



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Twenty-fifth meeting

Nairobi, 15–19 October 2023

Agenda items 4 and 7

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

Biodiversity and climate change

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Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling decisions [VII/15](#) of 13 April 2004, [IX/16](#) of 9 October 2008, [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010, [XI/19](#), [XI/20](#) and [XI/21](#) of 5 December 2012, [XII/20](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/4](#) of 10 December 2016, [14/5](#) of 30 November 2018, and [15/24](#) and [15/30](#) of 19 December 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and, in particular, the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

Also recalls decision [15/2](#) of 19 December 2022, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomed the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the related regional and thematic assessments, and decision [15/19](#) of 19 December 2022, in which the Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change co-sponsored workshop on biodiversity and climate change¹;

1. Welcomes the *Sixth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,² and takes note of its findings and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention;

2. Expresses alarm and utmost concern about the accelerating negative impact of climate change on biodiversity and on the capacity of nature to provide its contributions to people, and of ecosystems to provide their functions and services, including for climate adaptation, resilience,

¹ Hans-Otto Pörtner and others, *IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop: Biodiversity and Climate Change – Scientific Outcome and IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop: Biodiversity and Climate Change – Workshop Report* (Bonn, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2021).

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report* (Geneva, 2023).

mitigation and disaster risk reduction, and especially the impact on the most vulnerable people, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, and youth, and in the most vulnerable ecosystems;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its tenth session to undertake a second global assessment, a methodological assessment on spatial planning and connectivity, and a methodological assessment on monitoring, also stressing the importance to consider these outcomes at a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and encourages Parties to the UNFCCC to consider these outcomes, where appropriate in the consideration of their work;

4. *Encourages* further collaboration between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, reaffirming the need for transparency for any activity in conformity with the decisions of the Panel and the Platform and their respective policies and procedures;

5. *Takes note* of the synthesis of views and information on biodiversity and climate change, made available to inform the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;³

6. *Stresses the importance* of CBD National Focal Points engaging with their UNFCCC counterparts and of enhancing collaboration among CBD and UNFCCC Parties to raise awareness on relevant interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change to support relevant national planning processes, in line with national commitments, circumstances and priorities, as appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, when undertaking the comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that can support the elements of Targets 8 and 11, and other aspects of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with SBSTTA recommendation 25/-- (L5) to include those developed under the CBD, and assessment reports of IPBES and IPCC, taking note of resolution 5/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly on nature-based solutions for sustainable development;

8. *Recommends* that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

[The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [VII/15](#) of 13 April 2004, [IX/16](#) of 9 October 2008, [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010, [XI/19](#), [XI/20](#) and [XI/21](#) of 5 December 2012, [XII/20](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/4](#) of 10 December 2016, [14/5](#) of 30 November 2018, and [15/24](#) and [15/30](#) of 19 December 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and, in particular, the critical threat to biodiversity posed by climate change and its role in adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, while stressing the importance of considering climate change beyond Targets 8 and 11 when implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Recognizing that biodiversity loss, climate change, ocean acidification, desertification, land degradation, invasive alien species and pollution, among others, are interdependent crises that need to be addressed in a coherent and balanced manner to achieve the goals of the Convention and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁴ and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement,⁵ as well as the target on land degradation neutrality targets as set out in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and targets under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,⁶ in a manner consistent with the mandates of multilateral environmental agreements and the principles of the Rio Declaration,

³ CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/2.

⁴ Decision 15/4.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3156, No. 54113.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

Stressing that, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, fossil fuel subsidies valued at \$345 billion result in global costs of \$5 trillion when including the reduction of nature's contributions,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 76/300 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

Stressing that holding the increase in global average temperature below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is a prerequisite to avoid further biodiversity loss and land and ocean degradation and to achieve the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature, and will require transformative change,

Recalling decision 15/13 that took note of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5, which recognized that “nature-based solutions may contribute significantly to climate action while recognizing the need for analysis of their effects, including in the long term, and acknowledging that they do not replace the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors during this decade, but can improve action for adaptation and resilience to and mitigation of climate change and its impacts”,

Emphasizing that biodiversity plays a critical role in combating climate change, and that conserving and restoring ecosystems are feasible, effective and low-cost options for effective mitigation and adaptation,

Deeply concerned that the rapidly increasing impacts of climate change, which exacerbates biodiversity loss and weakens the delivery of crucial ecosystem functions and services, amplifies existing threats to species and can push vulnerable populations beyond their tipping points, increasing their risk of extinction,

Emphasizing that maintaining ecological corridors and promoting landscape connectivity are crucial for enabling species to migrate and adapt to new conditions, which is particularly urgent in the context of climate change and its impact on habitats,

Deeply concerned that increased carbon dioxide emissions are causing the oceans to absorb more carbon dioxide, raising their temperature and leading to ocean acidification and deoxygenation, with severe consequences for marine life, in particular coral reefs,

Recognizing the crucial role and capacity of the ocean in regulating the climate and noting the outcomes of the annual Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue which reference the need for strengthened institutional linkages across United Nations mandates and processes such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to enhance global ambition and action for a climate resilient ocean;

