limits and providing incentives for alternative business models with clear socioecological benefits, [including those within the social and solidarity economy,⁵⁹] while taking into account the precautionary approach;

(m) Supporting, where wildlife populations, habitats or ecological functions have declined, restoration and recovery initiatives that should take into account the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, including effects on tenure, access, livelihoods and customary sustainable use, and provide for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

⁵⁹ As defined by the International Labour Conference in [resolution 110/II](#).

28/5. 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 Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its seventeenth meeting, adopt a decision along the following lines:

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 areas⁶⁰ and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity⁶¹ continue to provide a strategic framework for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁶² 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 representativeness and] ecological connectivity [are critical qualitative requirements][is a foundational condition] for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively conserved and managed, and equitably governed systems[of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] under Target 3 of the Framework, and contributes to the achievement of other relevant targets and Goal A of the Framework,

[*Noting* the ongoing preparation by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity, and its potential relevance for the further [development and] implementation of the programme of work,]

1. [*Welcomes*][*Takes note* of] the forthcoming seventh International Union for Conservation of Nature World Protected and Conserved Areas Congress, organized in Panama by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Ministry of Environment of Panama;

[2. *Adopts* the definition of “conserved areas” as “areas with other effective area-based conservation measures”,⁶³ [recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable;]]

3. *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 [areas with] other effective area-based conservation measures[, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]]], in a manner consistent with Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation, and to enhance clarity and coherence;

4. [*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 to support the implementation of the Framework, with particular focus on Target 3;

⁶⁰ Decision [VII/28](#), annex.

⁶¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁶² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁶³ Decision [14/8](#), para. 2.

5. *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;

[6. *Invites* [developed country Parties, Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country] Parties, other Governments, subnational and local governments [and non-sovereign contributors, such as financing mechanisms], the private sector and philanthropic organizations, to mobilize, in accordance with Article[s] 20 [and 21] of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Target 19 of the Framework, new, additional, predictable, adequate and accessible financial resources from all sources to support the implementation of the updated programme of work, in particular for developing countries, including small island developing States, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 20 of the Convention;]

[7. *Recognizes* the importance of mobilizing predictable, adequate and sustainable means of implementation, including through financial resources, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building, to ensure the effective implementation of the updated programme of work;]

8. *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, including the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of the Framework by supporting knowledge exchange, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and development, and coordinated action in the implementation of the updated programme of work;

9. *Encourages* Parties [to apply a human rights-based approach in the implementation of][to implement] 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, [recognizing their own governance systems,] [women, girls and youth, and, as appropriate, the protection of environmental human rights defenders];

10. *Invites* 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;

[11. [*Decides* to establish a fifth programme element][*Endorses* a cross-cutting complementary activity] 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 one of several foundational conditions for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively conserved and managed, and equitably governed systems[of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], to support the development and implementation of actions to meet the relevant targets of the Framework[, in particular Targets 1 to 6, 9 and 12];]

[12. *Invites* Parties to reinforce ecological connectivity in the implementation of the updated programme of work, in line with the relevant complementary activities set out in the annex to the present decision and in support of the implementation of the Framework;]

[13. *Decides* to consider at its eighteenth meeting, as appropriate, whether additional guidance related to ecological connectivity is required under the Convention, taking into

account the findings of the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other relevant scientific and technical information, as well as experiences in implementing the Framework and progress in the implementation of the programme of work;]

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

(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 subparagraph (c) (vii) below;

(c) To compile, with input from Parties, other Governments, [subnational and local governments], relevant organizations and other stakeholders[, within their respective mandates, and recognizing traditional territories, where applicable], a synthesis report on experiences, lessons learned and different approaches, as well as relevant scientific information, including the findings of the assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that support the achievement of Target 3 of the Framework and the implementation of the programme of work [in a manner consistent with Target 3] [, 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 relevant targets of the Framework;
- (ii) Ecological integrity, representativeness, effective conservation, ecosystem restoration and resilience, and ecological connectivity across terrestrial, wetland, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems, including in the context of climate change;
- (iii) The recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable [under Target 3 of the Framework], including by applying differentiated approaches for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact[, in line with the principles of no contact, intangibility and precaution], based on the outcomes of Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, as contained in decision 17/xx;
- (iv) Gender equality and gender-responsive and intergenerational approaches, and the integration of traditional knowledge, in planning, governance and [the] management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable];
- (v) The integration of [well-connected and equitably governed systems of] [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into broader landscapes and seascapes [and the ocean], across areas within and beyond national jurisdiction[, in line with [the mandates of the Agreement 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,⁶⁴ the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, regional fisheries management organizations and other] relevant international organizations,] 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 ecological networks below ground;
 - (vii) Planning, governance and [the] effective management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including the integration of climate change considerations and participatory risk assessment into species and ecosystem conservation, as well as the management of human-wildlife conflict to promote coexistence, 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 on 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, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including through biodiversity monitoring and the use of relevant new technologies, community-based monitoring, the strengthening of national biodiversity databases, among other relevant dimensions, and, where possible, the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR) and of collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE)[, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation];
 - (x) Sustainable finance approaches, innovative financial mechanisms, including from public and private sources [and environmental and social safeguards], relevant to the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework 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;
 - (xi) 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 of the Framework;]
- (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.

⁶⁴ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

Annex

Update to the programme of work on [protected and conserved areas][protected areas and [areas with] other effective area-based conservation measures[, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]]

1. The table below shows the mapping of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁶⁵ against complementary activities that could support the implementation of the programme of work.⁶⁶ 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 categorized as follows: (A) activities that have existing strong alignment with Target 3 of the Framework and its interlinkages with other targets; (B) activities that address targets that are partially covered by the programme of work and where implementation can be strengthened; and (C) activities for further developing areas 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, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] are proposed.

2. The implementation of the updated programme of work should be conducted in line with section C of the Framework, [in particular by following a human rights-based approach,] and in accordance with national circumstances, legislation and priorities.

I. Complementary activities to strengthen the programme of work on [protected and conserved areas][protected areas and [areas with] other effective area-based conservation measures[, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]] 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, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] 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. [1 bis Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	A
Target 2	2. Promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems [within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], and beyond, including buffer zones, ecological corridors, [soil biodiversity, in particular fungal biodiversity, ⁶⁷] and inland water ecosystems, with a view to restoring ecological integrity and ecological connectivity across landscapes and seascapes, including through the	B

⁶⁵ Decision 15/4, annex.

⁶⁶ Decision VII/28, annex.

⁶⁷ As described in Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and others, *State of Knowledge of Soil Biodiversity: Status, Challenges and Potentialities, Report 2020* (Rome, 2020).

