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Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols

Progress report on the implementation of previous decisions on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present note contains a summary of actions taken by the Secretariat in collaboration with relevant organizations, as appropriate, to support the implementation of previous decisions on capacity-building and development (sect. II), technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer (sect. III), the clearing-house mechanism (sect. IV) and knowledge management (sect. V).

II. Capacity-building and development

2. Pursuant to decision 15/8 of the Conference of the Parties on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation, the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, has undertaken steps to raise awareness and promote the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

3. A dedicated [web page](#) providing information related to the long-term framework was created on the website of the Convention. The Secretariat continued to collect and make available existing [tools and guidance](#) on capacity-building and development, including case studies on good practices and lessons learned and examples of national [capacity development plans](#) and strategies.

4. As a member of the interim Global Coordination Unit of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, the Secretariat collaborated in a rapid capacity needs assessment and the stakeholder mapping surveys which were launched in August 2023.¹ The outcomes of the two surveys will be used to inform the

* CBD/SBI/4/1.

¹ See notification 2023-098, available at www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2023/ntf-2023-098-nbsap-en.pdf.

capacity-building and development plans, programmes and activities of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, the Secretariat and other organizations.

Regional dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans

5. The Secretariat promoted awareness of the long-term strategic framework and Target 20 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through a series of regional and subregional dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans.² The dialogues aimed towards facilitating the sharing of experiences and mutual learning related to the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in alignment with the Framework. To date, five regional and/or subregional dialogues have been organized, which will be reported on in document CBD/SBI/4/INF/6.

6. Each of the dialogues included dedicated sessions on capacity-building and development, comprising introductory presentations, facilitated group discussions and group exercises. The presentations and discussions covered key concepts and principles of capacity-building and development, the levels of capacity and the expected high-level results, and guidance on key strategies and approaches for improving the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of capacity development initiatives and programmes.

7. The Secretariat used the dedicated sessions to provide advice and support to Parties on the preparation of national capacity development action plans and the integration of capacity-building and development components into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The group exercises focused on how to conduct capacity assessment (including stocktaking and needs assessment), stakeholder analysis and the development of national capacity development plans to support nationally determined priorities for the implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Participants from each country worked together to prepare a draft national capacity-building and development plan for at least one of the targets of the Framework, taking into consideration the results of the capacity assessment and the stakeholder analysis conducted in breakout sessions.

8. Similar efforts were made to develop capacity-building and development action plans related to thematic areas, such as access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, biosafety and invasive alien species. The capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol provided for consideration by the Subsidiary Body in the annex to document CBD/SBI/4/8 and the Capacity-Building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision [CP-10/4](#)) are two concrete examples.

Joint capacity-building initiative of the Secretariats of the Rio conventions

9. In 2023, the Secretariat, together with the Secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, launched a joint capacity-building initiative for the three Rio conventions. The joint programme aims towards strengthening the capacities of Parties to the Rio conventions to integrate and foster synergies in the implementation of the conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level. Two joint side events, both entitled “Building capacities for synergistic implementation of the three Rio conventions”, were organized in the margins of Climate Week for Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama, 27 October 2023) and at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Dubai, 11 December 2023). Work being conducted currently includes: a desk review to identify good practices and lessons learned on building synergies; a global survey to assess the capacity needs and existing good practices for enhancing synergies; development of a training package for self-paced learning on synergies; and development of a web portal for the joint capacity-building programme. The programme will include

² The national biodiversity strategy and action plan-related dialogues have been organized with the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, through its Japan Biodiversity Fund; the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the Government of Denmark; and the European Union.

organization of webinars on: effective integrated and synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions; accessing and mobilizing finance for synergistic projects; and enhancing the role of local and indigenous knowledge in supporting synergies in the implementation of the three conventions.

