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Approaches to identifying scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework, including its implication for the programmes of work of the Convention

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the annex to its decision [15/4](#) in December 2022. In paragraph 8 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties decided that the Framework would be used as a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, its bodies and its Secretariat over the period 2022–2030 and that, in this regard, the Framework should be used to better align and direct the work of the various bodies of the Convention and its Protocols, its Secretariat and its budget.

2. In paragraph 9 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Framework to facilitate its implementation. Similarly, in paragraphs 4 and 5 of decision [15/24](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a strategic review and analysis, respectively, of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and the programme of work on island biodiversity in the context of supporting the implementation of the Framework.

3. Pursuant to these requests, the present document describes a stepwise approach that may be taken, including (a) identifying major gaps across the Convention with respect to guidance on thematic issues in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to be addressed at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and (b) identifying needs for updating of relevant programmes of work, to be addressed at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body and the sixteenth meeting of the

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

Conference of the Parties, building on the discussions of the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-fifth meeting.

II. Background

4. The Conference of the Parties has established numerous programmes of work, including thematic programmes corresponding to some of the major biomes on the planet, as well as programmes addressing cross-cutting issues. The programmes of work are intended to guide the implementation of the Convention and, as such, generally include various elements, targets, and/or actions to be undertaken by relevant stakeholders (including Parties, other Governments, the Secretariat, relevant organizations and other key stakeholders) in order to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Furthermore, subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties in these respective programme areas, including relevant guidance, guidelines and tools in those decisions, are meant to be seen in concert with the adopted programmes of work and support their implementation. The present document focuses on the following programmes of work:

Programme of work	Adoption and elaboration/endorsement (if applicable)	In-depth review
Agricultural biodiversity	Adopted in decision III/11 Endorsed in decision V/5	Conducted in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2 Considered in decision IX/1
Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	Adopted in decision V/23	Conducted in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4 Considered in decision VIII/2
Forest biodiversity	Adopted in decision VI/22	Conducted in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3 Considered in decision IX/5
Inland waters biodiversity	Adopted in decision IV/4 Elaborated in decision VII/4	Conducted in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3 Considered in decision X/28
Island biodiversity	Adopted in decision VIII/1	Conducted in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/4 Considered in decision XI/15
Marine and coastal biodiversity	Adopted in decision IV/5 Elaborated in decision VII/5	Conducted in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/4 Considered in decision X/29
Mountain biodiversity	Adopted in decision VII/27	Conducted in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/2 Considered in decision X/30
Protected areas	Adopted in decision VII/28	Conducted in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/5 Considered in decision X/31

5. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. In view of the need to address many different drivers of biodiversity loss and to support the continued provisioning of a wide range of ecosystem goods and services, section C of the Framework specifically notes:

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

6. In the light of the important role of the programmes of work of the Convention in guiding implementation, there is a need to ensure that there is sufficient guidance to inform the implementation of the Framework with respect to key biomes/issues, in particular through scientific and technical guidance and tools that have previously been provided through decisions of the Conference of the Parties with respect to the various programmes of work. If not, it will be important to consider whether further guidance is needed to fill these gaps within and across the programmes of work, either from the Convention itself or from relevant competent international organizations.

Considering the broad-reaching nature of the Framework, and the fact that actions will be required by many different stakeholders in many different areas/biomes, such guidance will be important to supporting robust implementation of the Framework.

7. A similar exercise was previously conducted with regard to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This previous analysis, described in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2 and its addenda and considered by the Subsidiary Body at its seventeenth meeting, responded to a request by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting to prepare information on:

(a) Scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(b) Existing policy support tools and methodologies developed or used under the Convention and their adequacy, impact and obstacles to their uptake, and gaps and needs for further development of such tools and methodologies;

(c) The adequacy of observations, and of data systems, for monitoring the biodiversity attributes addressed in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(d) Options for assessing the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

III. Description of the approach

8. The rapid analysis described in this document aims to support the deliberations of the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-fifth meeting in identifying overarching gaps in scientific and technical guidance for the implementation of the targets of the Framework. It provides an illustration of where guidance from the Conference of the Parties, in the context of the programmes of work previously noted, already exists with respect to the targets of the Framework. In addition to the adopted programmes of work themselves, this also includes decisions of the Conference of the Parties in these respective programme areas containing relevant scientific and technical guidance and tools. The draft recommendations contained in the present document are based on a rapid analysis.

9. The rapid analysis described in the present document is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all work that has been undertaken under the Convention that may be relevant to the Framework. Nor is it meant to imply that every programme of work should have explicit guidance that reflects every element of each of the targets of the Framework. Rather, it provides an overview of previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties in these respective programme areas that can inform the implementation of the Framework and a basis to identify major gaps that may exist both across the Convention, as well as in individual programmes of work.

