



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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Agenda item 15

**Communication, education and public awareness**

Working Group I

### **Communication, education and public awareness**

#### **Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group I**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decision 15/14 of 19 December 2022,

*Recognizing* the importance of linking revisions to the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness for the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>1</sup> with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>2</sup> [in particular sections K and C, paragraph 7 (o), and the communication, education and public awareness elements of Targets 9, 10, [11], 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23,]

*Noting* that many activities associated with communication, education and public awareness are outlined in the communications strategy to support the implementation of the Framework,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* its decision 15/11 of 19 December 2022 on the Gender Plan of Action, in which the Conference of the Parties requested capacity-building and development activities to support the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action,

*Noting* the continued relevance of activities arising from its decisions VIII/6 of 31 March 2006, IX/32 of 30 May 2008, X/18 of 29 October 2010, XIII/22 of 17 December 2016 and 15/14,

*Recognizing* that, despite progress in communication and public awareness, insufficient work has been undertaken on strengthening education [to support the transformative changes needed] to implement the Framework and recognizing also the need for capacity-building and development in that area,

*Recognizing also* that developing countries face significant challenges in the implementation of the Framework and the development of actions for communication, education and public awareness and that [the provision of adequate resources] [adequate resourcing] is necessary [, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention],

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 15/4, annex.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 15/14, annex.

1. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary, Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant organizations and stakeholders to continue to implement activities arising from its decisions VIII/6, IX/32, X/18 and 15/14, as relevant;

[2. *Welcomes* the [suggested] [additional] actions to align the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as set out in the annex to the present decision;]

3. [Requests] [Encourages] Parties to develop and implement actions at the national level, as appropriate, taking into account [the legislative framework,] cultural [differences] [and context] and other relevant national circumstances, capabilities and priorities [of each country], to align the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness with the Framework, as set out in the annex to the present decision[, including the global plan of action on education], and to include information in this regard in their national reports;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization[, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services] [and the International Union for Conservation of Nature] [to develop] [to contribute to the development of] a global plan of action for education on biodiversity, encompassing formal and informal education[, including goals, activities, timelines, indicative resource requirements and possible partners][, in order to support the transformative changes needed to implement the Framework];

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to collaborate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization[, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,] [the International Union for Conservation of Nature,] relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth representatives on developing a global plan of action for education on biodiversity, encompassing formal and informal education, as referred to in paragraph 4 above, and submit such a plan for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting to be held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

6. *Invites* Parties and relevant international organizations in a position to do so to provide resources, as appropriate, including to support capacity-building and development, for communication, education and public awareness activities at all levels;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To implement, in consultation with the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, the actions to align the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness with the Framework[, as contained in the annex to the present decision];

(b) To submit a progress report on the implementation of the actions to align the programme of work with the Framework, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting to be held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting; and to keep this topic under review at the eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) To continue to implement the communications strategy to support the implementation of the Framework and facilitate the mobilization of the resources required;

8. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations in a position to do so to provide support, including financial support, to the Executive Secretary and Parties for the continued implementation of the communications strategy.

**[Annex\*]****Suggested actions to align the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

1. The actions set out below are designed to contribute to the alignment of the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular paragraph 7 (o) of section C, section K and Targets 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23. They are to be implemented in a manner consistent with and complementary to:

(a) The activities in the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness, as outlined in decisions VIII/6, IX/32, X/18 and XIII/22 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) The communications strategy to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision 15/14;

(c) All efforts to be made to facilitate the provision of adequate support to developing countries for implementing actions.

**I. Section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (considerations for the implementation of the Framework)****Formal and informal education**

2. Paragraph 7 (o) of section C reads as follows:

Implementation of the Framework requires transformative, innovative and transdisciplinary education, formal and informal, at all levels, including science-policy interface studies and lifelong learning processes, recognizing diverse world views, values and knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities.

3. As paragraph 7 (o) of section C and paragraph 22 (f) of section K of the Framework contain similar provisions, the actions associated with those provisions are identical and have been set out in paragraphs 43 to 45 below.

**II. Section K of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (communication, education, awareness and uptake)****1. Section K, paragraph 22 (a)**

4. Paragraph 22 (a) of section K reads as follows:

Increasing awareness, understanding and appreciation of the knowledge systems, diverse values of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services and traditional knowledge and world views of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as of biodiversity's contribution to sustainable development.

**(a) Rationale and explanation**

5. The implementation of the Framework and the transformative change that it seeks to facilitate require awareness, understanding and appreciation of multiple knowledge systems, as well as the diverse values of biodiversity across society. The knowledge and world views of indigenous peoples and local communities are crucial.

