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CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and requested the Executive Secretary to support and facilitate, in collaboration with partners, as appropriate, its implementation (paras. 3 and 15(d) of decision [XIII/23](#)). The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to initiate a process for preparing a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, ensuring its alignment with the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the work of the Protocols, with a view to ensuring the timely identification of the priority capacity-building actions. In the context of that process, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare terms of reference for a study to provide the knowledge base to support the preparation of that strategic framework for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting (paragraphs 15(m) and 15(n) of decision XIII/23).

2. In its decision [BS-VI/3](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety also adopted a Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and agreed to review the Framework at the eighth meeting of the Parties. As a result of the review, the eighth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol decided to maintain the Framework and Action Plan until 2020 (decision CP-[VIII/3](#)).

3. Similarly, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, in its [decision NP-1/8](#), adopted a strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol covering the period until 2020. In paragraph 10(f) of the same decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare an evaluation of that strategic framework in 2019 and submit the evaluation report for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol in 2020 to facilitate its review and possible revision in conjunction with the review of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.¹

* CBD/SBI/2/1.

¹ Draft elements for the evaluation of the strategic framework were discussed at the third meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in March 2018 (see document CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2018/1/3 available at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/ABSCBIAC-2018-01>).

4. Furthermore, at its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and other Governments to contribute to technical and scientific cooperation and to encourage and support relevant national or regional institutions to do so as well (decision XIII/23, paras. 6 and 7). In decision XIII/31, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the ongoing efforts of partner organizations to support Parties in addressing the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and requested the Executive Secretary in collaboration with partners to continue promoting the coordinated development of portals to facilitate access to policy support tools and methodologies, as well as to related case studies. In its earlier decision XII/2 B, paragraph 9, the Conference of the Parties requested Executive Secretary, in collaboration with partners, to assist Parties enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer with a view to supporting the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including through facilitating the communication of the Parties technical and scientific needs and priorities and the linking of those needs with available support.

5. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties took note of the web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework for a Communications Strategy, and requested the Executive Secretary, to implement the web strategy in line with the Framework for a Communications Strategy, to update it with priority actions to be taken before 2018 based on decisions emanating from the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. The Executive Secretary was also requested to further develop the clearing-house mechanism in line with the web strategy and with the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism (decision XIII/23, paras. 11, 15 (i), (j) and (k)).

6. The present document provides progress reports and information with respect to the above decisions. Section II presents a progress report on the implementation of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) on capacity-building, including the emerging experiences and lessons learned. Section III provides a report on the progress made with respect to technical and scientific cooperation. Section IV describes key main elements of the process for the preparation of a long-term capacity development strategic framework. Section V provides a progress report on the implementation of the web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols in response to the requests in paragraphs 15(i) and (j), and on implementation of the clearing-house mechanism in line with the request in paragraph 15(k) of decision XIII/23. Elements of a draft recommendation to the Conference of the Parties are presented in section 6.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHORT-TERM ACTION PLAN (2017-2020) TO ENHANCE AND SUPPORT CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

7. In paragraph 15(f) of decision XIII/23, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to undertake monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes and effectiveness of ongoing capacity-building activities supported and facilitated by the Secretariat, with a view to better targeting and improving future capacity-building activities, and to report on the results to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at its second meeting. This section provides an overview of the main outcomes of activities carried out and the emerging experiences and lessons learned.

8. From January 2017 to March 2018, the Secretariat in collaboration with partners supported and facilitated several capacity-building activities in line with the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. The activities included 38 workshops, technical missions and round tables through which more than 1,400 participants were trained, 42 pilot and demonstration projects, 2 massive open online courses in which more than 2,200 participants took part, and more than 20 webinars and online forums.

9. Summary descriptions of the main activities supported and facilitated by the Secretariat in collaboration with partners and their respective outputs are made available in information document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6. A list of all the activities carried out, along with their respective sources of support

and the partners that delivered or co-organized them, is annexed to that information document. Updates on the implementation of the short-term action plan are also provided in a quarterly e-newsletter known as BioCAP: Biodiversity Capacity Development Update, which was launched by the Secretariat in 2017 following the adoption of the action plan.²

10. The majority of activities carried out during this biennium have been supported by the Governments of Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, JBF), the Republic of Korea, and the European Union. Others that provided direct support include Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, and Sweden.

11. The Secretariat has continued to make progress towards promoting synergetic and integrated programming and implementation of its capacity development activities and has adopted a more systematic engagement of partners. As noted in document CBD/SBI/2/10/Add.1, the Secretariat has established ongoing consultation and collaboration among the capacity development coordinators of biodiversity-related convention secretariats and relevant international organizations to advance implementation of decision XIII/23 and relevant elements of decision XIII/24. This process was established following the meeting between members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the organizations hosting the secretariats of those Conventions held in Rome in September 2017, which discussed opportunities for strengthening interagency coordination and cooperation through mutually supportive activities, including capacity-building.³

12. Progress has also been made in diversifying modalities and approaches for delivering capacity development support as described in document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6. In addition to face-to-face workshops, the Secretariat and its collaborating partners have expanded the use of e-learning, help desk support, small-scale pilot and demonstration projects, regional dialogues and learning missions, training-of-trainers activities, provision of learning and guidance materials and the development of support tools (such as the Bioland tool for the clearing-house mechanism).⁴ Some capacity-building activities have also adopted a “blended learning” approach involving two or more of these modalities, which is likely to enhance the participants’ learning experience.

