

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Fifteenth meeting – Part II  
Montreal, Canada, 7-19 December 2022  
**WORKING GROUP II**  
Agenda item 23

**Biodiversity and climate change**

**Draft decision submitted by the Chair**

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*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recognizing* that biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and ecosystem degradation are inseparable and interdependent challenges of unprecedented severity that must be coherently and consistently addressed, urgently and in an integrated manner, in order to achieve the goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>1</sup> as well as the voluntary land degradation neutrality targets under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, among other relevant regional initiatives,

*Deeply concerned* about the increasing impacts of climate change exacerbating biodiversity loss and weakening the delivery of crucial ecosystem functions and services,

*Acknowledging* that, while limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as compared to a 2°C rise or higher, is not sufficient to halt the loss of biodiversity, it would significantly reduce biodiversity loss,

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

*Recognizing* that ecosystem-based approaches are a major approach adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and currently under implementation by the Parties to address climate change and enhance disaster risk reduction,

*Recalling* that the United Nations Environment Assembly<sup>2</sup> has decided that “nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits”,

*Recalling also* that the United Nations Environment Assembly has recognized that “nature-based solutions may contribute significantly to climate action, while recognizing the need for analysis of their effects, including in the long term, and acknowledging that they do not replace the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but can improve action for adaptation and resilience to and mitigation of climate change and its impact,”

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.5

*Emphasizing* that, while climate change should primarily be mitigated by reducing anthropogenic emissions, the enhanced use of [nature-based solutions and/or] ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction is also indispensable to achieving multiple globally agreed goals, including the goals of the Paris Agreement,

[*Noting* that nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches are essential to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,]

*Recalling* decisions [VII/15](#), [IX/16](#), [X/33](#), [XI/19](#), [XII/20](#), [XIII/4](#), and [14/5](#), and, in particular, the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

1. *Welcomes* the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Encourages* Parties to consider, as appropriate, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, taking into consideration United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 for their mitigation and adaptation action while ensuring relevant social and environmental safeguards;

3. *Welcomes* the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: (a) *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty (SR1.5)*,<sup>4</sup> (b) *IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems (SRCCL)*,<sup>5</sup> and (c) *IPCC special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate (SROCC)*,<sup>6</sup> and the contributions of the three Working Groups to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;<sup>7</sup>

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change and its implications for the work of the Convention contained in the note by the Executive Secretary,<sup>8</sup>

5. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including productive sectors, to promote and upscale the use of [nature-based solutions and/or] ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including ecosystem protection and restoration, and ecosystem management, including agroecosystems, and taking into account their potential for synergies for addressing biodiversity loss and climate change while providing multiple benefits, including for human health, poverty alleviation and sustainable development, as well as their ability to avoid unfavourable tradeoffs between climate change adaptation and mitigation, and biodiversity conservation;

6. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national legislation as well as with international obligations, to mainstream [nature-based solutions [and/or] ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction in the implementation of existing, new and updated Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans, and other planning, and reporting processes, as appropriate;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/home/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

<sup>8</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/23/3.

7. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in accordance with national legislation, when designing and implementing climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction measures, including [nature-based solutions and/or] ecosystem-based approaches, taking into consideration national circumstances:

(a) To make use of the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction,<sup>9</sup> as well as other tools and guidance developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international instruments;

(b) To identify and maximize potential synergies and promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts on biodiversity, and communities that are directly dependent on biodiversity;

[8. *Recognizes* that global strategies adopted to address biodiversity and climate change must take into account common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;]

9. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and *invites* other Governments, financial institutions, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector:

(a) To scale up investments [from all sources, especially from developed to developing country Parties,] for [nature-based solutions and/or] ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, including conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration, including providing financial support to enable implementation in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, also taking into consideration the special situation of developing countries including those who are most environmentally vulnerable such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas;

(b) To mainstream [nature-based solutions and/or] ecosystem-based approaches in relevant sectoral policies and budgets according to national priorities;

(c) To consider synergies between biodiversity, climate change and land degradation financing mechanisms;

10. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the productive, private and financial sectors, to consider the potential opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change and biodiversity loss, including through the use of [nature-based solutions and/or] ecosystem-based approaches, as appropriate, with a view to reducing risk to these sectors and to facilitate coordinated actions to promote sustainable resource management;

11. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to consider the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction,<sup>10</sup>

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, including when supporting activities under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to promote synergies and closer cooperation among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, the Rio conventions, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,<sup>11</sup> the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the New Urban Agenda,<sup>12</sup> and other relevant organizations and

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<sup>9</sup> Adopted in decision 14/5 and published with complementary information in *CBD Technical Series No. 93*, available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Adopted in decision 14/5 and published with complementary information in *CBD Technical Series No. 93*, available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

processes to enhance integrated approaches to addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and land and ocean degradation;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding duplication of efforts, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and processes, in particular the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, indigenous peoples and local communities, and stakeholders:

(a) To provide and develop, as appropriate, guidance on ways and means to address threats to ecosystems impacted by climate change, ecosystems with high mitigation and adaptation potential, and communities that directly depend on ecosystem functions and services, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and to submit a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) To facilitate capacity-building and development for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, also taking into consideration the special situation of developing countries including those who are most environmentally vulnerable such as those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas, to increase awareness and understanding of [nature-based solutions and/or] ecosystem-based approaches, as a complement to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020;

(c) To support the initiatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in accordance with national legislation on community-based monitoring and information systems for biodiversity and climate change, taking into account customary sustainable use of biodiversity and traditional knowledge;

14. *Appreciates* the continued collaboration and further development of synergies between the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions or its successor and other relevant bodies under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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