



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
22 June 2026

English only

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Twenty-eighth meeting

Nairobi, 27 July–1 August 2026

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: strategic review of and updates to the programme of work on protected areas

Information related to the review of and potential updates to the programme of work on protected areas in the context of the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its decision 16/12, the Conference of the Parties (COP), in recalling paragraph 9 of decision 15/4, requested the Secretariat to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to facilitate its implementation. The Conference of the Parties further requested that, on the basis of this analysis, draft updates of these programmes of work be prepared, taking into account documents prepared for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice related to that work, and submit them for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at a future meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Pursuant to these requests, this document provides a review and gap analysis of the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA) in relation to its alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), in particular the 2030 action targets. Based on this review and analysis, the document identifies areas that may require further guidance and enhanced attention, in a manner complementary to the current programme of work. The review and gap analysis take into consideration the following primary sources of information:

(a) Document CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/1 containing the rapid analysis of programmes of work established under the Convention with respect to the targets of the Framework;

(b) Document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15 containing the review and analysis of existing tools and guidance and their gaps to support the implementation of the targets of the Framework;

* CBD/SBSTTA/28/1.

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

(c) Submission of views and information pursuant to notification 2025-135 and notification 2026-023 relating to the strategic review and analysis and the peer review of the programme of work in the context of the Framework;

(d) Decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to protected and conserved areas (PCAs).

A. Background

3. The programme of work on protected areas was adopted in February 2004 (decision VII/28) during the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-7) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Through this decision, the Parties recognized the essential role of protected areas in conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological integrity, aiming to establish comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas by 2010 for terrestrial areas and by 2012 for marine areas.

4. The programme is structured around four interlinked and mutually reinforcing elements designed to support Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in developing national programmes of work with targeted goals, actions, time frames, inputs and expected measurable outputs. These elements are: (1) direct actions for planning, selecting, establishing, strengthening, and managing protected area systems and sites; (2) governance, participation, equity and benefit sharing; (3) enabling activities; and (4) standards, assessment, and monitoring.

5. The programme of work on protected areas has not been formally updated since its adoption in 2004, but its implementation has been reviewed through several decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

(a) COP-8 (2006, Curitiba, Brazil): through decision VIII/24 the Conference of the Parties noted the progress made during the period 2004–2006 and further invited Parties and relevant organizations to provide timely and high-quality information on the implementation of the programme of work.

(b) COP-9 (2008, Bonn): through decision IX/18, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to convene regional and subregional capacity-building and progress-review workshops for the programme, to collate existing best practices related to the implementation of the PoW, and to prepare an in-depth review of the programme of work using inter alia the information contained in the fourth national reports. Further, this decision also requested Parties to designate a national focal point for the programme of work.

(c) COP-10 (Nagoya, 2010): through decision X/31 the Conference of the Parties addressed national, regional, and global strategies for strengthening implementation, and identified issues requiring greater attention. Furthermore, it established a National Profile on the Implementation of the programme of work. The draft reporting framework aimed to facilitate the systematic capture of progress.

The core principles and elements of the programme of work have gradually entered broader decisions of the Conference of the Parties and implementation processes, culminating in their integration into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

6. COP-10 (2010, Nagoya, Japan): through decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including Target 11 which set quantitative and qualitative goals for protected-area coverage, ecological representativity, connectivity, and effective management. Aichi Target 11 stated that: “By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystems services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative, and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape”.

7. COP-14 (2018, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt): through decision 14/8, the Conference of the Parties defined “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs) as areas outside protected areas that deliver sustained in situ biodiversity conservation outcomes. The decision requested Parties to identify, recognize, support, and report other effective area-based conservation measures.

8. COP-15 (2022, Montreal): decision 15/4, adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Target 3 which aims to “ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories”.

9. Protected areas (PAs) are defined under Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity as “a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.”

10. Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are defined by the Conference of the Parties in Decision 14/8 as “a geographically defined area other than a protected area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other locally relevant values.”

11. For the purposes of this strategic review, and in the context of Target 3 of the Framework, the term protected and conserved areas (PCAs) is used as an umbrella concept referring collectively to protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures, and indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable and recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

II. Alignment of the programme of work on protected areas with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

A. Alignment with the overarching elements

12. The programme of work is generally consistent with the four goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, although some gaps have been noted (Table 1).

Table 1.

Relationship of the current programme, the four Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Goal statements and the existing gaps

<i>2050 Framework Goals:</i>	<i>Relationship with the programme of work and gaps</i>
Goal A: The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;	Relevant sections: The programme partially addresses ecosystem integrity, representativeness, and connectivity through its core elements. Element 1 (Goals 1.1 and 1.2), focuses on establishing ecologically representative systems and integrating them into broader land and seascapes. Element 2 addresses management effectiveness and the mitigation of threats, while Element 4 (Goal 4.1) provides for monitoring and evaluation of protected area systems. Genetic diversity is also implicitly included in Element 1 (Goal 1.1) through its objective of maintaining viable populations.

2050 Framework Goals:	<i>Relationship with the programme of work and gaps</i>
The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.	Gaps: While these themes are present, important gaps remain. The programme of work does not explicitly reflect contemporary approaches to ecological connectivity or ecosystem resilience as defined in the Framework. This includes a lack of guidance on climate-informed corridor design, contemporary ecological connectivity, and the role of ecosystems resilience in sustaining carbon stocks under climate change. Furthermore, it does not address “areas of high biodiversity importance” or ecosystems of high ecological integrity” as identified in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1-3.
Goal B: Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.	Relevant Sections: The programme partially addresses sustainable management, and the benefits biodiversity provides to people within protected areas. Element 1 (Goal 1.2) addresses management effectiveness and sustainable management. Element 2 (Goal 2.1): focuses on equitable benefit-sharing, and Element 4 (Goal 4.1) management effectiveness. The programme also promotes the use of social and economic benefits, including for poverty reduction, where consistent with conservation objectives. Gaps: The programme does not fully address the integration of sustainable use across production landscapes and seascapes. In addition, it lacks outcome-oriented guidance to assess how protected and conserved areas contribute to human health, risk reduction, and climate resilience, as reflected in Target 11.
Goal C: The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.	Relevant sections: The programme partially addresses equity, participation, and benefit-sharing primarily through Element 2 (Goal 2.1) which calls for the “equitable benefit-sharing of both costs and benefits arising from the establishment and management of protected areas”. Traditional knowledge is addressed through Element 3 (Goal 3.1 and 3.2), which promote research and the documentation of traditional practices relevant to protected areas management. Gaps: The programme does not explicitly address access and benefit-sharing related to genetic resources and digital sequence information in the context of the Nagoya Protocol, nor does it sufficiently elaborate on non-monetary benefits, governance authority, and the protection of traditional knowledge.
Goal D: Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to	Relevant sections: The programme provides a strong foundation for implementation with Element 3, dedicated entirely to capacity building (Goal 3.2), technology transfer (Goal 3.3), and financial

<i>2050 Framework Goals:</i>	<i>Relationship with the programme of work and gaps</i>
and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.	sustainability (Goal 3.4). It covers national capacity needs and assessments and the development of sustainable financing plans. Gaps: While the programme addresses aspects of financial sustainability, it does not adequately reflect developments in sustainable financing mechanisms since its adoption.