13. E-learning (including self-directed e-learning modules, massive open online courses and webinars) has grown steadily as a delivery modality with the potential to broaden accessibility of the learning content developed by the Secretariat and partner organizations to a wider range of users in different parts of the world. E-learning modules and courses have been especially beneficial when used in combination with face-to-face trainings. However, use of the e-learning approach is still constrained by a number of challenges. For example, some developing countries have reported difficulties in accessing the modules and courses offered through the Biodiversity e-Learning Platform due to limited internet connectivity. Many requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility of providing offline versions of the e-learning modules.

14. The training-of-trainers approach continues to be widely applied by various programmes, including the JBF-supported Global Taxonomy Initiative training programme, the Sustainable Oceans Initiative and the indigenous peoples and local communities training programme. This approach has proven to be a useful model for broadening the reach of training activities supported or facilitated by the Secretariat in collaboration with partners, by training pools of trainers who have, in turn, embarked on training others in their respective regions. For example, as noted in paragraph 38 of information document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6, trainers from 12 countries who successfully completed training courses on DNA barcoding for rapid identification of species organised by the Secretariat in collaboration with the University of Guelph in 2015-2016. Those trainers have been provided with small grants to organize similar standardized training courses on DNA technologies in their respective countries by the end of

² The BioCAP issues are available on the Convention’s website at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/default.shtml>.

³ Further information on this meeting and that of the Liaison Group is provided in document CBD/SBI/2/INF/12.

⁴ See further details about Bioland at <https://demo.chm-cbd.net/>

2018. It is expected that a total of 189 new trainers in DNA barcoding techniques will be trained as a result.

15. The use of pilot and demonstration projects as an approach to capacity development has also grown significantly. As noted in document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6, the Secretariat has supported at least 42 pilot projects which have directly benefited 33 countries⁵ on various issues (including ecosystem restoration and biosafety mainstreaming) and have generated experiences that may benefit the broader community of Parties. The approach was introduced to the Secretariat by the Japan Biodiversity Fund to provide targeted capacity-building support for implementation of selected NBSAPs, with a view to documenting the lessons learned and promoting their use by other Parties, as appropriate.⁶ The activities and processes under these targeted projects have contributed to learning through practical experience. Some beneficiary countries have also noted that such targeted support is very helpful in strengthening institutional capacities, collaboration and networking at the national and regional levels.

16. The Secretariat has also expanded the provision of help desk support for various activities and programmes, such as the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House, national reporting and national clearing-house mechanisms. Through this modality, the Secretariat is providing punctual responses to specific questions or requests for information, and advice to Parties and relevant stakeholders. According to the feedback received, a number of stakeholders have found this service very helpful.

17. Furthermore, as noted in document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6, the Secretariat in collaboration with partners has broadened efforts to facilitate the establishment or strengthening of regional and global support networks on various issues. Examples include the regional implementation support networks for protected areas,⁷ CBD-BIOFIN regional technical support nodes,⁸ regional networks of laboratories for the detection and identification of living modified organisms,⁹ and the JBF-supported global network on Access and Benefit-Sharing legal experts co-facilitated with the International Development Law Organization.¹⁰

18. Countries' capacities have also been enhanced through the support provided to processes and activities that are not directly designed for capacity building purposes. For example, one of the three objectives under the methodology for Voluntary Peer Review is "to provide opportunities for peer learning for Parties involved and other Parties". Through reviewing NBSAP processes and NBSAP implementation by other Parties, capacity is built as reviewers learn from their peers and vice-versa. The capacity-building elements of the Voluntary Peer Review have been clearly recognized, appreciated and documented by the Parties involved.

19. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to consider the information provided in the present document and the progress report contained in document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6 and provide further guidance to facilitate the effective implementation of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the Convention and its Protocols, and to feed into the development of

⁵ Countries that have directly benefited from small-scale projects include: Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

⁶ As described in paragraphs 30 and 31 of document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6, the pilot projects focused on spatial data and information, socio-economic data, and biodiversity mainstreaming and fed the results into the national policy-making and/or planning processes introducing biodiversity-friendly alternative scenarios.

⁷ To facilitate the decentralized implementation of the roadmaps on Target 11 and actions in the revised NBSAPs at sub-regional level, the Secretariat identified and facilitated the establishment and operationalization of implementation support networks in 10 sub-regions each to be coordinated by an agency, which brings together relevant stakeholders in the subregion to align their activities for focussed interventions.

⁸ See details at <http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/regional-nodes>.

⁹ See details at: http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_detection/lab_network.shtml

¹⁰ See <http://www.idlo.int/what-we-do/initiatives/advancing-nagoya-protocol>.

the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It may also wish to recommend that more thorough monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes and effectiveness of ongoing capacity-building activities supported and facilitated by the Secretariat be undertaken as part of an independent evaluation of the impacts, outcomes and effectiveness of the short-term action plan (2017-2020), in accordance with paragraph 15(g) of decision XIII/23 for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for its consideration at its third meeting.

III. PROGRESS WITH TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

20. In paragraph 9 of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention. The Conference of the Parties also welcomed the Bio-Bridge Initiative, established with initial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (decision XII/2 B, para. 13 and decision XII/3, para. 5).

21. The Bio-Bridge Initiative links Parties that have technical and scientific needs with Parties and institutions that are in a position to provide technical assistance to address the expressed needs through mutual cooperation. It also provides providing a platform for countries and institutions to share information about existing opportunities, knowledge, good practices and lessons learned with each other. A Bio-Bridge Initiative Action Plan 2017-2020¹¹ was launched in December 2016 in the margins of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to guide the activities and operations of the Initiative for the period 2017-2020.