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	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]. [2 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	
Target 3	3. Incorporate the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Framework across implementation of the programme of work, updating relevant timelines and terminology, and ensuring coherence with related processes carried out under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030.⁶⁸ 4. Strengthen guidance related to improving monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems for terrestrial, inland waters, coastal and marine ecosystems to improve the assessment of biodiversity outcomes, including in relation to ecological representativeness, connectivity, integrity, conservation effectiveness, management effectiveness, governance quality, species population trends and through the use of appropriately indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁶⁹ as well as disaggregated indicators, including, as appropriate, by ecosystem type and level of protection. 5. Enhance guidance related to the recognition, respect, promotion and protection of indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, in the context of Target 3 of the Framework, 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, in line with the principles of no contact, intangibility and precaution, in accordance with national circumstances. 6. 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, corridor design for climate adaptation, large-scale ecological connectivity, including ecological processes below ground, other effective area-based conservation measures and transboundary conservation. 7. Strengthen the operationalization of equitable and effective governance in [the] planning and management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] [and a human rights-based approach] consistent with section C of the Framework, including by, as appropriate, 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	A

⁶⁸ Decision [16/4](#), annex.

⁶⁹ Decision [15/5](#), annex I, as updated in decision 16/31, and decision 17/-- on planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	governance and co-management arrangements; ensuring culturally appropriate access to information; respecting and strengthening, where applicable, the implementation of free, prior and informed consent,⁷⁰ [consistent with national circumstances and legislation and international instruments]. 8. Strengthen inclusive monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems [for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], 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, species population trends, relevant indicators of the monitoring framework, as well as [gender-]disaggregated indicators. 9. Promote the use of relevant and new approaches for ecological integrity and connectivity in the planning and management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including through the development of ecological networks, ecological corridors, stepping stones and transboundary connectivity initiatives and corridor design for climate adaptation across wider landscapes and seascapes. 10. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of [protected and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including ecological corridors. [10 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	
Target 4	11. Strengthen capacities for planning and management through participatory risk assessment, rapid response mechanisms, where possible, and inclusive community engagements and the integration of traditional knowledge in addressing human-wildlife conflict and promoting coexistence[in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. 12. Integrate effective management of human-wildlife interactions, including human-wildlife conflict risk assessment, in order to minimize conflict to promote coexistence [in the context of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. [12 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	B
Target 5	13. Address and manage the use of wild species [within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] where such use is allowed, in a manner that mitigates risks to native biodiversity and human health, consistent with site-specific conservation objectives and zoning, while preventing overexploitation and ensuring sustainable, legal and safe use at all stages, including	B

⁷⁰ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	through participatory biodiversity monitoring and the application of One Health risk assessment frameworks, as appropriate, and respecting and protecting the customary sustainable use practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.	
Target 6	14. Strengthen the prediction, prevention, early detection, control or eradication of and the rapid response to invasive alien species[in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including through community-based monitoring, surveillance systems, and biosecurity and trade-related measures. ⁷¹ 15. Strengthen guidelines, where applicable, for the development and implementation of national and regional plans for the management of invasive alien species and pathways of introduction into protected areas.	B
Target 7	16. Address pollution pressures[, including plastic pollution, pollution from hazardous substances, pesticide use and run-off, and noise and light pollution,] from all sources [affecting protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], cumulative impacts and land-sea interactions.	B
Target 8	17. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of [protected and other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including ecological corridors, by scaling up related response measures that promote resilience in order to minimize the negative impacts of climate change, while ensuring ecological integrity. 18. Promote system design for climate adaptation and resilience that anticipates future range shifts, including by identifying additional climate refugia, connectivity corridors[, soil biodiversity, in particular fungal biodiversity,] and areas of future biodiversity importance.	C
Target 9	[19. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 10	20. Strengthen guidance on the sustainable management of productive landscapes and biodiversity-friendly practices to support[, while being distinguished from,] [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] and improvements in biodiversity, 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 planning approaches, recognizing the value of traditional knowledge and practices [and ways to distinguish such activities from those that fall under Target 3 of the Framework].	C
Target 11	21. Highlight the role of [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] in restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and	B

⁷¹ Any international measures should be implemented in compliance with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization and with the International Plant Protection Convention.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	services, [including water security, coastal protection, pollinators and food security,] as well as strengthen capacities to measure and value those functions and services.	
Target 12	22. Integrate [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into urban and peri-urban planning, including through green and blue infrastructure, to enhance ecological connectivity, restoration, the conservation of native species and climate change adaptation, and to support physical and mental health and well-being, and equitable access to nature especially for the most vulnerable. [22 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	C
Target 13	[23. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 14	24. Integrate [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into cross-sectoral policies, legislation, planning and development processes, where relevant for their planning and effective management.	B
Target 15	25. 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, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] including across their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios, in order to promote sustainable value chains and reduce risks to biodiversity. 26. Facilitate clearer direction on engaging financial actors and the private sector [in support of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] on a voluntary basis to develop the field of conservation, protection and restoration as a key economic area.	B
Target 16	[27. No specific actions identified.] [27 Alt. Promote synergies between the policies and actions taken to protect and conserve biodiversity, and policies and actions that enable sustainable consumption choices, including through coherent policy frameworks, education, access to reliable information and sector specific approaches, such as sustainable tourism management, contributing to the reduction of consumption footprints and waste generation.]	[n/a]
Target 17	[28. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 18	[29. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 19	30. Promote the identification of timely, predictable and accessible financial resources from all sources, including domestic, international, public and private resources, for the effective implementation and long-term financial sustainability and institutional resilience [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] [including] in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and	A

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	innovative mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, especially to support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, consistent with national priorities and with environmental and social safeguards. 31. Promote [direct and] accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, where applicable under Target 3 of the Framework, in accordance with national circumstances.	
Target 20	32. Strengthen capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for establishing and managing [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including with respect to new technologies and institutional support for the conservation workforce, such as rangers and other relevant personnel.	A
Target 21	33. Strengthen the application of advances in biodiversity monitoring, data management and knowledge-sharing through targeted capacity-building and development on comprehensive biodiversity monitoring and the use of innovative technologies, including digital technologies, remote sensing and national biodiversity databases, to improve monitoring, evaluation, reporting and decision-making [regarding biodiversity outcomes and ecological connectivity and representativeness, and] relating to [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] including through nationally appropriate approaches and indicators, while strengthening capacities and infrastructure for managing and integrating biodiversity data.	B
Target 22	34. 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, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. 35. [Ensure] access to justice by indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth and persons with disabilities[, including through the establishment of effective and accessible grievance mechanisms,] in accordance with national legislation and other relevant international agreements, to address issues related to the establishment, management and governance of [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. 36. [Ensure] the full protection of environmental human rights defenders engaged in activities related to [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable].	B
Target 23	37. Promote gender equality and integrate a gender-responsive approach, including the use of [indicators disaggregated by sex][gender-disaggregated indicators], across the programme of work[, taking gender-based violence into due consideration].	A

[II. Programme element 5: ecological connectivity]

Objective

3. To maintain, enhance and restore structural and functional ecological connectivity across terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems, including by integrating ecologically representative and well-connected systems [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into wider landscapes and seascapes.