B. Alignment with and gaps vis-à-vis the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets

Target 1: Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss

Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated, and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea use change to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030 while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

13. The programme elements 1, 2, and 4 include goals, targets, and activities that support participatory and science-based spatial planning in protected areas and in the broader land and seascapes. They promote effective planning, establishment, and management of protected area systems; strengthen governance, participation, equity, and benefit-sharing; and guide standards, assessment, and monitoring. These elements emphasize respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and focus on safeguarding areas of high biodiversity importance, and to enhance full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision making. Relevant activities include 1.1.2, 1.2.2, 1.4.1, 1.4.7, 2.1.5, 2.2.2, 4.1.1, 4.1.4. These activities are closely aligned with Target 1.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

14. The programme recognizes the need to manage protected areas within broader land and seascapes, yet current approaches to ecological integrity, ecological connectivity, and landscape-scale planning have advanced significantly since its adoption. Concepts such as ecological integrity and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, areas of high biodiversity importance and ecosystems of high ecological integrity, are not explicitly articulated in the programme; however, several activities relate indirectly to these themes (e.g. activity 1.5.3, which refers to the rehabilitation and restoration of the ecological integrity of protected areas). Strengthening these approaches was identified as a priority action for a potential update of the programme of work.

Summary of submissions

15. Submissions echoed this assessment, emphasizing improved integration of protected and conserved areas (including indigenous traditional territories, where appropriate, and other effective area-based conservation measures) into broader land- and seascapes through coherent policy, legal, and spatial planning frameworks, and to strengthen ecological connectivity and representativeness. This is particularly relevant for large, intact or highly irreplaceable areas, areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in terrestrial, marine, freshwater and coastal ecosystems, migratory corridors, and climate refugia. A submission highlighted that

indigenous traditional territories may be subject to policy and legal constraints that limit their recognition and integration within national frameworks. One submission proposed the inclusion of a new programme element on ecological connectivity, which could consolidate guidance on ecological networks and corridors, large-scale spatial planning, restoration for connectivity, climate-informed spatial design and transboundary cooperation, while also providing a platform for enhanced synergies with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

16. Submissions also consistently highlight the importance of human rights-based, highly participatory planning processes that enable indigenous peoples' and local communities' leadership and stewardship. Inputs also addressed ecosystem restoration, conservation mosaics, and the application of new and emerging technologies. In the marine context, submissions underscore the need for planning and management approaches that reflect the three-dimensional and dynamic nature of marine systems, and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation, including through explicit linkages with 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 (BBNJ). Further, it was emphasized that freshwater ecosystems have their own key ecological attributes, which also merit special consideration.

Target 2: Restore 30% of all degraded ecosystems

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

17. Programme elements 1 and 3 include goals, targets, and activities that support restoration in protected areas and in the wider landscapes and seascapes that sustain them. Element 1 guides Parties to strengthen ecological conditions in protected areas and address degradation through improved management, site-level interventions, and ecological networks. Element 3 identifies actions intended to strengthen enabling conditions through capacity development, policy support, and knowledge tools that help Parties plan and carry out restoration actions. Activities such as 1.2.5, 1.5.3, and 3.3.3 contribute to restoring degraded ecosystems, improving ecological processes, and supporting conditions that maintain or recover biodiversity and connectivity (i.e. activity 1.2.5 ecological corridors and / or buffer zones).

18. Several decisions of the Conference of the Parties provide additional guidance that protected area managers can use to advance restoration. For example, through decision XIII/5, the Conference of the Parties offered comprehensive direction for restoration across ecosystems, including approaches relevant to degraded habitats in priority areas such as protected and conserved areas.

19. Through decision XIII/3, the Conference of the Parties highlighted the importance of restoring areas near protected areas to buffer pressures, reinforce ecological functions, and support wider landscape approaches. Tools and guidance developed under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Target 2 Resource Manual also support Parties in planning and implementing effective restoration in and around protected areas.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

20. The programme provides a general foundation for restoration but does not address several elements now recognized as essential for meeting Target 2. For example, the programme does not outline criteria for identifying priority restoration areas, such as degraded habitats within protected areas, buffer zones, ecological corridors, coastal and riparian systems, or sites where restoration can strengthen ecological connectivity. It also does not define what successful restoration should achieve in terms of ecological integrity, species composition, or ecosystem functions, or socially inclusive and gender-responsive implementation, as appropriate.

21. Contemporary restoration science emphasizes the need to consider site-specific ecological conditions, climate-related risks, disturbance regimes, and the role of key functional species. The

programme touches on these issues indirectly, it does not reflect more recent approaches, knowledge and tools that have emerged through global restoration initiatives.

Summary of submissions

22. Submissions further stress the need to integrate climate resilience and ecosystem restoration into the planning and management of protected and conserved areas, including by strengthening ecological connectivity and considering vertical and horizontal dimensions for marine ecosystem connectivity. They also emphasize the use of appropriate technologies, and their integration with the knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to support effective restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management.

23. Submissions also emphasize the need to address synergies among key drivers of biodiversity loss, particularly climate change. They highlighted increasing incidence of wildfires and their impacts, and called for stronger guidance on risk reduction, post-disturbance restoration, and landscape-level planning to enhance resilience in protected and conserved areas.

Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters, and Seas

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

24. The programme provides the most complete framework within the Convention for advancing Target 3, particularly with respect to coverage, representativeness, ecological connectivity, and effective and equitable governance across protected and conserved areas, complemented by relevant guidance from the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity for implementation in marine and coastal contexts. These elements include goals, targets, and activities that support the identification, selection, establishment, strengthening, and effective management of protected areas, while also addressing governance quality, equity, participation, capacity development, and monitoring. Activities cover all qualitative dimensions of Target 3, providing substantial guidance closely aligned with Target 3; ecological representation, management effectiveness, ecological connectivity, equity, human rights-based approach, and integration with broader planning processes. Activities under programme elements 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2 and 4.1 directly support the establishment of protected area systems and the conditions needed for long-term conservation outcomes.

25. There have been numerous Conference of the Parties decisions on protected and conserved areas after the adoption of the programme of work including decisions XI/24 and 14/8 that expand the policy landscape relevant to the programme implementation by encouraging Parties to integrate protected areas into wider land- and seascape planning through intersectoral cooperation. Through decision 14/8, the Conference of the Parties introduced a major conceptual development by adopting the definition of other effective area-based conservation measures and encouraging Parties to identify, support, and report areas outside protected areas that deliver sustained in situ biodiversity outcomes (such as other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous traditional territories). Through decision XIII/2, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to determine the management effectiveness and determine priority areas for protection based on their importance to biodiversity, while through decision XIII/3 the Conference of the Parties encourage ecological connectivity among protected areas. Through decisions XI/21 and XIII/4, the Conference of the Parties noted the importance of protected and conserved areas for climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as disaster risk reduction.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

26. While the programme provides a substantial foundation for the achievement of Target 3, several gaps have been identified for strengthening in light of subsequent developments and conceptual advances. These include reflecting the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; the recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures; the inclusion of indigenous traditional territories, where applicable, the explicit adoption of human rights-based and equitable governance approaches; a stronger emphasis on ecological integrity, ecosystem resilience and conservation effectiveness; and greater attention to conservation effectiveness and measurable outcomes.

27. Additional areas identified for strengthening include monitoring and evaluation systems for terrestrial, inland waters, marine and coastal areas including management effectiveness, governance quality, socioeconomic outcomes, equity considerations and biodiversity outcomes. This also includes improved reporting on governance types, the integration of gender-disaggregated indicators, and the use of available tools and new technologies to support assessment and reporting.