22. In January 2017, the Secretariat embarked on the operational phase of the Bio-Bridge Initiative. The main achievements to date include the launch in March 2017 of the Bio-Bridge web platform powered by the central clearing-house mechanism.¹² The web platform enables countries and relevant stakeholders to submit requests for assistance, post offers of technical assistance, announce available opportunities and access a wide range of knowledge assets and curated resources.

23. The Secretariat, through the Bio-Bridge Initiative small grant facility, has provided seed funding to nine demonstration projects on technical and scientific cooperation from the following countries: Belarus, China, Colombia, Ghana, India, Malawi, Morocco, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe¹³. These were selected by an external Project Review Panel from a total of 31 requests for assistance that were submitted by Parties in response to a call issued through notification 2016-126. These demonstration projects build on the initial four pilot projects implemented in 2016 to test various technical and scientific cooperation approaches and generate some lessons to inform the further development and implementation of BBI.¹⁴

24. The Secretariat organized four regional Bio-Bridge Initiative round tables for Asia-Pacific (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 15-19 October 2017), Africa (Entebbe, Uganda, 7-9 November 2017), Latin America and the Caribbean (Bogota Colombia 27-29 November 2017) and Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asian Republics (in Minsk, 26-28 February 2018). The round tables aimed to promote awareness of the Initiative (including its action plan for 2017-2020, operational procedures, criteria and support tools) and share experiences and lessons learned with respect to technical and scientific cooperation for biodiversity. The round tables also provided an opportunity for countries requiring

¹¹ A copy of the Action Plan is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/bio-bridge/BBI-Action-Plan-2017-2020.pdf>

¹² The platform can be accessed at <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/platform>

¹³ See details in notification 2018-022 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2018/ntf-2018-022-bbi-en.pdf>. One other country, Vietnam, which was selected to receive seed funding, has not yet submitted a full project proposal and implementation plan. Short descriptions of the selected projects are available at: <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/projects/selected>.

assistance to highlight their priority technical and scientific needs and for potential providers of technical assistance, including Parties, regional and international organizations, donor agencies and private sector entities, to share information about their activities and the kind of support they could offer to countries requiring assistance.

25. During the round tables, countries identified the following, in the order of priority, as their key needs that could be addressed through technical and scientific cooperation: invasive alien species, protected area management and tourism, access and benefit sharing, biodiversity identification and monitoring (including species identification using DNA technologies), ecosystem restoration, ecosystem valuation and accounting, biodiversity information management, climate change and biodiversity, control of illegal wildlife trade, protection and recovery of threatened species, biosafety, agricultural biodiversity, traditional knowledge and community-based monitoring, and control of pollution. They also identified the following cross-cutting needs: communication, education and public awareness; project proposal development, resource mobilization and support for the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and policy frameworks.

26. One of the lessons learned during the operational phase of Bio-Bridge Initiative is the need to adopt more programmatic and multi-stakeholder approaches, such as those adopted by the Global Taxonomy Initiative in its train-the-trainer' programme to address the capacity gaps in achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In line with past decisions of the Conference of the Parties relating to the private sector and the scientific community, this could include consultations with the Consortium of Scientific Partners, the Business and Biodiversity Platform and its Fora and the Parties' agencies focused on green technological innovation.

27. In addition to the facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation through the Bio-Bridge Initiative, the Secretariat has continued to support the work of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP), including update of the CSP website¹⁵ and initiation of a process to develop the CSP's work plan 2018-2020 for assisting Parties through technical and scientific cooperation in line with its mandate.

28. The Secretariat also embarked on the following two projects which are expected to contribute to the promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation:

(a) Organization of a "Biodiversity Technology Fair" at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2018 to showcase technologies that could be leveraged to solve vexing biodiversity challenges. The concept of a fair will be tested and refined with the view of rolling out a much larger "Biodiversity Technology Innovation Expo" at the fifteenth meeting, in 2020 in China;

(b) Development of a video game to generate awareness, and demonstrate the potential of using technologies to facilitate decision-making and catalyse action around issues underpinning the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

29. In order to assist the Executive Secretary in promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation and related capacity-building activities in a coherent and coordinated manner based on diverse perspectives and experiences, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to consider recommending the establishment of an informal advisory committee on technical and scientific cooperation to perform the tasks specified in annex I below. The proposed informal advisory committee could also assume the mandate of the current Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism.

¹⁵ See <https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/csp>.

30. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to take note of the progress made in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation and provide further guidance on possible measures to improve implementation and make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting along the lines proposed in section 6 below.

IV. PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

31. The successful implementation of the outcomes of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 2011-2020, will be underpinned by strengthened and expanded means of implementation, especially capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, resource mobilization, multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnerships across sectors. It would therefore be prudent, as part of the process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework proposed in document CBD/SBI/2/17, to elaborate strategies to ensure that its goals and targets are matched with commensurate means of implementation to achieve them.

32. This section highlights pertinent considerations that could be taken into account when preparing the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, pursuant to paragraph 15(m) of decision XIII/23 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and outlines elements of the process for the preparation of a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building as presented in Annex II below. As requested in paragraph 15(n) of the same decision, draft terms of reference for a study to provide the necessary knowledge base for the preparation of that strategic framework are also made available in Appendix 1 to annex II below for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at the present meeting and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting and meetings of the Parties to the two Protocols. The draft terms of reference include the following elements: objectives and scope of the study, the methodology to be used, and the main sources of information.