Goal 5.1 – Integrated planning and implementation

4. 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

5. 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,⁷² 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

6. 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 Animals⁷³ and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives, in accordance with their respective mandates and while avoiding duplication.

Goal 5.4 – Monitoring and knowledge

7. 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 methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services once approved by the Plenary of the Platform.]

⁷² “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

⁷³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1651, No. 28395.

28/6. Marine and coastal biodiversity

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming Articles 3, 4, 5 and 22 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁷⁴ as well as its decisions [VIII/24](#) of 31 March 2006, [IX/20](#) of 30 May 2008, [X/29](#) of 29 October 2010, [XI/17](#) of 19 October 2012, [XII/22](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/12](#) of 17 December 2016, in particular its paragraph 3, [14/9](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/24](#) and [15/26](#) of 19 December 2022, [16/16](#) of 30 October 2024 and [16/17](#) of 1 November 2024,

Recalling resolution 80/110 of 9 December 2025 of the General Assembly of the United Nations on oceans and the law of the sea, including its preambular paragraphs on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,^{75,76,77}

Recognizing that the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas is an important scientific and technical process that contributes to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁷⁸ [and the Agreement 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],⁷⁹

I

Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

1. *Decides* to extend the term of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas until the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *[Welcomes][Takes note of]* the submissions related to the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the modification of existing descriptions, as contained in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/2/Rev.1](#) and summarized in document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/7/Add.1](#);

3. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders, to contribute to the work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, as appropriate and in accordance with decision [16/16](#), in order to improve the coverage of such areas around the world and ensure that the descriptions of those areas are kept up to date, recognizing the underrepresentation of areas beyond national jurisdiction in such descriptions;

4. *Also encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to strengthen the scientific and technical capacities of developing country

⁷⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

⁷⁶ Colombia reaffirms that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is not the only legal instrument governing activities carried out in the oceans and seas. The participation of Colombia in the discussions under agenda item 18 (c) of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 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.

⁷⁷ 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 agenda item 18 (c) of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties cannot be construed as a change in the well-known legal position of Türkiye with regard to said instrument.

⁷⁸ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁷⁹ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, including through the mobilization of resources, to contribute to the work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas under the Convention, as appropriate and in accordance with decision [16/16](#);

5. *Further encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances, to make use of the best available scientific information and compatible tools, taking into consideration the identification and recognition of essential and particularly sensitive habitats of marine species, in order to support the description and identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and inform ecosystem-based approaches and area-based conservation measures, including the designation and management of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, as appropriate, in support of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, while respecting the mandates of relevant international instruments and processes;

[6. *Adopts* the voluntary [reference elements for good practice][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], as contained in annex I to the present decision, and invites Parties, other Governments and competent intergovernmental organizations to make use of them, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and the respective mandates and procedures of competent intergovernmental organizations, without affecting or modifying the peer-review or decision-making processes established under other processes and noting that the voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] do not prejudice the sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction of States;]

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to facilitate the work of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in line with its terms of reference⁸⁰ and to make a report on that work available at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to include the submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above in the repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and to transmit them to the General Assembly of the United Nations, with a view to informing work under its relevant processes, as well as Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To continue to facilitate and support efforts, as appropriate, including in collaboration with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, to develop submissions for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas, including through outreach, technical support and capacity-building;

(b) To convene a global expert workshop, with balanced regional representation, to collate, synthesize and review the [best available scientific knowledge and other relevant knowledge][best available scientific knowledge[and][, including] information from diverse knowledge systems[,]] on ecological and biological features in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in support of the potential development of future submissions, as appropriate and in accordance with the modalities contained in decision [16/16](#), without prejudicing future discussions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the

⁸⁰ The terms of reference for the Informal Advisory Group, which have been aligned with the modalities contained in the annex to decision [16/16](#), are available at www.cbd.int/marine/ebsa/revised-tor-iag-on-ebsa.pdf.

Conference of the Parties and in cooperation with [the Secretariat of the Agreement 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] other competent international entities for the purpose of scientific and technical exchange, while ensuring complementarity and avoiding unnecessary duplication of or prejudicing work carried out under the Agreement, including with respect to area-based management tools;

[(c) To compile experiences in the use of the information contained in the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, including in efforts to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework[, the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction] and other relevant international agreements and frameworks, and make that information available at a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;]

II

Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

10. [*Welcomes with appreciation*][*Takes note of*] the entry into force on 17 January 2026 of the Agreement 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;

11. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Governments of Germany, Ireland, Norway and Sweden for their financial support for the convening of an expert workshop on scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction in Bergen, Norway, from 2 to 5 December 2025, and takes note of the outcomes of the workshop;

12. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant entities, including those in charge of regional sea conventions and action plans and regional fishery bodies, to strengthen coordination and cooperation at the global, regional and national levels on issues related to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with [the participation of stakeholders][the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders];

13. *Also encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and organizations with competence in areas beyond national jurisdiction, to use, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates and jurisdictional scopes, the wide range of tools, guidance and experiences developed under the Convention in their work to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, [such as in the implementation of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction,]including work to support capacity-building, scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer, without prejudicing work carried out by those organizations and under relevant processes, while promoting synergies and avoiding the duplication of efforts;

14. *Notes with concern* the findings of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework that show that marine and coastal ecosystems consistently receive less attention than terrestrial ecosystems [and the fact that a significant proportion of reported protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in marine and coastal areas do not yet meet the qualitative elements of Target 3 of the Framework, including effective conservation and management, ecological representativeness, connectivity and equitable governance];

15. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to strengthen efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Framework in the context of marine and coastal ecosystems, including through enhanced policy coherence, scientific and technical

cooperation, capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology and the mobilization of adequate financial resources from all sources;

[16. *Decides* to establish an informal advisory group on work conducted under the Convention in relation to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction with the terms of reference provided in annex II to the present decision;

17. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group on Work Conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity in Relation to Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction to provide a report on its progress for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

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

(a) To cooperate further with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and other entities with competence in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular with a view to sharing tools, guidance, expertise, experiences and best practices developed under the Convention relevant to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, as appropriate, within the mandates of the respective entities, in a manner that promotes coherence and coordination and without undermining, and with full respect for, relevant legal instruments and frameworks and the mandates and competence of global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies;

[(b) To prepare updates to the following documents, taking into account the best available scientific knowledge and the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent,⁸¹ as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, within the mandate and jurisdictional scope of the Convention, taking into account relevant work carried out under other international instruments, frameworks and competent global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, avoiding duplication and promoting complementarity and coherence, and to make them available for peer review by Parties and relevant organizations before providing them for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

(i) The scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats,⁸² taking into account knowledge gaps in various regions, maintaining a clear distinction between the scientific description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and decisions concerning the identification, proposal, designation or establishment of marine protected areas or other area-based management tools by competent authorities and bodies, acknowledging ecological representativeness and connectivity as vital criteria for area-based conservation and recognizing and integrating diverse knowledge systems, including the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;

[(ii) The voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention;⁸³]

[(iii) The voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments in marine and coastal areas and the draft guidance on

⁸¹ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

⁸² Decision [IX/20](#), annex II.

⁸³ Decision [XIII/11](#), annex II.

biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental assessment in marine and coastal areas;⁸⁴]]

(c) To commission a report, to be prepared in collaboration with relevant organizations, on scientific and technical information on marine biological and ecological connectivity, including vertical connectivity, in particular in coastal, open-ocean and deep-sea ecosystems, in order to inform the implementation of the Framework, and make the report available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) To develop, in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts, scientific guidance on the application of emerging technologies, including environmental DNA, remote sensing and other appropriate biodiversity monitoring tools, to support the assessment and monitoring of marine biodiversity, taking into account national circumstances, capacities and priorities, using the best available scientific information and considering methods of application that value the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, and accompany that guidance with an analysis of priorities and options for capacity-building and development for developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them;

(e) To identify which of the gaps and areas in need of additional focus contained in the annex to decision [16/17](#) would benefit from the development of new guidance under the Convention to advance the implementation of the Framework with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(f) To prepare an analysis on the status of the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity⁸⁵ in the context of the Framework, taking into consideration the disproportionate threats to island ecosystems, the inseparable links among marine, coastal and island ecosystems and the annex to decision [16/17](#), and to provide the analysis to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(g) To enhance further cooperation, collaboration or synergies, as appropriate, with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and global and regional organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative global dialogue with regional sea organizations and regional fishery bodies, with regard to various thematic issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity in support of the implementation of the Framework [and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁸⁶].

⁸⁴ [UNEP/CBD/COP/11/23](#), annex.

⁸⁵ Decision [VIII/1](#), annex.

⁸⁶ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Annex I

Voluntary [reference elements for good practice][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]

I. Introduction

1. There are various processes, on a range of scales and in diverse contexts, for describing areas of significance in marine and coastal areas, including the scientific description and mapping of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. The processes reflect a range of objectives, contexts and priorities and may be coordinated variously by intergovernmental or governmental entities, indigenous peoples and local communities, and non-governmental organizations. Some are focused on specific types of habitats, species or ecological processes, while others combine at least two of the above or have a broader scope. Processes other than those to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas may also be linked with management measures or used to inform related management decisions.

2. In its decision [16/16](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸⁷ emphasized that, in developing submissions for descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas or modifications to those descriptions, proponents should consider the need for a strong scientific basis with sufficient information, as well as the importance of transparency, which are common factors of such processes. In that regard, peer review is a vital factor contributing to the effectiveness of the processes. Peer review can take various forms but is intended to provide an opportunity for experts to evaluate information in order to strengthen its scientific basis and credibility, enhance process transparency and support the consistent application of agreed criteria.

3. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary 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.

II. Purpose

4. The present voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] are aimed at supporting, as appropriate, inclusive, effective, scientifically robust, equitable and transparent expert 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].

5. The voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] are focused exclusively on expert peer reviews as a scientific and technical quality assurance mechanism. They are intended to strengthen the scientific basis of proposed descriptions and support the consistent application of agreed criteria, recognizing that the description of an area as meeting the criteria for an ecologically or biologically significant marine area does not, in itself, constitute the identification, designation or establishment of a marine protected area or other area-based management tool or prescribe any management measure.

6. The voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] are non-prescriptive and flexible in nature and do not replace national peer-review and broader rights holder or stakeholder and other consultation processes. They are intended[, collectively or on an individual basis,] to

⁸⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

serve as a reference for good practice in support of relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in particular decision [16/16](#). While they are primarily intended to provide options to complement existing processes to those who are managing a peer-review process, they may also be useful for experts involved in peer reviews.

7. Nothing in the present voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] shall prejudice work conducted under other international instruments, frameworks or competent organizations. Their use in such processes is voluntary and subject to the respective mandates, procedures and decisions pertaining to those instruments, frameworks or competent organizations.

8. Nothing in the voluntary [reference elements][guidelines] gives rise to any changes to the modalities adopted in decision [16/16](#), nor any additional steps or requirements with respect to the process for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas under the Convention or any processes related to the application of relevant compatible and complementary scientific criteria.

III. Voluntary [reference elements][guidelines]

A. Information regarding the criteria for which the area is being proposed

9. Sufficient information regarding the criteria against which the area is being proposed for assessment should be provided to those involved in the peer-review process and should include the following:

- (a) A full overview of the steps of the process for applying the criteria in question, including the steps that have been completed thus far;
- (b) The nature of the criteria that are being applied (e.g. context or objectives) and all requirements, including any associated thresholds, that the area in question must meet;
- (c) An indication of whether the area in question is associated with any other criteria;
- (d) Information on any previous unsuccessful efforts to assess the area against the criteria.