28. The programme promotes connectivity but does not explicitly reflect contemporary approaches to ecological networks, including climate-informed corridor design or ecological connectivity across large-scale landscapes, inland waters, and seascapes, including transboundary conservation. More recent decisions of the CBD COP, (including decision 14/8) incorporate these dimensions.

29. The programme addresses governance, equity, and participation; however, subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties and implementation practice have increasingly moved toward explicitly human rights-based conservation approaches, including recognition, respect and support for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, recognition of indigenous traditional territories, where applicable, access to information, free, prior and informed consent, and diverse models of shared, equitable, and consent-based governance and co-management arrangements.

Summary of submissions

30. Submissions recognize that the programme continues to address some core priorities but requires revisions to align fully with the Framework. A recurring recommendation is to expand the scope from a focus on protected areas alone toward protected and conserved areas as an umbrella concept encompassing protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures, and indigenous traditional territories (where appropriate, and subject to relevant international and national legislation), consistent with Target 3. One submission suggested the use of conservation areas as an all-encompassing term; another submission suggested the term areas for conservation. Several submissions emphasize the need to remove outdated provisions, update timelines, clarify terminology, maintain political momentum, and ensure coherence with other Convention's processes, including the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and related provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as relevant global and regional instruments.

31. Some submissions called for shifting the focus from designation and spatial coverage to management effectiveness and ecological outcomes. Submissions also highlighted the need to consider the latest connectivity science and best practices, address underrepresentation of marine, inland water and other poorly represented bioregions, and to prevent downgrading, downsizing and degazettement of protected and conserved areas. Several contributions call for internationally recognized norms, minimum standards, tools, and case studies, including on transboundary conservation, to guide the selection, planning, management, and governance of conservation areas. Several contributions further propose revisions of the role of conservation areas in maintaining and prioritizing areas critical for biodiversity and ecosystem functions, including key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) as per the program of work on marine and coastal biodiversity.

32. Some submissions highlighted the need to address climate change impacts on protected and conserved areas, including for anticipatory and adaptive approaches, in particular for the Arctic.

33. Multiple submissions stress explicit operationalization of equitable governance, addressed the need to embed human rights-based approach more effectively, moving away from beneficiary-based narratives toward a rightsholder framework and strengthened requirements for free prior and informed consent. Ensuring effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making processes concerning their lands, territories and resources, including in the planning process of conservation measures. Further, one submission highlighted the need to recognize the role of youth and future generations as rights-holders. Another submission suggested the inclusion of the label “ICCAs Territories of Life” to refer to territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities.

34. Many submissions emphasize minimum standards for participation, shared governance and co-management arrangements, culturally appropriate access to information, and grievance and redress mechanisms. Attention was given to addressing overlaps with indigenous peoples and local communities' lands and territories, through rights recognition, and to principles related to free, prior and informed consent and equitable governance arrangements, while ensuring comprehensive protection and differentiated approaches for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.

35. Several submissions called for guidance regarding the recognition of indigenous traditional territories, where appropriate, and the need to support the establishment of enabling frameworks for identifying, recognizing, supporting and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures, particularly on marine ecosystems, to integrate them into reporting systems, and provide capacity support. One submission call to appropriately recognize and support national and global registries to be used as a potential data source for information for protected and conserved areas including territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities. Submissions also emphasized the need to strengthen legislative and institutional support for transboundary conservation areas coordination platforms and for the designation and protection of wildlife corridors, in order to enhance landscape scale connectivity including opportunities for marine protected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction, under 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” (BBNJ Agreement).

36. Submissions stressed the need to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems to capture management effectiveness, governance quality, socioeconomic outcomes, equity and biodiversity results. This includes improving the accuracy of reporting governance types, integrating gender disaggregated indicators, and revising characteristics of protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous traditional territories from a biodiversity-outcomes perspective.

37. Submissions highlighted the need for long-term institutional support and professionalization of the conservation workforce, including rangers, and marine protected areas managers.

38. Several submissions underline the importance of enabling political and institutional conditions, including national coordination platforms linking protected and conserved areas authorities with sectors such as mining, forestry, infrastructure and energy. They also emphasize the need to better align conservation objectives with sustainable livelihoods, particularly for indigenous peoples and local communities.

Target 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Ensure urgent management actions to halt human-induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between

populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex-situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

39. The goals, objectives, and activities under Element 1 support actions to identify, secure, and manage threatened species and the critical habitats on which they depend. Activities such as 1.1.2 and 1.3.1 guide Parties in identifying key biodiversity areas, prioritizing sites essential for species survival, and strengthening management actions to address specific threats.

40. The programme further promotes in-situ conservation through the establishment and effective management of protected area systems, supporting the recovery of threatened species and the maintenance of genetic diversity. These provisions align with the need to conserve species across their ranges, maintain viable populations, and safeguard ecological processes that support adaptive potential.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

41. The programme supports habitat protection and management actions for threatened species, but it does not cover the full scope of Target 4. In particular, the programme does not address human-wildlife conflict, including systematic human-wildlife risk assessment related to the establishment, expansion and zoning of protected and conserved areas, participatory risk assessment, rapid response mechanisms and inclusive community engagement approaches.

42. The programme does not fully address genetic diversity. While securing habitats and viable populations helps maintain genetic variation, the programme provides no direction on preventing loss of genetic diversity, safeguarding small or isolated populations, or integrating genetic monitoring within protected area management.

43. In addition, the programme does not reflect current scientific understanding of extinction risk in a rapidly changing climate. Climate vulnerability assessments, climate-informed connectivity, and climate-resilient site networks now play a central role in species conservation but appear only in post-programme of work decisions and not in the programme itself.

Summary of submissions

44. Submissions emphasized the need to sustainably manage human-wildlife interactions and minimizing human-wildlife conflict through systematic human-wildlife risk assessment into the establishment, expansion and zoning of protected and conserved areas, including via strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and environmental and social impact assessment processes. They also highlighted the importance of embedding human-wildlife conflict within protected and conserved areas governance systems, with clear roles and grievance mechanisms alongside capacity building, participatory risk assessment, rapid response, and community engagement. In addition, submissions stressed the need to integrate quantitative and qualitative indicators that distinguish between activities and impacts on both human behaviour and target species, and to strengthen national and regional biodiversity monitoring programmes to address key threats.

Target 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species

Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

45. Programme Element 1, Goal 1.4 on management effectiveness, provides guidance that partially supports Target 5. Activities 1.4.3 and 1.4.5 emphasize the prevention of illegal exploitation of resources within protected areas, while Activity 1.4.4 recognizes the importance of the customary use of biological resources by indigenous peoples and local communities, were consistent with conservation objectives. However, this element frames resource use primarily through enforcement-oriented strategies within protected areas.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

46. The programme lacks explicit provisions on addressing and managing the use of wild species within protected and conserved areas, where such use occurs, in a manner that mitigates risks to biodiversity and human health and is consistent with site-specific conservation objectives and zoning. It provides limited direction on addressing legality, sustainability and safety of use across the use chain including sustainable harvesting and trade and limited treatment of adaptive management approaches to maintain use within ecological limits. In addition, the programme does not adequately address sustainable and equitable use across landscapes and seascapes, including customary use, co-management, benefit-sharing and participatory governance.

Summary of submissions

47. Submissions called for strengthened implementation of targets 5 and 9 of the Framework, including the elimination of destructive fishing practices, the restoration and maintenance of fish stocks at sustainable levels, enhanced enforcement, surveillance and patrolling, and recognition of traditional and other sustainable fishing practices. Several submissions note that existing approaches place disproportionate emphasis on illegal exploitation and highlight the need for broader, integrated guidance addressing sustainable use, harvesting and trade consistent with site-specific management objectives and zoning, including the application of One Health risk assessment frameworks where wildlife use is permitted.

