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**Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**
**Seventeenth meeting**
Yerevan, 19–30 October 2026
Agenda item 17 (b)
**Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity**

# Strategic review of and update to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

**Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group II**

[*The Conference of the Parties*,

*Recalling* its decisions IX/5 of 30 May 2008, XIII/7 of 17 December 2016 and 16/35 of 27 February 2025,

*Recognizing* that forest conservation and restoration and sustainable forest management are important for the achievement of many targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,[1]

*Deeply concerned* about the continuous loss and degradation of forests, especially primary forest and protected forest areas, while acknowledging recent efforts by many countries to reduce deforestation,

*Recognizing* that the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity is a shared priority of the Rio conventions,

*Recalling* the findings of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement,[2] in particular the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030,

*Recognizing* the contribution of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030[3] and, among others, the Rio conventions and other relevant global instruments and processes to the promotion of forest conservation and restoration and sustainable forest management,

[1] Decision 15/4, annex.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3156, No. 54113.
[3] See General Assembly resolution 71/285.

*Welcoming* the ongoing joint efforts undertaken under the Collaborative Partnership on Forests workplan 2025–2028, including on enhanced policy coherence with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the continuous contribution of the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea to the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative to develop capacity on sustainable forest management,

1. *Acknowledges* that the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity[4] and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties provide guidance on forest-related actions under the Convention on Biological Diversity,[5] and the ongoing importance of that programme and of the related decisions to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, but that supplementary guidance in relation to certain targets of the Framework is useful;

2. *Takes note* of information document CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/9, entitled "Information related to the review of and potential updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework";

3. *Notes* the potential relevance of *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity* and *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the work undertaken under the Convention, including the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, including in support of the implementation of the Framework;

[4. [*Endorses*][*Also notes*] the complementary activities contained in the annex to the present decision as [priority] actions to [be undertaken on a voluntary basis, as appropriate, in accordance with national and legislation and taking into account national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, to] further support the implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity;]

[5. *Recognizes* that the [voluntary] complementary activities contained in the annex to the present decision and measures taken to support the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, including unilateral measures, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;]

[5.Alt *Recognizes* that the complementary activities contained in the annex to the present decision and measures taken to support the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity should be in line with relevant international agreements, including relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and with rules under the World Trade Organization;]

6. *Also recognizes* the importance of mobilizing predictable, adequate and sustainable means of implementation, including through financial resources, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building, to ensure the effective implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity;

7. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to take into account the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as applicable, as well as their implementation, and in the development of national targets, national reports, national capacity-building and development programmes and resource mobilization strategies, to support the implementation of the Framework, national forest programmes and other forest-related programmes, strategies and initiatives;

[4] Decision VI/22.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

8. *Encourages* Parties to implement the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity applying a gender-sensitive approach and in line with section C and the goals and targets of the Framework, in particular Targets 22 and 23, and related provisions of the Convention, in line with national circumstances, priorities and legislation, as appropriate;

9. *Invites* the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, processes and partnerships, such as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as appropriate, to contribute to the implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity by supporting the implementation of the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision, including through the development of targeted capacity-building and development programmes and the dissemination of guidance and tools to support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

10. *Invites* indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, women, children and youth, persons with disabilities and forest actors, to use the annex to the present decision as guidance to support the implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity;

11. *Invites* the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to consider ways and means to further enhance their individual and collective contributions to support Parties in their implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity;

12. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to mainstream forest biodiversity, through the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the activities listed in the annex to the present decision, into and across relevant sectors;

13. *Requests* that, with regard to the annex to the present decision, and subject to the availability of resources, the Executive Secretary of the Convention:

(a) Enhance cooperation with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members to compile and make available relevant recent guidance and tools and to identify future joint initiatives related to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision, giving particular attention to sustainable forest management and to increasing collaboration on resource mobilization for biodiversity-inclusive forest management;

(b) Compile and make available relevant experiences from Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as women, youth, academia and other stakeholders on the use of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision in support of the implementation of the Framework as it relates to forest biodiversity;

(c) Integrate the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision, as appropriate, into relevant capacity-building and development and scientific and technical cooperation efforts undertaken under the Convention, including through the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative and the Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme;

(d) Strengthen communication on the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, including the complementary activities listed in the annex to the present decision, among all stakeholders, including relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations;

(e) Report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the aforementioned cooperation activities in support of the implementation of the Convention and the Framework.