B. Clear justification of why the area meets the criteria

10. Given that the expert review process is focused on ensuring that the proposal is of a high quality, sufficient information should be provided to those involved in the review demonstrating that the area in question meets the criteria, including the following:

- (a) A clear geographical delineation of the area, using appropriate formats, such as geographic information system files or geographical coordinates, and the rationale for the delineation;
- (b) The geographical scope of the exercise or analysis that led to the proposal to describe the area in question as significant;
- (c) An indication of whether the process that led to the proposal was limited to or specifically focused on certain types of features, habitats, species or ecosystem services;
- (d) A clear explanation of the features of the area that contribute to the fulfilment of the relevant criteria, using the best available information and knowledge, including data or data-driven analyses, and, where appropriate, traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (e) The gaps or uncertainties that may exist in the information or knowledge used, including a description of confidence levels, where appropriate, and an explanation of the ways in which the gaps are addressed, where applicable, such as through assumptions, extrapolation, modelling or the use of complementary knowledge sources, including an indication of the associated uncertainty to ensure scientific transparency and robustness;

(f) Full references or citations for all information and knowledge used, including statements on the availability or reproducibility of data, where needed;

(g) Applicable permissions for all information and knowledge used, including the best available science and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent,⁸⁸ consistent with national legislation and circumstances.

C. Experts engaged in the peer-review process

11. The following factors should be borne in mind when engaging experts in the peer-review process:

(a) A sufficient number of appropriate experts in the topic under discussion should be engaged, under a clear rationale for their engagement, such as those from various rights holder and stakeholder groups, who would be participating in their expert capacity, giving due consideration to the participation of experts who were not involved in the development of the submission, including:

- (i) Experts with scientific knowledge of the types of features, habitats, species or ecosystem services being discussed, ensuring that the peer-review group includes a sufficient number of experts with knowledge of all the main features of the area (e.g. two experts per area of expertise);
- (ii) Experts in the methodological approaches used in the analysis;
- (iii) Experts from indigenous peoples and local communities who have traditional knowledge relevant to the area in question;
- (iv) Experts from various sectors and user groups, according to national circumstances and legislation;

(b) Experts should understand and disclose their actual or potential conflicts of interest, potentially using individual, signed, formal declarations, and their motivating factors for engaging in the process, and a consistent approach should be applied to the management of conflicts;

(c) A clear explanation should be provided of the types of input expected from the experts, which may vary depending on their area of expertise, and of the format of the expected final output of the process;

(d) Peer-review methods and timelines should be flexible to reflect the range of regional and institutional contexts, especially where data or resources are limited, without losing scientific reliability.

D. Establishing and conducting the peer-review process

12. The timing of the implementation of a peer-review process should be chosen in such a way that the scientific foundation and quality of the process and of the information used can be ensured as effectively as possible. The process should be carefully crafted and conducted, considering the following features:

(a) Effective and equitable modalities, which may include a combination of approaches, that help to facilitate the robust review of the proposal;

(b) Clear steps and expected timelines that are consistently respected and clear explanations of any deviations;

⁸⁸ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

(c) Clear rules of procedure and code of conduct that are set out, explained to everyone involved and consistently respected throughout the process, including rules for reporting in any public documentation discussions and information provided during the process, such as on the use of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, consistent with national legislation and circumstances;

(d) Clear plans for the consideration of input received through the process and, where appropriate, for its incorporation and reflection in the output of the process, recognizing that not all input can be incorporated;

(e) Information on the ways in which the peer-review process influenced the final proposal, including a clear justification for any expert input that is not incorporated into the final output, as well as any dissenting views regarding the final output, in order to ensure transparency and the scientific reliability of the outcome;

(f) Adherence to any rules, procedures, timelines and expectations articulated at the outset of the process;

(g) Public availability of the outputs of the process, as well as input received during the process, as appropriate;

(h) Provisions for the adaptive improvement of the peer-review process for future exercises.

[Annex II

Terms of reference for the Informal Advisory Group on Work Conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity in Relation to Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

1. The Informal Advisory Group on Work Conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸⁹ in relation to Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction shall respect and take fully into account the mandates and work of other competent entities and intergovernmental organizations with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as previous guidance given by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention regarding the role of the Convention in that context, and shall conduct its work in a manner that promotes coherence and coordination.

2. The Informal Advisory Group shall:

(a) Provide scientific and technical advice to the Secretariat of the Convention on work relevant to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular on the prioritization of and approaches for possible activities and initiatives, within the mandate and jurisdictional scope of the Convention, drawing on opportunities identified during the expert workshop on scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention relevant to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction held in Bergen, Norway, from 2 to 5 December 2025;⁹⁰

[(b) Identify timely opportunities for specific areas of cooperation, collaboration or synergies, as appropriate, with the Secretariat of the Agreement 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 Jurisdiction⁹¹ and other competent entities and international organizations with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of marine

⁸⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁹⁰ See [CBD/MCB/WS/2025/1/2](#).

⁹¹ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including opportunities for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the subsidiary bodies to contribute relevant scientific and technical information, drawing on cooperation opportunities identified at the expert workshop noted above;

(c) Provide advice on areas of potential cooperation, collaboration or synergies, as appropriate and in line with the mandate and jurisdictional scope of the Convention, on relevant scientific and technical information to inform work under the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.]

3. The Informal Advisory Group shall be composed of up to 20 experts nominated by Parties, with equal representation of the five regional groups, up to 10 experts nominated by intergovernmental bodies with competence in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, and up to 7 experts nominated by other relevant organizations[, including from civil society and indigenous peoples and local communities]. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, shall select experts from the nominees with due regard to a diversity of relevant technical expertise, geographical representation, including from least developed countries and small island developing States, gender balance [and the representation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women's and youth groups, and relevant stakeholders].

4. The Informal Advisory Group is established for a two-year period [that may be renewed by a decision of the Conference of the Parties]. The members of the Group shall be selected for a two-year period. The work of the Group should continue regardless of any changes in membership.

5. The Informal Advisory Group may invite experts from outside the Group, as appropriate[, including experts and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth,] to contribute to discussions on specific issues considered by the Group.

6. The Informal Advisory Group will primarily conduct its work online and, subject to the availability of resources, will also meet in person.

7. The Informal Advisory Group is to start its work immediately after the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

II. Account of proceedings

Introduction

1. The twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was held in Nairobi from 27 July to 1 August 2026. The meeting was attended by 141 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and 1 non-Party.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was opened at 10.05 a.m. on 27 July 2026 by the Chair, Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon).

3. The Chair welcomed participants to the meeting, which was taking place at a critical stage in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He thanked the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the Preparation of the Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as all the contributing experts and reviewers, for preparing the draft global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework. Under decision [16/32](#), the Subsidiary Body was responsible for providing scientific and technical inputs to the review process and would thus consider the key findings in the report, the data and knowledge gaps identified and opportunities to strengthen the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the evidence base that supported implementation, with a view to developing actionable recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its seventeenth meeting. Beyond the global review, other important scientific and technical issues on the agenda that were central to the implementation of the Framework included the monitoring framework; matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; the outcomes of intersessional work on synthetic biology; draft guidance and best practices on sustainable wildlife management; the strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas; and the implementation of modalities related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. The Chair encouraged delegations to be focused in their interventions and proactive in seeking solutions and compromise. He wished all participants a productive and successful meeting.

