



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
14 August 2023

English only

Preparatory meeting of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization

Online, 5 September 2023

Draft workplan of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The present document contains a proposed workplan for the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization that was established by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting (decision [15/7](#), para. 43). The Advisory Committee was assigned three main tasks, with a view to providing recommendations thereon to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and to the Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth meeting:

(a) To fully align the strategy for resource mobilization, adopted in the same decision, with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to ensure that it would provide a solid basis to guide Parties and other actors towards the mobilization of adequate resources, commensurate with the ambition of the Framework (para. 40 of the decision);

(b) To explore the current biodiversity finance landscape with a view to assessing gaps and overlaps, and to identifying opportunities to strengthen, simplify and reform existing instruments to strengthen the current finance landscape for biodiversity (para. 41 of the decision);

(c) To explore proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance to mobilize resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the Framework, on the basis of the assessment made and the gaps identified (para. 42 of the decision).

2. The scope of work of the Committee under those three main tasks is further elaborated in annex II to decision 15/7. With regard to the further work on the Strategy for resource mobilization, section A:

(a) Specifies that the strategy for resource mobilization shall also be brought in line with other relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, in order to ensure coherence, and references the relevant decisions that need to be taken into consideration;

(b) Calls for improving the information base on funding needs, gaps and priorities;

(c) Calls for identifying potential additional sources of funding, recognizing the need for support from a wide variety of sources, including innovative sources.

3. Regarding the exploration of the current biodiversity finance landscape, section A:

(a) Calls to provide an overview of the global biodiversity finance landscape and to identify which institutions, including global, regional and national, are funding activities related to addressing biodiversity loss, and ways in which coherence, coordination and synergies among them can be enhanced;

(b) Calls to assess how existing instruments, funds, and frameworks and their interaction could be further improved, and successful ones promoted, replicated or scaled up, so that they fully align with, and provide immediate support to the implementation of the Framework;

(c) In so doing, calls to take into consideration the progress of the reform to the Global Environment Facility to support the quick start mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Framework, and in particular the process for the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and its implementation;

(d) Calls to identify the gaps within the current financing landscape, including the types of gap, such as relating to speed, eligibility, adequacy and access to finance, the priority gaps for which solutions should be explored, as well as the most effective ways to address those gaps.

4. Regarding the exploration of proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance, section A calls upon the Advisory Committee to develop recommendations to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on three specific questions:

(a) Whether to create a dedicated financing mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity under the authority of the Conference of the Parties, which could be designated as the “Global Biodiversity Fund”, and what the options are to operationalize it;

(b) Whether the Trust Fund under the Global Environment Facility established under decision 15/15 should be designated as the “Global Biodiversity Fund”;

(c) Whether and how either of the funding mechanisms mentioned above, or another alternative, would be the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9 on digital sequencing information on genetic resources.

5. In the light of this mandate, a number of observations can be made:

(a) Aligning the strategy for resource mobilization with the language of the Framework and of other relevant decisions seems to be relatively straightforward; however, improving the information base on funding needs, gaps and priorities, as well as identifying potential additional sources of funding, would require more analysis and discussion, which could be informed by the analytical work on the biodiversity finance landscape;

(b) Similarly, the exploration of proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance and the development of answers to the three questions put forward by the Conference of the Parties could be informed by the analytical work on the global biodiversity finance landscape, in particular on identifying gaps. At the same time, the insights gained during the exploration of proposals for a global finance instrument could also inform the further development a bearing for the review and strengthening of the strategy for resource mobilization.

6. The terms of reference for the Advisory Committee elaborate that the Committee will conduct its work both electronically and, subject to the availability of resources, physically, meeting at least twice during the intersessional period before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties. In this regard, an online preparatory session is scheduled to be held on 5 September 2023. The first in-person meeting will be held in Kinshasa, from 25 to 29 September. Another in-person meeting is scheduled for the first quarter of 2024, with details to be communicated in due course.

7. The considerations above indicate that it would be useful to “frontload” the analytical work on the biodiversity finance landscape. This would then suggest the following workplan across the different meetings:

(a) At the online preparatory meeting (5 September), the Committee may wish to consider and discuss the present workplan proposal and approve it after oral amendments as needed.