Engagement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group

10. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Coordination Office, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organized a webinar on 12 July 2023 for United Nations resident coordinators on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The purpose of the webinar was to raise awareness within the broader United Nations development system on the goals and targets of the Framework and on ongoing efforts to promote the United Nations common approach to biodiversity and identify entry points for the United Nations country teams, led by the resident coordinators, to enable country teams to play a key role in supporting the implementation of the Framework together with the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

Cooperation with academic and research institutions

11. Pursuant to paragraphs 12, 16 (d) and 32 (d) of decision 15/8, the Secretariat implemented various collaborative activities with academic and research institutions. In line with the memorandum of understanding signed in December 2022, the Secretariat initiated collaboration with the University of Cambridge to leverage the expertise of staff and the global network of the University of Cambridge Conservation Leadership Alumni Network to promote understanding, uptake and implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and to develop the capacity of national experts and conservation leaders through training.³ The Secretariat also initiated collaboration with the Conservation and Sustainability Consortium of Academic Institutions led by the Universities of Oxford, Durham and Leeds, Newcastle University and the University of York and involving 25 member institutions from across the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland working together to promote joint research, knowledge exchange between academics and policymakers, awareness-raising on key issues and capacity-building to support the evidence-based implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

III. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

12. Pursuant to decision 15/8, the Executive Secretary, Parties and partner organizations continued to implement and support various activities to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Convention and its Protocols in general. Those activities have been implemented through various programmes and initiatives, including the Bio-Bridge Initiative, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and the European Union Horizon Europe Co-operation for the Convention on Biological Diversity project.

Bio-Bridge Initiative

13. The Bio-Bridge Initiative continued to provide support to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and to support Parties in meeting their technical and scientific needs. The Bio-Bridge Initiative web platform continued to provide a mechanism for matchmaking between requesters and providers of technical assistance through facilitation of the submission of requests for assistance, the registration of providers of technical assistance and the sharing of information on relevant opportunities. Since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the number of

³ See www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/amt-university-cambridge-2022-12-08-mou-web-en.pdf.

institutions registered as providers of technical assistance on the web platform has increased to 52. The institutions are based in 24 countries.

14. The Initiative continued to provide small grants to catalyse the development of projects that promote technical and scientific cooperation among Parties in addressing issues and challenges relevant to the Convention and its Protocols. Since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the 16 projects which were selected for funding as part of the fourth call for proposals have all been successfully activated. Those projects, which involve institutions from 38 Parties and one non-Party, cover various topics relevant to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. As of 15 March 2024, six of the projects had been completed while another two were about to be completed. The remaining eight are under implementation. The fifth call for proposals was launched in January 2024 through notification 2024-001 and a social media campaign. A total of 90 proposals had been received by the deadline of 22 March 2024.

Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative

15. Since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, in partnership with the Institute for Capacity Exchange in Environmental Decisions, has actively contributed to the development and improvement of the online WePlan – Forests decision support tool for optimizing forest restoration planning. The WePlan – Forests data sets on forest ecosystem restoration optimization are linked to the United Nations Biodiversity Lab, with the support of UNDP and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. New functionalities of this tool will be launched in 2024.

Sustainable Ocean Initiative

16. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative⁴ continued to provide support, technical advice and guidance to countries in their efforts to achieve global biodiversity targets in marine and coastal areas in line with the Post-2020 Action Plan for the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (2020-2025)⁵ to facilitate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. A national workshop on other effective area-based conservation measures in the marine fishery sector was convened in Kingston, Jamaica, from 17 to 19 May 2023.⁶ A regional workshop was organized for East, South and South-East Asia from 5 to 8 September 2023 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to identify means, opportunities and priorities for, as well as challenges to, the implementation of the Framework in the region with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity.⁷

Global Partnership for Plant Conservation

17. In line with decisions 15/5 and 15/13 of the Conference of the Parties, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation prepared a set of [complementary actions](#) related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These included the establishment of mechanisms, partnerships and networks to support the accessibility of data, knowledge, technology and South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation for collaborative plant conservation.

Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management

18. In 2023, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management adopted its 2023-2025 workplan.⁸ The Secretariat in collaboration with the Partnership conducted a further gap analysis to identify areas that are not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations.

⁴ See www.cbd.int/soi/.

⁵ See www.cbd.int/marine/soi/Post-2020-SOI-ActionPlan-en.pdf.

⁶ See www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-WS-2023-02.

⁷ See www.cbd.int/meetings/SOI-WS-2023-03.