10. The rapid analysis focussed on the programmes of work (and associated decisions) is listed in paragraph 4. The present document summarizes the findings of the rapid analysis, the full version of which is contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/1.

11. However, it is important to note that there are numerous forms of guidance and scientific and technical tools produced through other areas of work of the Convention that were not addressed in this rapid analysis but are nonetheless highly relevant to the implementation of the Framework. In this regard, gaps in these programmes of work with respect to certain targets may not indicate the existence of gaps overall in work undertaken under the Convention. For example, guidance and tools that are critically important to the implementation of the Framework have been produced through work under the Convention and its Protocols on the following, among other areas of work:

(a) Economic, trade and incentive measures (relevant in particular to Targets 18);

(b) Invasive alien species (Target 6);

(c) Climate change and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation (Target 8);

- (d) Biodiversity and health (relevant to several targets);
- (e) Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization (Target 13);
- (f) Mainstreaming of biodiversity into relevant sectors (Targets 14 and 15);
- (g) Biosafety (Target 17);
- (h) Capacity-building and scientific and technical cooperation (Target 20);
- (i) Indigenous peoples and local communities (relevant to several targets);
- (j) Gender and biodiversity (Target 23).

12. While the present document takes these tools and guidance into account in identifying the gaps in addressing the targets of the Framework (see section IV), they are not considered in the rapid analysis of the programmes of work contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/1. In addition, the rapid analysis did not consider guidance that has been produced by other organizations that may be relevant. Lastly, the goals of the Framework were not directly addressed in this analysis, as the programmes of work focus rather on actions, and are therefore closely relevant to the action-oriented targets of the Framework, whereas the goals of the framework are outcome-oriented, focusing on the outcomes desired from the implementation of the targets.

13. The rapid analysis can potentially serve as the first step of a stepwise approach in addressing gaps in scientific and technical guidance for the implementation of the targets of the Framework. The findings of the rapid analysis could serve as a basis for further work in identifying potential gaps within the individual programmes of work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-sixth meeting.

IV. Findings

14. The rapid analysis illustrates that the Conference of the Parties has provided robust scientific and technical guidance and tools that will be essential to supporting the implementation of the Framework with respect to various biomes and thematic issues. This guidance should continue to be utilized by Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders in their efforts to implement the Framework. In this regard, the Conference of the Parties should avoid “re-inventing the wheel” and focus efforts on enhancing implementation by utilizing already existing guidance to the greatest extent possible. These findings are similar to those of the analysis previously conducted for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, referred to in paragraph 8 above.

15. The analysis also points to the need to be strategic in identifying where further guidance (including through updates to the programmes of work) is needed. The targets of the Framework are crafted to be generic and applicable to all biomes, and differ from the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which included several targets that focused on specific biomes. In addition, although all (or nearly all) of the targets of the Framework are applicable in all biomes, some of the targets and issues therein are of heightened importance for certain biomes. The programmes of work (and related guidance of the Conference of the Parties) can serve an important role in providing greater clarity as to which elements of the Framework may be of comparatively greater importance for a given biome and for which targets more focused supplementary guidance and activities are needed.

16. The targets of the Framework are highly detailed and reflect intensive discussions on the critical elements needed with respect to the actions addressed in those targets. This does not necessarily mean that every element of each target must be reflected in each programme of work. Rather, the programmes of work can help to see the targets through the “lens” of their respective areas of focus, highlighting key considerations for that biome/issue area and providing specificity and supplementary guidance needed to support implementation. This is especially important

considering that a very broad range of actors, including those who may not generally engage in biodiversity-related issues, will need to take actions to implement the Framework.

17. The analysis has illustrated the following overarching gaps with respect to the specific programmes of work referred to in paragraph 4, taking into account also the tools and guidance listed in paragraph 12:

(a) *Guidance on biodiversity-inclusive land-use planning (Target 1)*. Spatial planning and land-use planning are addressed in various programmes of work in different ways. The Conference of the Parties has extensively addressed marine spatial planning and integrated marine and coastal area management, with a focus on addressing key biodiversity considerations in the application of these approaches. Although, some of the other programmes of work, such as agricultural biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity and mountain biodiversity, have elements that touch on land-use planning, there is less robust guidance on biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning on land as compared to the extent of guidance provided for marine and coastal areas;