(b) At its first in-person meeting (Kinshasa, 25–29 September):

- (i) The Committee may wish to have a first exchange of information and experiences on the global biodiversity finance landscape, along the mandate as summarized above. Members could base their deliberations on a first draft of the analytical study providing this exploration, as well as kick-off presentations by individual members;
- (ii) The Committee may also wish to consider a first draft of the revised strategy for resource mobilization, with language aligned with the Framework and other relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, as prepared by the Secretariat. Members may wish to determine whether this alignment is satisfactory or needs more work. On the basis of their exchange on the global biodiversity finance landscape above, members may also wish to identify whether and what to further add to the strategy so that it can eventually provide a solid basis to guide Parties and other actors towards the mobilization of adequate resources, commensurate with the ambition of the Framework;
- (iii) The committee may also wish to have a first round of discussion on proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance, based on their exchange on the global biodiversity finance landscape;
- (iv) In the light of the considerable workload and in order to make the best use of time, the Committee may wish to establish working groups along the three different tasks provided by the Conference of the Parties. These working groups could meet virtually between the two in-person meetings;
- (v) The Committee may also wish to identify any additional expertise that would need to be included its further work, so that the Co-Chairs could invite such additional observers or experts to the virtual working groups or the second in-person meeting;

(b) During the intersessional period, the established working groups could:

- (i) Further advance the analytical work on the global biodiversity finance landscape by continuing and deepening the discussion on the individual aspects of this task and providing guidance to the Secretariat on how to further develop the draft;
- (ii) Further advance the work on revising and strengthening the strategy for resource mobilization, and guide the Secretariat accordingly;
- (iii) Start developing elements of responses to the three questions put forward by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;

(c) Thus, at its second in-person meeting (beginning of 2024), the Committee would have before it: (i) an advanced draft of the exploratory study of the global biodiversity finance landscape; (ii) an advanced draft of the revised strategy for resource mobilization; and (iii) first elements of responses to the three questions put forward by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. The Committee could establish drafting subgroups to consider and finalize these deliverables over the course of its second in-person meeting.

8. Annex I to the present document, which is based on the considerations above, contains an outline of the suggested organization of work for the planned meetings. In addition, in order to facilitate the work of the Committee at its first in-person meeting, the Secretariat has initiated the drafting of the exploratory study of the global biodiversity finance landscape, in line with the mandate above. Annex II provides a tentative table of contents for this exploratory study. The Secretariat has also initiated an alignment of the strategy for resource mobilization with the Framework and other relevant decisions.

9. At its preparatory online meeting on 5 September, the Committee may wish to review, and comment on, the workplan presented above and the proposed organization of work provided in annex I. The Committee may also wish to review, and comment on, the suggested table of contents for the exploratory study on the global biodiversity finance landscape provided in annex II. The Secretariat will finalize the documentation for the first in-person meeting as soon as possible in the light of comments received.

Annex I

Provisional organization of work

A. Preparatory online meeting, 5 September 2023

1. An online preparatory session of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 5 September 2023. The two-hour meeting will last two hours and members will be requested to elect co-chairs, as foreseen in the terms of reference. The meeting will also: familiarize committee members with the mandate and terms of reference provided by decision 15/7; inform the Committee about the state of preparatory activities undertaken by the Secretariat so far; present a draft workplan for the Committee, for review and approval; enable committee members to raise any other relevant matters, including any outstanding organizational and logistical questions.

B. First meeting (in-person), 25 to 29 September 2023

2. The following is the proposed organization of work for the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization.

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Meeting activities</i>
Monday, 25 September 2023	
8–9 a.m.	Registration
9–11 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting - Opening remarks by the Minister of Environment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ève Bazaiba - Opening statement by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
11–11.30 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Item 2. Organizational matters - Briefing from the United Nations Department for Safety and Security Item 2(a). Adoption of the agenda Item 2(b). Organization of work - Introduction of participants and organization of work
1–2.30 p.m.	Lunch
2.30–4 p.m.	Item 3. Analysis of the biodiversity finance landscape Presentation by the Secretariat of work already undertaken and emerging insights, setting the context for the discussion.
4–4.30 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4.30–6 p.m.	Item 3(a). Exploration of the existing biodiversity finance landscape <i>(i) International public and private finance</i>