6. Explaining the role of biodiversity and the Framework in supporting both the intrinsic value of biodiversity and the wide range of nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem services,

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\* The present annex was prepared by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation with the support of the Secretariat following the first reading of the agenda item. It was not reviewed by the Subsidiary Body.

which are also critical to achieving sustainable development, is key to advancing the Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals in a synergetic manner.

**(b) Actions by the Executive Secretary**

7. The Executive Secretary is to work with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and its associated organizations, among other entities, to develop open-source knowledge products, consistent with relevant provisions governing access and benefit-sharing, which explain the relationship and variety of knowledge systems that capture the diverse values of biodiversity.

8. The Executive Secretary is to work with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Education Sector of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other actors involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on developing products that outline the relationship between sustainable development and biodiversity, while taking into account any relevant findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and report on those products at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

9. The Executive Secretary is to facilitate the translation of those products into the six official languages of the United Nations and disseminate them through the clearing-house mechanism, thereby informing Parties and stakeholder about their availability.

**(c) Actions by Parties**

10. Using the products created with the support of the Executive Secretary, Parties, as appropriate to their national circumstances, are encouraged to engage with:

(a) Departments of education to promote the incorporation of those products in educational curricula, as appropriate, and work with universities and other educational institutions to mainstream the core ideas into relevant post-secondary educational programmes, which would include integration with the activities listed under section 6 below;

(b) Media and other actors, using the platforms developed through actions described in section 5 below, to create products and media works that promote the knowledge systems and diverse values of biodiversity.

11. Parties may wish to report on these outputs in their national reports.

**(d) Actions by stakeholders**

12. Stakeholders are encouraged to produce information products and initiatives that support relevant actions at the national level.

**2. Section K, paragraph 22 (b)**

13. Paragraph 22 (b) of section K reads as follows:

Increasing awareness on the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and of the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources for sustainable development, including improving sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication efforts, and its overall contribution to global and/or national sustainable development strategies.

**(a) Rationale and explanation**

14. The Framework was developed in complementarity with existing work on the Sustainable Development Goals and highlights the contribution of actions taken to meet the three objectives of

the Convention to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>4</sup> An increased awareness of those linkages will therefore be beneficial to actions in all spheres.

**(b) Actions by the Executive Secretary**

15. In collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank Group and other actors that are working towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and poverty eradication, the Executive Secretary is to facilitate an exchange of information on relevant communication campaigns in order to reinforce mutual messages, including for the International Day for Biological Diversity, meant to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

**(c) Actions by Parties**

16. Parties are encouraged to participate in the communications campaign organized at the international level with the goal of highlighting how activities under national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other actions would support sustainable development, including through the presentation of examples of the contribution of biodiversity to poverty alleviation efforts and sustainable livelihoods at the national level.

17. Communications efforts should include the contribution of sustainable development practices, poverty alleviation strategies and improvement of livelihoods and sustainable development.

18. Parties are encouraged to take actions at the national level consistent with national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

**(d) Actions by stakeholders**

19. Stakeholders are invited to participate in the communications campaign at the national and international levels, including by organizing events and producing information materials.

**3. Section K, paragraph 22 (c)**

20. Paragraph 22 (c) of section K reads as follows:

Raising awareness among all sectors and actors of the need for urgent action to implement the Framework, while enabling their active engagement in the implementation and monitoring of progress towards the achievement of its goals and targets.

**(a) Rationale and explanation**

21. Paragraph 22 (c) of section K provides the variety of actors involved in the achievement of goals and targets with a justification for the development of communications-related actions and products.

22. Communications efforts are linked with behavioural change.

23. The actions to be taken provide a rationale for the development of tools that communicate the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets, which are to be aligned with the Framework.

**(b) Actions by the Executive Secretary**

24. The Executive Secretary, working with relevant international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth organizations, is to develop communications guidelines for each of the goals and targets. With regard to the goals, the Executive Secretary is to create overall messages to provide a communications matrix for the variety of groups involved in

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

achieving the goals. With regard to the targets, the Executive Secretary is to develop communications guidelines that indicate the groups that are to be engaged and establish indicative messaging for each group.

25. The Executive Secretary is to facilitate the translation of the communications guidelines into the six official languages of the United Nations and their posting on the clearing-house mechanism, thereby informing Parties and stakeholders about their availability. The Executive Secretary is to report on this subject at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**(c) Actions by Parties**

26. Parties may wish to develop, as appropriate, national communications plans for raising awareness of the need to implement and monitor the Framework with the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth. Parties should disseminate the plans to relevant stakeholders.

27. Parties are encouraged to strive to ensure, as appropriate, that the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans is aligned with the communications plans and informed by the communications guidelines developed by the Executive Secretary.