4. Opening statements⁹² were made by the Director of the Ecosystems Division of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Susan Gardner, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen, and the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Astrid Schomaker.

5. The Director of the Ecosystems Division of UNEP welcomed delegates to UNEP headquarters and thanked the Bureau and the Secretariat for their careful preparations for the meeting. Underscoring the importance of using science as a basis for decision-making, she said that the meetings of the Subsidiary Body were where scientific evidence was translated into advice that Governments could use with confidence. More specifically, the present meeting was an opportunity to help to ensure that the implementation of the Framework was guided by the best available evidence. It was clear from the first global review of the Framework that countries were making real progress but that implementation needed to be accelerated. Science-informed policy could deliver real results, as exemplified by the recovery of the mountain gorilla in Central Africa, the conservation of the juçara palm in Brazil and the rebound of Saiga antelope populations in Kazakhstan, and UNEP was proud to support the work of the Subsidiary Body on strengthening the science-policy interface,

⁹² Statements made during the meeting and submitted in writing by participants are available at www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-28. Where Party representatives requested that a statement be reflected in the report, a hyperlink to the statement in question has been provided in a footnote next to the name of the Party.

so that the best available science might inform biodiversity policy. Thanking the Subsidiary Body for its years of work to date and the further contributions to be made in the coming days, she wished delegates productive discussions and a successful meeting.

6. The Executive Secretary began by acknowledging the hospitality of the Government of Kenya, and thanking the Governments of Ireland, Japan, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the European Union and the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, for providing financial support for the participation of delegates from 118 Parties. With little time remaining to implement the Framework and achieve measurable results, she stressed the need to shift to accelerated implementation, measurable results and real progress towards the goals and targets of the Framework. That meant facing the complex challenge of demonstrating collective progress, strengthening implementation and ensuring accountability. The draft global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework was a strong evidence base that provided an opportunity to assess progress, identify persistent gaps and strengthen the scientific and technical basis for collective action. The closely linked work on the monitoring framework was also important, because reliable, scientifically robust and accessible indicators remained essential for measuring progress and supporting evidence-based policymaking. She also highlighted other matters of particular significance to be considered during the meeting, including the business and biodiversity assessment prepared under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, synthetic biology, sustainable wildlife management and the implementation of modalities for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. Overall, the breadth and complexity of the agenda reflected the scale of the biodiversity crisis itself, as well as the complexity of biodiversity governance, in addition to the growing momentum and engagement of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, scientific organizations and partners working to support implementation of the Framework. It also showed that the work of the Subsidiary Body was more important than ever.

Item 2

Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Election of officers

7. In accordance with the elections held at the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body and the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau for the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body comprised the following members:

Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon), Chair

Mostafa Madbouhi (Morocco)

Dickson Chitupa (Zimbabwe)

Rosalinda Yatilman (Federated States of Micronesia),⁹³ with Karl Fellenius (Marshall Islands) as substitute for matters pertaining to the Cartagena Protocol

Ruliyana Susanti (Indonesia)

Karen Khachatrian (Armenia)

Jan Plesnik (Czechia)

Kishma Primus-Ormond (Antigua and Barbuda)

Paulina Stowhas Salinas (Chile), with Ana Laura Mello Villamarín (Uruguay) as substitute for matters pertaining to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol

Niklaus Wagner (Switzerland)

Sanne Kruid (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

⁹³ Replacing Camille Inatio (Federated States of Micronesia).

8. At the 1st plenary session, on 27 July, it was agreed that Mr. Wagner would act as Rapporteur.
9. The Rapporteur made a statement of thanks on behalf of all participants.
10. At its 5th plenary session, on 31 July, the Subsidiary Body elected the following members to serve on the Bureau for a term commencing at the end of the present meeting and ending at the close of its thirtieth meeting, to replace the members and, where relevant, substitutes for matters pertaining to the Protocols, from Chile, Czechia, Indonesia, Morocco and Netherlands (Kingdom of the): Joseph Sapunka Turay (Sierra Leone), Obaid Ali al-Shamsi (United Arab Emirates), Snežana Prokić (Serbia), Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico) and Julie Hammer-Monart (France).

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

11. At its 1st plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat.⁹⁴
 1. Opening of the meeting.
 2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 3. Planning, monitoring, reporting and review:
 - (a) Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
 - (b) Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
 4. Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
 5. Synthetic biology.
 6. Sustainable wildlife management.
 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.
 8. Marine and coastal biodiversity.
 9. Other matters.
 10. Adoption of the report.
 11. Closure of the meeting.
12. At the same session, the Subsidiary Body agreed to the Chair's oral amendments to the proposed organization of work set out in the scenario note.⁹⁵

Item 3

Planning, monitoring, reporting and review

13. The Subsidiary Body began its consideration of agenda item 3 at its 1st plenary session.
14. At the suggestion of the Chair, the Subsidiary Body agreed to consider sub-items 3 (a) (global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) and (b) (monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) jointly.

⁹⁴ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/1](#).

⁹⁵ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/1/Add.2](#), annex I.

15. In considering agenda item 3, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Secretariat on the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework,⁹⁶ which contained a draft recommendation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body, as well as three addenda containing the draft global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework,⁹⁷ a note by the Secretariat on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁹⁸ and the summary, conclusions and key messages of the global report.⁹⁹ The following information documents had also been issued in relation to item 3: a note by the Secretariat on the updated metadata for the headline indicators for the Framework;¹⁰⁰ an update on the support provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its partners for the further development and operationalization of headline indicators 2.1, 5.1, 7.2, 10.1, 10.2 and 22.1;¹⁰¹ a note by the Secretariat on the methodologies used in the preparation of the global report;¹⁰² a review of the use of indicators in the seventh national reports;¹⁰³ and a note by the Secretariat on the peer review process for the global report.¹⁰⁴ The following three information documents prepared for the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation were also of relevance: a note by the Secretariat on the status of resources approved by the Global Environment Facility for readiness and early actions to implement the Framework and preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports;¹⁰⁵ a note by the Secretariat on opportunities to strengthen tracking of the various sources of biodiversity finance;¹⁰⁶ and an analysis of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets established by Parties aligned with the Framework.¹⁰⁷ Also of relevance were the reports of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the Preparation of the Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and documents produced for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, which could be found on the respective web pages for those meetings.