	• Presentations by representatives from the World Bank, International Finance Corporation and other Multilateral Development banks on current state of international public and private finance in Biodiversity (tbc). • Country presentations: perspective from donors and recipients
Tuesday, 26 September 2023	
9–10.30 a.m.	Item 3(a) (<i>continued</i>) <i>(i) International public and private finance</i> • Presentation by the GEF Secretariat, on progress with regard to paragraphs 30 to 34 and 36 to 38 of decision 15/7 (tbc) • Discussion
10.30–11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 3(a) (<i>continued</i>) <i>(i) International public and private finance</i> • Representatives from the private sector organizations (Nature Conservancy, tbc) will provide their perspective on current biodiversity finance. • Discussion
12.30–2 p.m.	Lunch
2–3.30 p.m.	Item 3(a) (<i>continued</i>) <i>(i) International public and private finance</i> • Wrap-up discussion
3.30–4 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4–5.30 p.m.	Item 3(a) (<i>continued</i>) <i>(ii) Domestic public and private finance</i> • Presentation by United Nations Development Programme BIOFIN (tbc) • Country presentations: select member countries will be requested to share experiences and lessons learned on mobilizing domestic public and private finance.
Wednesday, 27 September 2023	
9–10.30 a.m.	Item 3(a) (<i>continued</i>) <i>(ii) Domestic public and private finance</i> • Country presentations (<i>continued</i>): select member countries will be requested to share experiences and lessons learned on mobilizing domestic public finance • Members will be invited to reflect and add to the discussion
10.30–11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 3(b). Identifying gaps and overlaps within the current biodiversity financing landscape, priority gaps and most effective ways to address them

	• Presentation by two discussants: ○ Key challenges in mobilizing and/or gaining access to funding ○ Major gaps within current financing landscape • Plenary discussion among Members on existing gaps and overlaps in biodiversity finance
12.30–2 p.m.	Lunch
2–3.30 p.m.	Item 3(c). Opportunities for improving existing instruments, funds, and frameworks, as well as their coherence, coordination and synergies • Plenary discussion to gather insights and suggestions for improving existing instruments, funds, and frameworks
3.30–4 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4–5.30 p.m.	Item 3(c) (<i>continued</i>) • Members will be asked to provide their initial thinking on the following: (i) Whether to create a dedicated financing mechanism for the Convention under the authority of the Conference of the Parties, which could be designated “Global Biodiversity Fund”; (ii) Whether the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Trust Fund under GEF, established by decision 15/7, should be designated “Global Biodiversity Fund”; (iii) Whether and how either of the funding mechanisms mentioned above, or another alternative, would be the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9, on digital sequence information on genetic resources.
Thursday, 28 September 2023	
9–10.30 a.m.	Item 4. Upgrading the strategy for resource mobilization: identify additional sources of funding, including innovative sources • Introductory presentation by the Secretariat • Presentations by Members (North and South; tbc)
10.30–11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) • Presentation by NatureFinance, following by Finance for Biodiversity with a focus on innovative sources of funding (tbc) • Plenary discussion, resulting in tentative conclusions and further work to be undertaken
12.30–2 p.m.	Lunch
2–3.30 p.m.	Item 5. Next steps • Summary of conclusions and implication for remaining work programme

	Establishing of sub-working groups which will guide the intersessional work
3.30–4 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4–5.30 p.m.	Item 6. Closure of the meeting Closing remarks
Friday, 29 September 2023	
Planned excursion	Please refer to the information note for participants for further details.

C. Intersessional work

3. The Secretariat will support the work of the intersessional working groups established in the first meeting and organize online meetings as requested by the Advisory Committee.

D. Second meeting (in-person), first quarter of 2024

4. The following is the proposed organization of work for the second meeting of the Advisory Committee on resource mobilization.

Day 1	Item 1. Welcome and introduction Item 2. Analysis of the biodiversity finance landscape - Report of the sub-working group - Presentation of the revised draft of the exploratory study on the global biodiversity finance landscape document by the Secretariat - Gaps and overlaps within the current biodiversity financing landscape, priority gaps, and most effective ways to address them - Opportunities for improving existing instruments, funds, and frameworks, as well as their coherence, coordination and synergies - Plenary discussions - Preliminary summary; establishment of drafting group Item 3. Global instrument for biodiversity finance - Presentation by the GEF Secretariat on progress of GEF reform and establishment of the trust fund to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework - Presentation on the state of discussion on digital sequence information on genetic resources (Co-leads of the informal co-chairs' advisory group on digital sequence information on genetic resources) - Report from the sub-working group, with focus on draft recommendations regarding: - Whether to create a dedicated financing mechanism for the Convention under the authority of the Conference of the Parties, which could be designated "Global Biodiversity Fund"; - Whether the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Trust Fund under GEF, established by decision 15/7, should be designated "Global Biodiversity Fund";
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	▪ Whether and how either of the funding mechanisms mentioned above, or another alternative, would be the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9, on digital sequence information on genetic resources. • Preliminary discussions followed by establishment of drafting groups.
Day 2 (first half)	Item 4. Upgrading the strategy for resource mobilization • Report of the sub-working group • Presentation of draft update by the Secretariat. The update will consider discussions at the first meeting and submissions received pursuant to paragraph 44 of decision 15/7 • Presentation to be followed by open discussion • Establishment of drafting group
Day 2 (second half) and Day 3	All drafting groups meet in parallel
Day 4	Item 5. Finalization of work • Report back from drafting groups. The following results are expected ○ Discussion and agreement on biodiversity finance landscape analysis ○ Discussion and agreement on revised strategy for resource mobilization ○ Discussion and agreement on draft recommendations • The Advisory Committee will also identify and agree on further work needed and the associated process
	Item 6. Closure of the meeting • Closing remarks