## Annex
## Supplement to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity

| *Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*[6] | *Complementary activities to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity*[7] |
|---|---|
| Targets 1, 2 and 3 | 1. Protect forests, especially primary forests, and conserve and sustainably manage forests through participatory and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning practices, to enhance ecological integrity and forest connectivity, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, according to national circumstances.<br>2. Identify, disseminate and apply best practices for forest restoration, including for qualitative aspects of forest management, with regard to spatial and within-stand heterogeneity, connectivity, climate adaptation and resilience, climate projections, wildfire management and decreasing risks of other biotic and abiotic disturbances.<br>3. Consider other effective area-based conservation measures as an integral part of forest landscape planning to improve forest connectivity, including in areas managed by indigenous peoples and local communities.<br>4. Encourage the use of native species in reforestation.<br>5. Promote guidelines, mechanisms and indicators, as applicable and appropriate, for forest ecosystem restoration monitoring and evaluation, in accordance with national legislation. |
| Targets 4, 5 and 9 | 6. Manage human-wildlife conflict, including through sustainable forest management, where possible, while recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and protecting and encouraging their customary sustainable use.<br>7. Identify, raise awareness of and promote the application of best practices for conserving and managing forest habitats, maintaining the genetic diversity of forest wild species and their habitats to prevent and mitigate disease risks to people, reduce extinction risk and support the recovery and conservation of forest species.<br>8. Combat illegal logging and trade and step up actions against deforestation and forest degradation.<br>9. Identify ways and means to prevent trade in wild species, including invasive alien species, that has a negative impact on forest biodiversity.<br>10. Promote the development of forest timber and non-timber products to support sustainable livelihoods. |
| Target 6 | 11. Taking cross-cutting work on invasive alien species into account, provide guidance to assist forest practitioners and managers with preventing the introduction of invasive alien species, and eradicating or controlling existing populations of such species, including those that may be unintentionally spread through earth-moving and forest machinery and operations.<br>12. Promote the use of native species in forest restoration and management to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species. |
| Target 7 | 13. Increase understanding of the complex relationships between forest biodiversity and nutrient cycles and other biogeochemical flows, including atmospheric aerosols.<br>[14. Support the development and consideration of options for integrated pest management approaches[, including biological control agents,] as appropriate.] |

[6] Decision 15/4, annex.
[7] Decision VI/22.

| *Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*[6] | *Complementary activities to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity*[7] |
|---|---|
| Targets 8 and 11 | 15. Enhance the benefits for biodiversity, and avoid the negative impacts, of carbon market-driven incentives for large-scale restoration, including through afforestation.<br>16. Increase understanding of the impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity and on long-term forest management.<br>17. Enhance forest ecosystem integrity and resilience, as an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction, by using nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, considering likely long-term ecosystem changes and environmental and social safeguards.<br>18. Restore, maintain and enhance forest ecosystem functions and services, such as climate regulation, carbon sequestration, water regulation, good water quality, soil health, pollination and cultural values, through sustainable forest management, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches. |
| Target 10 | 19. Further develop, promote and implement biodiversity-friendly practices, including close-to-nature forest management, sustainable forest management, the implementation of safeguards into reforestation measures, reduced-impact logging practices, the conservation of areas of particular importance to biodiversity, sustainable intensification, agroecology, agroforestry and inter-cropping, to reduce forest fragmentation and integrate indigenous knowledge and practices, as appropriate.<br>20. Promote approaches that improve the socioeconomic conditions of indigenous peoples and local communities, including alternative livelihoods based on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forest resources.<br>21. Promote sustainable forest management and the sustainable use of forest products by all relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities.<br>22. Support innovative business models that contribute to the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of forest biodiversity[, including in the context of [sustainable bioeconomy and circular economy] programmes and policies, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances].<br>23. Promote the evidence-based sustainable use of fungal biodiversity for sustainable forest management. |
| Target 12 | 24. Provide and apply the principles of urban forestry and urban green space planning to urban development. |
| Target 14 | 25. Strengthen cross-sectoral efforts and mainstream forest biodiversity into policies, strategies and measures, including national forest strategies.<br>26. Promote the application of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, as appropriate, to recognize the contributions of forest ecosystem services and functions to the economy and the environment. |
| Targets 15 and 16 | 27. Promote good practices, including in non-forest industries, in the production and supply chains to address the risk of deforestation, taking national legislation and socioeconomic conditions into account.<br>28. Encourage business and financial institutions to monitor, assess and transparently disclose forest biodiversity-related risks in their sustainability reporting.<br>29. Encourage and support consumers, in line with national legislation and circumstances, to make informed decisions and buy from legal and sustainable supply chains by providing relevant information.<br>30. Address obstacles to sustainable forest management, such as the lack of market access for value-added forest products originating from sustainably managed forests. |

| *Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*[6] | *Complementary activities to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity*[7] |
|---|---|
| Targets 18 and 19 | 31. Strengthen, further develop and promote financing instruments for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forest.<br>32. Eliminate, phase out or reform subsidies harmful to forest biodiversity.<br>33. Engage the private sector in the development of innovative financial instruments or mechanisms to support forest conservation and restoration and sustainable forest management, such as payments for ecosystem services.<br>34. Work closely with the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network of the United Nations Forum on Forests, ensuring equal access to finance for all eligible Parties.<br>35. Improve equitable access and employ adequate financing instruments to enhance the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in implementing forest governance and community-based forest management, in line with national circumstances and legislation. |
| Target 20 | 36. Enhance technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building to add greater value to forest products, in a manner supportive of enterprises led by forest-dependent communities, including businesses led by indigenous peoples and local communities. |
| Targets 21, 22 and 23 | 37. Taking the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity[8] related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030[9] and the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)[10] into account:<br>(a) Promote the understanding and application of indigenous and traditional knowledge, world views and values as they relate to forest and landscape management practices;<br>(b) Identify and promote best practices for the implementation of task 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with national circumstances and legislation and international obligations;<br>(c) Identify and promote best practices for access to information and for increasing participation in the planning, decision-making and management of forests by indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, persons with disabilities and other relevant actors;<br>(d) Adopt a gender-responsive approach in forest conservation and restoration and sustainable forest management;<br>[(e) Enable and promote the full protection of environmental human rights defenders, in accordance with national legislation [and/or circumstances].] |

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[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[9] Decision 16/4, annex.
[10] Decision 15/11, annex.