⁸ See www.fao.org/3/cc8643en/cc8643en.pdf.

NBSAP Accelerator Partnership

19. The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, which was launched operationally in September 2023, embarked on various activities to ensure coherent support for the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and increase their ambition through enhanced country-specific support, coordination, collaboration and shared learning. One of the goals of the Accelerator is to facilitate North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and peer-to-peer learning among countries in order to enhance implementation and collective upscaling of biodiversity-positive actions. A key enabler for achieving this goal will be the Accelerator's matchmaking service, which is designed to enable countries to access existing technical and financial resources for elevating the ambitions of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to ensure efficient and streamlined collaboration among countries.⁹

European Union Horizon Europe Co-operation for the Convention on Biological Diversity project

20. The European Union-funded Co-operation for the Convention on Biological Diversity project aims towards enhancing coordination and leveraging of existing expertise and initiatives within the European Union and associated countries to support the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in particular. The main objectives of the project are to improve access to and engagement of the best available European expertise through enhanced mechanisms for technical and scientific cooperation and, through targeted capacity-building, to contribute to the implementation and effective monitoring and review of the Framework by Parties.¹⁰

IV. Clearing-house mechanism

21. Pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) of decision 15/16, the Secretariat continued to facilitate the efforts of Parties to establish, sustain and further develop their national clearing-house mechanisms. This facilitation included further development and strengthening of the Bioland tool, the redesign of the user interface and information architecture of the Bioland-supported national clearing-house mechanism portals to improve information accessibility and findability and the simplification of content types and formats to enable quick and easy upload of content. It also included the development of new features and the strengthening of interoperability of national clearing-house mechanism portals with the Convention website, the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, the Biosafety Clearing-House, the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-house, the PANORAMA solutions for nature portal and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility in order to enhance information exchange and to create a one-stop platform for accessing all of the information relevant for Convention- and biodiversity-related areas at the national level.

22. Pursuant to paragraphs 9 (b) (ii) and 9 (b) (iii) of decision 15/16, the Secretariat continued to facilitate training sessions and provide guidance and training materials on the use of the Bioland tool to help Parties further develop and manage their national clearing-house mechanism portals. Since January 2023, it has conducted 11 online training sessions and workshops for national focal points and other users from Parties and provided advice and guidance to eight Parties to the Convention. The Secretariat provided advice and guidance to Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols on possible use of the Bioland tool to support national nodes. Moreover, the Secretariat created a video tutorial¹¹ and a document on frequently asked questions to enable Parties to acquire learning and manage their national clearing-house mechanism portals.

23. Pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (iv) of decision 15/16, the Secretariat established 105 new instances of national clearing-house mechanism portals for Parties that did not have such portals using the Bioland tool. This brought the total number of Parties with a Bioland-supported national clearing-

⁹ Details in this regard are provided at <https://nbsapaccelerator.org/about-us/the-accelerator/>.

¹⁰ Details are provided at www.coop4cbd.eu/.

¹¹ See www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m5tAqFxDcA.

house mechanism portal to 132. Twenty-eight of those portals are live and are being actively maintained by the respective Parties.¹² The Secretariat continued to reach out to and support other Parties in further developing, populating and managing their portals.

24. Pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (v) of decision 15/16, the Secretariat initiated the selection process for the clearing-house mechanism awards, to be presented on the margins of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The selection process will give due consideration to Parties that have made the most significant progress in the establishment or further development of their national clearing-house mechanisms to support the implementation of the Framework and national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

25. Pursuant to paragraph 9 (c) of decision 15/16, the Secretariat hired a consultant to improve the user interface design of the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, as well as its submission mechanism and record management capabilities. The work of the consultant will help to strengthen coherence and integration among the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and develop and strengthen biodiversity-related vocabularies, taxonomies and metadata standards maintained through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism so as to improve classification, standardization and search and retrieval of the information available on the Framework and its targets.

26. Moreover, the Secretariat has taken steps to improve the information architecture, user interface design, content and functionality of the website of the Convention. It has developed a portal for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with a curated set of relevant tools and guidance to improve communication and awareness with respect to the Convention and the Framework.