Annex II

Draft table of content of the exploratory study on the biodiversity finance landscape

Executive summary

- Key findings and recommendations

Introduction

- Context and purpose of the study, approach taken, key assumptions and limitations.
- Types of organizations and financing instruments covered in this study.
- The role of public finance in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and associated decisions (incl Resource Mobilization strategy)
- Structure of the report

Section 1. Landscape overview of finance for biodiversity

- Overview on which institutions, including global, regional and national, are funding activities related to addressing biodiversity loss.
- Include in particular:
 - Public development banks (multilateral, regional, bilateral and domestic),
 - Fiduciaries (e.g. GEF and other funds) at international and domestic level
 - Domestic / national, regional or local agencies or utilities
 - Private: charities/foundations, companies, ...
- Discussion of the financial instruments being mobilized by these institutions to fund activities related to addressing biodiversity loss, including:
 - grants
 - debt (loans and bonds)
 - guarantees
 - equity investment
 - debt conversions
 - subsidies and incentives
 - payment for ecosystem services
 - regulated offset mechanisms
 - carbon credits / biodiversity credits
 - others...
- In describing the above relate types of organizations with types of financial instruments, and where possible provide estimates of total financial flows involved – who finances what, how, to what extent ?
- Ranking of most used public financial instruments and relative contribution to global biodiversity finance

Section 2. Discussion of efficiency and effectiveness of financial instruments for biodiversity

- For each instrument discussed in section 1, provide an analysis of
 - Scope of application/ main uses / relevance to biodiversity conservation and restoration activities
 - Complexity of process and speed of mobilization
 - Capacity to leverage additional finance (public, private, philanthropy...)
 - Opportunities for, and barriers to, scaling-up financial flows using this instrument
 - Opportunities / perspectives for stimulating/ scaling-up innovative financial solutions (e.g. biodiversity credits) through public financing

- A multi-criteria ranking approach (e.g. spider diagram) to compare between each financial instrument
- Discussion of overlaps and risks of double-counting
- Discussion of gaps – areas/ activities related to biodiversity conservation and restoration which most lack funding and need solutions for bridging the biodiversity financing gap

Section 3. Recommendations for scaling-up and increasing the efficiency of finance for biodiversity

- International biodiversity trust fund, including a comparison of strengths and weaknesses between:
 - The Global Diversity Framework Fund managed by GEF
 - The creation of a stand-alone global biodiversity fund
- The comparison will include an assessment of adequacy to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9, on digital sequencing information of genetic resources.
- Revisiting “additional elements on resource mobilization” as mentioned in recommendations 3/6 on Resource mobilization at the Third meeting of the Subsidiary body on implementation.
- Other recommendations for scaling-up and increasing the effectiveness of finance for biodiversity, taking also into account proposals on additional elements for resource mobilization in recommendation 3/6 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, such as on:
 - Domestic public finance for biodiversity
 - International public finance for biodiversity
 - Climate-nature financing co-benefits
 - Leveraging of private finance through public investment and policymaking/ encouraging innovative solutions, including through dedicated subsidies and incentives
 - Reducing public finance that generate risks and negative impacts to biodiversity

Section 4. Recommendations for next steps by the Advisory Committee

- Key areas of further research and analysis needed
- Recommended methodology for next steps
- Options for the recommendations to be developed by the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization at its second meeting

Bibliographical references

Annexes

- Summary minutes of interviews carried out in support of this study
- Case studies
- Any other relevant annex