16. A representative of the Secretariat presented editorial corrections to the addendum containing the summary, conclusions and key messages of the global report.

17. One of the Co-Chairs of the Advisory Group presented a brief update on the Group's work.

18. As the modalities for the early submission of statements¹⁰⁸ had been implemented for agenda item 3, with statements submitted on an informal and voluntary basis pursuant to notifications issued by the Secretariat,¹⁰⁹ the Chair asked the Parties and observers listed in annexes I and II to document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/10](#) and present at the plenary session whether they had any objections to their statements being put on record as statements officially submitted. No objections were raised.

19. A representative of Finland made a statement.

⁹⁶ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/2/Rev.1.](#)

⁹⁷ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/2/Add.1/Rev.1.](#)

⁹⁸ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/2/Add.2.](#)

⁹⁹ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/2/Add.3.](#)

¹⁰⁰ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4.](#)

¹⁰¹ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/8/Rev.1.](#)

¹⁰² [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/9.](#)

¹⁰³ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/11.](#)

¹⁰⁴ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/13.](#)

¹⁰⁵ [CBD/SBI/7/INF/17.](#)

¹⁰⁶ [CBD/SBI/7/INF/20.](#)

¹⁰⁷ [CBD/SBI/7/INF/22.](#)

¹⁰⁸ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/1/Add.2](#), annex II.

¹⁰⁹ Nos. [2026-055](#) and [2026-060](#).

20. The Subsidiary Body therefore agreed that the statements of the following Parties be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 3 (a): Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea (on behalf of the African States), Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Maldives, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.
21. The Subsidiary Body also agreed that the statements of the following Parties be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 3 (b): Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea (on behalf of the African States), Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Maldives, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.
22. The Subsidiary Body further agreed that the statements of the following observers be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 3 (a): BirdLife International, CBD Women's Caucus, FAO, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Greenpeace International, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, International Union for Conservation of Nature, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and World Wide Fund for Nature International.
23. Similarly, the Subsidiary Body agreed that the statements of the following observers be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 3 (b): FAO, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNDP and World Wide Fund for Nature International.
24. In addition, statements were made in session by representatives of the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Caribbean States), Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Ghana, India, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa (on behalf of the African States) and Zimbabwe.
25. At its 2nd plenary session, on 27 July, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of agenda item 3.
26. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania.
27. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.
28. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group on item 3, co-chaired by Sanne Kruid (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and Paulina Stowhas Salinas (Chile), with a mandate to discuss the draft recommendation.
29. At its 6th plenary session, on 1 August, the Subsidiary Body heard a report by one of the Co-Chairs of the contact group on the outcome of the group's work.
30. At its 7th plenary session, on 1 August, the Subsidiary Body considered a revised draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.
31. A representative of the Secretariat provided oral corrections to the draft recommendation.

32. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Norway,¹¹⁰ Russian Federation and Zimbabwe.
33. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.7](#).
34. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Democratic Republic of the Congo and Japan.
35. Subsequently, at the same plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.7](#) and adopted it as recommendation 28/1 (see sect. I).

Item 4

Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

36. The Subsidiary Body began its consideration of agenda item 4 at its 4th plenary session, on 29 July. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,¹¹¹ which included a draft recommendation.
37. As the modalities for the early submission of statements had been implemented for agenda item 4, with statements submitted on an informal and voluntary basis pursuant to notifications issued by the Secretariat, the Chair asked the Parties and observers listed in annex III of information document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/10](#) and present at the plenary session whether they had any objections to their statements being put on record as statements officially submitted. No objections were raised.
38. The Subsidiary Body therefore agreed that the statements of the following Parties be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 4: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malawi (on behalf of the African States), Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Peru, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.
39. The Subsidiary Body also agreed that the statements of the following observers be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 4: CBD Women's Caucus, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, OHCHR, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (Business for Nature), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and UNDP.
40. In addition, statements were made in session by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Brazil (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi (on behalf of the African States), Marshall Islands (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Russian Federation, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic and Zimbabwe.
41. Statements were also made by representatives of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.
42. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Dickson Chitupa (Zimbabwe) and Jan Plesnik (Czechia), to consider the matter further, basing its work on text prepared by the Chair with the assistance of the Secretariat.

¹¹⁰ Available [here](#).

¹¹¹ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/3](#).

43. At its 5th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body heard a report by one of the Co-Chairs of the contact group on the outcome of the group's work, following which it considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.
44. A representative of the Secretariat provided an oral correction to the draft recommendation.
45. The Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.3](#), for formal adoption at a later session.
46. At its 6th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.3](#) and adopted it as recommendation 28/2 (see sect. I).

Item 5

Synthetic biology

47. The Subsidiary Body began its consideration of agenda item 5 at its 2nd plenary session. It had before it notes by the Secretariat on synthetic biology, which included a draft recommendation,¹¹² and on the draft thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹¹³
48. As the modalities for the early submission of statements had been implemented for agenda item 5, with statements submitted on an informal and voluntary basis pursuant to notifications issued by the Secretariat, the Chair asked the Parties and observers listed in annex IV to document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/10](#) and present at the plenary session whether they had any objections to their statements being put on record as statements officially submitted. No objections were raised.
49. The Subsidiary Body therefore agreed that the statements of the following Parties be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 5: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.
50. The Subsidiary Body also agreed that the statements of the following observers be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 5: CBD Women's Caucus, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, Pollinis and Women4Biodiversity.
51. In addition, statements were made in session by the following Parties: Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya (on behalf of the African States), Malawi, Tonga (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States) and United Republic of Tanzania.
52. At its 3rd plenary session, on 28 July, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of agenda item 5.
53. A representative of Cuba withdrew the statement that had been made by the Party during the 2nd plenary session.
54. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Ghana, India, Namibia, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.
55. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

¹¹² [CBD/SBSTTA/28/4](#).

¹¹³ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/4/Add.1](#).

56. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group co-chaired by Martha Kandawa-Schulz (Namibia) and Valeria Giovannelli (Italy), with the mandate to work on the thematic action plan and the draft recommendation.
57. At its 5th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body heard a report by one of the Co-Chairs of the contact group on the outcome of the group's work.
58. At its 6th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered a revised draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.
59. A representative of the Secretariat provided an oral correction to the revised draft recommendation.
60. A statement was made by a representative of New Zealand.
61. The Subsidiary Body approved the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.4](#), for formal adoption at a later session.
62. At its 7th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.4](#).
63. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia¹¹⁴ and Norway.¹¹⁵
64. The Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.4](#) as recommendation 28/3 (see sect. I).