**(d) Actions by stakeholders**

28. Stakeholders are invited to use the communications guidelines developed by the Executive Secretary and those developed as part of national communications plans in the context of their own activities and campaigns and in their engagement, as appropriate, in the creation and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

**4. Section K, paragraph 22 (d)**

29. Paragraph 22 (d) of section K reads as follows:

Facilitating understanding of the Framework, including by targeted communication, adapting the language used, level of complexity and thematic content to relevant groups of actors, considering their socioeconomic and cultural context, including by developing material that can be translated into indigenous and local languages.

**(a) Rationale and explanation**

30. The provision cited above reflects a recognition of the need for communication to be tailored and suited to specific groups and the importance of the languages of indigenous peoples and local communities.

31. The present section reflects the actions and activities under the communications strategy to support the implementation of the Framework, as outlined in the annex to decision 15/14.

**(b) Actions by the Executive Secretary**

32. The Executive Secretary is to continue to implement the communications strategy and produce information products and initiatives, including messages and branding, communications channels and partnerships.

**(c) Actions by Parties**

33. Using, inter alia, messages, branding and communications channels created by the Executive Secretary, as outlined in decision 15/14, Parties are encouraged to implement, as appropriate, national communications strategies along with their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and provide information thereon to the Executive Secretary.

**(d) Actions by stakeholders**

34. The messages, branding and communications materials created by the Executive Secretary, as outlined in decision 15/14, will be used to support national communications-related actions by stakeholders and relevant reporting mechanisms.

## **5. Section K, paragraph 22 (e)**

35. Paragraph 22 (e) of section K reads as follows:

Promoting or developing platforms, partnerships and action agendas, including with media, civil society and educational institutions, including academia, to share information on successes, lessons learned and experiences and to allow for adaptive learning and participation in acting for biodiversity.

### **(a) Rationale and explanation**

36. Contributions that will support implementation of actions taken pursuant to paragraph 22 (e) are meant to be carried out by multiple actors, both governmental and non-governmental, which would require partnerships and work across various networks;

### **(b) Actions by the Executive Secretary**

37. The Executive Secretary is to further develop the communications actions related to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming and Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People and, to the extent possible, other tools and instruments that record and track stakeholder commitments and link those actions to overall communications objectives.

38. The Executive Secretary is to continue to develop the partnerships needed to implement the communications strategy, including through media partnerships, the Biodiversity Communications Flotilla, the Department of Global Communications of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme.

### **(c) Actions by Parties**

39. Using the principles for partnership outlined in decision 15/14 and linking them to activities carried out by the Executive Secretary, Parties may wish to implement communications partnerships for communication at the national level, linking them to national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to report thereon, as relevant, to the Executive Secretary.

### **(d) Actions by stakeholders**

40. Stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth organizations, are invited to participate at the international level, including through initiatives organized by the Executive Secretary, such as the Biodiversity Communications Flotilla, and at the national level.

## **6. Section K, paragraph 22 (f)**

41. Paragraph 22 (f) of section K reads as follows:

Integrating transformative education on biodiversity into formal, non-formal and informal educational programmes, promoting curriculum on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in educational institutions, and promoting knowledge, attitudes, values, behaviours and lifestyles that are consistent with living in harmony with nature.

### **(a) Rationale and explanation**

42. The transformative change that the Framework demands requires a transformation of education through the incorporation of biodiversity and its sustainable use and the promotion of the knowledge, attitudes, values, behaviours and lifestyles needed to achieve the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

**(b) Actions by the Executive Secretary**

43. The Executive Secretary is to collaborate on the development of a global plan of action for education on biodiversity, encompassing formal and informal education, as described in paragraph 5 of decision 16/–, and to submit the plan at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, to be held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Executive Secretary is to implement, or facilitate the implementation of, components of the plan in accordance with the mandate and responsibilities of the Secretariat.

**(c) Actions by Parties**

44. Parties may wish to adapt and incorporate the action plan, as appropriate, into national planning, including into overall educational strategies. They may also wish to report on the results of that effort at the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

**(d) Actions by stakeholders**

45. Relevant actors in the spheres of formal, non-formal and informal education, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth organizations are invited to adapt the concepts presented in the action plan and incorporate them in their own work.

**7. Section K, paragraph 22 (g)**

46. Paragraph 22 (g) of section K reads as follows:

Raising awareness on the critical role of science, technology and innovation to strengthen scientific and technical capacities to monitor biodiversity, address knowledge gaps and develop innovative solutions to improve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**(a) Rationale and explanation**

47. The Framework demands a mobilization of science and technology and data in the service of better outcomes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Greater awareness of the role of and the possibilities offered by science and technology is needed.

**(b) Actions by the Executive Secretary**

48. The Executive Secretary is to work with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services[, the International Union for Conservation of Nature], the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant actors active in the science and technology sphere to identify the key science and technology developments that will contribute to better biodiversity outcomes. The Executive Secretary is to create a communications campaign that highlights and promotes those developments to media and other knowledge entities.