33. As requested in paragraphs 15(m) and 15(n) of decision XIII/23, the preparation of the post-2020 strategic framework for capacity-building will take into account, inter alia, the reports of the evaluations of the capacity-building frameworks of the Nagoya Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol; evaluation of the impacts, outcomes and effectiveness of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building, and relevant experiences reported by Parties in their national reports. The preparation of the post-2020 strategic framework for capacity-building will also be aligned with the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the work of the Protocols, as appropriate.

34. The process of developing the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework could entail, inter alia, carrying out a stocktaking exercise to establish a baseline against which progress will be measured and a review and analysis of the Parties' main capacity development needs and gaps, taking into account existing baseline information and already identified needs, as appropriate. This may involve determining the current levels of institutional and human resources capacity, documenting existing capacity development initiatives and tools, identifying the main providers of biodiversity-related capacity-building support, mapping existing networks and partnerships, analysing the strengths and weaknesses of capacity development modalities and approaches currently used, analysing the main barriers and constraints, and identifying opportunities and good practices that could be leveraged. Furthermore, the process should include a review of existing opportunities and a synthesis of relevant experiences and lessons learned. It should also identify mechanisms for enhancing coordination, coherence and collaboration in the delivery of capacity-building support, and improving broad access to existing capacity-building support.

35. The post-2020 capacity development strategic framework should provide a clear conceptual description of the role of capacity development in facilitating transformational change that would lead to the achievement of the 2050 vision of "living in harmony with nature". It should also provide a visionary strategic direction and set bold but realistic medium-term capacity development goals. Furthermore, the

framework should direct global efforts towards developing core institutional capacities of countries for the various biodiversity targets or thematic areas, including through dedicated capacity development plans and programmes tailored to the Parties' identified needs and priorities. The framework should also incorporate elements to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in line with Article 18 and other related articles of the Convention.

36. It would also be prudent to include in the post-2020 capacity development framework a theory of change identifying bold long-term capacity development outcomes, benchmarks and indicators to support the transformational change, which is required to achieve the 2050 vision of "living in harmony with nature". This theory of change should entail a shift towards more ambitious integrated and long-term capacity development programmes that go beyond the traditional focus on human resources and institutional development and include the development of capacities at the systemic level. The framework should also include mechanisms to accelerate technological advances and innovations, promote synergies among various capacity development initiatives and foster stronger collaborative partnerships involving government agencies, non-government entities, and business and social enterprise innovators acting as drivers of change.

37. As noted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its twenty-first meeting, the pathways towards a sustainable future will require transformational change at various levels including through establishment of enabling policies to foster positive change and innovation. This change will require development of capacities for evidence-based decision-making and further development of scenarios and models to inform policymaking, planning and implementation aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, SBSTTA emphasized the need for capacity-building to enable all countries to participate in the development and application of scenarios and requested the Executive Secretary, when preparing proposals for the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure that the framework, among other things, takes into account the lessons learned from the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,¹⁶ including successes, challenges, opportunities and capacity-building needs.

38. It is hoped that the above information will be helpful in identifying areas requiring targeted intervention and areas to be prioritized, determining implementation strategies and delivery approaches that might be most effective, and identifying key stakeholders and strategic partners that might support and contribute significantly to the implementation of the framework. The information may also be used to develop common evaluation and reporting formats and appropriate metrics that would be used by Parties and relevant organizations to measure the impact of capacity development activities across various thematic areas.

39. Preparation of the post-2020 capacity-building strategic framework may also take into account, as appropriate, reports of other relevant studies and processes, including the independent evaluation of the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the survey of national capacity development related to the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions by UN Environment (UNEP) in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the UNDP report based on the analysis of over 140 national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the evaluation reports of biodiversity-related projects carried out by the GEF Evaluation Office and other organizations.

40. The survey by UNEP, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC being carried out as part of a larger project entitled: "Realizing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions",¹⁷ is gathering information regarding national capacity development needs and gaps related to the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions, taking stock of capacity-building activities of various organizations and assessing

¹⁶ [Decision X/2](#), annex

¹⁷ This is a 3-year project (2017-2020) funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland.

how the post-2020 strategic framework for capacity building for biodiversity could support more integrated and synergetic approaches in the implementation of the biodiversity-related agreements.

41. The fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and the regional and global assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will also provide useful information regarding areas requiring further capacity development support.

42. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to recommend to the Conference of the Parties the proposed draft terms of reference of a study to provide an information base for the preparation of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework, as contained in Appendix I of annex II below, and request the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders, to commission the study in accordance with the terms of reference, and submit the report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting.

V. PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WEB STRATEGY AND THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

43. In paragraph 19 of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a web strategy to ensure that all information common or relevant to the clearing-house mechanism, the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and the Biosafety Clearing-House, as well as other platforms developed under the Convention, could be accessed centrally to avoid duplication of efforts. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary prepared a “Web Strategy for the Convention and its Protocols” and made it available to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD/COP/13/14/Add.1).

44. In paragraphs 15(i), (j) and (k) of decision XIII/23, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to implement the web strategy in line with the Framework for a Communications Strategy, as adopted in decision XIII/22; to update the web strategy with priority actions to be taken before 2018 based on decisions from the last meetings of the Parties; and further develop the Clearing-House Mechanism, in line with the web strategy and with the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

45. This section provides an overview of the progress made since the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with the implementation of the above-mentioned requests as well as previous decisions regarding the clearing-house mechanism. It also highlights relevant initiatives undertaken in collaboration with partners and the work of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism.

A. Update of the Web Strategy

46. In response to the request in paragraph 15(j) of decision XIII/23, the Secretariat prepared a draft updated web strategy and made it available to the meeting of the Informal Advisory Group to the Clearing-House Mechanism that was held in Montreal from 7 to 9 December 2017. The draft updated web strategy is made available as information document CBD/SBI/2/INF/16.