(b) *Guidance on ecosystem restoration in marine and coastal areas (Target 2)*. The Conference of the Parties has paid significant attention to ecosystem restoration in its recent meetings, as exemplified in the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration. Although this issue is addressed generically and decisions of the Conference of the Parties have intended to apply to all biomes, there is minimal guidance with respect to ecosystem restoration in marine and coastal areas and the unique considerations to be taken into account in these areas. This is further exacerbated by the fact that various international initiatives that aim to support ecosystem restoration have paid comparatively less attention to restoration in marine and coastal areas and how this approach fits into other planning and management approaches (e.g. marine spatial planning, fisheries management);

(c) *Guidance regarding human-wildlife conflict (Target 4)*. Nearly all of the programmes of work reviewed have various guidance that pertain to certain elements of Target 4, in particular with regard to threatened species and genetic diversity. However, there is little guidance with respect to human-wildlife conflict. This issue is addressed to some degree in the mountain biodiversity programme of work, but is generally absent from other programmes of work;

(d) *Guidance regarding fishing in inland water areas (Targets 5, 9 and 10)*. Although references are made to fishing in inland water areas in some of the programmes of work, in particular on inland water biodiversity and on mountain biodiversity, and in cross-cutting guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors, there is overall limited guidance on this issue, especially when compared to the level of details with which work under the Convention has addressed the issue of fishing in marine and coastal areas;

(e) *Guidance on excess nutrients, pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals in the context of various biomes and guidance to identify which types and sources of pollution are of heightened interest for each biome (Target 7), and means to address these*. All of the programmes of work reviewed address the issue of pollution to some degree, although in varying levels of detail. However, numerous types and sources of pollution that exist in different biomes, and different approaches are required to address various types of pollution by different actors. Furthermore, the prevalence and impacts of certain types of pollution, and our understanding of these issues, have changed since these issues were addressed in the programmes of work and related guidance. Target 7 refers to pollution from all sources, but focuses in particular on excess nutrients, pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals, and plastic pollution. As such, there is a need for focused guidance on those key types of pollution identified in Target 7 (nutrients, pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals, and plastic pollution) with respect to different biomes, as well as the need to revisit and clarify the types and sources of pollution that are relevant to different biomes and approaches in order to address them in the context of different tools (e.g. protected areas);

(f) *Guidance on sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services (Target 9)*. Some elements of the target are addressed across all of the programmes of work reviewed, although to a lesser degree in the programme of work on protected areas. However, the issue of “sustainable

biodiversity-based activities, products and services” is not addressed explicitly in any of the programmes of work reviewed. It is unclear how this term relates to existing guidance under the programmes of work and whether new guidance is needed for this issue, either in its own right or within the respective programmes of work;

(g) *Guidance on various types of aquaculture, in particular on land and in inland water areas (Target 10)*. Aquaculture is mentioned in some of the programmes of work reviewed, in particular for agricultural biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity and marine and coastal biodiversity. Notably, the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity has a specific programme element on “mariculture”. However, considering the rapid pace at which aquaculture is becoming a major producer of food and the fact that a significant amount of aquaculture not conducted in marine areas, there is a gap in terms of guidance for this activity, in particular for aquaculture on land and in freshwater/inland water areas;

(h) *Guidance on green and blue spaces in the context of various biomes (Target 12)*. Some of the programmes of work reviewed, in particular forest biodiversity and inland waters biodiversity, touch on urban planning and green spaces, although to a minimal degree. Other programmes of work do not address this issue. Although work under the Convention on the issue of biodiversity and health has addressed issues highly relevant to Target 12, there is a need for further guidance from the Conference of the Parties on this issue, either in its own right or in the respective programmes of work;

(i) *Guidance, where needed, for various sectors, considering the previous mainstreaming decisions adopted at the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties (Targets 14, 15 and 16)*. The Conference of the Parties has taken numerous decisions in recent meetings related to the mainstreaming of biodiversity into various sectors and into planning and development processes, in particular decisions XIII/3 and 14/3, in addition to being the topic of focus for the high-level segments of the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Discussions are ongoing under the Conference of the Parties on the draft long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors. This issue is also addressed, in different forms, in all of the programmes of work reviewed. However, considering the many different sectors and stakeholders that use and/or have a direct impact on biodiversity, including the private sector, as well as the broad-reaching nature of the Framework that requires an all-of-society approach, the Conference of the Parties may need to either elaborate further guidance for specific sectors/stakeholders with respect to actions required of them or point existing sources of guidance from other organizations that can address this issue;

(j) *Sustainable consumption and implications for specific biomes and thematic issues (Target 16 and 18)*. Sustainable consumption is addressed to some degree in the programmes of work on agricultural biodiversity and island biodiversity. However, this issue either minimally/indirectly addressed in other programmes of work or not addressed at all. Considering the different types of products that are derived from different biomes and the different types of impacts that unsustainable consumption may have on different biomes, there is a gap that the Conference of the Parties may wish to address;

(k) *Addressing gender considerations in the context of different biomes and thematic issues (Target 23)*. Gender issues are discussed in the programmes of work on agricultural biodiversity and on protected areas, but the other programmes of work reviewed in this analysis do not address gender or do so only indirectly by addressing elements, such as equity, stakeholder engagement and transparency, for example. However, this does not represent a gap nor does this signify that gender issues have not be considered under the Convention. Gender issues have been discussed in the overall work of the Convention and this has led to the adoption of the Gender Plan of Action by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting (decision 15/11). As such, further guidance may be needed to understand how to translate, apply and implement the Gender Plan of Action in the context of different biomes and thematic issues.

