



# Convention on Biological Diversity

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## Subsidiary Body on Implementation

### Fourth meeting

Nairobi, 21–29 May 2024

Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

### Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

## Report of activities concerning cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives\*\*

Note by the Secretariat

### I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to previous practice, the present note provides information on cooperative activities undertaken by the Secretariat with other conventions, international organizations, initiatives and partnerships that contribute to work under the Convention, since July 2021.<sup>1</sup> It is supplementary to document CBD/SBI/4/10 and aims to highlight key collaborative arrangements and initiatives but is not an exhaustive account of the cooperative actions of and involving the Secretariat. It also reports reciprocal or supportive actions by other intergovernmental bodies and organizations. Information on specific collaborative arrangements is provided under related agenda items, for example issues related to knowledge management, capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation are included in documents related to item 5 of the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting.<sup>2</sup> Cooperation activities under the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols will be presented to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fifth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting.<sup>3</sup>

### II. Cooperation with other Conventions

2. This section contains a report on cooperation with and among other conventions, including actions undertaken by the secretariats and the governing bodies of the conventions as well as in the context of several cooperation mechanisms.

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\* CBD/SBI/4/1.

\*\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

<sup>1</sup> Cooperation activities for the previous cycle were reported to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting in June 2021 in document CBD/SBI/3/INF/31.

<sup>2</sup> CBD/SBI/4/7, CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.1, CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.2, CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.3, CBD/SBI/4/INF/3 and CBD/SBI/4/INF/9.

<sup>3</sup> The Executive Secretary provided an update on cooperative activities between the Secretariat and other conventions, international organizations and initiatives relevant to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in CBD/NP/MOP/4/8, and of the Cartagena Protocol in CBD/CP/MOP/10/8.

## **A. Biodiversity-related conventions**

### **1. Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions**

3. The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions met online on 9 February 2022, 12 September 2022, 1 December 2022 and 30 August 2023 and in-person at the margins of the Bern III Conference. The Liaison Group brings together the Secretariats of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the International Plant Protection Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the International Whaling Commission. It provides opportunity to foster synergies and cooperation among these multilateral environmental agreements and to inform other conventions about the latest developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

4. The aforementioned online meetings focused on the preparations for and follow-up actions on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. There is a shared understanding that the Framework is taken as a reference by many multilateral environmental agreements and work is underway to identify how the various conventions can contribute to it through their own processes, including by reporting against the goals and targets of the Framework. During the meetings of the Liaison Group, the Secretariat updated other members about the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with a view to enable discussions on the contribution of other conventions to the Framework within their own processes.

5. The Liaison Group exchanged information on items related to cooperation among the conventions and provided updates on relevant developments within each process. It was agreed to prepare and deliver joint statements at various intergovernmental meetings, when relevant, and organize joint side events in key meetings. Accordingly, several joint statements and events have been delivered. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species delivered a joint statement<sup>4</sup> on behalf of the Liaison Group at the opening session of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 7 December 2022. The statement stressed how synergies among multilateral environmental agreements in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework can be best reflected by engaging the different national focal points to each convention in updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

6. Joint statements on behalf of the Liaison Group were delivered at the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 to 29 March 2022 and during Part 1 of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China from 11 to 15 October 2021.

7. The Liaison Group organized a joint side event at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 14 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada. The event brought together representatives of the Conventions and Parties, highlighting the importance of fostering synergies in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework including at national level. Another joint side event was held at the third Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held from 14 to 29 March 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

8. Beyond the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity informed other members about developments related to the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators and the establishment of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under the Global Environment Facility. There was a particular interest from other multilateral environmental

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<sup>4</sup> [www.cms.int/en/news/cbd-cop15-opening-statement-cms-executive-secretary-behalf-liaison-group-biodiversity-related](http://www.cms.int/en/news/cbd-cop15-opening-statement-cms-executive-secretary-behalf-liaison-group-biodiversity-related).

agreements to be better involved in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to facilitate synergies across conventions at national level.

## **2. Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)**

9. The forty-fifth extended session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Riyadh from 10 to 25 September 2023. In the margins of the meeting, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity delivered a statement during the side event “How to Leverage World Heritage to Meet the Biodiversity Challenge of the Decade”, where it was stressed how the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting called on the governing bodies of all related organizations and conventions to endorse the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and take measures to contribute to its implementation and its monitoring, according to their respective mandates. In its decision 45 COM 7.2, the World Heritage Committee requested Parties to fully harness the World Heritage Convention in supporting the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through effective collaboration among convention focal points, and by integrating World Heritage-related objectives within their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

10. In the aforementioned decision, the World Heritage Committee also requested the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to identify and develop coordinated actions on World Heritage and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including specific guidance on how the World Heritage Convention might contribute to the aims of the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, subject to the availability of resources, and to integrate reporting on progress regarding contributions of World Heritage to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Committee’s item on Sustainable Development.

11. In 2023, in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Heritage Centre published the report “World Heritage: a unique contribution to biodiversity conservation”<sup>5</sup>, which provides some initial information on how to integrate world heritage in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, also considering the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **3. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

12. In its decisions 19.11 to 19.14, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species established an intersessional process to determine how the Convention can contribute to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework. In its decision 19.11, the Conference of the Parties directed that the Secretariat should undertake a comparative analysis in order to illustrate the linkages between the Convention’s Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and highlight areas of alignment with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as a starting point for an assessment of how the Convention can contribute to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework, make recommendations for additional actions as appropriate, and present its analysis to the Animals and Plants Committees.

13. By its working document SC77 Doc. 16, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species presented the Standing Committee at its seventy-seventh session with a revised version of the mapping of the Convention’s Strategic Vision’s objectives against the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework, which included comments received from Parties after the first draft was submitted to the Plants Committee at its twenty-sixth meeting and the Animals Committee at its thirty-second meeting.

<sup>5</sup> <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385392>.

14. The mapping exercise showcased alignments between the Convention's Strategic Vision objectives and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Based on the mapping the most relevant goals and targets were suggested as follows: Goals A and D, and targets 4, 5, 9, 10, 20 and 21. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species can also contribute to reporting on Target 9 headline indicator "Number of countries with legal instruments to regulate the use and trade of wild species, and respecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities", as well as on the two complementary indicators for Target 5 (proportion of legal and illegal wildlife trade consisting of species threatened with extinction) and "Illegal trade by CITES species classification" and on the component indicator for Target 4: "Conservation status of species listed in the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved".

15. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the seventy-seventh session of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, held in Geneva from 6 to 10 November 2023. In his statement to the Standing Committee, the Acting Executive Secretary emphasized that the effective implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species contributes to the achievements of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. On the alignment between the Framework and the Strategic Vision, he noted the interlinkages relating to sustainable use, human-wildlife conflict, finance, data, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth. He added that in its requirements for Non-detriment Findings and Legal Acquisition Findings, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species provides important tools and experience to support Target 5 of the Framework, requiring the harvesting, trade and use of wild species to be sustainable, safe and legal.

16. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, held in Panama City, Panama, from 14 to 25 November 2022. The Secretariat informed the process on issues relevant to its work and made interventions including on sustainable wildlife trade and in the context of the preliminary analysis undertaken by the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to identify areas of alignment between its Strategic Vision and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

#### **4. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

17. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species held its fourteenth meeting from 12 to 17 February 2024 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the High-Level Segment that preceded the Conference on 11 February, speaking in session 2, "Multilateral linkages with cooperation in Central Asia". During the session, participants noted the value of building on linkages between the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on Biological Diversity, while underlying the opportunities presented by the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund recently established under the Global Environment Facility. During the Conference, the Acting Executive Secretary also delivered a statement stressing the importance to ensure effective coordination between the two conventions, including through the respective focal points at national level, for the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

18. Following the coordination efforts between the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including in the context of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Bern process, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species at its fourteenth meeting:

- Invited the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements to consider and advise on ways and means of more coherently addressing the conservation and sustainable use of animal species in the Convention

on Biological Diversity processes, including in relation to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.18.1, paragraph 18);

- Urged the Convention on Migratory Species National Focal Points to work closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity National Focal Points, to ensure that actions to conserve migratory species are reflected when updating their NBSAPs, as well as in their other activities to implement the programmes of work under CBD (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.17, paragraph 7);
- Requested the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to strengthen their cooperation in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other mandates (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.17, paragraph 9).

## **5. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands)**

19. The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was held in Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland from 5 to 13 November 2022. The Secretariat attended and participated in side events, including those organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the World Wildlife Fund. On 22 March 2023, during the United Nations Water Conference, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands held a joint press conference to highlight coordination between the two secretariats for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Ramsar Strategic Plan.

20. In the context of decision III/21 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and pursuant to the Convention on Wetlands Resolution XIV.6, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have worked to prepare the sixth Joint Work Plan<sup>6</sup> of the two Conventions. The sixth Joint Work Plan seeks to enhance the conservation, restoration, and sustainable/wise use of wetlands by aligning objectives and actions under the two Conventions, towards the full achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Secretariat issued notification 2024-011<sup>7</sup> to collect views from Parties and observers on the draft Joint Work Plan.

## **6. International Plant Protection Convention**

21. In its decision 15/27 on invasive alien species, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited the International Plant Protection Convention, within the scope of its mandates, to support the national implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with regard to targets and actions related to invasive alien species, including their monitoring and reporting, and requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue collaboration with the International Plant Protection Convention. In response to this request, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated virtually in the international workshop on pest risk mitigation of sea containers and their cargoes and the facilitation of international trade - defining the way forward, held in Brisbane, Australia from 17 to 19 July 2023. The Secretariat made a presentation on Target 6 of the Framework and presented the relevance of its work on invasive alien species in the context of cleanliness of sea containers and their cargoes.

22. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures held its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions in Rome from 27 to 31 March 2023 and from 15 to 19 April 2024, respectively. The report of the Secretariat to the eighteenth session was made available to the Commission in document [CPM 2024/INF/17](#).<sup>8</sup> The Commission did not formally discuss the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2024/6JWP-draft-for-review-en.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2024-011>.

<sup>8</sup> The report submitted by the Secretariat to the 17th session was not published.

Framework at these sessions. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the eighteenth session. At its eighteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention to continue to engage in the Bern Process and report to the Commission at its next session<sup>9</sup>. The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 “protecting global plant resources and facilitating safe trade” was adopted by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures at its fifteenth session in April 2021. The Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Plant Protection Convention are in the process of updating their cooperation agreement. In addition to their bilateral cooperation on the issue of invasive alien species, they cooperate in the context of the Interagency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.

## 7. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

23. The relationship between the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity is established in the text of the Treaty (Article 1). The preamble to the Nagoya Protocol also underlines the importance of the Treaty. Accordingly, cooperation between the secretariats of the two instruments is extensive and the cooperative work is acknowledged by the respective decision-making bodies.

24. Two sessions of the Governing Body of the International Treaty have been held since July 2021 – the ninth session was held in New Delhi, India in September 2022 while the tenth session was held in Rome, Italy in November 2023. The Secretariat of the Convention submitted reports on cooperation with the Treaty to both meetings<sup>10</sup> and participated in the tenth session of the Governing Body. Among other things, the Acting Executive Secretary made remarks during the opening ceremony of the tenth session of the Governing Body, highlighting the close connections and history of the Convention and the Treaty as well as key elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

25. At its tenth session, the Governing Body adopted numerous resolutions of relevance to work under the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, including resolution 1/2023 on “The role of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Global Biodiversity Framework” and resolution 13/2023 on “Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity”. In resolution 1/2023, the Governing Body welcomed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and highlighted its full relevance to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. It invited Parties to the Treaty to coordinate at the national level on implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Treaty. In resolution 13/2023, the Governing Body emphasized the importance of maintaining cooperation, complementarity and coherence as well as avoiding duplication between the International Treaty and the Convention, and with other biodiversity-related conventions, in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. It also took note of the Bern Process on cooperation and coordination among Parties of the biodiversity-related conventions and its contribution to the effective and efficient implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

26. The Secretariat of the Treaty and the Secretariat of the Convention are also in the process of renewing their memorandum of cooperation.

## 8. Chemicals and waste conventions

### (a) Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions and Minamata Convention on Mercury

27. In 2021, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury prepared a joint study entitled “Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity”<sup>11</sup>, which

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/93310/>.

<sup>10</sup> See IT/GB-9/22/16.1/Inf.1 and IT/GB-10/23/16.3/Inf.1.

<sup>11</sup> Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions (BRS), and the Minamata Convention on Mercury (MC), May 2021, “Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity: key insights”,

was forwarded to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with an invitation to bring the study to the attention of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The study was brought to the attention of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting by documents CBD/COP/15/14 and CBD/COP/15/INF/13.

28. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held in Bali, Indonesia from 21 to 25 March 2022. In its decision MC-4/12, on international cooperation and coordination, the Conference of the Parties took note of the study and requested the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the convention could contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting. The study explores the interlinkages between chemicals and waste and biodiversity and how, by promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the services provided by ecosystems. The study also assesses the relationship of the four conventions with the subjects addressed by the Convention on Biological Diversity, biodiversity-related conventions, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

29. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held in Geneva, from 30 October to 3 November 2023. By its decision MC-5/17, the Conference of the Parties recognized that mercury pollution impacts ecosystems as a direct driver and underlying cause of global loss of biodiversity, and that parties, through the implementation of the Convention, can significantly contribute to global efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. The Conference of the Parties also noted the absence in the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of indicators regarding the overall risk from highly hazardous chemicals and invited the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider additional indicators, under target 7, to cover highly hazardous chemicals and mercury. The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention requested the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to bring the content of the aforementioned decision to the attention of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

30. In its decision MC-5/7 on artisanal and small-scale gold mining, the Conference of the Parties noted the critical importance of full implementation of article 7 of the Minamata Convention on artisanal and small-scale gold mining, to achieving the objective of the Convention and to contributing to the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

31. The concurrent meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were held in 2021/2022 from 26 to 30 July 2021 (online segment) and in Geneva, Switzerland, from 6 to 17 June 2022 (face-to-face segment) and in 2023 in Geneva from 1 to 12 May 2023. In their decisions BC-16/22, RC-11/9 and SC-11/21 (2023), the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions<sup>12</sup> welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, reiterated their call to Parties to take into account the objectives of the Framework in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and reiterated their requests to the Secretariat to prepare a report on how the conventions could contribute to the implementation of the 2030 targets and 2050 goals of the Framework.

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<http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-FAO-CHW-RC-POPS-MC-PUB-BiodiversityInterlinkagesKeyInsights.English.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> The “BRS Conventions” are: the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

**(b) Global Framework on Chemicals– For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste<sup>13</sup>**

32. The fifth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5) (2023) adopted a Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste as a new voluntary global framework in the field of international chemicals and waste management, as a successor to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

33. In its resolution V/6, the meeting welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, invited stakeholders to take it into account in their actions to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on interlinkages between the two frameworks identifying entry points for enhancing collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the two frameworks for consideration at its next meeting, at a date and venue to be determined.

**B. The Rio Conventions**

34. This section of the note reports on cooperation among the Rio conventions, being the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. For the purpose of the present report, these conventions will be referred to as Rio Conventions from here below. Reports by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of the Rio Conventions, compiling the reports provided by the three secretariats, were submitted to the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-sixth, seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth sessions<sup>14</sup> (see also the section related to the United Nations General Assembly below).

**1. Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions**

35. At the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the formation of a Joint Liaison Group between the secretariats of the Rio Conventions was endorsed, with the aim to enhance coordination between the three conventions and to explore options for further cooperation.

36. Since 2021, the Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions met through videoconference on a regular basis to exchange information on the work and the processes of the three conventions, the use of online modalities for their meetings, and towards making links between the forthcoming meetings of their Conferences of the Parties and the outreach opportunities these provide, including through a common narrative on the synergies and complementarity between the conventions and to identify joint priority actions for 2022-2024, such as common messaging for each governing body.