Item 6

Sustainable wildlife management

65. The Subsidiary Body began its consideration of agenda item 6 at its 3rd plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on sustainable wildlife management,¹¹⁶ which contained a draft recommendation. The following information documents had also been issued in relation to item 6: a document on the development of global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices,¹¹⁷ a compilation and synthesis of submissions of information on best practices for sustainable wildlife management¹¹⁸ and a submission from Brazil.¹¹⁹
66. As the modalities for the early submission of statements had been implemented for agenda item 6, with statements submitted on an informal and voluntary basis pursuant to notifications issued by the Secretariat, the Chair asked the Parties and observers listed in annex V to document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/10](#) and present at the plenary session whether they had any objections to their statements being put on record as statements officially submitted. No objections were raised.
67. The Subsidiary Body therefore agreed that the statements of the following Parties be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 6: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.
68. The Subsidiary Body also agreed that the statements of the following observers be put on record as statements officially submitted for agenda item 6: CBD Women's Caucus, Fungi Foundation, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity,

¹¹⁴ Available [here](#).

¹¹⁵ Available [here](#).

¹¹⁶ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/5/Rev.1](#).

¹¹⁷ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/5](#).

¹¹⁸ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/6](#).

¹¹⁹ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/12](#).

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

69. In addition, statements were made in session by representatives of the following Parties: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil (on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay), Burundi, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Marshall Islands (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Panama, Peru, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African States).

70. Statements were also made in session by representatives of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

71. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Lactitia Tshililo Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa) and Carolina Caceres (Canada), to consider the draft recommendation and the annex to the draft decision contained therein, keeping changes to the annex to a minimum given that it had been developed through a participatory process.

72. At its 5th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body heard a report by one of the Co-Chairs of the contact group on the outcome of the group's work.

73. At its 6th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered a revised draft recommendation submitted by the Chair and approved it as draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.5](#), for formal adoption at a later session.

74. At its 7th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.5](#) and adopted it as recommendation 28/4 (see sect. I).

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

75. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 7 at its 3rd plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas,¹²⁰ which contained a draft recommendation. The following information documents had also been issued in relation to item 7: a note by the Secretariat on information related to the review of and potential updates to the programme of work on protected areas in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹²¹ and a submission from Brazil.¹²²

76. As the modalities for the early submission of statements had been implemented for agenda item 7, with statements submitted on an informal and voluntary basis pursuant to notifications issued by the Secretariat, the Chair asked the Parties and observers listed in annex VI to document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/10](#) and present at the plenary session whether they had any objections to their statements being put on record as statements officially submitted. No objections were raised.

77. The Subsidiary Body therefore agreed that the statements of the following Parties be put on record as statements officially submitted for agenda item 7: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala,

¹²⁰ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/6/Rev.1.](#)

¹²¹ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/3.](#)

¹²² [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/7.](#)

Ireland, Japan, Maldives, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

78. The Subsidiary Body also agreed that the statements of the following observers be put on record as statements officially submitted for agenda item 7: CBD Women's Caucus, Fungi Foundation, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, International Union for Conservation of Nature, OHCHR, Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, The Nature Conservancy and World Wide Fund for Nature International.

79. In addition, statements were made in session by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil (also on behalf of Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States) and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African States).

80. Statements were also made by representatives of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

81. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Adèle Fardoux (France) and Ruliyana Susanti (Indonesia), to consider the matter further.

82. At its 6th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body heard a report by one of the Co-Chairs of the contact group on the outcome of the group's work.

83. At its 7th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.

84. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil and Russian Federation.

85. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.6](#).

86. Subsequently, at the same session, the Subsidiary Body considered draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.6](#) and adopted it as recommendation 28/5 (see sect. I).

87. A statement was made by a representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.¹²³

Item 8

Marine and coastal biodiversity

88. The Subsidiary Body began its consideration of agenda item 8 at its 2nd plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on marine and coastal biodiversity,¹²⁴ which contained a draft recommendation, and a summary report of submissions for the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the modification of existing descriptions.¹²⁵ The full submissions were set out in information document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/2/Rev.1](#). The following reference documents were also relevant to agenda item 8: the report of the expert workshop on scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention relevant to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction¹²⁶ and the background document for the draft 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.¹²⁷

¹²³ Available [here](#), at 1 hour, 25 minutes and 49 seconds into the recording.

¹²⁴ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/7](#).

¹²⁵ [CBD/SBSTTA/28/7/Add.1](#)

¹²⁶ [CBD/MCB/WS/2025/1/2](#).

¹²⁷ See [www.cbd.int/conferences/nairobi-2026/sbstta-28/documents](#), under the "Other" tab.

89. As the modalities for the early submission of statements had been implemented for agenda item 8, with statements submitted on an informal and voluntary basis pursuant to notifications issued by the Secretariat, the Chair asked the Parties and observers listed in annex VII to document [CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/10](#) and present at the plenary session whether they had any objections to their statements being put on record as statements officially submitted. No objections were raised.

90. The Subsidiary Body therefore agreed that the statements of the following Parties be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 8: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Maldives, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye and United Kingdom.

91. The Subsidiary Body also agreed that the statements of the following observers be put on record as statements officially submitted under agenda item 8: BirdLife International, CBD Women's Caucus, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, OHCHR, UNDP and World Wide Fund for Nature International.

92. In addition, statements were made in session by representatives of the following Parties: Argentina, Bahrain, Chile, China, Egypt, Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa (on behalf of the African States), Sudan and Zimbabwe.

93. Statements were also made by representatives of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

94. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Holly Kelley-Weil (United Kingdom) and Patsy Nicole Contardo Urrea (Chile), to consider the matter further, basing its work on text prepared by the Chair with the assistance of the Secretariat.

95. At its 5th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body heard a report by one of the Co-Chairs of the contact group on the outcome of the group's work, following which it considered a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair.

96. A representative of the Secretariat provided an oral correction to the draft recommendation.

97. The Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.2](#), for formal adoption at a later session.

98. At its 6th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.2](#).

99. A representative of the Secretariat provided an oral correction to the draft recommendation.

100. The Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation [CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.2](#), as orally amended, as recommendation 28/6 (see sect. I).

101. A statement was made by a representative of Belgium.

Item 9

Other matters

102. A statement was made by a representative of Colombia.

Item 10**Adoption of the report**

103. The Subsidiary Body adopted the present report, on the basis of the draft report,¹²⁸ on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

104. A statement was made by a representative of Argentina.¹²⁹

Item 11**Closure of the meeting**

105. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 10.30 p.m. on 1 August 2026.

¹²⁸ CBD/SBSTTA/28/L.1.

¹²⁹ Available [here](#).