48. Submissions stressed the need to integrate crime prevention strategies, strengthen cooperation under CITES to address illegal exploitation, and reinforce governance models across diverse management types to prevent illegal harvesting. They also called for enhanced international and regional cooperation to eliminate illegal trade through a balanced combination of enforcement, crime prevention and restorative justice approaches, while encouraging the active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. Additional priorities include promoting sustainable livelihoods in and around protected and conserved areas, integrating ecological and social dimensions of sustainable use into monitoring and management frameworks, and providing direct financial and technical support to indigenous peoples and local communities to secure legal certainty and enable their own systems of biodiversity management, use and conservation.

Target 6: Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.

49. Programme Element 1, Goal 1.6, includes activities to prevent, control, and mitigate the negative impacts of invasive alien species within protected areas. Activity 1.6.1 calls for the establishment and implementation of mechanisms to manage risks associated with invasive alien species (IAS) thereby supporting site-level management and the maintenance of ecological integrity.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

50. The programme partially includes provisions for preventing introductions or managing pathways of invasive alien species, which are central to reducing invasive alien species risks. It also provides limited directions on early detection and rapid response systems that minimize impacts before species become established, including community based- monitoring. In addition, the programme provides limited treatment of landscape and seascape scale eradication or control programmes, the integration of invasive alien species management into ecological connectivity planning, and biosecurity and trade-related measures.

Summary of submissions

51. Submissions further emphasized the need to prevent, control and, where feasible, eradicate invasive alien species in protected and conserved areas, as well as surrounding areas of influence. They also call for promoting an all-hazards biosecurity approach by systematically integrating biosecurity risk assessment into planning and management processes, including the identification and management of priority invasion pathways. Submissions further stress the importance of strengthening capacity for prevention, early detection and rapid response, including through community-based surveillance linked to national invasive alien species frameworks, and of integrating harmonized indicators on the presence, absence and spread of priority invasive alien species to support monitoring, reporting and adaptive management.

Target 7: Reduce Pollution to Levels That are not Harmful to Biodiversity

Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

52. Under Element 1, pollution is addressed through Activity 1.5.2, which calls for Parties to develop national approaches to liability and redress measures, incorporating the polluter-pays principle for damages to protected areas. While, this activity promotes accountability, it focuses on remediation rather than prevention or reduction.

53. No decisions of the Conference of the Parties were identified that specifically address pollution in protected and conserved areas.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

54. The programme partially addresses preventive pollution control, monitoring and emerging pollutants, and does not adequately integrate pollution considerations with ecological connectivity across broader landscapes, thereby limiting support for the implementation of Target 7.

Summary of submissions

55. Submissions called to strengthen guidance to address major pollution sources, such as excess nutrients, pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals in accordance with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, taking into account the land-sea continuum, recognizing their impacts in and around protected and conserved areas.

56. Submissions further highlighted the need to explicitly address marine plastic pollution affecting marine protected areas and other coastal conserved areas. They also emphasized the role of protected and conserved areas as sentinel sites for monitoring upstream and surrounding pollution pressures, the importance of cross- sectoral cooperation with agriculture, water, industry and health authorities, including alignment with the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health and the application of the One Health Approach. Additional emphasis was also placed on strengthening institutional capacity to monitor pollution, interpret results and engage with regulators. Additional emphasis is integrating harmonized indicators on pollution impacts to support monitoring, reporting and adaptive management.

Target 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

57. Programme Element 1, Goal 1.4 includes activity 1.4.5 that calls to integrate climate change adaptation measures in protected area planning, management strategies, and in the design of protected area systems.

58. Through a series of decisions (X/33, XI/19, XII/20), the Conference of the Parties recognized the importance of nature based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and for biodiversity conservation across terrestrial, inland water, coastal, and marine ecosystems, including protected and conserved areas. Decision XIII/7 encouraged Parties to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into relevant sectoral and spatial planning, including for protected and conserved areas, and decision XIII/5 linked ecosystem restoration to climate change mitigation. More recently, decision 16/22 on biodiversity and climate change provides further guidance to identify and maximize synergies between biodiversity and climate action, including by prioritizing the conservation, restoration, and management of ecosystems and species that support the full carbon cycle and contribute to climate change adaptation.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: Results from analysis

59. The gaps in the programme for climate change reflect the lack of updated climate-relevant concepts and approaches now embedded in Target 8. While the programme refers to adaptation, it does not position protected and conserved areas as strategic instruments for climate change mitigation and adaptation. In particular, it lacks explicit integration of ecological integrity and ecosystem resilience in climate context and does not link these concepts to the capacity of ecosystems to sustain biodiversity, maintain carbon stocks, and support species persistence under climate change.

60. The programme provides limited guidance on strengthening the internal resilience of protected and conserved areas to climate change. It does not adequately support climate-informed system design, including prospective analyses of climate vulnerability and drivers of biodiversity loss, nor dynamic planning approaches such as the identification of climate refugia, connectivity corridors, and areas of future biodiversity importance.

61. In addition, the programme does not adequately address the use of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change.

Summary of submissions

62. In line with the analysis, submissions addressed the need to strengthen the integration of climate change adaptation into the planning and management of protected and conserved areas. They also suggested to include a more explicit focus on the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to climate change responses, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to support climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

63. Several submissions highlighted the need to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation in climate vulnerable systems in coastal, coral reef areas in addition to carbon rich ecosystems such as primary mature forests, wetlands and peatlands. Additional emphasis is placed on addressing knowledge gaps through prospective analyses of direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss and climate vulnerability.

Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People

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

64. Programme Element 1, Goal 1.5, includes Activity 1.5.6, which calls for policies, governance improvements, and enforcement measures to halt illegal exploitation and trade of resources from protected areas, while recognizing and respecting customary sustainable use in accordance with Article 10(c) of the Convention. This activity contributes to compliance and enforcement objectives

but addresses sustainable use primarily through the lens of illegal activities within protected areas, rather than through broader guidance on sustainable wildlife management that supports livelihoods and long-term biodiversity outcomes.

65. In addition, under programme Element 3, Activity 3.1.9 promotes economic opportunities and equitable sharing of benefits derived from protected areas.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: Results from analysis

66. Complementing the identified gaps for Target 5, the programme would benefit from consolidating best practices on sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products, services, trade regulation and participatory governance. Through decision 16/12, the Conference of the Parties decided that work could be advanced on the sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity.

Summary of submissions

67. Submissions highlighted the need to emphasize links between contributions of protected and conserved areas to sustainable use in ways that support both biodiversity conservation and inclusive economic development. They emphasized promoting activities that are aligned with conservation objectives while contributing to livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, noting that Target 9 is currently addressed in a limited manner and that clearer, dedicated activities are needed to address synergies and trade-offs with other targets, including targets 1, 10 and 14.

68. Several submissions further stressed the importance of recognizing and respecting the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, upholding their free, prior and informed consent.

Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

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

69. There are no relevant elements in the programme identified for this target.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

70. The programme provides limited clarity on the complementary roles of protected and conserved areas within sustainably managed forests, agricultural landscapes, and other productive systems, under community, indigenous, and private governance. It also does not fully address the connectivity across protected, conserved, and sustainably managed ecosystems, which is key to maintaining ecosystem services and socio-ecological resilience.