37. Since the position of Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been under recruitment, the principals have not met in 2023 and 2024. However, between January 2023 and May 2024, close relations have been maintained through senior officers of the respective secretariats as the Sherpas.

38. Capacity development has been recognized as one of the common focal areas between the three Rio Conventions. The Joint Liaison Group endorsed a “Joint Capacity-Building Programme” between the three Secretariats to strengthen the capacities of domestic policymakers and practitioners to integrate and foster synergies in the implementation of the Rio conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level. The joint programme was launched at a side-event on building capacities for the synergistic implementation of the three Rio Conventions organized on 27 October 2023 in Panama City in the margins of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Climate Change Week. A similar event was organized on 11 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in the margins of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations

<sup>13</sup> This entry on the International Conference on Chemicals Management is placed here in the report given its relevance to the interlinkages between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the chemicals and waste conventions.

<sup>14</sup> [A/76/225](#), [A/77/215](#) and [A/78/209](#).



Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity delivered opening remarks during these side events.

39. Other identified joint priority areas include the development of guidance on complementary target setting for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, supporting the integration of land degradation neutrality and land-based commitments within Nationally-Determined Contributions, contributing to publications of joint interest such as the economics of land degradation, and facilitating the implementation of decision CBD/COP/15/13 on cooperation, as well as the implementation of Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## 2. The Rio Conventions Pavilion

40. The secretariats of the Rio Conventions also coordinated for the organization of the Rio Conventions Pavilion, a collaborative platform, supported also by the Global Environment Facility, which promotes synergies among the Rio conventions at the implementation level and showcases activities that link biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, sustainable land management and efforts to combat desertification, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

41. The Pavilion functions as a joint initiative for the organization and coordination of common actions, such as joint statements or side events at various intergovernmental meetings, highlighting key shared priorities and implementation opportunities across the Rio Conventions. At the twenty-sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held from 31 October to 12 November 2021, in Glasgow, United Kingdom, the Rio Conventions Pavilion organized six events. At the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 20 May 2022, the Rio Conventions Pavilion organized eight side events. At Stockholm +50, held in Stockholm from 2 to 3 June 2022, the Rio Conventions Pavilion organized an event with three panel discussions. At the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 18 November 2022, the Rio Conventions Pavilion hosted four side events. At the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal, Canada from 13 to 18 December 2022, the Rio Conventions Pavilion hosted eleven events. At the twenty-eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023, the Rio Conventions Pavilion delivered a joint statement and facilitated the organization of ten events. In the joint statement, the interlinkages between climate change, desertification and biodiversity were stressed with a view to reinforce cooperation at both national and international levels. Representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated as speakers in most of the aforementioned events.

## 3. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

42. The President of the General Assembly convened an online high-level meeting<sup>15</sup> with the support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on 14 June 2021 and 2 July 2021 to assess the progress made in fighting land degradation and map the way forward on global efforts to revive and restore healthy land. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the session stressing the importance of fostering synergies across the Rio Conventions.

43. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 20 May 2022. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity delivered statements in plenary sessions and participated as a speaker in the

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<sup>15</sup> High-level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, event summary <https://www.un.org/pga/75/2021/07/08/high-level-dialogue-on-desertification-land-degradation-and-drought-10/>

High-level Session on Drought and various side events under the Rio Conventions Pavilion, many of which were organized with the direct support of the Secretariat. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and synergies with the Convention on Biological Diversity were mentioned in several decisions of the Conference of the Parties<sup>16</sup>. The Land, Life and Legacy Declaration<sup>17</sup>, adopted during the meeting, also requested Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

44. Several meetings were held in the margins of the session with regional agencies as well as with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to identify priority areas of collaboration. As a follow-up to the meeting, bilateral videocalls between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including in the context of the G20 Global Land Initiative, were organized to coordinate on issues of common interest and inform on relevant developments within each process. Of particular importance for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is the work of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on assessing global, regional and national trends of land degradation, which was reported to total more than 11.8 million sq. km in 2019 as well as land degradation neutrality target setting that contributes to the implementation of Target 2 of the Framework.

45. The Secretariats of the two Conventions continued to maintain their joint liaison arrangements at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Through the liaison office, the Convention is provided a cost-effective liaison mechanism with the United Nations offices, bodies and processes in New York.

#### **4. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

46. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity played an active role in the twenty-sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including by convening and speaking in various events, including those convened under the Rio Conventions Pavilion. This included also events at the Virtual Ocean Pavilion and the convening of a side event on “Strengthening Synergies through the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Promoting Transformational Change to Restore Balance with Nature”. In total, the Secretariat participated in forty side events, five high-level sessions and several bilateral meetings with representatives from Parties to the Convention, partners, and observers.

47. The Secretariat also participated in the Ocean and Climate Dialogue under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change convened on 15 June 2022, serving as a panellist on “Enabling ocean-climate solutions and optimizing institutional connections”. During the fifty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated as a co-facilitator on the first day of the meeting to set the scene for discussions on the two topics of the dialogue: 1) coastal ecosystem restoration, including blue carbon, and 2) fisheries and food security. A presentation was delivered on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

48. At the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 8 November 2022, the Convention on Biological Diversity was represented by the Executive Secretary, the Deputy Executive Secretary, the Co-Chairs of the post-2020 Open-Ended Working Group, the communications lead and the climate change lead. The Secretariat made use of this gathering to highlight relevant areas of work under the Convention and facilitate dialogue and engagement on the

<sup>16</sup> ICCD Decision 8/COP.15, Decision 13/COP.15, Decision 20/COP.15, [www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/ICCD\\_COP%2815%29\\_23\\_Add.1-2208672E.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/ICCD_COP%2815%29_23_Add.1-2208672E.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Annexed to the Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session, [www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/ICCD\\_COP%2815%29\\_23\\_Add.1-2208672E.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/ICCD_COP%2815%29_23_Add.1-2208672E.pdf)

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It did so by taking speaking roles in numerous side events organized by the Secretariat and partners. Of relevance, the Secretariat organized a side event entitled “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Enhancing Action on Climate and Implementation of the SDGs”, supported the organization of the Biodiversity Day led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Egyptian Presidency of the Conference of the Parties, and liaised with partners for the organization of events at the Rio Conventions Pavilion and the Sustainable Development Goals Pavilion. The Executive Secretary also conducted interviews with the media, including China Dialogue and Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen. Bilateral meetings with Ministers and high-level leaders to discuss key areas of concern in relation to the negotiations on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework were also held at the margins of the Conference.

49. The final cover decision as well as other decisions taken at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties show increasing recognition of the importance of biodiversity in helping to address climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The term ‘nature-based solutions’ was also used in the cover decision. Such increasing attention to biodiversity was supported by the efforts of the Secretariat that supported United Nations-wide planning on ecosystem-based approaches in advance of twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. During the negotiating session, the International Drought Resilience Alliance was launched to increase drought resilience through a more coordinated response and was joined by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

50. In 2022, the Secretariat contributed to the preparation of a technical brief on promoting synergies between climate change adaptation and biodiversity through the National Adaptation Plans and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans processes, together with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Institute for Sustainable Development and German development agency<sup>18</sup>.

51. The Secretariat also attended the fifty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was held on 6-16 June 2022 in Bonn, Germany.

52. In preparation for the twenty-eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity supported strengthening the recognition of the role of biodiversity, also by engaging with the Climate Envoy Team of the United Arab Emirates Presidency and the High-Level Champions during the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties in Sharm El-Sheikh.

53. The twenty-eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change referenced the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in its decision on the outcome of the first global stocktake<sup>19</sup>. The Framework was equally mentioned in the Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People<sup>20</sup>, which furthered the links between climate change and biodiversity, including in relation to loss and damage, oceans and indigenous peoples and local communities.

54. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity also attended the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and participated virtually in the National Adaptation Plan Expo and the seventh International Ecosystem-based Adaptation Community of Practice, including by giving presentations and making interventions as appropriate.

<sup>18</sup> UNFCCC, CBD, IISD, GIZ, UNEP and SwedBio (2022) Promoting synergies between climate change adaptation and biodiversity through the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) processes. Terton, A., Qi, J. and Zúñiga, G. (authors). United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. Bonn.

<sup>19</sup> Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, UNFCCC Decision 1/CMA.5, [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5\\_auv\\_4\\_gst.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Full statement <https://www.cop28.com/en/joint-statement-on-climate-nature>.

55. Collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change goes well beyond the participation in meetings and included contributions on the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, the Global Stocktake, the Global Goal on Adaptation and the National Adaptation Plans Expo.

56. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity also collaborated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in partnership with the United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs in strengthening synergies between the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Further information is available under the section dedicated to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

## **C. Cooperation initiatives among biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant agreements**

### **1. Kronos registration platform**

57. The Secretariat provides access to the use of its meetings registration system, the Kronos platform, to other multilateral environmental agreements and negotiating committees, including the Ozone Secretariat, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution. Kronos is a registration database that was developed in-house by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be used for preregistering and accrediting participants for official meetings and workshops. It is also used for completing the registration process onsite and issuing relevant badges. This system also allows focal points of Parties, other Governments and observers to pre-register their delegations online. The use of a common registration system also strengthens synergies among multilateral environmental agreements and negotiating committees by allowing Parties, other Governments and observers to have easier access to a wide range of meetings following the same standardized registration process.

### **2. Bern III Conference**

58. In its decision 15/13, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

- Invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to build on the Bern Process and continue to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions, contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by facilitating a process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related conventions; (para 13);
- Requested the Executive Secretary and encouraged Parties to actively engage in the Bern process on cooperation among Parties to the various biodiversity-related; (para 14).

59. In response to that request, the Secretariat was involved in the organization of the Bern III Conference, which was held in Bern, Switzerland from 23 to 25 January 2024, to enable discussions among conventions on cooperation in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The conference was convened by UNEP with support from the Government of Switzerland. The 133 conference participants, from 69 countries, included representatives of Parties and secretariats to 16 multilateral environmental agreements, as well as stakeholders, organizations and individual experts.

60. The conference aimed to (a) identify opportunities to strengthen cooperation and collaboration within and among Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions, Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at all appropriate levels, (b) share practical experiences of cooperation and collaboration in implementation, and (c) make recommendations on further steps that could be taken to strengthen cooperation and collaboration, while recognizing and respecting the roles and mandates of each agreement.

61. In preparation for the conference, UNEP convened a Workshop on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in preparation for the Bern III Conference, held in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland from 27 to 30 June 2023. The purpose of the workshop was to explore ideas for a successful Bern III Conference to be held in January 2024. Representatives from eighteen Parties, eight multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature participated in the preparatory workshop. A report<sup>21</sup> was produced and published by UNEP in preparation for the Bern III conference. Two webinars were organized in December 2023 and January 2024 before the Bern III conference to help participants prepare, inform them on key issues likely to be discussed and help build a common understanding. Several key inputs were presented in the webinars and made available on the conference webpage<sup>22</sup>.

62. The Bern III Conference identified key actions as its main outcomes. These included: (a) enhancing cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements, either formally or informally, (b) starting a Bern III chapter at national level bringing together different focal points, (c) contributing effectively as multilateral environmental agreements to the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, (d) enhancing outreach on the benefits of cooperation and synergies, (e) including a standing agenda item at governing body meetings on the contribution of the respective multilateral environmental agreement to implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, when relevant, (f) keeping the Bern III spirit and network alive, (g) proposing a decision at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for an expert group or committee on synergies among Multilateral environmental agreements, (h) using upcoming events, such as the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Rio conventions, as opportunities to enhance collaborative action, (i) identifying potential areas for increased cooperation in supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, (j) considering how to most effectively establish “partners” or “friends” of specific targets or activities in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, (k) seeking to make the mantra “collect once, use many times” more of a reality and (l) considering the most effective ways to review progress on the Bern III roadmap to 2030.

63. The outcomes were presented at the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth meeting. The Bern III Conference report is made available in document CBD/SBI/4/INF/15 to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting.

#### **D. Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative**

64. The Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (InforMEA) is currently co-chaired by UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. InforMEA brings together 22 secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements hosted by 5 United Nations entities and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, in addition to observers and partners, to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of Parties and the environment community at large. The Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative is facilitated by UNEP and financially supported by voluntary contributions of the European Union. The Steering Committee meets annually and provides strategic direction. It also has a Working Group

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Environment Programme (2023), Workshop on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in preparation for the Bern III Conference, available at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/43140>

<sup>22</sup> [www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions](http://www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions)

which meets periodically during the year and is responsible for the technical implementation of projects<sup>23</sup>.

65. Since June 2021, the Secretariat participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meetings, and in several technical working group meetings of the Initiative<sup>24</sup>. During this period, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity actively co-led and participated in several work streams on Akoma Ntoso (developed by the United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs and adopted by the United Nations Chief Executive Board), e-learning platforms, web archiving, taxonomies and ontologies. The Secretariat of the Convention chaired sessions on the introduction of a new common format to store project information, that will enable the proper harvesting and dissemination of project and funding related data.

66. The convening of all multilateral environmental agreements to address knowledge management provides great opportunity to share experiences and resolutions of common issues. At its last Extraordinary Working Group meeting in June 2023, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity introduced participants to its decision tracking tool that tracks the progress of implementation of decisions adopted by its Conference of the Parties. The tool allows users to see, for instance, whether decisions are active, lapsed, superseded, or retired, if they are informational or operational.

67. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity provides relevant data to the Initiative by means of an Application Programming Interface. This means that as soon as the data is uploaded on the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, this information is also available on the Initiative's website. This includes submitted national reports and national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

### **Data Reporting Tool**

68. The Secretariat continued to contribute to the development of the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT). Eight webinars were organized in collaboration with UNEP, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, regional organizations including the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia and the Caribbean Community, as well as the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations. The Secretariat also co-organized the side event "How to use the Data Reporting Tool for increased national collaboration and reporting towards the 2030 targets" at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in collaboration with UNEP, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the European Commission, Cameroon and Switzerland. In collaboration with the United Nations Biodiversity Lab, an initiative between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, support was provided to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity during or in preparation for official meetings to better understand and implement the Data Reporting Tool.

69. Detailed information on the Data Reporting Tool and related collaboration was provided by UNEP to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting in an information document, CBD/COP/15/INF/19.

## **E. Other relevant conventions and agreements**

### **1. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

70. In its decision 15/24, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Secretariat, upon the adoption of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, to identify potential options for modalities for collaboration and cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations in the context of this

<sup>23</sup> Source: <https://informea.org>

<sup>24</sup> InforMEA SCM reports and recommendations available at: <https://www.informea.org/en/process-governance>

instrument. Pursuant to this request, the Secretariat has issued document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/8, which contains background information on various areas of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to the implementation of the Agreement and puts forth potential areas of focus and options for modalities for collaboration and cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations in the context of the Agreement. This builds on the strong engagement of the Secretariat in deliberations on these issues under the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the many areas of scientific and technical work under the Convention that are highly relevant to issues related to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

71. At the further resumed fifth session of the intergovernmental conference, held in New York City, United States of America, from 19 to 20 June 2023, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity made a statement<sup>25</sup> to congratulate the adoption of the Agreement. Synergies and potential areas of collaboration between the new Agreement and the Convention, especially with regards to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, were highlighted.

72. Issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction have also been addressed in various activities of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI), a capacity building initiative coordinated by the Secretariat. Most notably, the SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies has addressed this topic at each of its meetings and workshops since 2016. The forthcoming fourth meeting will focus on this issue as one of the main topics on the agenda.