Deeply concerned that biodiversity loss undermines the capacity of ecosystems to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts,

Recognizing that biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to climate change are decreased by maladaptive actions, that can have adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, and marginalised and vulnerable groups, and worsen overall mitigation and adaptation outcomes,

Stressing that the large-scale deployment of intensive bioenergy plantations, including monocultures, replacing natural forests and subsistence farmlands, will likely have negative impacts on biodiversity and can threaten food and water security as well as local livelihoods, including by intensifying social conflicts,

Stresses that the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is not possible without urgent and effective action on climate change in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, and vice versa, in particular

through urgent and sustained reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, and that increasing warming levels pose risks of irreversible loss of biodiversity;

Emphasizes the need for enhanced international cooperation and synergies, including through capacity building, scientific and technical cooperation, technological resources, to strengthen national capabilities to anticipate and monitor the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and biodiversity-dependent communities;

Recalling decision 15/8 that recognized that many Parties, in particular developing country Parties, might not yet have the necessary capacities to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including for actions related to nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, and further recalling the requests made to the Executive Secretary under the same decision to support these activities, subject to the availability of funds;

1. *Welcomes* the *Sixth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,⁷ and *takes note* of its findings;

Ibis Welcomes decision 10/1 of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to foster further collaboration between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

2. *Encourages* Parties, when undertaking actions to ensure the achievement of Targets 8 and 11, as well as other related targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with national circumstances and priorities and with the obligations and principles of the multilateral environmental agreements, to implement strong social and environmental safeguards, to:

(a) Ensure a human rights-based approach and the full and effective participation of rights holders including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities;

(b) Identify and maximize potential synergies between biodiversity and climate actions and promote the positive avoid and, if not possible, minimize the negative impacts of climate actions on biodiversity, in particular for vulnerable species, ecosystems of high biodiversity importance or to which damage is irreversible, and ecosystems functions and services, in particular for indigenous peoples and local communities and other stakeholders that directly depend on biodiversity;

(c) Integrate and promote, where appropriate, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction into their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans and relevant national targets, as appropriate and promote synergies with other national planning processes, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, in coordination with focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate, including through national coordination, planning, review and reporting processes and to implementing these in a complementary and synergistic manner;

(d) Use the tools and information available under the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁸ including the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction⁹, as appropriate, as well as relevant tools and guidance of other biodiversity-related conventions, such as the Convention on Wetlands;

⁷ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report* (Geneva, 2023).

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁹ Adopted in decision 14/5 and published with complementary information in [CBD Technical Series No. 93](#).

(e) Take into account diversity of values and knowledge systems, as well as the intersectional approaches to ensure contextually relevant actions for enhancing human rights, empowerment, agency and intergenerational equity.

5. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments at all levels, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, to take into account the existing and projected impacts of climate change and climate-related policies on biodiversity when implementing the Framework;

6. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments at all levels, financial institutions, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, consistent with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to provide new and additional resources to collectively scale up investments for, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and sustainable infrastructure that also contribute to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, consistent with Article 20 of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and optimize co-benefits and synergies of finance from all sources to jointly address climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction, as well as halting and reversing biodiversity loss in line with Target 19(e) of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, while avoiding double counting and enhancing transparency;

7. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organisations to assess, manage and avoid the potential adverse effects and impact on biodiversity that could arise from the economic and sectoral transitions, in land and ecosystem, energy, urban and infrastructure, and industrial systems, undertaken as a response to climate change;

8. *Welcomes* the intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in compliance with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5, on nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development¹⁰;

9. *Invites* the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its respective bodies and Parties, to consider the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction for Parties to integrate biodiversity safeguards in mitigation and adaptation measures;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, including when supporting activities under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to promote synergies and closer cooperation among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, the Rio conventions, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the New Urban Agenda, and other relevant organizations and processes, to promote integrated approaches to addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and land and ocean degradation;

11. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, an avoiding duplication of efforts and enhancing synergies, in collaboration with relevant organizations and processes, in particular the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the respective Group of the biodiversity-related Conventions, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders, as well as initiatives such as the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, the NDC Partnership, the National Adaptation Plan Global Network, ENACT, Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction and their respective members, to facilitate capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, and to increase awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, including but not limited to the implementation of nature-

¹⁰ UNEP/EA.5/Res.5.

based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, as a complement to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development.¹¹

12. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and the emerging global treaty 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, to explore opportunities for addressing the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus in an integrated manner to achieve the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding duplication of efforts, to open a call for submissions by Parties, observers and other relevant organizations on compile existing information on carbon and biodiversity credits and offsets and other market-based approaches and their effects on biodiversity, and to make this compilation available to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding duplication of efforts, to develop a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction providing guidelines for the design and effective implementation of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

15. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to bring this decision to the attention of their United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention on Combatting Desertification counterparts in order to discuss it in the context of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, and the respective Group of biodiversity-related Conventions, and assess options for better integration, including consideration for establishing a joint work programme to operationalize this integration in future meetings of the Conferences of the Parties.]

¹¹ Decision 15/8, annex I.