Summary of submissions

71. One submission noted that the establishment of a minimum percentage for restored habitat within areas under production could represent a valuable commitment. Submissions mentioned the importance of strengthening ecological connectivity across landscapes and seascapes through sustainable management practices in productive sectors. They stressed the need for clear operational guidance to distinguish activities that contribute to biodiversity outcomes under Target 10 from those contributing to Target 3. Further, they recommend the development of guidance for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to clarify criteria and indicators that support consistent differentiation, reporting and implementation of these complementary targets.

72. Several submissions called for sustainability standards for industry and production sectors.

Target 11: Restore, Maintain, and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People

Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

73. Element 1 includes activities 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 1.2.4, which promote integration of protected areas into wider landscapes and sectors, strengthen connectivity, and encourage cross-sectoral planning. These actions support conditions for ecosystem services but focus mainly on biodiversity rather than explicit service outcomes.

74. Under programme Element 3, Goal 3.1, Activity 3.1.9 seeks to foster economic opportunities and markets for goods and services derived from protected areas and their ecosystem services, with an emphasis on equitable benefit sharing. However, it focuses on economic valorization rather than explicitly addressing nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

75. A revision of the programme could better articulate the contribution of protected and conserved areas to climate resilience, ecosystem services and human well-being, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, and improved risk assessment and early warning for environmental hazards, and benefits related to human health and risk reduction. Incorporating a One Health approach would strengthen alignment with Target 11 by shifting from enabling conditions and economic valorization toward more outcome-oriented guidance on ecosystem functions and benefits for people and nature.

Summary of submissions

76. Submissions highlighted gaps in climate resilience and nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and called for improved risk assessment, early warning and forecasting for environmental hazards such as wildfires, pests and water depletion. Several submissions emphasized the need to better identify, maintain and assess key ecosystem services and contributions to human health and well-being including through approaches such as "Healthy Parks-Healthy People" approach, supported by appropriate outcome-oriented indicators.

77. There is also emphasis on governance arrangements that recognize and support the roles and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as on strengthening the capacity of protected area managers and relevant sectors to co-design health and well-being initiatives and adopt a One Health approach. Additional priorities include strengthening ecological connectivity, refining guidance to identify areas of particular importance for ecosystem functions and services, prioritizing conservation investment in such areas, and improving communication tools to demonstrate the multiple benefits of protected and conserved areas.

Target 12: Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-being and Biodiversity

Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

78. No relevant elements are identified in the Programme, as it does not explicitly address urban protected areas.

79. Subsequent decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including decisions XII/9 and 13/6, recognized the importance of integrating biodiversity conservation, including protected and conserved areas, into urban contexts to address climate change and promote mental and physical

health. More recently, the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health (decision 16/19) provides voluntary guidance to mainstream biodiversity-health linkages across the Framework, including urban areas, offering a pathway to address this gap.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

80. The programme does not address urban protected areas or ecological connectivity within urban planning frameworks, nor does it include goals or activities aimed at increasing ecosystem area, connectivity, or ecological integrity in urban or densely populated landscapes. Potential activities could explicitly integrate these elements, particularly in relation to human health.

Summary of submissions

81. Submissions call for stronger integration of protected and conserved areas into urban, peri-urban and spatial planning frameworks. They emphasize the need to recognize and enhance the contributions of protected and conserved areas to human health and well-being, including physical and mental health, and to provide practical guidance to support such integration. Submissions further stress the importance of ensuring coherence with the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health and related processes.

Target 13: Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information, and Traditional Knowledge

Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

82. Programme Element 2 provides goals and activities that address equitable sharing of benefits and access to genetic resources from protected areas. Activities such as 2.1.1 (promote governance diversity and equity) and 2.1.6 (ensure benefit-sharing with indigenous and local communities) directly support this target. Activity 2.2.2 encourages participatory mechanisms and respect for traditional knowledge. These activities create enabling conditions for equitable benefit-sharing but do not establish concrete mechanisms linked to the utilization of genetic resources.

83. In addition to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and related decision taken by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, decisions XI/1, XI/24, XI/29, XIII/1, 14/2, 14/31, 15/9, 15/29, and 16/2 consider various aspects of access and benefit-sharing as they relate to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

84. The programme aligns well with Target 13, although it should be noted that it does not fully reflect integration with the Nagoya Protocol. No specific update actions were identified in relation to this target.

Summary of submissions

85. Submissions called for linking benefit sharing from genetic resources and digital sequence information to conservation outcomes and equity objectives, including through transparent, gender responsive mechanisms that reinforce local stewardship and long-term sustainability. Several submissions stress the recognition and respect of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, underpinned by their free, prior and informed consent and adherence to the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance. Additional emphasis is placed on supporting community-based monitoring and information systems for biocultural monitoring and indigenous indicators.

86. One submission suggested enhancing guidance to encourage the use of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, where appropriate, to support protected and conserved areas.

Target 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-making at Every Level

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environment assessments, environmental impact assessments, and, as appropriate, national accounting within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

87. Policy integration is addressed across programme Elements 1, 2, and 3. Programme Element 1 includes actions related to integrating protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectoral planning processes, (activity 1.4.3). Programme Element 2 addresses governance, participation, equity, and benefit-sharing, including the incorporation of biodiversity considerations into decision-making processes (e.g. activity 2.1.3, that addresses the need to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities). Programme Element 3 includes enabling activities that support policy coherence, capacity-building, and financial and institutional arrangements for mainstreaming protected areas across sectors (e.g. activities 3.1.3, 3.2.1, 3.2.4, and 3.2.5).

88. Environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) are reflected in the programme, particularly in relation to protected area planning, management effectiveness, and the mitigation of impacts arising from surrounding land and resource uses. The programme calls for the application of timely environmental impact assessments to plans and projects with the potential to affect protected areas (activity 1.5.1), the incorporation of protected area-specific biodiversity considerations into environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments guidelines and regulatory frameworks (activity 1.5.7), and collaboration with the International Association for Impact Assessment and other relevant organizations to further develop and refine impact assessment guidance across all stages of assessment processes, in line with the ecosystem approach (activity 1.5.8).

89. Subsequent decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity reinforce this orientation. Several decisions promote the use of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment as tools to reduce biodiversity loss and address cumulative impacts across sectors (e.g. decisions XI/18, XIII/3, XIII/4, XIII/6, 14/3, and 14/7). The importance of cross-sectoral biodiversity integration is further emphasized in decisions XII/1, XIII/3, XIII/29, 16/18 which urge Parties to adopt whole-of-government approaches.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

90. Although the programme contains multiple entry points for biodiversity mainstreaming, it does not provide direction on how to operationalize biodiversity integration within specific sectors and at different levels. As in many national contexts, institutional separation between environmental authorities and sectoral development agencies may limit effective implementation, resulting in biodiversity considerations receiving limited attention in long-term planning and major development decisions.

Summary of submissions

91. Submissions mentioned the need to strengthen conceptual and operational approaches to intersectoral integration, including clarifying linkages between targets 14 and 15 on biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors and engaging the private sector in support of protected and conserved areas.

92. They also emphasized promoting the systematic mainstreaming of biodiversity and protected and conserved areas across national development planning, economic policies, and sectoral decision-making. This includes enhancing cross-sectoral governance and coordination among environment,

agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, health and other relevant authorities, as well as ensuring the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. One submission suggested integrating protected and conserved areas into natural capital accounting frameworks, recognizing their contributions to ecosystem services, climate mitigation and adaptation, livelihoods, and human well-being.