73. The Secretariat participated in the High Seas Treaty Symposium, organized by the University of Edinburgh, which was held from 6 to 7 October 2023 in Edinburgh, United Kingdom. The Secretariat spoke in the panel “Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas” with a view to inform the audience about the work on Area Based Management Tools carried out under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its potential contribution to the effective implementation of the Agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

74. The Secretariat participated in the Resumed Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement held in New York City from 22 to 26 May 2023. In preparation for the Conference, the sixteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement was conducted. The final report<sup>26</sup>, submitted to the Conference, summarized the inputs received throughout the consultation and refers to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as the need for better coordination between the Convention on Biological Diversity, Regional Fisheries Management Organization, and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. The report of the Resumed Conference<sup>27</sup> also mentions the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and outlines how some delegations noted that inputs and tools as provided by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity could be used in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

## **2. The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention)**

75. The Carpathian Convention received a strong mandate from its sixth Conference of the Parties to act as a regional mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and translating the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework into a regional strategy. The Ministerial Declaration on Carpathian Commitments for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity

<sup>25</sup> The statement is reported in A/CONF.232/2023/INF.5,

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/232/21/pdf/n2323221.pdf?token=HI2FCMXHbvUtOLLpta&fe=true>

<sup>26</sup> ICSP16/UNFSA/INF.3, [https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/ICSP16/Draftreport16thICSUNFSA.pdf](https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/ICSP16/Draftreport16thICSUNFSA.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> CONF.210/2023/6,

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/178/62/pdf/n2317862.pdf?token=KLgNqybakDLPdclYCU&fe=true>

Framework implementation, adopted on 22 November 2022, provided further mandate to the Convention. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in Serbia in 2023 where the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework<sup>28</sup> including a Carpathian Vision 2050 was adopted by the Member States. The regional Framework may serve as a model for other regions to follow the approach of placing a global agenda into the regional context. In February 2024, the secretariat of the Carpathian Convention organized online consultations engaging national focal points of the two conventions in regard to operationalizing the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework by the application of the Guidance Document for streamlining the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as to further strengthen synergies between the Carpathian Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### 3. Alpine Convention

76. Collaboration with the Secretariats of the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions was strengthened. The two conventions are currently the only two legally binding instruments worldwide dedicated to the environmental protection and sustainable development of transnational mountain regions. An updated triparty memorandum of cooperation was agreed through consultations between the three secretariats and signed in 2023. Regular online consultations between the three secretariats have been organized in order to identify practical opportunities for the implementation of the memorandum.

77. The three conventions, jointly with UNEP and a number of regional partners, have supported governments in organizing a series of events at the meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, namely: (a) the high-level side event celebrating the International Year of Mountains to ensure mountain biodiversity protection within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework organized during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022, (b) a side event of like-minded group of mountainous countries at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in October 2023, and (c) an online webinar on achieving the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through sustainable mountain development in April 2024.

## III. Cooperation with United Nations Bodies and other Intergovernmental Processes

### A. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

78. In line with decisions XII/1, XIII/1, XIII/3 and 14/30 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat continued to engage in the processes related to sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, including in cooperation with other United Nations entities. As outlined in the communications strategy annexed to decision 15/14 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development represents an important communication opportunity for the Secretariat to disseminate information related to its processes. The High-Level Political Forum meets every year in July under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. Every four years, the Forum meets under the auspices of the General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government, in compliance with General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 70/299.

79. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity collaborated with relevant United Nations entities on substantive preparations for the 2021 High-Level Political Forum, held from 6 to 12 July 2021 in New York City. This included drafting reports, preparing for panels, and organizing

<sup>28</sup> CC/COP7/DOC7/ADOPTED, [http://www.carpathianconvention.org/cop7/docs/officialdocuments/CC\\_DOC7\\_Carpathian Biodiversity Framework\\_ADOPTED.pdf](http://www.carpathianconvention.org/cop7/docs/officialdocuments/CC_DOC7_Carpathian_Biodiversity_Framework_ADOPTED.pdf) COP7



side events. Among others, the Secretariat contributed to the panel on the theme “Looking at the 2020 targets: implementation and review” and organized a side event on 9 July 2021 entitled “Satoyama Initiative: Healthy Planet, Healthy People” with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability.

80. The Secretariat prepared for and participated in the 2022 High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, held in New York City from 11 to 15 July 2022. In the margins of the Forum, the Secretariat co-organized a side event on 13 July 2022 entitled “Partnership in action for well-being: the Satoyama Initiative and building back better” with Conservation International, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and UNDP.

81. The Secretariat prepared for and participated in the 2023 High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, held in New York City from 16 to 22 July 2023. The focus of the Forum was on progress in implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, Sustainable Development Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy, Sustainable Development Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and Sustainable Development Goal 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The Acting Executive Secretary delivered a statement during the General Debate, emphasizing that biodiversity is essential to food security and good nutrition and that it reduces disease risk while supporting the prevention of natural disasters. The Secretariat delivered remarks at the fourth Global Climate and Sustainable Development Goal Synergies Conference, the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Water Action Agenda Special Event, and the Small Island Development States Coalition for Nature Side Event. The Secretariat organized a side event on 19 July 2023 entitled “Achieving the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs through the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at all levels”. The meeting was opened by the Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, and the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations. The side event included a panel with experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, UNEP, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The Secretariat also co-organized a side event on 12 July 2023 entitled “Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through the Satoyama Initiative/COMDEKS 4” with Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, the GEF Small Grants Programme and UNDP.

## **B. United Nations General Assembly**

### **1. Consideration by the United Nations General Assembly of the implementation of the Convention and its contribution to sustainable development**

82. A report by the Executive Secretary on the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols was provided to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth, seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth sessions in the Note by the Secretary-General entitled “Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions” (A/76/225 and A/77/215 and A/78/209). A report by the Executive Secretary for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session is being prepared by the Secretariat.

83. With reference to the afore-noted reports, the General Assembly adopted resolutions on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development at its seventy-sixth, seventy-seventh and seventy-eight sessions (A/RES/76/207, A/RES/77/167 and A/RES/78/155). The Secretariat, through its joint liaison office, provided additional information and responded to queries of delegates during the preparation of the draft resolutions and the negotiation of these resolutions by the Second Committee.

84. In Resolution A/RES/76/207, adopted on 6 January 2022, the General Assembly, inter alia:
- Stressed the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as part of national implementation plans for the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular all biodiversity-related Goals and targets (paragraph 19);
  - Recognized that integrating biodiversity considerations into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes at all levels is critical for harnessing the benefits of enhanced synergies and policy coherence (paragraph 20);
  - Stressed the importance of the engagement of the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in the achievement of the biodiversity targets, invited them to align their practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities, and in this regard stressed the importance of the ongoing work of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and noted other related and complementary initiatives (paragraph 42);
  - Noted the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledged the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of those conventions, recognized the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, without prejudice to their specific objectives (paragraph 43);
85. In Resolution A/RES/77/167, adopted on 28 December 2022, the General Assembly, inter alia:
- Highlighted the importance of parties raising high-level political engagement for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and the related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda (paragraph 13);
  - Invited all parties, relevant departments of the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention (paragraph 17);
  - Recognized that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable (paragraph 26);
86. In Resolution A/RES/78/155, adopted on 21 December 2023, the General Assembly, inter alia:
- Welcomed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to the 2030 mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and to place the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, and urged Parties and invited other Governments, with the support of United Nations entities and the participation of all other stakeholders, to ensure the early, inclusive and effective implementation of the Framework and all other decisions adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (paragraph 3);
  - Welcomed the establishment by the Global Environment Facility of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to support the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (paragraph 8);
  - Urged parties to the Convention to ensure the coherence and complementarity of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with other existing or upcoming international processes, in particular with regard to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other related processes, frameworks and strategies, and reiterated the invitation to the other multilateral

environmental agreements, including biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, relevant international organizations and their programmes, and other relevant processes to actively participate in their implementation (paragraph 13);

- Stressed the importance of engaging indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, local governments and authorities, academia, the business and financial sectors and other relevant stakeholders to support action towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the three objectives of the Convention, and invited them to align their practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities (paragraph 45);

## **2. Contribution by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to other work under the United Nations General Assembly**

87. Under the leadership of United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations Food Systems Summit was held on 23 September 2021 during the seventy-sixth United Nations General Assembly high-level week with the aim to leverage the role of food systems and advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity joined the United Nations Task Force to ensure a strategic and coordinated engagement of agricultural biodiversity issues throughout the preparatory process. The Secretariat actively contributed to the Action Track 3 on boosting nature-positive food production and provided feedback on several documents.

88. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity provided, on 18 July 2022 and 16 June 2023, an input to the report of the Secretary-General on developments and issues relating to Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth sessions. The submissions responded to the request by the Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs and contained information on relevant developments in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including activities relevant to the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 76/72 and General Assembly Resolution 77/248.

89. In preparation for the seventy-sixth United Nations General Assembly, the Executive Secretary was invited to attend the High-level Thematic Debate entitled “Moment for Nature” that was held on 19 July 2022 in New York City. The event was organized by the President of the General Assembly and the Executive Secretary participated as a panellist in the session “Cultivating coherent system-wide responses to tackle interlinked planetary crises”, highlighting how the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would serve to foster integrated, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to implementation.

90. The Secretariat coordinates the global process for the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. Since 2011, the Secretariat has coordinated a series of regional workshops to facilitate the description of these areas. As a result of these fifteen workshops, descriptions of 338 areas meeting the criteria have been transmitted to the United Nations General Assembly and its relevant processes.

91. In its decision 15/25, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to submit the summary reports prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-third meeting, which are annexed to that decision and based on the report of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean, to the United Nations General Assembly and its relevant processes, as well as to relevant international organizations. In response to that request, the summary descriptions of the 17 areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean that meet the criteria were transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in March 2023 and made available to the member States of the General

Assembly through document A/77/834. In April 2023, the Secretariat communicated this information by means of a letter to relevant international organizations.

### **C. United Nations Forum on Forests**

92. Following decision 14/30 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat continues to engage in the alignment of the Global Forest Goals with the forest-related targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in a mutually supportive manner. To advance this task, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated at the eighteenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests held from 8 to 12 May 2023 in New York City, providing the remarks on the agenda item on synergies for coherent implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, organized jointly with the Forum Secretariat the side event on the interlinkages between the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Global Forest Goals and conducted a number of bilateral meetings.

93. To operationalize synergies, the Joint Initiative<sup>29</sup> was signed by the secretariats of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2023 agreeing on the main areas of work in terms of policy coordination, joint advocacy, improvement of access to forest-related data and finance and joint capacity building. Both secretariats are in a regular dialogue to identify the best ways and means to operationalize the Joint Initiative.

### **D. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

94. In its decision 14/14, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Secretariat to continue to inform the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on developments of mutual interests. The Secretariat participated in the twenty first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and informed the Permanent Forum on the Convention mechanisms to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in its processes. Additionally, the Secretariat organized two side-events: “Nexus Dialogues: Indigenous Peoples in addressing the Global Environmental Agenda”, and the “Indigenous Peoples and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Opportunities for actions and collaboration”.

95. In its decision 15/21, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to provide relevant information to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues regarding Convention activities and fulfilling commitments to indigenous peoples, aligning with the Secretary General’s System-Wide Action Plan for achieving the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. At the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed Parties during the high-level segment.

96. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention participated in the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2023. Specifically, under agenda item 5(f) on Indigenous Platforms within United Nations entities, the Permanent Forum invited the Executive Secretary to provide insights on the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, as well as the various mechanisms established for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. A representative of the Indigenous Co-chair of the Working Group, followed by the Acting Executive Secretary, addressed the Permanent Forum Plenary on this agenda item. Additionally, on the margins of the Permanent Forum session, the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, organized two side-events: “Indigenous Peoples and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Opportunities for Action and Collaboration” and “Indigenous Youth and Health with a Rights-Based Approach: Essential for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation.”

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/agmt-unff-2023-12-10-joint-initiative-web-en.pdf>

## **E. United Nations Water Conference**

97. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the 2023 United Nations Water Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands, which was held at the United Nations Headquarters from 21 to 24 March 2023. The adoption of the Water Action Agenda was a principal outcome of the Conference. The Acting Executive Secretary moderated the event “Interactive Dialogue 3: Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction”. In the context of the International Drought Resilience Alliance, in collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the World Meteorological Organization, the Secretariat co-organized the side event “Drought Resilience: Transforming Water Scarcity into Prosperity Pathways”. The Acting Executive Secretary also participated in other high-level and side events organized by the Convention or other partners. A statement was also delivered on behalf of the Convention during the Conference Plenary session. Eighteen bilateral meetings with Parties, UN organizations, and other partners were held.

## **F. United Nations Ocean Conference**

98. The Secretariat played an active role in preparations for the United Nations Ocean Conference held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal. Since the 2017 United Nations Ocean Conference, the Secretariat has played the role of co-focal point of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 Community of Ocean Action on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems. The Secretariat is also part of the United Nations Ocean Conference Advisory Committee as a member of two of the Informal Preparatory Working Groups for the Conference. The Secretariat played an active role in the Conference, with the Executive Secretary serving as a panellist for the Interactive Dialogue on “Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems”. The Secretariat also convened or co-convened a number of side events at the Conference, including an event to celebrate more than 10 years of achievements under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.

## **G. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

99. The history of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity is significant for informing biodiversity negotiations. Established in 2012, the Platform has contributed to the effectiveness of the Convention on Biological Diversity through knowledge products such as the Global Assessment. The twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity reflected the importance of the Platform’s findings, addressing topics like the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, invasive alien species, sustainable wildlife management, and biodiversity and climate change.

100. The Secretariat convened, on 13 October 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, the Workshop on the recently completed assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The event provided an opportunity for the authors of the Platform’s assessments to present the recently completed reports, as well as the summary for policymakers of the assessment report on invasive alien species and their control, approved by the Platform’s Plenary, at its tenth session, held from 28 August to 2 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany. The workshop also aimed to facilitate a discussion on the findings of these assessments and their use in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

101. The Secretariat participated in the tenth Plenary session of the Platform, from 28 August to 2 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany. Two staff members represented the Secretariat during the session covering, inter alia, issues related to invasive alien species.

102. The Secretariat participated in the Platform’s Indigenous Local Knowledge Dialogues, including the first dialogue on the Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments from 29 June to 1 July 2022, the second dialogue on Transformative Change Assessment from 3 to 16 February 2023, the first dialogue on the Business and Biodiversity Assessment from 23 to 24 September 2023, and

the third dialogues for the Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments from 13 to 15 December 2023.

#### **IV. Cooperation with United Nations Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies and other entities of the United Nations System**

##### **A. United Nations Environment Programme**

103. The Secretariat has been working closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and its processes. Work between UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity includes cooperation in the context of the EU-GPGC project "Scaling Up Actions to Realize Synergies for Biodiversity", under the Environmental Treaties Programme, implemented in complementarity with the Environmental Treaties Programme - Realizing Synergies for Biodiversity project (Treaties I) funded by European Union, Switzerland and SIDA. The programme, which ended in June 2023, was extended to a second phase - Leveraging transformational change through coherent and synergistic implementation of Environmental Treaties (Treaties II) in the context of the triple planetary crisis for three years. Cooperation between UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity also extended in the context of the European Union-funded project Building capacity related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP MEAs 3).

104. An extensive update about UNEP-led processes including the Bern III Conference is given in the dedicated section(s) of this document. UNEP's Interim Report on its Activities is provided in document CBD/SBI/4/INF/14.