V. Knowledge management

27. In accordance with paragraph 9 (d) of decision [15/16](#), the Secretariat continued its collaboration with relevant initiatives, organizations and networks that support the generation, capture, management and effective use of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge. Some of the collaborative activities undertaken are described directly below:

(a) The Secretariat is collaborating with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the European Union on the Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity.¹³ In 2023, it participated in stakeholder consultation webinars and a co-design workshop, in which needs, opportunities and existing initiatives related to country knowledge management were reviewed. These activities resulted in the issuance of a concept note for the Support Service to enable Parties and major groups to adopt a collaborative approach to data, information, knowledge management and learning in order to facilitate biodiversity planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and review;¹⁴

(b) Under the memorandum of understanding signed in December 2022, the Secretariat collaborated with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and GIZ,¹⁵ acting jointly as the secretariat of the PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet initiative,¹⁶ on capacity development and knowledge management to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. They, inter alia, implemented technical arrangements to allow

¹² Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Iraq, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Niger, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

¹³ See <https://gkssb.chm-cbd.net/>.

¹⁴ See <https://km4b.cbd.int/sites/default/files/inline-images/KM4B%20Webinar%20Series-W02-P01%20GKSSB%20Natasha%20Ali.pdf>.

¹⁵ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation).

¹⁶ See www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/agmt-iucn-giz-panorama-2022-12-08-mou-web-en.pdf.

interoperability between the PANORAMA knowledge hub¹⁷ and the Bioland tool developed by the Secretariat;

(c) The Secretariat collaborated with the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) initiative,¹⁸ through various technical working groups, on taxonomies and ontologies, web archiving solutions, e-learning platforms and Akoma Ntoso (Architecture for Knowledge-Oriented Management of African Normative Texts using Open Standards and Ontologies), the international technical standard for representing executive, legislative and judiciary documents in a structured manner, adopted by the United Nations. The Secretariat co-led the development of new common formats for facilitating the storing and dissemination of project information and funding-related data;

(d) The Secretariat, in partnership with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, initiated collaboration with the data and knowledge management task force of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which presented its data and knowledge management policy to members of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation and discussed potential future collaboration with the Advisory Group and the Secretariat;

(e) In an effort to increase knowledge findability, the Secretariat reviewed its in-house thesauri and taxonomies in line with the standards of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) on the semantic web to improve semantic search and content linking;

(f) The Secretariat initiated informal discussions with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, which manages the taxonomy and ontology of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, InforMEA and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to explore best practices and potential solutions for streamlining taxonomies and ontologies, including creation of a reference ontology for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals, targets and indicators;

(g) The Secretariat initiated discussions with the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations, drawing on its experience with the Knowledge-sharing Platform on Emergencies and Resilience,¹⁹ and the International Fund for Agriculture Development on its experience and lessons learned in leveraging knowledge management for successful project management.²⁰

28. The Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations, launched the Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B) Initiative, aimed at strengthening the capacities of Parties in knowledge management to support evidence-based biodiversity planning, policymaking and decision-making and implementation, as well as monitoring and reporting of progress towards the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework goals and targets.²¹ In 2023, the Secretariat organized the first series of KM4B webinars which brought together close to 700 participants and presenters from various Parties and organizations.²²

29. With the financial support of the Government of Denmark, the Secretariat is developing learning material on knowledge management which will be made available online for self-paced learning. It is organizing regional training workshops on knowledge management for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe. The workshops will focus on supporting Parties in the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, identification of their key biodiversity knowledge management gaps and challenges and co-creation of solutions in the context of addressing the common challenges and gaps identified. The activities described above

¹⁷ See <https://panorama.solutions/en>.

¹⁸ See www.informea.org/en.

¹⁹ See <https://www.fao.org/in-action/kore/home/en/>.

²⁰ See <https://ifadkmcentre.weebly.com/km-in-ifad.html>.

²¹ See <https://km4b.cbd.int/>.

²² Summaries of the presentations made during the webinars are available on the KM4B website at <https://km4b.cbd.int/>.

will contribute to strengthening the capacities of national focal points and other government officials, field practitioners and indigenous peoples and local communities to effectively implement Target 21 and other components of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