B. Web strategy implementation

47. Pursuant to the request in paragraph 15(i) of decision XIII/23, the Secretariat has undertaken a number of actions to implement the Web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols. Some of the results delivered so far include: an updated version of the online reporting tool aligned with the reporting format of the sixth national report, an analyser for the financial reporting framework, an enhanced website for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020, a web platform for the Bio-Bridge Initiative, an e-learning web platform based on the Moodle software and a national report analyser for the Nagoya Protocol.

48. In August 2017, an “Intra-Secretariat Web Strategy Task Force” was established to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the web strategy in line with the communications strategy. The task force developed an implementation approach and a roadmap which includes two phases. The first phase will run until the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, focusing on urgent activities and deliverables expected to be completed by that meeting, as requested by the Conference of the Parties. The first phase will also include the development of the first version of a new CBD website, which is expected to be more dynamic, attractive and user-friendly. The second phase will run until the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2020 and will focus on the implementation of the remaining deliverables identified in the web strategy and further improvement of first-phase deliverables. The list of activities and deliverables for the two phases are presented in the draft updated web strategy, made available as information document CBD/SBI/2/INF/16.

C. Web translation

49. With regard to web translation, the Secretariat of the Convention upgraded its web translation software through the purchase and setup of several licences for the SDL Trados Studio 2017 software. After the necessary technical adjustments and testing, the web translation process resumed in all six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) with the translator roster and the available budget, including voluntary funding from the European Union. For the period from 1 June 2017 to 28 February 2018, overall web translation amounted to 307,093 words (69,385 in Arabic, 59,133 in Chinese, 53,998 in French, 64,837 in Russian and 59,740 in Spanish).

D. Online reporting tool

50. In paragraph 18(a) of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to establish a fully functional online reporting tool to enable Parties to submit, on a voluntary basis, information on their progress towards national targets and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, directly involving Parties in the development and testing of this tool. In response to this decision and to paragraph 2(b) of decision XIII/27, the Executive Secretary further developed the voluntary online reporting tool and aligned it with the reporting templates for the sixth national report. The tool was announced through notification 2017-031, issued on 31 March 2017, and is accessible through Information Submission Services of the clearing-house mechanism at <https://chm.cbd.int> in the six United Nations languages. Further information is provided in document CBD/SBI/2/12 on national reporting.

51. National Focal Points have been given the right to publish national information and to grant access to this tool to other users by assigning them the role of National Publishing Authority or National Authorized User, as appropriate. If needed, users can get assistance through a live help button at the bottom of each page or through the online-reporting@cbd.int email address. Further efforts have been made to develop a common infrastructure for the three clearing-houses as part of implementation of the web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols. Technical details, including common portal accounts, design and access, are provided in the updated web strategy (CBD/SBI/2/INF/16) and supporting technical documentation on its implementation.

E. Interoperability

52. In paragraph 18(b) of decision XII/2 B, the Executive Secretary was requested to develop interoperability with national clearing-house mechanisms, among which is the existing portal tool kit (PTK) used by many national and regional clearing-house mechanisms. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary embarked on the development of an application programming interface (API) to enable interoperability with national clearing-house mechanisms or other partners. The API has evolved to become the primary way of accessing the clearing house mechanism records. This approach means that information submission services of the clearing-house mechanism built on the new web infrastructure, such as the online reporting tool and the decision-tracking tool all use this API to store and retrieve their records. Moreover, the source code of these online systems is available as open-source projects on the

GitHub online repository at <https://github.com/scbd>. Further work on the API will be aligned with the web strategy implementation process.

53. In paragraph 18 (c) of decision XII/2 B, the Executive Secretary was requested to maintain interoperability with InforMEA to allow relevant information on the Convention on Biological Diversity to be globally searchable on the InforMEA website (<http://www.informea.org>), which is accessible through the CBD website. The Secretariat has been implementing and maintaining the InforMEA API based on the specifications available at <http://www.informea.org/about/api>.

F. Support to national clearing-house mechanisms

54. In decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and partners to provide support to developing country Parties that were developing their national clearing-house mechanisms (para. 15), and it also invited Parties and donors to continue to provide financial support to establish and strengthen their national clearing-house mechanisms, including for content preparation and for translation to facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge (para. 16). In paragraph 12 of decision XIII/23, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to continue their efforts to establish, sustain and further develop effective national clearing-house mechanisms in support of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

55. The Secretariat provided support for the development of national CHMs during 2017-2018. This included organization of two regional capacity-building workshops on the CHM referred to in document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6 as well as support to further develop and rollout the Bioland tool facilitating the establishment of national CHMs. The first version of the Bioland tool to assist Parties in the establishment of their national clearing-house mechanisms was presented in the two above-mentioned workshops held in Ethiopia and Togo. Since then, the Secretariat has prepared an upgraded version of this tool. Among other things, this new version is expected to facilitate the migration from existing national CHM built with the European CHM PTK to the new Bioland tool. The current version of this tool can be visualized at <https://demo.chm-cbd.net>. Several Parties that had already established a national clearing-house mechanism have expressed interest in migrating their existing national CHM websites to the Bioland tool. As well, the existing European CHM Portal Tool Kit (PTK) that supports more than 30 national CHMs will not be in a position to provide ongoing support to these Parties. Therefore, a process to migrate these national CHMs to the Bioland tool is currently being undertaken.