##### **1. United Nations Environment Assembly**

105. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the resumed session of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly which was held in Nairobi from 28 February to 2 March 2022, to consider the remaining substantive matters related to the agenda, as well as a Ministerial Declaration under the theme of the Assembly, "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". The Secretariat also attended the Special Session of the Assembly from 3 to 4 March 2022, which was devoted to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1972. In particular, the Executive Secretary participated as a panellist in the signature event celebrating UNEP's fiftieth anniversary, alongside representatives from UNEP, the GEF and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm and Minamata Conventions; the session had a strong focus on the future of multilateral action through the lens of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's vision of "living in harmony with nature by 2050". The Executive Secretary also spoke in the Leadership Dialogue with multilateral environmental agreements, while the two co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework provided the closing remarks during the side event "Delivering the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework". As a key outcome of the resumed session of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly, 14 resolutions were adopted, out of which 4 mentioned the Convention on Biological Diversity and/or its processes. These resolutions are UNEP/EA.5/Res.5 on Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development, UNEP/EA.5/Res.6 on Biodiversity and health, UNEP/EA.5/Res.9 on Sustainable and resilient infrastructure, and UNEP/EA.5/Res.14 on End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument. Moreover, the Ministerial declaration called for an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

106. The Secretariat also attended the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 26 February to 1 March 2024 with a focus on how multilateralism can help tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity

loss, and pollution and waste. The Acting Executive Secretary, supported by the accompanying staff, made significant substantive contributions to the various discussions that were held at the margins of the Assembly, and spoke in several side events, high-level panels and bilateral meetings. This included the second part of the Dialogue on multilateral environmental agreements on 28 February 2024, where it was stressed the need to foster synergies at national level while identifying options to channel finance more efficiently. The Acting Executive Secretary had the opportunity to hold several bilateral meetings with Ministers, heads of organizations, agencies and programmes, as well as with the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. The Secretariat organized and held a press briefing with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia and the Acting Executive Secretary regarding updates on the organization of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The accompanying staff had an opportunity to represent the Acting Executive Secretary in various side-events and network with participants to advance the work programmes of the Secretariat. In the wake of the Bern III conference, the Secretariat took the opportunity to further strengthen cooperation with other conventions and to facilitate dialogue with other United Nations agencies, programmes and bodies that aim to contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in accordance with their respective mandates and decisions adopted by their governing bodies. For example, a meeting was held between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Ozone Convention. The sixth United Nations Environment Assembly resonated and amplified the role of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a reference point within and beyond the United Nations system, as it can also be seen in the outcome of the session. Out of 15 resolutions adopted at the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly, the Convention on Biological Diversity is mentioned in six. Furthermore, the Ministerial declaration welcomed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and decided to reverse biodiversity loss by ensuring the swift, inclusive, and effective implementation of the Framework.

## 2. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

107. The Secretariat has been actively engaging in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, convened by UNEP as a response to resolution 5/14 entitled “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument” adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth meeting. The process started in 2022, and the Secretariat has been engaging since its second session, which was held in Paris, France, from 29 May to 2 June 2023. The information document “Work and guidance under the Convention on Biological Diversity of relevance for the deliberations of the second session of intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment” was submitted by the Secretariat of the Convention<sup>30</sup>. The Secretariat also attended the session in person and delivered a statement on agenda item 4 “Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment”, focusing on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework especially Target 7 on pollution and Targets 15 and 16, relating to sustainable production and consumption. The need to ensure complementarity and synergies between multilateral environmental agreements was equally stressed. The Secretariat provided a written submission in preparation for the third session of the Committee. In the submission, input was given as for what principles the new legal instrument could be based on, while reiterating the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on marine debris, environmental impact assessments and pollution, with a view to ensure consistency and complementarity between the Convention and the output of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. The fourth session was held in Ottawa from 23 to 29 April 2024. Staff members of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity attended the fourth session as meeting staff to assist the Secretariat of the Committee.

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<sup>30</sup> UNEP/PP/INC.2/INF/6

### 3. UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre

108. The Secretariat continued to work closely with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in a number of projects. The Centre also regularly attends meetings between the Secretariat and other partners when they require technical inputs on issues relevant to the work of the Centre.

109. The Mapping Biodiversity Priorities pilot project officially closed on 17 March 2022. Its goal was to build capacity through implementation projects in the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in collaboration with national focal points and key partners. Implemented by country teams with support from the Centre and the South African National Biodiversity Institute, the aim of phase two of the project was to use the biodiversity and socio-economic spatial data and information products developed under phase one for mainstreaming biodiversity into selected priority entry points. The project was implemented in the following countries: Botswana, Ethiopia, and Malawi.

110. The project “Supporting Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through National Ecosystem Assessments in the Asia-Pacific region”, led by the Centre, aimed to build capacity for countries to undertake National Ecosystem Assessments, to use their findings, and to draw on relevant products developed by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (e.g., regional assessments) in supporting delivery of commitments at the national level. The project took into consideration case studies and lessons learned across the world, focusing particularly on the Asia-Pacific region. The project officially closed on 30 April 2022.

111. In collaboration with the Centre and with funding support from the Government of Germany, the Secretariat produced a study<sup>31</sup> that analyzes the marine and coastal content of existing national biodiversity strategies and action plans to provide a basis for the future development of guidance to Parties in support of their forthcoming efforts to reflect the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans with adequate and robust considerations of marine issues. National biodiversity strategies and action plans, the main mechanism that Parties to the Convention use to set their plans and guide their actions towards the implementation of the Convention within their domestic circumstances, have often failed to reflect the policy elements needed to achieve global biodiversity targets at the national level and to include highly relevant marine work ongoing within the countries that are directly relevant to global biodiversity targets. As Parties are expected to revise and/or update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, this study provides information and advice on means to reflect or reinforce marine and coastal biodiversity issues in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

112. The Centre also hosts and manages the Protected Planet website, a joint project of UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The Protected Planet is the online visual interface for the World Database on Protected Areas, the World Database on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures and the Global Database on Protected Areas Management Effectiveness. Moreover, the Centre hosts the ICCA registry which is a database on areas protected and conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities. In 2024, the Centre will publish the Protected Planet Report and the Secretariat issued notification 2024-026 to request Parties to update their information so that it can be reflected in this report.

### B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

113. The “Global Dialogue on the Role of Food and Agriculture in the Global Biodiversity Framework” was convened jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity from 6 to 7 July 2021. The Dialogue was a follow-up to the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, co-organized by FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2018,

<sup>31</sup> [https://resources.unep-wcmc.org/products/WCMC\\_RT492](https://resources.unep-wcmc.org/products/WCMC_RT492)



which paved the way for the development and adoption of FAO's Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors in 2019. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity opened the Dialogue, which focused on the interlinkages between agrifood systems and biodiversity. The Summary Report<sup>32</sup> outlines key findings from the Dialogue, including the contribution of agriculture, fisheries and forestry to the Global Biodiversity Framework.

114. In response to decision 14/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat has been liaising with FAO for the facilitation of the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators. The overall objective of the Initiative is to promote coordinated action worldwide to safeguard wild and managed pollinators and promote the sustainable use of pollination functions and services, which is a recognized vital ecosystem service for agriculture and for the functioning and health of ecosystems. In the context of this Initiative, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was invited to speak at the World Bee Day, convened by FAO, on 20 May 2021 and 20 May 2022. The Secretariat took the opportunity to inform the audience on relevant processes within the Convention on Biological Diversity, while highlighting the importance and diversity of pollinators.

115. The Secretariat virtually attended the fifteenth World Forestry Congress, which was held from 2 to 6 May 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and participated in the side-event on the FAO Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity also delivered a video statement during the Heads of agency meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Biodiversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are reaffirmed in the key outcome of the Congress, the Seoul Forest Declaration<sup>33</sup>.

116. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity took part in the twenty-sixth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry, which was held from 3 to 7 October 2022. The session considered, among other items, (1) the Progress report on the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan, and (2) Restoration and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity submitted a statement in relation to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The Secretariat also took part in the meeting on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and participated in the side event on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Forestry. Meetings with national delegations and partners were organized. The Chair's report includes the importance of integrating the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the forestry agenda. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests were informed about the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity jointly with the FAO Forestry Division developed an analytical study on the role of forest biodiversity conservation and sustainable management for the implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

117. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity engaged in numerous FAO official meetings, including the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture from 22 to 23 February 2022, the FAO Global Seminar on Strengthening Regulations to Protect Pollinators from Pesticides on 23 February 2022 and the tenth Assembly of the FAO Global Soil Partnership on 23 May 2022.

118. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the nineteenth regular session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which was held in Rome, Italy, from 15 to 21 July 2023. He delivered a keynote speech for the fortieth anniversary of the Commission which was celebrated during the special event "Connecting the dots: biodiversity, food & agriculture - Towards biodiversity-friendly agri-food systems". This event was organized by the Commission in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb7030en>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0160en/cc0160en.pdf>

event was also an opportunity to celebrate the historic agreement on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its interlinkages with the work of the Commission. The Convention on Biological Diversity had a booth in the exposition area in which information about the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant materials were presented. The Acting Executive Secretary also provided statements on behalf of the Secretariat during the opening ceremony and in agenda items relevant to the work of the Convention.

119. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 that was held in Rome, Italy from 24–26 July 2023. The Summit was hosted by Italy, in collaboration with the Rome-based United Nations agencies, the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub and the wider United Nations system. The Secretariat took the opportunity to highlight the role of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the context of food systems.

120. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the fifty-first session of the Committee on the World Food Security that was held in Rome, Italy from 23-27 October 2023. The Acting Executive Secretary participated in the panel discussion of the agenda item 6 “Global Interlinkages dialogues”. This session emphasized the interdependence of international food and agricultural fora while underlining the interlinkages of the Rio Conventions with the work of the Committee. The Acting Executive Secretary held bilateral meetings with Parties, United Nations organizations, and other partners.

121. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity provided statements for United Nations observances, including for World Soil Day, World Food Day, the International Day of Rural Women, the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, World Bee Day and the International Day of Plant Health.

122. The FAO Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment regularly coordinated and exchanged information with Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on several projects and initiatives. The Office and the Secretariat jointly launched the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub during a webinar on 19 December 2023. The FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub aims to strengthen capacity to mainstream biodiversity in agrifood sectors and assist policymakers and other actors to implement and monitor the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by helping users access and use existing tools, guidance and other resources on biodiversity developed by FAO.

123. The global workshop "Developing a Roadmap for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) Target 2" was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO, and UNEP, and held from 22 to 24 November 2023 at the FAO headquarters in Rome. The event brought together 100 in-person participants and 100 online participants, including representatives from 29 Parties, sub-national governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's groups, global experts, academia, and relevant organizations and initiatives with the goal to construct a roadmap to support the achievement of the ambitious Target 2 on ecosystem restoration (see more details in the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration).

124. A joint workshop co-organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and FAO was convened under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, led by the Convention on Biological Diversity (see more details in the relevant section). The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity also attended the thirty-fifth meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, which was held in Rome from 5 to 9 September 2022, where a statement was delivered on agenda item 10: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Fisheries and Aquaculture.

125. The international symposium “Agriculture, Biodiversity and Food Security: From Commitments to Actions,” was co-organized by Université Laval's Graduate School of International Studies, the Quebec government's Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie, FAO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Symposium aimed to highlight agriculture as a source of solutions to biodiversity-related challenges and to promote and

facilitate the collective commitment of all agricultural stakeholders to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the transformation of agrifood systems. The Symposium was held at the Quebec City Convention Centre from 30 April to 2 May 2024.

126. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Forum hosted by FAO in 2021, which resulted in the Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems. In 2022, the Secretariat joined a delegation of indigenous youth that met in-person at FAO Headquarters in Rome to launch the My Food Vision Is... campaign. On both occasions, the Secretariat took the opportunity to debrief indigenous peoples and local communities of relevant developments under the Convention, including in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

127. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and FAO convened an expert meeting in Rome from 23 to 24 January 2024. The objective of the meeting was to develop a methodology for Headline Indicator 7.2 (pesticide environmental concentration) under the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. A report was prepared to inform the ad hoc technical expert group on indicators for the Framework that has been made available as information document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/18.

### **Building capacity related to multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries**

128. From 2021 to 2024, under the framework of the European Union funded project ‘Building capacity related to Multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP MEAs 3)’, FAO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have been collaborating in several contexts. In 2021, a technical session on the importance of soil biodiversity in the Pacific region was held by FAO jointly with The Pacific Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The results of this session supported the preparation of the Pacific region for the twenty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

129. From 23 to 24 February 2022, FAO organized a global seminar on strengthening regulations to protect pollinators from pesticides over two days that brought together 400 participants from dozens of countries, including representatives from non-profit organizations, government officials, international organizations, and academia. The sessions and exchanges in this seminar helped to define priorities for action to guide future work at the country level for the better protection of pollinators through a holistic approach. The seminar was opened jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the European Union and FAO.

130. Regarding the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the sixth national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the project supported the review of 10 national biodiversity strategies and action plans of the 25 countries that are part of it. The project also facilitated the participation of 4 agricultural biodiversity experts in the fifth Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and their participation in the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

131. In 2023, under the ACP MEAs 3 framework, FAO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity jointly organized a series of regional information webinars to unpack the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with a focus on the targets related to agricultural biodiversity. The objective was to sensitize the multilateral environmental agreement’s focal points and relevant stakeholders (e.g. focal points of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture) in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries on the importance of collaborating in reviewing, updating and implementing the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the sixth national reports and meeting their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. More than 220 participants from the Africa region (84), Caribbean region (79) and Pacific region

(58) participated to gain a better understanding on how to integrate agricultural biodiversity in the review and implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

132. More information about the project is also available under the sections related to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Caribbean Community.

### **C. Global Environment Facility**

133. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the sixtieth GEF Council meeting in June 2021, the sixty-first GEF Council meeting in December 2021, the sixty-second GEF Council meeting in June 2022, the sixty-third GEF Council meeting in December 2022, the sixty-fourth GEF Council meeting in June 2023, the sixty-fifth GEF Council meeting in October 2023, and the sixty-sixth GEF Council meeting in February 2024. The Executive Secretary made statements in relation to the development and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and their implications for the Global Environment Facility. The Secretariat also provided, upon request, information inputs to the pre-session GEF Council documents “Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions”<sup>34</sup>. The participation of the Executive Secretary in GEF Council meetings also conveyed the request in decision 15/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to establish an additional fund. The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund was approved at the sixty-fourth meeting of the Council as a response to this decision. The meeting approved the largest-ever work program amounting to \$1.4 billion, most of which in direct support to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In his statement, the Acting Executive Secretary highlighted that 20% of the funds would be used to support indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Framework. The Acting Executive Secretary also led the delegation of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the seventh GEF Assembly, held in Vancouver, Canada, in August 2023. The Convention’s participation in the Assembly helped to convey relevant decisions to the GEF governance and enhanced the consideration of biodiversity within the multi-treaty financial institution.

134. The GEF Secretariat submitted the preliminary report of the Global Environment Facility<sup>35</sup> to the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 14 to 29 March 2021. The report provided information on the activities of the GEF in the biodiversity focal area for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019 in response to the guidance provided by the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting considered the GEF report and adopted recommendation 3/7: the financial mechanism.

135. The Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility<sup>36</sup> to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity provided information on the activities in the biodiversity focal area to the guidance given by the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, covering the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2021, corresponding to three years and six months of the GEF-7 period. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity considered the GEF Report to the Conference of the Parties and provided guidance to the GEF through decision 15/15: financial mechanism.

136. The GEF Chief Executive Officer attended the high-level segment of the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held online and in Kunming, China, in October 2021, and announced to fast track financial and technical support to GEF-eligible countries to prepare for the rapid implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. The GEF Chief Executive Officer gave introductory remarks in the parallel thematic

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<sup>34</sup> GEF/C.61/07/Rev.01; GEF/C.62/12; GEF/C.63/08; GEF/C.64/08; GEF/C.65/05; GEF/C.66/05.

<sup>35</sup> CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.1.

<sup>36</sup> CBD/COP/15/8.

group dedicated to Natural Capital Accounting and Ecological Product Value Realization, highlighting the GEF support to Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting approaches. Moreover, the Global Environment Facility was represented in various events linked to processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the pre-Conference of the Parties organized as a high-level virtual meeting by Colombia in consultation with the Secretariat and the presiding officers in August 2021, the event “Countdown to COP 15: Landmark Leaders’ Event for a Nature Positive World” organized on the margins of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly by the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, the Global Ocean Alliance and the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature in September 2022 and the side event at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, entitled “CBD COP 15: Strengthening Synergies through the Post 2020 GBF and Promoting Transformation Change to Restore Balance with Nature” in November 2021.