Target 15: Businesses Assess, Disclose, and Reduce Biodiversity-related Risks and Navigate Impacts

Take legal, administrative, or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions: (a) regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios; (b) provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns; (c) report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

93. Under programme Element 3 (Governance, Participation, Equity and Benefit-sharing), the programme promotes stakeholder engagement, equitable benefit sharing, and the identification of economic opportunities linked to protected areas (e.g., Activity 3.1.9).

94. While the programme acknowledges the need to mitigate external pressures on protected areas, it provides limited guidance in relation to Target 15. In particular, it does not address corporate biodiversity risk assessment, or reporting obligations, nor does it engage with private-sector accountability.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

95. The programme partially addresses private-sector actors in relation to protected and conserved areas, but provides limited direction on measures to encourage businesses and financial institutions to assess, disclose and progressively reduce biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts. It could also provide clearer direction on voluntary engagement with financial actors and the private sector in support of protected and conserved areas.

Summary of submissions

96. Submissions suggested the need to strengthen engagement with the private and financial sectors in relation to protected and conserved areas. They highlighted the importance of promoting the disclosure of biodiversity-related risks, and impacts associated with business and financial activities, especially those of large economic actors. The submissions also emphasized the value of fostering public-private partnerships and collaboration with civil society to mobilize resources, accelerate implementation, and promote innovation in conservation management.

Target 16: Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Overconsumption

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

97. The programme does not address consumption patterns or demand-side measures. Its focus remains on governance, management, and enabling conditions for protected areas rather than influencing consumer behavior or production systems.

98. While the programme refers to tourism indirectly in the context of protected area management, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing, it does not frame tourism as a driver of consumption or address visitor demand, waste generation, or overconsumption associated with tourism activities. Several decisions of the Conference of the Parties consider sustainable consumption in general terms and in relation to specific sectors, including tourism (e.g., decisions XI/7, XIII/3, and 14/3), although none explicitly link these considerations to protected and conserved areas.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

99. The programme provides limited coverage of sustainable consumption or demand-side measures, nor does it address linkages between protected and conserved areas and consumption patterns, including through coherent policy frameworks, education, access to reliable information, sustainable tourism management, including waste reduction, visitor behaviour and tourism-related impacts within and beyond protected and conserved area boundaries.

Summary of submissions

100. One submission requested practical suggestions on how protected and conserved areas could encourage sustainable consumption choices.

Target 17: Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology

Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.

101. The programme does not include activities related to biosafety or biotechnology governance.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

102. There is no direct alignment between the programme and Target 17.

Summary of submissions

103. No submissions directly addressed this target.

Target 18: Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity

Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

104. Programme Element 3, activities such as 3.1.5, 3.1.6, and 3.1.1 explicitly addresses the need to identify and remove perverse incentives that negatively impact protected areas, while it also focuses on promoting positive incentives for conservation.

105. The use and impacts of incentives on biodiversity are addressed in a number of decisions of the Conference of the Parties, although not specifically in relation to protected and conserved areas, including XI/7, XI/27, XI/30, 14/1, 14/3, and 14/22 with the exception of XII/19, which acknowledges private protected areas and encourages private-sector stewardship. These decisions request Parties to examine incentives policies with a view to eliminating, phasing out or repurposing negative incentives, and to consider the use of positive incentives to promote conservation.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

106. No formal gaps are identified in the programme.

Summary of submissions

107. Submissions highlight the need to support Parties in addressing incentives that affect protected and conserved areas. This includes supporting Parties in identifying, reforming and, where

appropriate, phasing out harmful subsidies, using appropriate tools and assessment frameworks. The importance of establishing disincentives to prevent activities that threaten biodiversity was also highlighted.

Target 19: Mobilize \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance

Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030, including by: (a) increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least \$30 billion per year by 2030; (b) significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances; (c) leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments; (d) stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards; (e) optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises; (f) enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions¹ and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity; (g) enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.

108. Developing and implementing sustainable financing strategies for protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas is a central component of the programme of work. Programme Element 3 (Enabling Activities) includes goals, targets, and activities that address financial sustainability, including the assessment and diversification of financing strategies and instruments from domestic, international, public, and private sources. These provisions explicitly aim to increase and stabilize financial resources for protected area management and system-wide implementation.

109. A review of the Conference of the Parties' decisions reveal extensive recognition of the need to mobilize financial resources for the implementation of the programme. Decisions VIII/24 and IX/18, among others, highlight the financial constraints faced by developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to enable them to build capacity and implement the programme. These decisions emphasize the role of the Global Environment Facility, encourage financial needs assessments, diversified financing portfolios, and the use of innovative mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, and call for timely, predictable, and adequate financial support from donor countries. Several decisions also stress the importance of involving indigenous peoples and local communities in financing strategies and benefit-sharing arrangements.

110. Recent CBD guidance on resource mobilization further reinforces this alignment. Decision 16/34 urges Parties to substantially and progressively increase financial resources for biodiversity from all sources and to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, and accountability of financial mechanisms, including those administered by the Global Environment Facility. While not

¹ Mother Earth Centric Actions: Ecocentric and rights-based approach enabling the implementation of actions towards harmonic and complementary relationships between peoples and nature, promoting the continuity of all living beings and their communities and ensuring the non-commodification of environmental functions of Mother Earth.

specific to the programme, this decision provides an overarching framework that is directly relevant to the financing of protected and conserved areas and protected area systems under Target 19.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

111. No major gaps were identified. However, the programme could further strengthen guidance on the mobilization of financial resources for protected and conserved areas, including through sustainable finance approaches, innovative mechanisms, private and other non-public funding sources, as well as direct and accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities, which were identified as priority actions for a potential update of the programme of work.

Summary of submissions

112. Submissions underscored resource mobilization as one of the most prominent issues for achieving Target 3, emphasizing the need to secure sufficient, predictable, and long-term financial resources. Many submissions highlighted the need to move beyond short-term and project-based funding towards sustained financing to support effective management, governance, and long-term conservation outcomes, particularly in developing countries and biodiversity-rich areas. Some submissions highlighted the need to strengthen references to financing mechanisms relevant to protected and conserved areas, including the role of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and emerging approaches in support of effective implementation, as well as supporting the exploration of innovative financing mechanisms to mobilize private and other non-public funding.

113. Submissions also emphasized the need to enhance the capacity of authorities to develop sustainable financing mechanisms, including through fiscal incentives, payments for ecosystem services and other innovative instruments that generate positive conservation outcomes for protected and conserved areas.

114. Strong emphasis was placed on direct, accessible, and rights-based financing for indigenous peoples and local communities, including support for monitoring systems, and restoration activities. Several submissions also linked resource mobilization to accountability and effectiveness, calling for robust monitoring frameworks that track not only biological and ecological outcomes, but also cultural, social, and equity indicators.

Target 20: Strengthen Capacity-building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity

Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.

115. Programme Element 3 (enabling activities) provides a comprehensive set of goals and activities that align closely with the scope and ambition of Target 20. Element 3 focuses on creating the policy, institutional, technical, financial, and knowledge conditions required for effective protected area establishment and management.

116. Capacity-building is addressed primarily under Goal 3.2, which includes national capacity needs assessments, long-term training programmes, documentation of scientific and traditional knowledge, exchange of lessons learned, strengthening of institutional and cross-sectoral capacities, and improved capacities for sustainable financing. These activities align closely with Target 20's emphasis on strengthening individual, institutional, and systemic capacities, particularly in developing countries.