G. Award for national clearing-house mechanisms

56. In paragraph 15 of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to propose, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism, a process to grant, at the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of resources, an award to the Parties that would have made the most significant progress in the establishment or further development of their national clearing-house mechanisms. As requested, the first set of awards was granted at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Notification 2018-010 issued 15 January 2018 launched the process for the second set of awards to be granted at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Parties have until 31 July 2018 to submit their questionnaires as indication of their interest in being considered for the awards.

H. Other initiatives implemented in collaboration with partners

57. The Secretariat continued to collaborate with the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Knowledge Management (MEA-IKM) Initiative on various issues, including the Law and Environment Ontology (LEO), interoperability, e-learning, the use of the Akoma-Ntoso format adopted for United Nations documents, and synergies in national reporting through the Data Reporting Tool (DART). Further information is available at <https://www.informea.org/about>.

I. Work of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism

58. In paragraph 10 of decision XIII/23, the Conference of the Parties extended the mandate of the Informal Advisory Committee of the Clearing-House Mechanism in accordance with its operational procedures until the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary issued notification 2017-015 on 21 February 2017, inviting Parties to nominate candidates, and the composition of the Committee was announced through notification 2017-047, issued on 1 June 2017. An online meeting of the Committee was held on 13 June 2017 and thanks to financial support from the European Union, a two-day face-to-face meeting took place in Montreal on 7 and 8 December 2017. The recommendations of that meeting are available in document CBD/CHM/IAC/2017/1/5.

6. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

59. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to consider recommending to the Conference of the Parties that it adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

1. Capacity-building

Recalling decisions XIII/23 and XIII/24,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations for capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation activities to assist developing country Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report on the implementation the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols supported and facilitated by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with various partners;¹⁸

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in a position to do so to provide additional resources to support activities in the short-term action plan that have not yet been carried out;

3. *Welcomes* the elements of the process for the preparation of a post-2020 capacity development strategic framework and the terms of reference for the study to provide an information base for the preparation of the framework,¹⁹ and *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funds, to commission the study in accordance with those terms of reference;

4. *Invites* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to provide to the Executive Secretary information relevant to the above study, including their priority capacity needs and gaps, major ongoing capacity development initiatives, case studies highlighting best practices and lessons learned, as well as views and suggestions on the possible elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funds, to include in the independent evaluation of the impacts, outcomes and effectiveness of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) requested in paragraph 15(g) of decision XIII/13 monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes and effectiveness of ongoing capacity-building activities supported and facilitated by the Secretariat;

¹⁸ Updated version of document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6.

¹⁹ CBD/SBI/2/9, annex II.

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funds, to organize, in conjunction with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process, regional consultative workshops and online discussion forums to enable Parties to the Convention and to its Protocols, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations, to contribute to the preparation of the draft post-2020 capacity development strategic framework, taking into account the synthesis of views and information received;

7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide financial and technical support for the organization of the regional consultative workshops and online discussion forums referred to above;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a draft post-2020 capacity development strategic framework along with the draft post-2020 biodiversity framework for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting and for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;

2. Technical and scientific cooperation

Recalling decisions XIII/23, XII/2, X/16, IX/14, VIII/12 and VII/29 regarding technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer,

9. *Takes note* of the report on the progress made to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, including the achievements made under the Bio-Bridge Initiative,²⁰

10. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations in a position to do so to register as providers of technical assistance through the Bio-Bridge web platform;

11. *Invites* providers of assistance, including the Consortium of Scientific Partners, to communicate to the Executive Secretary the priority themes, geographic coverage and types of services they wish to offer to other Parties;

12. *Decides* to establish an Informal Advisory Committee on Technical and Scientific Cooperation to provide the Executive Secretary with advice on practical measures, tools and opportunities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II hereto;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with partners and subject to the availability of resources, to further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and provide a progress report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;

3. Clearing-house mechanism

Noting the progress made with the implementation of the Web Strategy for the Convention and its Protocols and the development of national clearing-house mechanisms, including the roll-out of the Bioland tool by the Executive Secretary to assist Parties in the establishment or improvement of their national clearing-house mechanisms,²¹

14. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to, as appropriate, migrate their existing national clearing-house mechanism websites to the Bioland tool developed by the Executive Secretary;

²⁰ Updated version of CBD/SBI/2/INF/6.

²¹ CBD/SBI/2/9.

15. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in a position to do so to continue providing the necessary financial, technical and human resources to support the further development of national clearing-house mechanisms, or migration of existing national clearing-house mechanism websites to the Bioland tool;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funding:

(a) To continue to support the efforts of Parties to establish, sustain, and further develop their national clearing-house mechanisms including through:

(i) Ongoing development and promotion of the Bioland tool;

(ii) Organizing trainings to assist Parties in developing their national clearing-house mechanisms;

(b) To continue to implement the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with the guidance of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism.

60. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may also wish to consider recommending to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol that it adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol,

Recalling decisions [NP-1/8](#) and [NP-2/8](#),

1. *Takes note* of the progress report on the implementation the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols supported and facilitated by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with various partners;²²

2. *Welcomes* the terms of reference for the study to provide an information base for the preparation of a post-2020 capacity development strategic framework, as contained in the appendix to annex II below, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to commission the study in accordance with those terms of reference;

3. *Invites* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to provide the Executive Secretary with views and suggestions on the possible elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework;

4. *Invites* Parties to the Protocol as well as indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to participate in the consultative workshops and online discussion forums on the draft post-2020 capacity development strategic framework to be organized by the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funds, in conjunction with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a draft post-2020 capacity development strategic framework for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting and for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting.

61. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may also wish to consider recommending to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that it adopt a decision along the following lines:

²² Updated version of document CBD/SBI/2/9.