137. During the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal in December 2022, the GEF Chief Executive Officer engaged in an informal dialogue, organized in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as part of the high-level segment on 16 December 2022, which was attended by over 200 invitees, including Ministers and Heads of delegations and institutions. His participation helped in clarifying questions in relation to the Global Biodiversity Framework and its financial mechanisms as Parties to the Convention were considering its adoption. The GEF Secretariat participated in a number of contact group sessions on the Global Biodiversity Framework, resource mobilization and the financial mechanism and guidance to the GEF. The GEF Secretariat staff led the organization of or participated in more than 40 official side events covering a wide range of topics from the GEF biodiversity strategy, biodiversity finance, private sector participation, gender, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities and collaboration between the GEF, the Green Climate Fund and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The GEF also hosted a pavilion at the Conference venue to serve as a space for collaboration amongst GEF recipient countries, GEF Secretariat, GEF agencies, and other GEF partners and stakeholders. Twenty-two side events were hosted at the GEF Pavilion. GEF side events dealt with GEF support to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, issues related to indigenous peoples and local communities and issues related to gender responsive implementation of the GBF including the one held by the GEF Gender Partnership: “Contributions to gender-responsive-implementation of the GBF and GEF projects and programs”. Moreover, the GEF Secretariat staff attended several meetings organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including “Financial Sector and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” in June 2021, the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held online from May 3 to June 9, 2021, the third and fourth meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in January 2022 and June 2022, the resumed meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice, Subsidiary Body on Implementation and Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in March 2022, the roundtable organized by the indigenous peoples and local communities caucus on resource mobilization, the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2023, the “International dialogue with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Gender Plan of Action” in November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, the twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity in November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, including a side event organized by the IIFB (International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity) on “Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities’ direct access to funding for the implementation of Target 19”, the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources in November 2023, and the first meeting of the

Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization in September 2023, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

138. The Secretariat of the Convention consulted actively with the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions in formulating its inter-secretariat consultations with GEF and the iterative comments it provided during the elaboration of the GEF-8 programming directions and GEF-8 policy guidance for the eighth replenishment of resources for the GEF Trust Fund. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity reviewed the successive drafts of the GEF-8 Programming Directions document and provided comments on the documents that the GEF Secretariat prepared for the four meetings of the Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund in September 2021, February, March and April 2022. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the third, the interim and the fourth GEF-8 replenishment meetings. Biodiversity was a focus of the GEF-8 replenishment and received focal area allocations that nearly doubled from the GEF-7 replenishment.

139. The Secretariat joined the first meeting of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund Council, held in Washington DC, United States, from 8 to 9 February 2024. The Acting Executive Secretary drew attention to the request of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of complementing and scaling up finance commensurate with the targets of the Framework. Following decision 15/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to establish, in 2023, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GEF collaborated extensively to operationalize the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, through consultations with GEF Council members, national focal points to the Convention and stakeholders. The two secretariats jointly issued two notifications<sup>37</sup> inviting national focal points of the Convention and its Protocols to participate actively in the consultations on the establishment of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Fund by the Global Environment Facility.

140. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity led the secretariat team in participating in the establishment and ratification of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund at the sixty-fourth meeting of the Global Environment Facility Council in June 2023, the seventh GEF Assembly and the first meeting of the Global Biodiversity Framework Council in February 2024. A full set of operational documents were adopted, namely, decision 09/2023 on the establishment of a new trust fund: Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, decision 10/2023 on Programming Directions for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, decision GBFF 1/2024 on Policy on Allocation of Resources for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, decision GBFF 2/2024 on the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund Project Cycle Policy and decision GBFF 3/2024 on Administrative Budget and Business Plan for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

141. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity worked with the GEF Independent Evaluation Office and shared evaluation evidence as requested including for the study “working toward a greener global recovery”, the GEF support to sustainable forest management, GEF enabling activities, the GEF approach and interventions in water security, the GEF support to drylands countries, the community-based approaches at the GEF, and learning from challenges in GEF projects. The Secretariat has regularly received and reviewed project proposals submitted by GEF Agencies to the GEF Secretariat via the GEF Portal. The following work programs have been approved by the GEF Council: 26 programs and projects totaling \$190.7 million in November 2021, 19 programs and projects totaling \$165.8 million in June 2022, 8 projects totaling \$64.7 million in November 2022, 45 projects and programs totaling \$1.397 billion in June 2023, 46 projects and programs totaling \$916.1 million in February 2024.

142. Additional information concerning collaboration between the Convention and GEF, including in the context of enhancing programmatic synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, is provided in document CBD/COP/15/8 and CBD/COP/15/10, which complements recommendation

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<sup>37</sup> SCBD/IMS/NP/YX/GT/90953 (2023-041), 2023-04-10, and SCBD/IMS/NP/YX/GT/90953 (2023-056), 2023-05-19.

3/7, adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting, and responds to the request directed to the Executive Secretary in that recommendation.

#### **D. Green Climate Fund**

143. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity maintained its status of observer at the Green Climate Fund, and provided inputs to the development of the Green Climate Fund's Strategic Plan 2024-2027, Private Sector Strategy, Readiness Strategy 2024-2027, as well as the ten sector guidelines on agriculture and food security; cities, buildings, and urban systems; ecosystems and ecosystem services; forests and land use; energy access and power generation; climate information and early warning systems; health and wellbeing; water security; low emission transport; energy efficiency. The Secretariat regularly attended, virtually or in person, Board meetings of the Green Climate Fund, including the thirtieth meeting of the Board, held virtually from 4 to 7 October 2021, the thirty-first meeting of the Board, held virtually from 28 to 31 March 2022, the thirty-second meeting of the Board, held in Antigua and Barbuda from 16 to 19 May 2022, the thirty-third meeting of the Board, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 17 to 20 July 2022, the thirty-fourth meeting of the Board, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 17 to 20 October 2022, the thirty-fifth meeting of the Board, held in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 16 March 2022, the thirty-sixth meeting of the Board, held in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 10 to 13 July 2023, the thirty-seventh meeting of the Board, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 23 to 25 October 2023, and the thirty-eighth meeting of the Board, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 4 to 7 March 2024. The meetings led to the approval of around \$5 billion for over 70 projects.

#### **Tripartite Cooperation between the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Convention on Biological Diversity**

144. The GEF Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund held their first ever tripartite joint meeting in Montreal, Canada, in December 2022. The meeting reinforced the collaboration for a paradigm-shift towards large-scale ecosystem protection, restoration, and adaptive management in the context of the climate-biodiversity nexus. The main message was echoed in the Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People, endorsed by 18 countries at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>38</sup>.

#### **E. United Nations Development Programme**

145. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity continues to work closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) especially in the context of capacity building, benefit-sharing and biodiversity finance. Collaboration with UNDP was strengthened as the Secretariat of the Convention co-hosted three sessions during the Nature for Life Hub, namely the Nature Finance Forum, the Leaders' Pledge for Nature and Creating a Nature-based Safety Net. The Nature for Life Hub was held virtually ahead of the Biodiversity Summit in September 2021.

146. Collaboration between UNDP and the Secretariat of the Convention extended to the development of Massive Open Online Courses. The Secretariat contributed to the launch of the course on green entrepreneurship in the Learning for Nature platform hosted by UNDP in the second semester of 2021. In 2022, a Massive Open Online Course on ecosystem restoration was organized from September to November with the UNDP Learning for Nature team and support from other agencies. The European Commission and the Korea Forest Service financially supported this work. The course engaged 16,849 participants from 193 countries with a majority of participants coming from developing countries. The course expanded upon e-learning modules developed by the Secretariat and UNDP in 2021, which were based on decision 13/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The modules were very popular on the UNDP Learning for Nature website and continue to be freely available along with the course materials.

<sup>38</sup> [www.cbd.int/article/climate-nature-people-statement-climatecop28-2023](http://www.cbd.int/article/climate-nature-people-statement-climatecop28-2023).

147. The WePlan-Forests decision-support tool, developed in the context of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative led by the Convention on Biological Diversity, was further improved and piloted in partnership with the Institute for Capacity Exchange in Environmental Decisions to optimize forest restoration planning. The WePlan-Forests data sets on forest ecosystem restoration optimization have been linked to the United Nations Biodiversity Lab, also with the support of UNDP and UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre. A further collaboration with UNDP piloted strategies for addressing synergies in developing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as plans for other conventions.

148. The Convention on Biological Diversity is a key partner of the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative in supporting the development and implementation of biodiversity finance plans in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Their bi-annual global conference is a key event to assess progress, review experiences and lessons learned, and strategize on future steps. The Initiative's first meeting after fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity provided a critical opportunity to highlight the importance of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to further support the work on finance plans. The meeting was a good opportunity for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to provide information on financial needs assessments in the context of the national implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to learn from countries involved in the Initiative about their national experience on implementing finance solutions and promote synergies with relevant processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

149. In November 2021, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with UNDP and with the engagement of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, published a global report on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures<sup>39</sup> in response to decisions 13/2 and 14/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The report assessed the global status, gaps and opportunities of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, benefits of filling protected area gaps, and important considerations for more effective and equitable conservation. It highlighted the results of a stocktaking exercise undertaken to establish an accurate picture of the status of the elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and has been posted together with individual Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 country dossiers on the website of the Convention.

150. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre has been carrying out consultations in preparation for the launch of Global Knowledge Support Service for Biodiversity. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been participating in the process as one of the partners in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group Action and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, among others. The Service has as its main objective the enhancement of capacities for the collection, curation, analysis, sharing, use of and access to biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge, including by facilitating coordination among existing biodiversity knowledge hubs and networks.

151. As the UNDP-GEF Global Project on Access and Benefit-Sharing ended in June 2021, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity collaborated with UNDP to collect materials following its conclusion. The project's objective was to strengthen human resources, legal frameworks and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol.

## **F. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

152. In its decision 15/22, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided to renew its commitment to the Joint Programme of Work on the links between biological and cultural diversity, to be promoted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

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<sup>39</sup> UNDP, SCBD & UNEP-WCMC (2021). Creating a Nature-Positive Future: The contribution of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. UNDP: New York, NY.



the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and partners<sup>40</sup>. Pursuant to paragraph 16 of decision 15/13, the Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization are developing a workplan to advance the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity.

153. In the margins of the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Conference Presidency, and indigenous peoples and local communities organized the Nature and Culture Summit: A Global Dialogue on Strengthening the Links between Nature and Cultures to Achieve a Sustainable and Ecological Civilization. More information about the event is available in the indigenous peoples and local communities section of the present report.

## **G. World Health Organization**

154. In decision 15/13, paragraph 17, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to exchange information with the World Health Organization (WHO) on access to pathogens and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in the context of ongoing work under WHO on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Further to decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly in December 2021 and May 2022, negotiations have been underway to develop a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and to amend the International Health Regulations (2005). The Secretariat has exchanged information with colleagues in the Secretariat of WHO on relevant processes and experience under the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing. It has also provided inputs to the negotiation processes upon request.

## **H. United Nations World Tourism Organization**

155. The Secretariat of the Convention intensified the collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) in the months leading up to the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The collaboration resulted in a panel focusing on Sustainable Tourism during the Business and Biodiversity Forum as well as the participation from the Executive Director during the High-Level opening panel. UN Tourism indicated interest in developing a publication focusing on the integration of biodiversity into national tourism policies and initial discussions have taken place. Expected release date is pending but the Secretariat remains committed to contributing to the work.

## **I. United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs**

156. The Secretariat participated in the Third Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 21 July 2022, in Tokyo, Japan, co-convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan in partnership with the United Nations University and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies. The Executive Secretary participated online in the High-Level Segment held on the opening day on 20 July 2022. In the statement, it was highlighted how biodiversity loss is complementary to and supportive of both the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals and how the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework can help advance progress on both while facilitating the implementation of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

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<sup>40</sup> The Joint Programme between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was developed at the International Conference on Biological and Cultural Diversity, held in Montreal, Canada in 2010. It was endorsed by UNESCO's constituencies and welcomed by the 10th meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan (decision 10/20).

**J. United Nations Development Coordination Office**

157. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity worked with the United Nations Development Coordination Office, which manages and oversees the Resident Coordinator system and supports Resident Coordinators in overseeing activities across United Nations Country Teams.

158. The Secretariat prepared a briefing to facilitate the mainstreaming of multilateral environmental agreements in the United Nations Country Teams with a view to better aligning global and regional objectives with the coordination work undertaken by the United Nations Resident Coordinators, also considering the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. The secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements as well as the Reform Advisory Group from UNEP were consulted. Work is ongoing to further facilitate the mainstreaming of multilateral environmental agreements in the work of United Nations Country Teams.

159. On two occasions the Acting Executive Secretary presented the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to United Nations Resident Coordinators, first during a clinic co-organized with the Development Coordination Office in July 2023 and during a webinar “Rolling out the new Global Biodiversity Framework to achieve the SDGs and the Paris Agreement goals” held on 7 December 2023. The aim of these events was to enhance the capacities of Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams to advance the key transitions needed for Sustainable Development Goals acceleration and identifying entry points for Resident Coordinators to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework at the national level, including through national target-setting and the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

**K. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**

160. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity engaged in the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including by participating in and contributing to the High-Level Meeting of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework from 18 to 19 May 2023.

161. Cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction also included the Secretariat’s active engagement with the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, which comprises numerous United Nations and civil society agencies to promote knowledge, training, advocacy and practice on ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction. In particular, the Secretariat contributed to numerous events highlighting the links between disaster risk reduction and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

**L. United Nations Global Compact**

162. The Secretariat is currently working with the United Nations Global Compact to develop the Biodiversity and Nature Think Lab<sup>41</sup>. The initiative is designed to provide information and tools to member companies and help them better understand their relationship with biodiversity and identify solutions to reduce negative impacts arising from their operations.

**M. United Nations University**

163. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity collaborated on several events with the United Nations University. The Regional Dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans for South and East Asia was held from 23 to 26 January 2024 in Tokyo and organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the support of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the United Nations University. This Dialogue is part of a series of regional and subregional dialogues being convened by the Secretariat in 2023 and 2024 to facilitate the sharing of experiences and mutual learning related to the updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal

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<sup>41</sup> <https://unglobalcompact.org/take-action/think-labs/biodiversity-and-nature>.

Global Biodiversity Framework, as requested in decision 15/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The dialogues are being convened with the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the European Union.

164. Further collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations University can be found in the present report under the sections related to the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs.

## **V. Cooperation with Intergovernmental Organizations**

### **A. International Union for Conservation of Nature**

165. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity regularly attends major meetings of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The Secretariat participated in the World Conservation Congress, held from 3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille, France with a view to better understanding relevant activities and outcomes of the Congress in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Executive Secretary of the Convention was formally invited to speak at the Congress session on stakeholder engagement in the Global Biodiversity Framework.