18. Gaps may be addressed through the individual programmes of work or, in some cases, through overarching guidance that is applicable to all areas of work under the Convention.

19. Other intergovernmental organizations/processes have produced guidance that can address some of the gaps noted in this document and that may be identified within the respective programmes of work. In some cases, such guidance may exist in other organizations that have a more direct focus/mandate on the issue in question and may have been conducted in response to needs previously articulated by the Conference of the Parties. For example, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has already produced, or is in the process of producing, numerous assessments related to the Framework. These are described in document CBD/COP/15/13 and include, for example, assessments focused on the multiple values of nature and its benefits (relevant, in particular, to Target 14, see document CBD/SBSTTA/25/6), sustainable use of wild species (relevant, in particular, to Targets 4, 5 and 9, see document CBD/SBSTTA/25/7), invasive alien species (see document CBD/SBSTTA/25/8) and the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health, among other assessments. Also, work under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has numerous forms of guidance that are highly relevant to many of the Targets of the Framework, in particular with respect to the mainstreaming of biodiversity into relevant sectors. These are just a few examples of other intergovernmental bodies and processes that focus on areas of work that can address the gaps noted in this analysis, as well as other potential gaps that may be identified.

20. The Conference of the Parties may wish to refer to existing guidance from other organizations in lieu of developing new guidance. This is in line with decision 15/13, in which the Conference of the Parties invited the governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

V. Proposed approach to intersessional work on the individual programmes of work

21. The results of the rapid analysis focus on major gaps across some or all of programmes of work of the Convention, but more work is needed to identify gaps within the individual programmes of work and means to address these.

22. Building on the rapid analysis, input may be elicited from Parties, other Governments and stakeholders on gaps and updates needed to the individual programmes of work, including through notifications, online meetings/webinars, and/or online discussion forums, subject to the availability of resources. This work should also focus on identifying existing guidance and relevant areas of work under other organizations and processes that may address any identified gaps.

23. Based on input received through this process, draft updates to the respective programmes of work, as well as areas in need of further work, would be provided to the Subsidiary Body for consideration at its twenty-sixth meeting.

VI. Recommendations

24. The Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend the following:

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Affirms* the importance of the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹ as well as related decisions of the Conference of the Parties and other areas of work under

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

the Convention, in supporting the achievement of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;²

2. *Notes* the results of the rapid analysis of programmes of work of the Convention with regard to the targets of the Framework;

3. *Also notes* the following overarching gaps identified through the rapid analysis as areas of focus in the ongoing review of the programmes of work of the Convention:

- (a) Guidance on biodiversity-inclusive land-use planning (Target 1);
- (b) Guidance on ecosystem restoration in marine and coastal areas (Target 2);
- (c) Guidance on human-wildlife conflict (Target 4);
- (d) Guidance regarding fishing in inland water areas (Targets 5, 9 and 10);
- (e) Guidance on excess nutrients, pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals in the context of various biomes and guidance to identify which types and sources of pollution are of heightened interest for each biome (Target 7), and means to address these;
- (f) Guidance on sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services (Target 9);
- (g) Guidance on various types of aquaculture, in particular on land and in inland water areas (Target 10);
- (h) Guidance on green and blue spaces in the context of various biomes and thematic issues (Target 12);
- (i) Guidance for various sectors, where needed, considering the previous mainstreaming decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings (Targets 14, 15 and 16);
- (j) Guidance on sustainable consumption and implications for specific biomes and thematic issues (Target 16);
- (k) Guidance on addressing gender considerations in the context of various biomes and thematic issues (Target 23).

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, building on the results of the rapid analysis, to elicit views and information from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders, through notifications, online meetings, webinars or online discussion forums, subject to the availability of resources, on how to address the gaps, noted in paragraph 3 above, including through the development of additional guidance or updates to the relevant programmes of work, and compile these views and information for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting;

5. *Invites* relevant international organizations to contribute to the work described in paragraph 4 above, in particular with regard to previous guidance produced under their respective processes that is relevant to the programmes of work of the Convention and the implementation of the Framework.

² Decision 15/4, annex.