117. Technology development and transfer are addressed under Goal 3.3, which promotes the assessment, development, and transfer of appropriate technologies for protected area management,

including the recognition and use of indigenous and local technologies and the creation of enabling environments for technology transfer. Scientific and technical cooperation is embedded across Element 3 through knowledge exchange, regional and transboundary cooperation, and technology cooperation.

118. Enabling conditions for sustained capacity-building and cooperation are further addressed under Goal 3.1 on policy coherence, governance, and institutional sustainability, and under Goal 3.4 on financial sustainability of protected areas and protected area systems. Goal 3.5 complements these efforts through communication, education, and public awareness, supporting long-term capacity development and knowledge uptake.

119. While programme Element 3 does not explicitly reference South-South or triangular cooperation, it promotes regional, subregional, and transboundary cooperation, technology transfer, and peer learning among Parties, which in practice enable these modalities. The programme places clear emphasis on addressing capacity needs in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, and explicitly recognizes the need to strengthen indigenous people and local communities across its enabling activities.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

120. No substantive gaps in alignment are identified between Target 20 and the programme. Capacity-building, technology transfer, and scientific and technical cooperation are addressed as cross-cutting themes throughout the programme, particularly under Element 3. Strengthening attention to new technologies and institutional support for the conservation workforce, including rangers and other relevant personnel, was identified as a priority action for a potential update of the programme of work.

Summary of submissions

121. Submissions highlighted the importance of knowledge exchange, capacity development and technology transfer as key enablers for implementation. Peer learning and regional cooperation, including through Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centres, were also emphasized.

122. A strong focus was placed on strengthening institutional and human capacity, including assessing and, where necessary, developing the capacity of conservation agencies to ensure that adequate personnel, systems and resources are in place to sustain capacity development efforts over time.

123. Submissions requested enhanced capacity-building, technology transfer to enable countries to access and use remote sensing and publicly available satellite imagery to monitor protected and conserved areas over time. Strengthened access to these tools, and the scaling of such approaches globally were seen as contributing to transparency. It was also emphasized the importance of prioritizing the application of the most efficient and useful tools and technologies to support scaled-up implementation. There was convergence on the need for the socially responsible and inclusive application of technology, including knowledge exchange platforms and programmes that support countries in planning, implementing, monitoring, assessing and reporting.

Target 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities

should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent,² in accordance with national legislation.

124. The programme makes several references to the generation, accessibility, and use of data, information, and knowledge to support effective and equitable governance, as well as integrated and participatory management, and monitoring of protected area systems and sites. All four programme elements contain provisions relevant to the implementation of Target 21.

125. The programme includes a wide range of activities that promote the use of the best available scientific information and traditional knowledge, with an emphasis on participatory approaches and the full and effective involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities. These activities address protected area planning, management effectiveness, transboundary cooperation, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management (e.g., Activities 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.3, 3.2.1–3.2.7, 3.5.1, 3.5.3, and 4.4.5–4.4.7). Education, awareness-raising, and capacity development are also embedded across programme elements, including with respect to traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices.

126. While there is no single decision of the Convention on Biological Diversity dedicated exclusively to knowledge management or monitoring for protected areas, several decisions provide relevant guidance for implementing Target 21 in the context of the programme of work. Decision 14/2 outlines the aspects to be considered when monitoring the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework while decision XIII/31 illustrates the important scientific and technical needs for research and monitoring. Other decisions, including XI/9, XIII/3, 14/5, 16/15 address monitoring requirements, indicator development, and the use of technologies such as remote sensing, as well as community-based monitoring approaches, all of which are relevant to protected and conserved areas.

127. Advances in biodiversity monitoring and data management offer important opportunities to strengthen the implementation of the programme. The increasing availability of remote sensing technologies improved spatial databases, and analytical tools, has enhanced the ability to monitor protected area extent, land use change, connectivity, ecosystem condition, and pressures at multiple scales. In parallel, community-based and participatory monitoring approaches have expanded, supporting more inclusive knowledge systems and contributing to adaptive management and improved decision-making in protected areas, in line with targets 3, 20, and 21.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

128. The programme partially addresses biodiversity monitoring, data management and knowledge-sharing but does not explicitly reflect advances that have emerged since its adoption, including the expanded use of remote sensing, spatial analysis and integrated information systems relevant to protected area management. It also provides limited clarity on approaches to engage traditional knowledge, community-based and participatory monitoring, and the application of free, prior and informed consent, as articulated under Article 8(j) and other provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities

Summary of submissions

129. Submissions mentioned that monitoring under the current programme remains largely based on periodic reporting, whereas the Framework calls for robust, data driven and, where possible, near real time monitoring systems.

130. Submissions also called for improving the accuracy, completeness and consistency of reporting, including on governance types, to the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas. Encouraging the adoption of automated site-based data collection, geographic information systems and remote sensing tools was seen as critical to strengthening monitoring systems and supporting adaptive management. In addition, several submissions stressed that monitoring and reporting should

² Free, prior and informed consent refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement.”

contribute to raising awareness of the consequences of biodiversity loss and the multiple roles of protected and conserved areas, including for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Target 22: Ensure Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all

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

131. Programme Elements 1 and 2 provide a strong basis for advancing the objectives of Target 22 within the protected and conserved areas' context. Together, these elements address participation, governance, equity, and benefit-sharing, with particular emphasis on the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders in protected area planning, establishment, governance, and management.

132. Programme Element 1 promotes participatory approaches to protected area planning and management, including stakeholder involvement in site selection, management planning, and adaptive management. Relevant activities emphasize the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and the use of traditional knowledge in protected area design and management, including activities 1.1.4, 1.1.7, 1.4.1, and 1.5.6.

133. Programme Element 2 provides more explicit guidance on governance, participation, equity, and benefit-sharing. Activities under Goals 2.1 and 2.2 promote the recognition of diverse governance types, the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making, and the equitable sharing of costs and benefits associated with protected areas, including activities 2.1.3, 2.1.5, and 2.2.1 to 2.2.5.

134. While the programme does not explicitly reference all relevant stakeholders highlighted in Target 22, it consistently emphasizes inclusive and rights-based approaches, particularly with respect to indigenous peoples and local communities. Gender considerations are integrated through references to equitable participation and benefit-sharing, though not elaborated in detail.

135. Decision 16/4, which adopted the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, complements the programme by providing more detailed guidance on participation, rights, and traditional knowledge and strengthens the implementation of programme Element 2.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

136. No substantive gaps in alignment are identified between Target 22 and the programme of work. Participation, equity, and inclusive governance are core elements of the programme, particularly under Element 2, and are further supported by participatory planning provisions under Element 1.

137. While the programme provides a strong foundation, submissions consistently highlight that the programme should be explicitly grounded in a human rights-based approach. Submissions emphasized the need to incorporate free, prior and informed consent and self-determination, and to recognize indigenous peoples and local communities as rights-holders, when applicable, rather than beneficiaries. Equitable governance was repeatedly identified as a priority, requiring the full, effective, inclusive and gender-responsive participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities and relevant stakeholders. Submissions further highlighted the importance of operationalizing these principles through effective participation mechanisms, recognition of governance diversity, and strengthened equity outcomes across decision-making, management and implementation, and stressed the need to ensure alignment with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Summary of submissions

138. Submissions also highlighted the need to explicitly recognize and protect environmental human rights defenders, including women and girls, through clearer language, guidance and protocols.