166. The Leaders Forum of the International Union for Conservation of Nature was held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 15 October 2022 with the aim to convene global leaders on key topics of relevance to the international agenda. The Executive Secretary delivered keynote statements or participated in nine sessions of the Forum. In addition, the opportunity was equally used to undertake bilateral consultations with different high level and senior level officials from other organizations within the United Nations System as well as countries and stakeholders to inform them, inter alia, about the negotiating progress on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

167. Co-hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the International Marine Protected Area Congress is a global forum that brings together ocean conservation professionals and high-level officials to inform, inspire and act on marine protected areas. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in and contributed to the fifth edition of the Congress, which was held from 3 to 9 February 2023 in Vancouver, Canada. The meeting was an important opportunity to galvanize global cooperation in marine conservation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity contributed to it by informing the deliberations of the Congress on the relevant provisions of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and identifying potential partnerships to support the implementation of the Framework. In particular, the Acting Executive Secretary attended the Roundtable discussion on Indigenous Leadership, participated as a speaker in the Ministerial lunchtime Roundtable on integrating nature and climate, co-moderated the discussions of the high-level Leaders Roundtable and held various high-level bilateral meetings. The Secretariat also co-organized an exhibition booth, delivered seven presentations in various workshops, events and symposia and participated in the workshop on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

168. The International Union for Conservation of Nature regularly attends official meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity and contributes to each session through statements and side events. At the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Union organized twenty-seven side events, of which nine were jointly organized with the Secretariat of the Convention. The Union also hosted, in collaboration with other partners, the Nature Positive Pavilion, under which more than two-hundred events were held. The Union is also represented in the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation and regularly attends its meetings.

169. The Secretariat engaged in several initiatives managed by or in collaboration with the Union. These include the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation, within which the Secretariat actively contributed to discussions on the role of Ecosystem-based Adaptation and its promotion, including in the context of Targets 8 and 11 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Union also developed the Global Species Action Plan to support the efforts of countries in addressing species loss in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Global Species Action Plan is mapped against the targets and elements of the Framework. The Secretariat met with the Union several times over the development of the Global Species Action Plan and provided comments to the draft versions of the action plan. The Global Species Action Plan is provided as a resource for Targets 4, 5, 6 and 9 on the Target Guide page<sup>42</sup>. The Secretariat has held several meetings with the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Protected Areas to share information and coordinate efforts towards support for the implementation of Target 3. The Secretariat has been collaborating with the Commission on the development of a Global Partnership to support implementation of Target 3 (see more information in the dedicated section). The Secretariat reviewed and provided comments to technical guidance prepared by the Commission on Target 3.<sup>43</sup> Additionally, the Secretariat has attended and contributed to the Commission's workshops on harmonization of technical terminology on protected areas, and governance, equity and rights.

170. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity signed a Memorandum of Understanding<sup>44</sup> with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, jointly acting as the secretariat of the PANORAMA Solutions for a Healthy Planet Initiative, on 8 December 2022. The Memorandum provides a general framework and a guiding tool for identifying and carrying out specific capacity development and knowledge management activities to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **B. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development**

171. The Secretariat actively engaged in several meetings under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with a view to raise awareness about issues of common interest. In particular, the Secretariat participated in the Development Assistance Committee, the Environmental Policy Committee, and the Working Party on Biodiversity, Water, and Ecosystems, where an overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was provided to participants in September 2022. Ad-hoc workshops were also attended, including the OECD nature-positive workshops; the Secretariat took this opportunity to share relevant developments on the subject. An active engagement with the OECD remains useful for the Secretariat of the Convention, especially in the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, resource mobilisation and data collection. The OECD Secretary General also participated in the high-level segment of the pre-Conference of the Parties hosted by Colombia on 30 August 2021.

## **C. World Trade Organization**

172. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity regularly attends meetings of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and updates the WTO Secretariat and its members on developments within the Convention when relevant. Parties to the Convention have been requesting a stronger engagement between the Convention and WTO, especially following decision III/17, decision VI/24, decision V/5, decision VI/20 and decision IX/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which led the Secretariat to apply for observer status to the Committee on Trade and Environment in Regular Session, the Committee on Trade and Environment

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets>

<sup>43</sup> Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) (2023), and A 30x30 Guide to Inclusive, equitable and effective implementation of Target 3 (2023).

<sup>44</sup> [https://unitednations-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jacopo\\_pasquero\\_un\\_org/Documents/SBI/Cooperation SBI agencies and networks/Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit](https://unitednations-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jacopo_pasquero_un_org/Documents/SBI/Cooperation%20SBI%20agencies%20and%20networks/Deutsche%20Gesellschaft%20f%C3%BCr%20Internationale%20Zusammenarbeit)

in Special Session, the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the Committee on Agriculture, and the Committees on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and on Technical Barriers to Trade. Except for the Committee on Trade and Environment in Regular Session, the applications submitted by the Executive Secretary to these Committees are pending approval.

173. The Secretariat liaised with relevant partner organizations and initiatives with a view to keeping them abreast of recent developments on resource mobilization, including by briefing the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in June 2022. The Secretariat also made a presentation on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and its implications for trade in the context of targets 8, 10, 16 and 18, during the UNEP-WTO informal roundtable “Nature-positive trade for sustainable development”, held on 14 March 2022. In the context of the WTO-led Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity made a presentation on subsidies and incentives under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the Working Group on Subsidies from 19 to 20 September 2023.

#### **D. Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie**

174. The Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable collaborated with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the context of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Secretariat attended the regional workshop in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire, from May 30 to June 1, 2023, where a presentation was given to build capacities in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and foster a better understanding of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

#### **E. International Tropical Timber Organization**

175. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and International Tropical Timber Organization was renewed for the period of 2021-2025 covering diverse collaboration areas such as the development of targeted joint initiatives on forest and biodiversity, the facilitation of access to funds, and support to countries in sustainable forest management. The Secretariat participated virtually in the fifty-ninth session of the International Tropical Timber Council presenting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Convention’s tentative collaboration plan for the Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity, jointly convened by the Convention on Biological Diversity and International Tropical Timber Organization. The main instrument of the Collaborative Initiative 2024-2025 is the financing of projects and activities to support tropical timber producer members in the implementation of actions proposed by stakeholders in member countries of the International Tropical Timber Organization, through the official contact points of the International Tropical Timber Organization in consultation with national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### **F. Regional intergovernmental organizations**

##### **1. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme**

176. In 2022, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding. Areas of cooperation under the agreement include support to Parties to the Pacific Regional Environment Programme to implement and monitor the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, support on the review, development, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, support for the implementation of various programmes of work under the Convention, in particular the programme of work on island biodiversity, facilitating capacity building and technology transfer, support efforts in mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors, including through the implementation of the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity, and support to the ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Supplementary Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol on Access

to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. The Memorandum of Understanding has a validity of eight years until December 2030.

177. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Sub-regional Dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Workshop on Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the UNEP Technical Workshop on the GEF Early Action Support Project for the Pacific Countries on 18-26 March 2024 in Nadi, Fiji. The Dialogue is part of a series of regional and sub-regional dialogues being convened by the Secretariat in 2023 and 2024 to facilitate the sharing of experiences and mutual learning related to the updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as requested in decision 15/6. The dialogues are being convened with the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the European Union. Additional support to this Dialogue is provided through the European Union capacity-building project related to multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific States Phase 3 and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

## **2. Centre for Biodiversity of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations**

178. In its decision 15/6, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested Parties to submit revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, following the guidance provided in annex I of the decision, aligned with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In support to that request, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized, in collaboration with the Centre for Biodiversity of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the subregional dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans for States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Timor-Leste, held in Manila, from 14 to 17 August 2023. The dialogue was the first in a series of regional or subregional dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans organized by the Secretariat in collaboration with relevant partners further to decision 15/6 and related decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its tenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourth meeting, with generous funding from the Government of Japan, provided through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, and from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of Denmark and the European Union.

## **3. Secretariat of the Caribbean Community**

179. In its decision 15/6, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requests Parties to submit revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, following the guidance provided in annex I of the decision, aligned with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In support to that request, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, the Sub-regional Dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the Workshop on Target 3 of the GBF for the Caribbean Countries, held from 15 to 19 April 2024 in Georgetown, Guyana. The Dialogue is part of a series of regional and sub-regional dialogues being convened by the Secretariat in 2023 and 2024 to facilitate the sharing of experiences and mutual learning related to the updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as requested in decision 15/6. The dialogues are being

convened with the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Government of Denmark, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the European Union. Additional support to this Dialogue is provided through the European Union Capacity-building project related to Multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific States Phase 3 and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

#### **4. Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean**

180. The Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean is an international body of public law created in 1992 by the II Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Madrid, Spain. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity cooperates with the Fund on issues relevant to its programme of work. This included the organization of training and capacity building activities, such as the workshop “Convention on Biological Diversity for Indigenous Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean”, held on 1 February 2022. The event aimed to provide an overview of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols in relation to indigenous peoples, local communities and youth, impart basic knowledge on the implementation mechanism and monitoring of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports and present the rationale, objectives and methodology of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **VI. Cooperation within Interagency and Coordination Networks**

### **A. United Nations Environment Management Group**

181. The United Nations Environment Management Group is a system-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements. It was established in 2001 pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 53/242 in July 1999. In its decision 14/30, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited the United Nations Environment Management Group to facilitate United Nations system-wide coordination towards the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in a manner fully respectful of the mandates of different multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations. In response to that invitation, the Group addressed relevant developments in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, while the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has continued to actively engage as one of the Group’s 51 members. Of relevance to the work of the Convention, the Group established the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity to share information and advance common progress on biodiversity-related matters across the United Nations system.

182. On 13 October 2022, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the twenty-eighth Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group. During the meeting, the Group agreed to extend the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity for one more year to continue facilitating a coordinated approach to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In 2022, the Group also completed the inventory of United Nations products on biodiversity to take stock of information efforts across the agencies, bodies and programmes that constitute its members. On 10 October 2023, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in twenty-ninth Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group. During the meeting, the Group agreed to continue facilitating a coordinated approach to the implementation of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and to include the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the Terms of Reference of the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity, with the objective to show the contribution of United Nations entities supporting Member States in the implementation of the Framework.

183. The Group organized the side event “United Nations Heads of Agencies Dialogue: Pledging Commitments to Implement the Common Approach on Biodiversity and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the

Convention on Biological Diversity on 15 December 2022. The event reflected on the experience with the Common Approach on Integrating Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development into United Nations Policy and Programme Planning and Delivery, while discussing its future implementation in light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. On 24 March 2022, the Group also organized the side event “United Nations system commitment for catalyzing collective action for nature”, in the margins of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Geneva, Switzerland. The side event served as a first public platform for the Group to discuss implementation of the United Nations Common Approach to Biodiversity and its support to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **B. High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People**

184. The Secretariat met with the Director of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People on the margins of the harmonization workshop held in May 2023 and organized by the World Commission on Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, to discuss potential areas of collaboration. In June 2023, the Director of the Coalition participated in the meeting for the development of a global partnership to support the achievement of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Director delivered a presentation and facilitated a session on coordination of support for implementation of Target 3. In October 2023, on the margins of twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat met with the Co-Chairs of the Coalition to discuss its participation in the Coalition as a partner. Subsequently, an exchange of letters between the Secretariat and the Coalition formalized this collaboration. In January and February 2024, the Secretariat and the Coalition met several times to operationalize the collaboration, deciding on three main areas: (i) political awareness raising, including communications and engagements; (ii) platforms and; (iii) building capacity of countries to implement Target 3. On item (i) the Secretariat and Coalition agreed to collaborate on side events on the margins of international meetings. On item (ii) the Secretariat and the Coalition agreed to work to link the 30 x 30 Solutions Toolkit with the clearing house mechanism of the Convention, and to potentially make them interoperable. Efforts in this regard are ongoing. On item (iii) the Secretariat and the Coalition agreed to collaborate on regional and subregional workshops to build capacity for the implementation of Target 3. The Secretariat joined the Coordination Meeting on Expanding and Strengthening Protected Areas, organized by the Coalition and the Economic Community of West African States, in Abuja, Nigeria from 19 to 22 February 2024. The Coalition delivered remarks and a recorded presentation at the regional capacity building workshop on Target 3 for Pacific Island Countries organized jointly with the Secretariat for the Pacific (22 to 23 March 2024 in Nadi, Fiji). The Coalition collaborated with the Secretariat on the regional capacity building workshop on Target 3 for the Caribbean (18 and 19 April 2024 in Georgetown, Guyana) organized jointly with the Caribbean Commission. The Secretariat is collaborating with the Coalition on regional Target 3 workshop for Congo Basin Forest Partnership countries (tentatively, 3 to 4 June 2024 in Democratic Republic of Congo) and Latin American countries (tentatively, 9 to 12 June 2024 in Costa Rica). Other regional workshops are under discussion.

## **C. Global Partnership on Target 3**

185. Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 was arguably one of the best implemented targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and part of its success is attributable to the collaborations among a diverse set of organizations.<sup>45</sup> These collaborations brought together the expertise and experience existing within governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental

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<sup>45</sup> The Friends of PoWPA was an informal collaboration of individuals, non-governmental organizations, UN organizations and governments, united by the common theme of supporting implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas. This collaboration was acknowledged by the Conference of the Parties in decisions X1/21 and XIII/2. The Aichi Target 11 Partnership was launched in response to decision XIII/2 (para. 9(d) to provide support to achievement of Aichi Target 11 in a coordinated manner.



organizations, the research community and many other actors. In December 2022, on the margins of COP 15, a group of organizations and country representatives that was previously involved in supporting efforts towards achieving global goals related to protected and conserved areas convened for an informal meeting to discuss the potential development of a new partnership. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Commission on Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre organised a meeting in June 2023 on the development of a partnership to support the achievement of Target 3. The meeting facilitated in-depth discussions and contributions from experts representing diverse stakeholder groups, which helped to identify the goal and expected outcomes and outputs of the partnership. Pursuant to COP decisions 15/13, 15/4 (para. 8), 15/8 (para. 32), 14/8 (para. 10), XIII/23 (para. 15) and XIII/3 (para. 105) the partnership will serve all 196 Parties to the Convention as they work to achieve Target 3. The partnership seeks to facilitate achievement of Target 3 by encouraging cooperation amongst partner organizations in their delivery of support to Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders. The partnership will do this by providing a platform for partners to exchange information about support provided to Parties either through capacity building, technical support, development of tools or other means. The partnership will encourage cooperation in particular geographic regions, or on particular issues. Where relevant and possible, members of the partnership may collaborate with the Secretariat to deliver capacity building at regional and subregional level. The Secretariat aims to ensure that this proposed Target 3 partnership creates synergies with other existing initiatives such as the High Ambition Coalition, that focuses on providing support to its 118 member States through, amongst others, capacity building and technical and financial matchmaking.

#### **D. Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

186. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is an informal, voluntary arrangement among 16 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests to assist the United Nations Forum on Forest, as per Resolution 2000/35 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The Partnership developed a common work plan 2021-2024 which includes joint initiatives between the member agencies. As the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was negotiated during the time of development of the Partnership work plan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has not provided a specific input to the document.

187. Following on decision 14/30 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat continues its active engagement in the work of the Partnership and supports its activities and events by providing technical inputs on matters related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other processes. For example, the Secretariat participated in (i) the United Nations Forum on Forests' Expert Group Meeting on the Actions related to the Collaborative Partnership on Forest Organization –Led Initiative in February 2023 which provided a set of strategic recommendations to the Partnership, (ii) the Partnership retreat in June 2023 to discuss and identify ways to implement the outcome of the Initiative and further strengthen the work of the Partnership to support the United Nations Forum on Forests process and countries, and (iii) the development of the Joint Call for Action on Forest Towards 2030 and organization of the High-Level Event at the occasion of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023 where the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity actively participated in the Round Table discussion.

#### **E. Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management**

188. Following decisions 14/7 and 15/23 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat continued to actively engage in the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management as one of its partners. The Partnership is a voluntary initiative of thirteen international organizations with substantive mandates and programmes to promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources.

189. The Secretariat participated, in person and virtually, in the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management meetings.<sup>46</sup> In 2023, the Partnership adopted its 2023-2025 work plan with five thematic objectives: a) support countries to ensure that the use and trade of wildlife is legal, sustainable and safe, b) raise awareness of the links between sustainable use of wildlife, food security, livelihoods and well-being, culture and the integrity of landscapes, c) promote the prevention, management and reduction of human-wildlife conflict and enhance coexistence, d) embed sustainable use and management of wildlife in the One Health agenda, and e) advocate for sustainable and inclusive wildlife economies. The workplan incorporates activities aimed at delivering on each of these thematic objectives.