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decisions [BS-VI/3](#) and [CP-VIII/3](#),

1. *Takes note* of the progress report on the implementation the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols supported and facilitated by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with various partners;²³

2. *Welcomes* the terms of reference for the study to provide an information base for the preparation of a post-2020 capacity development strategic framework, as contained in the appendix to annex II below, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to commission the study in accordance with those terms of reference;

3. *Invites* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to provide the Executive Secretary with views and suggestions on the possible elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework;

4. *Invites* Parties to the Protocol as well as indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to participate in the consultative workshops and online discussion forums on the draft post-2020 capacity development strategic framework to be organized by the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funds, in conjunction with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a draft post-2020 capacity development strategic framework for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting and for subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its tenth meeting.

²³ Updated version of document CBD/SBI/2/9

*Annex I***DRAFT terms OF reference OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION****1. Background**

Article 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires Parties to promote technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including cooperation in human resources development and institution building, development and use of relevant technologies (including indigenous and traditional technologies), training of personnel, exchange of experts, and establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for development of relevant technologies.

In decisions XIII/23, XII/2, X/16, IX/14, VIII/12 and VII/29, the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of measures and provided guidance on various aspects relating to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer. A Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) was established at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with initial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention. A Bio-Bridge Action Plan was launched in December 2016 at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Cancun to guide the activities and operations of the Initiative for the period 2017-2020.

2. Purpose

The Informal Advisory Committee shall provide advice to the Executive Secretary on ways and means to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation among Parties to the Convention. In particular, the Informal Advisory Committee shall:

- (a) Provide advice and recommendations on practical measures, approaches and mechanisms to promote technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention;
- (b) Provide strategic and programmatic guidance to the Bio-Bridge Initiative and other programmes contributing to the implementation of Article 18 and related provisions of the Convention, including the review and approval of their proposed programme priorities, work plans, progress reports and operational policies and procedures, including project selection criteria and procedures;
- (c) Monitor implementation of the Bio-Bridge Initiative and other programmes contributing to the promotion of technical and scientific cooperation;
- (d) Provide advice to the Executive Secretary on the development and implementation of tools and mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, including guidance on the resolution of technical and practical issues relating to the clearing house mechanism;
- (e) Provide advice and guidance on resource mobilization opportunities, sustainability and transformational plans to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will service the Informal Advisory Committee, including providing the necessary logistical and secretarial support to its work.

3. Membership

The Informal Advisory Committee shall comprise experts nominated by Parties to the Convention from each of the five regions as well as experts from relevant organizations. Members of the Informal Advisory

Committee are expected to be authorities in their respective fields of expertise and drivers of change. Members shall be selected based on the following criteria as evidenced in their Curriculum Vitae:

- (a) At least 5 years of working experience on technical and scientific areas related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and/or other biodiversity-related conventions;
- (b) Interdisciplinary expertise in science, technology and innovation relating to the themes outlined under Article 18 and other relevant provisions of the Convention, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- (c) Demonstrated experience with regional or international cooperation processes and capacity development programmes related to the Convention.

Members of the Informal Advisory Committee shall be selected through a formal nomination process based on the above criteria. The Executive Secretary may select experts for specific themes or issues to be discussed at each of the Informal Advisory Committee meeting, ensuring a balance of experts on matters related to the Convention. The members shall serve in their personal capacity and not as a representative of a Government, organization or other entity.

Members of the Informal Advisory Committee shall serve for a term of two years, with a possibility of renewal for one additional two-year term.

Modus Operandi

- (a) The Advisory Committee shall meet face-to-face at least once per year, wherever possible in the margins of other relevant meetings. The frequency of meetings can be adjusted by the members as the need arises. The Committee will work intersessionally, as appropriate, via electronic means;
- (b) The Advisory Committee members shall not receive any honorarium, fee or other remuneration from the United Nations. However, costs for the participation of Committee members nominated by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition are covered, in line with United Nations rules and regulation;
- (c) The Informal Advisory Committee shall elect a Chair to steer its meetings on a rotational basis. The Chair shall serve for a period of one year at a time;
- (d) The Informal Advisory Committee shall make its decisions and recommendations by consensus;
- (e) The Informal Advisory Committee may at any time revise its working methods by consensus;
- (f) The working language of the Committee shall be English.

*Annex II***ELEMENTS OF THE PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A POST-2020 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK****A. Introduction**

1. At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to initiate a process for preparing a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 ensuring its alignment with the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the work of the Protocols, and ensuring its coordination with the time table for the development of this framework, with a view to the timely identification of the priority capacity-building actions.

2. In paragraph 15(n) of decision XIII/23, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive to prepare terms of reference for a study to provide the knowledge base for the preparation a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, ensuring that the study takes into account, *inter alia*, the implementation of the short-term action plan for capacity-building and relevant experiences reported by Parties in their national reports.

3. Under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its sixth meeting adopted a Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol and agreed to review it at the eighth meeting of the Parties (decision BS-VI/3). Following that review, Parties to the Protocol decided to maintain the Framework and Action Plan until 2020 (decision CP-VIII/3).