**(c) Actions by Parties**

49. Parties are encouraged to participate, as appropriate, in the communications campaign through the presentation of national examples of science and technology that contribute to better biodiversity outcomes, including examples from the social sciences. They are also encouraged to mobilize the ministries responsible for science and technology to promote those examples and to collaborate with the ministries responsible for the environment and natural resources and other relevant ministries.

**(d) Actions by stakeholders**

50. Stakeholders are invited to support international and national communications campaigns through the promotion of examples of science and technology that contribute to better biodiversity

outcomes. Stakeholders should collaborate with ministries of science and technology and ministries responsible for the environment and natural resources.

### **III. Targets 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23**

51. While communication, education and public awareness are important for all targets of the Framework, the targets listed below have particular relevance.

#### **1. Target 9**

52. Target 9 reads as follows:

Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

#### **Rationale and explanation**

53. Increasing visibility of the social, economic and environmental benefits of biodiversity promotes the uptake of practices aimed at the protection and sustainable management and use of wild species, as well as the positive impacts of those practices, especially for people in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity. Enhancing awareness and appreciation of the customary use by indigenous and local communities is essential for encouraging the maintenance of sustainable practices.

54. Communication activities related to Target 9 could enhance the understanding of the social, economic and environmental benefits for the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions, including by contributing to poverty alleviation efforts.

#### **2. Target 10**

55. Target 10 reads as follows:

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity-friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

#### **Rationale and explanation**

56. Providing information to industrial actors and stakeholders on the impacts of agricultural, aquacultural, fisheries and forestry practices on biodiversity enables them to make informed decisions on their activities that may affect biodiversity. Such information can facilitate the transition of those practices to sustainable production and help to achieve Target 10.

#### **3. Target 15**

57. Target 15 reads as follows:

Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

(a) Regularly monitor, assess and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios;

(b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;

(c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable;

in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

#### **Rationale and explanation**

[58. Making information available to consumers, businesses and investors on the impacts of business practices on biodiversity can help to ensure that production is sustainable and does not harm biodiversity and to empower people to make more informed decisions about business practices, investment choices and their relationship with consumer behaviour. This, in turn, can help to drive the transformation of business practices as well as the demand for products with fewer negative impacts and help to achieve Target 15. Such information should be co-created by the Executive Secretary and relevant organizations and stakeholders.]

[58.alt Recognizing the importance of the sustainable use of biodiversity, Parties and stakeholders are encouraged to study, exchange and disseminate information on production processes and the use of new technologies that contribute to a more sustainable use of biodiversity to help to achieve Target 15.]

#### **4. Target 16**

59. Target 16 reads as follows:

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices, including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

#### **Rationale and explanation**

60. Target 16 calls for measures to be put in place to encourage people to make more sustainable consumption choices so that the global footprint of consumption is reduced in an equitable manner, global food waste is halved and, in general, overconsumption and waste generation are significantly reduced.

61. Target 16 represents an important operationalization of the dynamic of awareness-raising and behavioural change, a cornerstone of work on communication, education and public awareness.

[62. In order to make more sustainable choices, consumers need to be enabled and encouraged to do so. From a communications perspective, Target 16 requires education on and access to relevant and accurate information on alternatives.]

[62.alt Recognizing the importance of sustainable consumption, Parties and stakeholders are encouraged to improve education on that subject, taking into account the relevant policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks at the global, national and subnational levels.]

[63. Target 16 requires communication on the ways in which people can change behaviour in order to address: (a) the global footprint of consumption; (b) halving global food waste; and (c) waste generation.]

## 5. Target 21

64. Target 21 reads as follows:

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.

### Rationale and explanation

65. One objective under Target 21 is to ensure that the best available biodiversity data, information and knowledge, including the knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities, are readily available to decision makers and other relevant actors in order to support informed biodiversity policy, planning and decision-making processes, as well as for monitoring, reviewing and reporting progress on implementation.

66. Biodiversity data, information and knowledge are essential elements for effective communication, awareness and education measures. Understanding, awareness and appreciation of the diverse values of biodiversity underpin the willingness of individuals to make the necessary changes and engage in the necessary actions and enhance the “political will” of Governments and other actors to take action.

## 6. Target 22

67. Target 22 reads as follows:

Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

### Rationale and explanation

68. Communicating the importance of ensuring access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, the representation and participation of women in decision-making and the protection of environmental human rights defenders will help to ensure achievement of Target 22.

## 7. Target 23

69. Target 23 reads as follows:

Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

**Rationale and explanation**

70. It is important to communicate the reality that, in many countries, gender roles influence the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by affecting the ability of women to participate in decision-making and have access to and control land, biological resources and other productive assets. Considering gender dimensions in biodiversity-related decision-making can lead to positive outcomes for biodiversity and gender equality.]

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