190. In response to recommendation 25/7 from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat is working in collaboration with the Partnership to undertake, in line with the mandate of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework, 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. Furthermore, the Partnership has provided peer review of the revised Global Action Plan for Biodiversity and Health, which was produced for the consideration of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### **F. Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity**

191. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity continues to collaborate with the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, a network of mostly national-level technical and scientific agencies that aim to promote the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocols through the organization of activities on policy, scientific and technical issues. The Consortium contributed to the organization of the Fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity, whose concluding segment was held from 11 to 12 December 2022 in the margins of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Forum's twelve sessions aimed to provide space for scientists, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders the opportunity to discuss and make recommendations on how science, technology and innovation can contribute to the effective implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Forum benefited several hundred in-person participants, in addition to the Forum's livestream available on YouTube which has over 1.4 thousand views. As a part of the Forum, the Consortium organized, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, the webinar "the Critical Role of Citizen Science in the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity", held in June 2022.

#### **G. Global Partnership on Plant Conservation**

192. The Secretariat continued to liaise with the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation, established under the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation to provide a framework to facilitate harmony between existing plant conservation initiatives, identify gaps where new initiatives are required, and promote mobilization of the necessary resources. In decisions 15/5 and 15/13, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation to prepare, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention, a set of complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. In compliance with the aforementioned decision, an update to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, in the form of the set of complementary actions, has been prepared by the Partnership with the support of the Secretariat, and is contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/25/5. The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation prepared additional information on technical rationales for each of the proposed complementary actions, annexed to

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<sup>46</sup> In person meetings were held on 2 July 2022, 25 to 28 February 2023, and 25 to 27 September 2023

CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/4. The annex is presented in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its twenty-fifth meeting, recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting adopts a decision in which it would express its appreciation to the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation and invite the Partnership (a) to provide guidance on using the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to monitor progress on the implementation of the voluntary complementary actions related to plant conservation, including by identifying its gaps, (b) to develop specific indicators for each of the voluntary complementary actions, and (c) to develop a template for voluntary reporting on progress in the implementation of the voluntary complementary actions.

## **H. United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**

193. Following decision 15/13 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat has been engaged in regular communications with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration team and its Task Forces to assist in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework process, especially in the context of its Target 2 on ecosystem restoration. The Decade team also led the organization of Restoration Day at the Rio Conventions Pavilion in the margins of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

194. Through collaborative efforts between the Decade co-lead agencies, FAO and UNEP, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Target 2 Roadmap was developed and shared with the Parties to the Convention, Decade partners and other major stakeholder groups through the organization of an online workshop in July 2023, a side event in the margins of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in October 2023 and the global workshop "Developing a Roadmap for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) Target 2"<sup>47</sup> in November 2023. The key action areas of the Target 2 Roadmap include development of a manual for the methodology of implementing Target 2, the enhancement of the Framework on Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring, a geospatial platform and a registry of restoration initiatives, capacity development and awareness raising and building partnerships and country support programme. As Target 2 covers restoration of all types of ecosystems, collaboration with restoration processes and initiatives active in diverse biomes is key to its successful implementation. This includes the collaboration with the Rio Conventions, biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, international and regional restoration initiatives as well as engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities.

195. Further enhancement of the Framework on Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring has been carried out by FAO through the work of the Decade Monitoring Task Force and its numerous partners, including the interoperability with other platforms, data compilation, and implementation of the recommendations of Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on Monitoring under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Target 2 resource manual is being developed through collaborative efforts of the Society for Ecological Restoration, FAO, UNEP, and several other Decade partners in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Manual, to be launched at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, will be used for various capacity development modalities and delivery models, such as e-learning modules, webinars and workshop, and will be linked to the capacity development strategy and the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention.

## **I. United Nations Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**

196. In decision 15/24, the Conference of the Parties noted the role of, inter alia, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in the conservation and sustainable use of

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<sup>47</sup> [https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/faoweb/redd/Concept\\_Note\\_GBF\\_Target\\_2\\_RoadMap\\_November\\_2023\\_FAO\\_CBD\\_updated\\_16.11.23.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/faoweb/redd/Concept_Note_GBF_Target_2_RoadMap_November_2023_FAO_CBD_updated_16.11.23.pdf)

marine and coastal biodiversity and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It also requested the Secretariat to enhance cooperation and synergies with efforts under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Pursuant to this request, the Secretariat has been coordinating with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, as coordinator of the Ocean Decade, on various issues of common interest with respect to efforts under the Decade. The Secretariat has joined the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 Working Group and also participated in the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference (10-12 April 2024), speaking in various events throughout the Conference.

#### **J. Global Taxonomy Initiative**

197. In the context of the Global Taxonomy Initiative, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity hosted the side event “The role of taxonomy for the implementation and monitoring of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” on 15 December 2022 in the margins of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Speakers from the Mexican National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity Mexico, Catalogue of Life, Marine and Coastal Research Institute of Colombia, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and the Natural History Museum of London emphasized the importance of taxonomy as the backbone and enabling condition for the monitoring and implementation of the Framework.

#### **K. Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species**

198. The Interagency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species was created to facilitate cooperation among relevant organizations to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. Its members include the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO, the World Trade Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Animal Health Organization, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the International Maritime Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity attended the eleventh online meeting of the Group on 5 April 2023 and the twelfth online meeting from 2 to 3 November 2023. In its decision 15/27, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to continue collaboration with members of the Group. In response to this request, the Group focused on coordination amongst its members with a view to discussing the implementation of decision 15/27. The Group agreed to provide inputs to a gaps analysis, initiate a discussion of potential cooperation on issues related to databases and information management, and prepare for the development of a toolkit for the implementation of Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

199. Two members of the Interagency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, also participated in the G7 workshop on enhancing international cooperation on measures against invasive alien species organized by the Government of Japan and held from 20 to 22 November 2023, where they made a presentation about Target 6 and the activities of the Liaison Group. With other members of the Liaison Group, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity also made presentations at the International Webinar on Invasive Alien Species on 5 October 2023, organized by the Government of Japan and at the side event “Enhancing international cooperation towards minimizing the negative impacts caused by invasive alien species”, organized by the Government of Japan, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, organized on 15 October 2023 at the margins of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## **L. Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative**

200. The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative is implemented by the Secretariat and is financially supported by the Korea Forest Service under a renewed Memorandum of Understanding 2021-2025. The Initiative has provided critical support for capacity development activities to Parties for forest and ecosystem restoration activities since 2014. In 2023, a brochure detailing outcomes from 12 restoration projects supported by the Initiative was launched. In 2022, a Massive Open Online Course on ecosystem restoration was organized from Sep-Nov with the UNDP Learning for Nature team and with the support of the Society for Ecological Restoration as well as contributions from many other organizations and agencies. The European Commission and the Korea Forest Service financially supported this work. The Course engaged over 16,849 participants from 193 countries with a majority of participants coming from developing countries. The Course expanded upon e-learning modules developed by the Secretariat and UNDP in 2021. The modules were very popular on the Learning for Nature website and continue to be freely available along with the Course materials. As part of implementing Initiative, the WePlan-Forests decision-support tool was further improved and piloted in partnership with the Institute for Capacity Exchange in Environmental Decisions to optimize forest restoration planning. The new functionalities of this tool will be launched in 2024 and it is available online. Collaboration with the FAO Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism continues to support national planning, data collection, and dissemination of results on forest ecosystem restoration. An initiative side event summarizing much of this work was organized with partners on the margins of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity highlighting successes and plans to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **M. Sustainable Ocean Initiative**

201. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies was developed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with FAO and UNEP to facilitate dialogue between regional organizations, to share lessons and experiences in regional collaboration, and to identify opportunities to improve cross-sectoral collaboration, in order to address issues related to fisheries management and conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity and to progress on global goals and commitments for the oceans. In its decision 15/24, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the work of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative on capacity building and on improving collaboration and coordination among regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies, and requested this work to continue. Three meetings of the Global Dialogue have been held since 2016, all in the Republic of Korea. These meetings enabled valuable discussions, exchanges of information and identified the means and opportunities for regional organizations to improve cross-sectoral collaboration in marine conservation and sustainable use and fisheries management.

202. With a view to further supporting the achievement of area-based marine conservation targets and to respond to the need for capacity-building, the Executive Secretary convened, together with FAO, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Capacity-Building Workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures in the Marine Fishery Sector, with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. The workshop was conducted online in two parts, with part 1 held on 20 and 21 April 2022, and part 2 on 27 and 28 April 2022. The workshop was organized in collaboration with various partners, including the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Caribbean Environment Programme, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, the UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ Coordination Unit, and the Fisheries Expert Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Almost seventy participants took part, including twenty-eight from Parties and other Governments, and forty-one from organizations.

203. While the third meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue was planned to be convened in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was postponed to 24–28 October 2022 in Busan, Republic of Korea. With a view to moving forward the discussion on timely issues, the Secretariat convened the Virtual Intersessional Workshop for the Global Dialogue with Regional Sea Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies, in collaboration with FAO and UNEP, and with financial support from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, from 29 September to 1 October 2021. This meeting built on the results of the first two meetings, held in Seoul in 2016 and 2018, and aimed to (i) provide updates on the status of regional collaboration and coordination, following up on the outcomes of the Global Dialogue in 2018, (ii) enable the sharing of views and experiences on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on regional collaboration, and to identify lessons learned to enhance collaboration under such circumstances, and (iii) discuss the role of, and opportunities for, regional organizations and regional collaboration in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

204. The Secretariat convened the Third Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 25 to 28 October 2022, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with the organizational support of the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea. Financial support was provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea (through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries), the Government of Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund), and the Government of France (through the French Biodiversity Agency). Participants comprised representatives of regional seas organizations (RSOs), regional fishery bodies (RFBs), other global and regional organizations and initiatives, national governments and non-governmental organizations. Discussions centered on relevant timely issues, including other effective area-based conservation measures, issues related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, all of which were still under development in their respective processes and not yet finalized at the time of the meeting. The meeting produced the Busan Outcome<sup>48</sup>, which highlights the key takeaways and informs future discussions in the context of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.

205. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Partnership meeting was convened at the offices of the Secretariat in Montreal, Canada, from 1 to 2 December 2022. This meeting gathered a group of key partners to develop and discuss elements of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Post-2020 Action Plan<sup>49</sup>, which identifies approaches to effectively deliver the capacity-building support needed to facilitate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

206. The Secretariat also convened two national workshops in the context of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, with the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea. The national workshop for Thailand was convened in 24–25 November 2022 by the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative together with the Thailand Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning and the Faculty of Sciences at Ramkhamhaeng University. The national workshop for Jamaica on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures in the marine fishery sector was convened from 17 to 19 May 2023 by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the National Fisheries Authority of Jamaica, the National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica, FAO and the Fisheries Expert Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

207. With a view to advancing the discussion on timely issues prior to the fourth meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Sea Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies, which will take place in June 2024, the Acting Executive Secretary convened the

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<sup>48</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/dcee/41b9/255ee54901e1c8ed2551f06d/soi-om-2022-outcomes-en.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/marine/soi/Post-2020-SOI-ActionPlan-en.pdf>

Intersessional workshop of the Global Dialogue, in collaboration with FAO and UNEP, and with generous financial support from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea. This online workshop, held from 1 to 3 August 2023, aimed to discuss regional collaboration in the context of recent developments, such as the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the finalization of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as progress in the implementation of the regional roadmaps contained in the Busan Outcome (the outcome of the third meeting of the Global Dialogue). It also aimed to discuss planning, approaches and potential outcomes for the fourth meeting of the Global Dialogue. Participants in the workshop mainly comprised experts from regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies, various other regional organizations and initiatives, government representatives, global intergovernmental organizations, and other relevant organizations.

208. Pursuant to a request in decision 15/24, whereby the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat of the Convention to continue to facilitate capacity-building activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in order to support the implementation of the Framework with respect to marine, coastal and island biodiversity, the Secretariat convened the Sustainable Ocean Initiative regional capacity-building workshop for East, South and South-East Asia in collaboration with various regional organizations and initiatives, including the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization, the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center. The workshop was held from 5 to 8 September 2023 in Seoul. It was organized with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, and technical support from the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea. The workshop sought to identify means, opportunities and priorities for, as well as challenges to implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the region with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity. The workshop was attended by 21 experts from Parties in the region and 17 experts from relevant global and regional organizations, and indigenous peoples and local communities, comprising experts, managers, officers and specialists in marine biodiversity conservation and fisheries management.

## **N. Nature for Health Initiative**

209. In support of the implementation of decisions 14/4 and 15/29 of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a partner organization of the Nature for Health initiative, which aims to reduce the risk of pandemics through the implementation of the One Health approach. The Initiative is supported by the Government of Germany, and its partners include UNDP, UNEP, the World Health Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, among others. In this respect, the Secretariat was in constant communication with this initiative and participated in meetings of the Nature for Health consortium, which included coordination meetings among partners and steering committee meetings. The consortium partner meetings were often weekly or monthly meetings. The Secretariat participated in all the online meetings and in the 2023 in-person meeting organized with all the partners.

210. The Secretariat supported the organization of the side event “Fast-tracking implementation of One Health approaches for biodiversity & health” held on 15 March 2022 at the margins of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Initiative also organized the side event “Nature 4 Health Unveiling the first investments” on 15 December 2022 at the margins of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In that context, a press release<sup>50</sup>

<sup>50</sup> [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62cec364267f831da371f2b2/t/639cb71800952f255e622fd2/1671214872391/Press+Release\\_N4H\\_FINAL+CLEARED.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62cec364267f831da371f2b2/t/639cb71800952f255e622fd2/1671214872391/Press+Release_N4H_FINAL+CLEARED.pdf).

and report<sup>51</sup> were prepared. The Nature for Health Initiative remains active also in other fora and contributed to the Geneva Health Forum, the African Protected Area Congress convened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the G7 process in 2022 under the German Presidency.

## **O. International Mountain Partnership**

211. The membership of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the International Mountain Partnership hosted by FAO in Rome was renewed. A call with the members of the Partnership was held prior the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to inform on the status of negotiation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

212. In September 2022, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the online workshop “Mountain biodiversity 2002 – 2022: achievements and next challenges at global and regional level” organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, hosted by FAO, UNEP and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, among others. The workshop aimed at contributing to elevate mountain biodiversity and mountain ecosystems at the international environmental agendas, including in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **P. National biodiversity strategies and action plans Accelerator Partnership**

213. The national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) Accelerator Partnership was launched in December 2022 at the margins of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity by the Governments of Germany and Colombia.<sup>52</sup> The Partnership aims to provide and facilitate access to financial and technical support to assist national governments in revising, implementing, monitoring and reviewing ambitious national biodiversity strategies and action plans including through in-country and regional facilitators and the match-making service, supporting peer-to-peer learning, and raising the profile of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The Secretariat is part of the interim Global Coordination Unit of the Partnership together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The first meeting of the Partnership’s interim Steering Committee was held on the margins of the opening of the general debate of the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly at UNDP Headquarters in New York in September 2023. The Committee meeting, co-chaired by the representatives of the Governments of Colombia and Germany, adopted the Accelerator's initial core services and value proposition. In addition, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention attended the operational launch of the Partnership on 20 September 2023. In 2023, the Partnership contributed to the launch of two surveys to support the mapping of stakeholders and to assess capacity needs for the update, implementation and monitoring of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

## **Q. International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative**

214. The Secretariat has actively engaged in the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, which has been promoting the sustainable management of socioecological production landscapes and seascapes. The Ninth Global Conference of the Initiative was held from 8 to 11 July 2023 in Akita, Japan. At the conference, members of the Initiative adopted the Strategy and Plan of Action 2023-2030 of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative<sup>53</sup> with the strategic objective to contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

215. As the flagship programme under the Initiative, Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative, founded in 2011 and supported by the Japan Biodiversity

<sup>51</sup> <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62cec364267f831da371f2b2/t/64116ea68563024ed64f4dac/1678864041771/N4H+CBD+COP15+-+Meeting+Report.pdf>.