4. Similarly, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, in its decision NP-1/8, adopted a strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol covering the period until 2020. In the same decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare an evaluation of the strategic framework in 2019 and submit a report for consideration by the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol in 2020 to facilitate the review and possible revision of the strategic framework in conjunction with the review of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

B. Scope of the process for preparing the framework

5. The process will encompass the following tasks:

(a) Conduct a study to provide the knowledge base for the preparation the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 in accordance with the terms of reference in Appendix 1 below;

(b) Preparation of draft elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework, taking into account information contained in the report of the above study. The draft elements will include, *inter alia*, an overall vision and a theory of change defining bold long-term capacity development benchmarks and outcomes to support the transformational change towards achieving the 2050 vision of "living in harmony with nature", general guiding principles, possible pathways to achieve effective and impactful capacity development; and a monitoring and evaluation framework including possible measurable intermediate and long-term capacity outcome indicators;

(c) Organization of regional consultative workshops and online discussion forums, carried out in conjunction with the post 2020 global biodiversity framework process.

6. Subject to the availability of funding, a consultancy firm will be engaged to conduct the study and prepare a draft study report as well as draft elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic

framework. The drafts will be discussed during the regional consultative workshops and online discussion forums to be organized by the Secretariat and relevant organizations in conjunction with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process. The consultancy firm will integrate the input received through consultative workshops and online discussion forums into the final draft capacity development strategic framework which will then be submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting and ultimately by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

C. Indicative schedule of activities

7. The process for preparing a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building will include the following activities, to be aligned with the time table for the development of a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:

<i>Activity/Task</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
1. Invitation of Parties, IPLCs and relevant organization to submit information on capacity development needs and priorities, relevant experiences and lessons learned, as well as views/suggestions on possible elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework, complementing information provided through the national reports	Aug-Nov 2018	Secretariat; Parties, IPLCs and relevant organization
2. Submission of the national reports	Dec 2018	Parties
3. Independent evaluation of the impacts, outcomes and effectiveness of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols	Jan-May 2019	Consultant
4. Conduct of the study to provide the knowledge base for the preparation the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building, including a desk review of relevant reports and documents; synthesis of the information received from Parties, IPLCs and relevant organizations; and surveys/interviews with key stakeholders	Jan-April 2019	Consultant
5. Preparation of a draft study report based on the submissions received from Parties, IPLCs, relevant organizations and stakeholders and the review of the national reports and other relevant documents	April-May 2019	Consultant; Secretariat
6. Preparation of draft elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework	May-June 2019	Consultant; Secretariat;
7. Regional consultation workshops and online discussion forums on the draft study report and associated discussion papers and the draft elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework (in conjunction with the post 2020 global biodiversity framework process)	Jan-July 2019	Secretariat; Consultant
8. Submission of the revised study report and the revised draft elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework	Aug 2019	Consultant;

<i>Activity/Task</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
9. Consultation workshop(s) on the revised draft elements of the post-2020 capacity development strategic framework	Sept-Oct 2019	Experts nominated by governments and relevant organizations
10. Preparation of final draft post-2020 capacity development strategic framework based on inputs from consultation workshops	Nov 2019	Secretariat; Consultant
11. Notification inviting views on the final draft post-2020 capacity development strategic framework	Dec 2019 - Feb 2020	Parties, IPLCs and relevant organizations
12. Consideration of the final draft post-2020 capacity development strategic framework by SBI-3	May/June 2020	SBI-3

Appendix I

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A STUDY TO PROVIDE AN INFORMATION BASE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

A. Scope of the study and the process for preparing the framework

1. The study will encompass the following tasks:
 - (a) Take stock of the status of capacity development related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, including major existing capacity development initiatives/ programmes, tools, networks and partnerships;
 - (b) Identify and map the main providers of capacity-building support for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols in various regions, including their competencies and strengths;
 - (c) Review the emerging experiences and lessons learned with the various capacity development delivery modalities and approaches used and assess their relative effectiveness and limitations;
 - (d) Identify the Parties' main capacity development and technological needs and gaps;
 - (e) Analyse what has been done and the types of capacity development activities that have contributed to advancements made;
 - (f) Make recommendations on the general direction for the post-2020 capacity development framework and the priority capacity-building actions to be taken to achieve the goals and targets of the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

B. Methodology and sources of information

8. The study will use the following data collection methods and will draw on a range of data sources:
 - (a) Desk review of relevant documents, including:
 - (i) The sixth national reports for the Convention;
 - (ii) Outcomes of the first Assessment and Review of the Nagoya Protocol;
 - (iii) The second (as baseline) and fourth national reports for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

- (iv) National capacity building strategies and action plans;²⁴
 - (v) Reports of the evaluations of the strategic frameworks for capacity building of the Nagoya Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol;
 - (vi) Report of the independent evaluation of the impacts, outcomes and effectiveness of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;
 - (vii) Reports of relevant studies, surveys and needs assessments conducted by relevant organizations;²⁵
 - (viii) Evaluation reports of relevant capacity-building projects;
- (b) Survey of Parties and key partners to identify, among other things, their priority capacity needs and required capacities over the next decade as well as potential offers of assistance and other capacity development opportunities, tools and services;
- (c) Interviews with a representative sample of stakeholders, including CBD staff and representatives of Parties, partner organizations and other actors from different regions, including technical and scientific institutions. The interviewees will be invited to share, inter alia, information and views regarding the observed strengths and weaknesses of various capacity development approaches and delivery modalities under different circumstances, relevant experiences and lessons learned, examples of good practices that could be leveraged as well as views on possible drivers of transformational change for future capacity development.
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²⁴ As noted in paragraph 12 of document CBD/SBI/2/2/Add/1, 18 out of the 154 revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans submitted to the Secretariat include a national capacity development plan.

²⁵ Including the survey of national capacity development related to the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions conducted by IUCN and UNEP-WCMC on behalf of UNEP and the UNDP report based on the analysis of over 140 national biodiversity strategies and action plans.