<sup>52</sup> <https://nbsapaccelerator.org/>.

<sup>53</sup> [https://satoyama-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/IPSI-PoA\\_2023-2030-1.pdf?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=new-ipsi-mini-newsletter\\_105](https://satoyama-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/IPSI-PoA_2023-2030-1.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=new-ipsi-mini-newsletter_105).



Fund, has been implemented by UNDP. The programme aims to develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes. The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative has provided small grants to local community organizations through the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme. Phase 4 was launched at the margins of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## **R. United Nations Biorisk Group**

216. The United Nations Biorisk Working Group was established by the Secretary-General to bring together policy and technical expertise to harmonize and further develop a clear understanding of capacities, mechanisms, roles and responsibilities within the United Nations system. The Group aims to strengthen the international community's preparedness and response to natural, accidental or deliberate biological events. The Working Group is co-chaired by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was invited to join the United Nations Biorisk Working Group and has so far participated in meetings of the group and in a short pilot staff exchange in support of Activity 3 of the group's workplan, which attempts to map skills and experience related to biorisk across United Nations agencies. The group is currently on phase II and the Secretariat continues to regularly participate in the meetings.

## **S. UN-Water**

217. UN-Water is a coordination mechanism comprised of United Nations entities (Members) and international organizations (Partners) working on water and sanitation issues. UN-Water's role is to ensure that Members and Partners 'deliver as one' in response to water-related challenges.

218. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been a long-standing partner of UN-Water and organized a series of activities relevant to the water-biodiversity nexus. The virtual event "From Agreement to Action: the Central Role of Water to Build Back Biodiversity" was co-organized by UN-Water and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2023. This event illustrated the critical interlinkages between freshwater and biodiversity and showcased the outcomes of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2023 United Nations Water Conference. The Water Action Agenda commitments on biodiversity made by different stakeholders at the 2023 United Nations Water Conference was discussed during the event.

## **VII. Cooperation with non-governmental organizations and networks**

219. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity continues to engage with indigenous peoples and local communities as well as a wide range of stakeholder networks with a view to foster an inclusive process through a whole-of-society approach in line with decision 15/11, 15/12, 15/14, and 15/18 of its Conference of the Parties, among others.

### **A. Place Québec**

220. At the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, participation of observers was further strengthened by Place Québec, a unique facility encouraging whole-of-society participation to implement the Convention and its Protocols, made possible thanks to the support of the Government of Québec. The space enabled civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, and all other stakeholders, to showcase action and commitments across society in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its successful implementation. Through encouraging multistakeholder gathering and dialogue, within and across constituencies, Place Québec fostered the sharing of views and experiences and the planning of effective collaborative action for the benefit of biodiversity. Place Québec also included hubs for the use of different stakeholder groups including indigenous people and local

communities, women's organizations, youth organizations, academic and research organizations, faith-based organizations, business, industry and finance organizations, and non-governmental organizations broadly. A larger pavilion was dedicated to subnational and local authorities while the days between 9 and 11 December were dedicated to business and biodiversity. Building on such positive experience, Place Québec is also planned for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia, with the support of the Government of Québec.

## **B. The Bio-Bridge Initiative**

221. The Bio-Bridge Initiative was established with the financial support of the Government of the Republic of Korea at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2014, to enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, with a view to supporting the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by promoting cooperation amongst a wide range of stakeholder organizations. The 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 Initiative's web platform serves as the primary mechanism for matchmaking between requesters and providers of technical assistance. These include non-governmental organizations, research organizations and international organizations, among others. The platform facilitates the submission of requests for assistance, the registration of providers of technical assistance, and the sharing of information on relevant opportunities. Since the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the number of institutions registered as providers of technical assistance on the web platform grew to 52, based in 24 countries.

222. The Initiative also continued to provide small grants to catalyze the development of projects that promote technical and scientific cooperation among Parties to address issues and challenges relevant to the Convention and its Protocols. Since the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 16 projects which were selected for funding as part of the fourth call for proposals have all been successfully activated. These projects, which involve institutions from 38 Parties and one non-Party, cover various topics relevant to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. As of 15 March, 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 89 proposals were received by the deadline of 22 March 2024.

## **C. Indigenous peoples and local communities**

223. In the margins of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Conference Presidency, and indigenous peoples and local communities organized the Nature and Culture Summit: A Global Dialogue on Strengthening the Links between Nature and Cultures to Achieve a Sustainable and Ecological Civilization. The event featured over 40 speakers and 200 attendees, as well as cultural presentations from Yunnan Province, First Nations, Inuit, and Metis from Canada. The participants of the Summit produced the Yunnan – Tiohti:áke Nature Culture Summit Declaration: Towards Flourishing Diversity, which informs the future work on Decision 15/22 and the Joint Programme of Work on Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity.

224. During the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, indigenous peoples and local communities were represented at the high-level segment and were also given a hub at Place Quebec.

225. The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity is a platform of indigenous governments, local communities, non-governmental organizations, academics, and activists working within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Its main objective is to ensure the full

participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in Convention processes, advocating for the recognition of their rights and contributions to nature during negotiations, decision-making, and implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity regularly coordinates with the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity. This includes participating in internal meetings and building capacity for effective participation in official meetings of the Convention by debriefing on procedures and substantive issues relevant for indigenous peoples and local communities. More information about the work on indigenous peoples and local communities can be found within the present report, including in the sections dedicated to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, FAO and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, among others.

#### **D. Stakeholder networks**

226. *Non-governmental organizations:* The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity continues to collaborate with international non-governmental organizations that have been involved in the development and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These include but are not limited to the Alliance for Zero Extinction, BirdLife International, Conservation International, Rare Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

227. The Secretariat has continued to collaborate with the AEON Environmental Foundation on the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity, a biennial prize established in 2010 to honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Secretariat and AEON Environmental Foundation have been preparing for the next MIDORI Prize, whose winners are to be announced at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia.

228. *CBD Alliance:* The Secretariat cooperates on an ongoing basis with the CBD Alliance in coordinating requests related to participation and engagement of civil society representatives of its member organizations in official meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, among other activities. The CBD Alliance is a network of civil society organizations that have a common interest in the Convention. The network reaches out to over 400 member organizations and interacts actively with about 100 of these. The members of CBD Alliance are nongovernmental organizations, indigenous people organizations, community-based organizations and other not-for-profit groups that work to support and enhance the involvement of civil society groups in the implementation, knowledge-sharing and participation in the processes of the Convention, in particular to enable the informed and effective participation of civil society groups from developing countries. The CBD Alliance received support from the CBD Secretariat to participate in regional and thematic consultations, and in the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

229. *Global Youth Biodiversity Network:* The Secretariat continued its close collaboration with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, which actively engages in official meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Network comprises 558 member organizations, 46 regional and national chapters, representing over 1.23 million youth from 172 countries. Apart from its outreach on social media channels, the Network includes almost 1,000 youth from all five United Nations regions and its mailing list reaches 5,000 youth. In preparing for official meetings, the Network provides intensive Policy Trainings open to all members, partner organizations and constituencies. During official meetings, the Network connects with all trained participants through chat groups to coordinate interventions and other actions. The Network also provides assistance to its member organizations, individual members and other partners, including in the context of the United Nations Major Group on Children and Youth, by providing capacity-building trainings, information sharing sessions and national and regional consultation on issues related to the Convention such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

230. Due to the postponement of the 2020 Global Youth Biodiversity Summit, an alternative youth project was prepared by the Network in close collaboration with the Secretariat. The goal of this project was to keep the momentum for youth engagement for the Global Biodiversity Framework. Its second objective was to celebrate youth engagement with the Convention in the past decade, in particular for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. The Japan Biodiversity Fund enabled the implementing partner to mobilize resources from other donors, to bring five additional youth to Geneva, Switzerland to attend part two of the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held 14-29 March 2022 and supported the participation of four representatives of the Network to the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held in Nairobi from 21 to 26 June 2022. The Japan Biodiversity Fund also supported the travel of four representatives of to the Youth Summit held in the margins of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity from 5 to 6 December 2022. The participants are representatives of four countries for the Global South and were selected by the Network to represent all network members, to convey youth's priorities to the global negotiations on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to play a major role in coordinating youth activities for the period. Their expertise will also contribute to the success of preparation and networking essential for the successful implementation of youth-related activities planned for 2023-2024. The project officially closed during this reporting period, and a series of events and activities were organized at the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in close collaboration with the Secretariat.

231. The Secretariat and the Network, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Japan and the City of Yokohama, have been meeting regularly for the organization of the International Youth Conference on Biodiversity, to be held in Yokohama, Japan from 25 to 31 August 2024. The Conference is supported by the Japan Biodiversity Fund and focuses on the youth contribution to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It will also be an important preparatory meeting to foster the effective engagement of youths in the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

232. *CBD Women's Caucus:* The Women's Caucus of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a self-organized platform to facilitate the integration of women's human rights and gender equality in the policy framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through strengthening the voices of women that are grounded in different local and national realities. The CBD Women's Caucus was initiated in 2018 to coordinate women's groups and engage in projects and training with members. The CBD Women's Caucus organized a series of webinars, to share updates on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with a broader network of gender equality and human rights related organizations. In addition to webinar dialogues on relevant thematic areas, including food sovereignty and gender-based violence, the organization also held shorter 'instadialogues' on access and benefit-sharing, human rights and the Escazu agreement, and has carried out social media campaigns and provided targeted training. The Caucus is working to strengthen collaboration with established organizations in the biodiversity and development domains, to bring attention to the gender and biodiversity nexus. The CBD Women's Caucus regularly delivers statements in official meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity and equally organizes events in other fora including the United Nations Environment Assembly and the United Nations Human Rights Council. At the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a high-level ministerial breakfast on biodiversity and gender: accelerating the uptake of a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework was held on the topic of on biodiversity and gender organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Finland, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment of Malawi, and Ministry for Environment and Climate Change Canada, as co-chairs to the CBD Friends of Gender Equality Group. A representative of the CBD

Women's Caucus delivered a statement under the Panel "Call to Action: How Women Play a Key Role in Biodiversity Conservation and Action, What is Needed for Gender-Responsive Action."

233. *Business and Biodiversity*: In the follow-up of decision X/21 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity was established. Functioning as a network of networks, its primary goal is to facilitate connections between various initiatives, fostering the exchange of information, sharing best practices, and promoting collaboration on joint projects. The overarching aim is to integrate biodiversity concerns into businesses. The Partnership consistently holds its annual meetings, regional conferences, and ad-hoc workshops. These events serve as platforms to enhance stakeholder engagement and promote capacity building on business and biodiversity. The network also supports the efforts to engage the broader business community.

234. The Secretariat proactively engaged with the private sector leading up to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, resulting in a record attendance of business representatives at the Conference. A comprehensive program focusing on the business sector was developed, including the Business and Biodiversity Forum that aimed to identify tools and solutions supporting companies in deviating from conventional business practices, thus encouraging increased ambition in corporate biodiversity-related actions. Making the most of the occasion, the Secretariat also organized Business Focus Days at Place Quebec from 9 to 11 December, and 28 events at the business and finance hub. The Secretariat also hosted the Finance Day at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP Finance Initiative and other relevant organizations with a program tailored to bring together high-level representatives from government, financial institutions, development agencies and other interested parties to discuss the role of finance in securing the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Secretariat also continues to engage with the finance sector, as mandated by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision 14/3. At the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat organized a "Finance and Biodiversity Day" bringing together relevant public and private financial actors with a view to galvanize support and encourage action for effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

235. Additionally, a noteworthy series of events occurred after the Conference, including workshops with the finance sector and the establishment of the Taskforce of Nature-related Financial Disclosures. The Taskforce played a crucial role in raising awareness within the finance community regarding the impact, dependencies, and opportunities associated with their activities on biodiversity. The Secretariat chaired various Taskforce meetings, including its Plenary from 2 to 7 October 2022 in London, United Kingdom and its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting in London from 23 to 24 January 2023.

236. In September 2023 the Secretariat held an international workshop on Business and Biodiversity in Belem, Brazil. The three-day event featured a series of panels and keynote speakers with a focus on exploring how the private sector can support implementation and its role in the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans at the global and local levels. The Secretariat further strengthened collaboration with UNEP initiatives, notably the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, focusing on the Consumer Information Program related to biodiversity, and the Trade Hub, which aims at emphasizing the connections between sustainable trade and positive outcomes for biodiversity. This collaboration materialized in a joint webinar series on "Nature Positive trade for sustainable development" with focus on several targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These included the organization, also in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Centre and the World Trade Organization, of the webinars "How can trade in support of the circular economy facilitate the delivery of biodiversity targets?" held on 21 February 2023, "Identifying Opportunities for Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity" held on 16 June 2023, and "Identifying Opportunities for the Sustainable Use of Marine Resources, Including Sustainable Fisheries" held on 10 October 2023.

237. *Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities*: The Secretariat continues to cooperate with associated networks of subnational and local governments, particularly under the Global Partnership on Subnational and Local Action on Biodiversity and its associated Advisory Committees of Cities (whose secretariat is managed by ICLEI) and of Subnational Governments (led by Regions<sup>4</sup>), as proposed in decision 15/12 on engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The organizations involved have built a strong self-organized mechanism for consultation to develop a collective opinion and action towards the objectives and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, including in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

238. Many subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, organizations and groups, including the above referenced networks, collaborated under the leadership of the Scottish Government in the Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the Development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Edinburgh Process led up to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the related seventh Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments. The Process led to the Edinburgh Declaration as well as several other outputs, which were outlined in CBD/COP/15/INF/16 and contributed to the adoption of the updated Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, annexed to decision 15/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

239. The seventh Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities was held from 11 to 12 December 2022 on the margins of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Summit was co-organized and co-hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention in collaboration with Regions<sup>4</sup>, the Government of Québec and the City of Montréal, and with the support and engagement of the Province of Yunnan and the City of Kunming. The Summit was financially supported by the Government of Québec as its main sponsor. The Summit, focused on the theme Taking Action for Biodiversity, comprised an opening plenary, eight sessions, two receptions and a closing plenary, giving the opportunity to representatives from subnational governments and cities to voice their contribution and expectations in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

240. In 2023, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity renewed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Paraná. In the Agreement, the State of Paraná has agreed to offset the emissions of the Secretariat from 2021 to 2030, while the Secretariat will share the State of Paraná's initiatives on nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change and other biodiversity and environmental actions aligned with the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (2023—2030) and the supportive Edinburgh Declaration.

241. *Faith-based organizations*: Faith-based organizations have been increasingly participating in official meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Faith and Biodiversity UN Coordination Group was established to serve as a space for faith-based organizations and conservation groups to network and jointly advocate for biodiversity at key international moments. The Group has been one of the main representatives of faith-based organizations in official meetings of the Convention, including the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, where it organized several side events including under the Faith Pavilion hosted under Place Quebec. A number of other umbrella organizations also actively participate in meetings of the Convention, including the Parliament of the World's Religions and the United Religions Initiative.

242. *Academic institutions*: The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Cambridge on 08 December 2022. The objective of this Memorandum is to build a partnership between the Secretariat and the University

of Cambridge Master's program in Conservation Leadership in support of the implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Secretariat also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences on 9 December 2022. In the Memorandum the Secretariat and the Institute agree to cooperate on (1) academic research and technology development, (2) capacity-building and (3) sharing of knowledge, technology, and good practices, including by jointly organizing symposia, workshops, and fora and by jointly publishing related findings and articles.

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