Target 23: Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action

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

139. The programme addresses gender considerations only in a limited and indirect manner. Within Programme Element 2 (Governance, participation and benefit-sharing), activity 2.2.1 refers to the need to ensure gender equality in protected area policy and management. However, gender is not treated as a cross-cutting or structural issue across the programme of work, nor is it linked to concrete guidance on implementation, monitoring, or accountability.

140. While the programme recognizes participation and equity as important principles for protected area governance, it does not explicitly articulate a gender-responsive approach. It lacks guidance on ensuring women's equal rights, leadership, and meaningful participation in protected area governance and decision-making, including access to land and natural resources, key elements emphasized under Target 23.

Gaps in alignment and guidance: results from analysis

141. The programme partially addresses gender considerations through its provisions on participation, equity and governance. A revised programme would benefit from integrating a gender-responsive approach across all relevant programme elements, including governance, participation, management effectiveness, and equitable sharing of benefits. This should include promoting women's leadership in protected and conserved areas, as well as on recognizing women's rights and access to land, seascape and natural resources within and around protected and conserved areas.

142. The programme could also strengthen complementarities with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Gender Plan of Action (decision 15/11), which provides an overarching framework for mainstreaming gender across biodiversity action and is expected to be reflected in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) implementation under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Existing CBD guidance, including the Technical Series No. 49: Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into NBSAPs, could be adapted to the context of protected and conserved areas, particularly across different governance systems and management arrangements.

Summary of submissions

143. Submissions emphasized the need to strengthen the integration of a gender-responsive approach across the programme of work, including through gender analysis of roles, responsibilities, uses, rights and practices related to protected and conserved areas, in order to address underlying social and gender inequalities and promote inclusive governance. Submissions further highlighted the importance of ensuring that gender analyses explicitly consider gender-specific human rights risks, including violence, criminalization and gender-based violence, which disproportionately affect women, including women environmental human rights defenders. In this context, submissions called for strengthening governance and enforcement-related measures.

144. Submissions also stressed the need to address gaps in transparency and equity in benefit-sharing by establishing clear, gender-responsive benefit-sharing mechanisms. These mechanisms should ensure that benefits contribute to women's livelihoods, food security and economic autonomy. Several submissions emphasized the importance of explicitly linking benefit-

sharing arrangements to women's leadership and meaningful participation in decision-making and governance. In addition, submissions recommended integrating gender- and rights-responsive indicators into management effectiveness evaluation frameworks, including indicators related to women's participation and leadership, tenure security, gender-based violence prevention capacity, and the protection of women environmental human rights defenders. These frameworks should include verification, whistleblowing and grievance mechanisms to strengthen accountability and adaptive management from a gender-responsive perspective.

C. Concluding notes on gaps

145. Based on the gap analysis prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, drawing primarily on: (a) CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/1 (2023), containing the rapid analysis of programmes of work established under the Convention with respect to the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; (b) CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15 (2024), containing the review and analysis of existing tools and guidance and their gaps to support implementation of the targets of the Framework; and (c) submissions of views and information pursuant to notification 2025-135 and peer review notification 2026-032 relating to the strategic review and analysis of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, it can be concluded that the programme remains a widely used and relevant reference for national-level planning and implementation of protected and conserved areas and continues to provide a practical framework supporting progress towards the goals and targets of the Framework.

146. The analysis indicates that the programme provides strong and substantive guidance for a core set of targets, notably targets 1, 13, 19, 20 and 22. In relation to these targets, the programme offers comprehensive direction on protected area system planning, governance arrangements, participation and equity considerations, as well as management effectiveness. Notwithstanding this overall alignment, the provisions associated with these targets could be further strengthened and updated to reflect evolving policy approaches, scientific knowledge and terminology.

147. For a broader group of targets, namely targets 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 21 and 23, the programme provides partial or indirect guidance, or addresses thematic areas that have evolved significantly since the programme's adoption in 2004. While elements may remain relevant, a targeted revision would be warranted to update language, and content, address identified gaps, and enhance coherence with the scope, ambition and implementation modalities of the Framework. In particular, submissions highlighted the need for stronger alignment with Target 3, including explicit recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous traditional territories, where applicable, alongside protected areas, incorporation of qualitative elements of the target and updates timelines to ensure consistency with the 2030 horizon of the Framework.

148. The analysis further indicates that the programme does not contain provisions directly related to targets 8, 10, 12 and 16. These targets address climate change, sustainable use in production sectors, urban biodiversity and urban and peri-urban planning, and sustainable consumption and demand-side measures.

149. The review also identifies a set of overarching gaps reflecting developments in policy, science and practice since the adoption of the programme. These include:

(a) Terminology, concepts and approaches that have emerged since 2004, including ecological integrity, ecological connectivity, other effective area-based conservation measures, indigenous and traditional territories, climate change mitigation and adaptation, human-wildlife conflict, disaster risk reduction and the One Health approach.

(b) Limited alignment with the monitoring framework, including gaps in indicators related to ecological outcomes, effectiveness, land use and tenure.

(c) The need to further operationalize a human rights-based approach, including equitable governance, recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, promotion of

gender equality and women's rights, effective participation in decision-making, and the application of free, prior and informed consent, when applicable, consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention.

(d) Gaps in addressing equity considerations, including gender responsiveness and the inclusion of youth and persons with disabilities.

150. Overall, the programme continues to constitute a relevant reference for Parties and relevant stakeholders with respect to the establishment and management of protected and conserved areas. However, the analysis indicates that, to maintain its effectiveness and ensure full alignment with the Framework, the programme would require a strategic update to reflect updated timelines and terminology, incorporate contemporary policy and scientific developments, integrate emerging scientific and technical knowledge, and respond coherently to the full set of targets of the Framework.

III. Concluding observations based on the analysis and review

A. Potential approaches for addressing identified gaps

151. The analysis undertaken by the Secretariat, drawing additionally on the rapid gap analysis and on the priorities reflected in submissions concerning which targets or activities of the programme of work should be prioritized to support national implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, suggests that a potential approach to update the programme could be guided by a phased prioritization.

152. As a primary consideration, the revision could be guided by a combined focus on aligning the existing elements and activities of the programme in a manner that effectively supports implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, and on the priorities expressed by Parties and relevant stakeholders in their submissions. Taken together, these inputs point inter alia to the need to:

(a) Explicitly address other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous traditional territories, where applicable.

(b) Aligning associated timelines with the 2030 timeframe of the Framework.

(c) Strengthening the operationalization of human rights-based and equitable governance approaches, including a shift in focus from indigenous peoples and local communities as beneficiaries to their recognition as holders of rights, capacities and responsibilities.

(d) Placing greater emphasis on ecological integrity, ecosystem resilience, ecological connectivity, conservation effectiveness and measurable biodiversity outcomes, including in the context of climate change.

(e) Enhance guidance regarding the legal recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities, including differentiated approaches to ensure comprehensive protection for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.

(f) Facilitating the compilation and dissemination of examples, case studies and best practices to help distinguish between biodiversity outcomes arising from sustainably managed production landscapes under Target 10 and those contributing to Target 3, including through other effective area-based conservation measures.

(g) Strengthening the integration of protected and conserved areas into biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and broader landscapes and seascapes.

(h) Promoting actions to define and prioritize areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services, with a focus on under-represented ecosystems.

(i) Enhance guidance on gender equality and gender-responsive implementation, across the planning, governance and management of protected and conserved areas.

(j) Facilitating the compilation and dissemination, through the clearing house mechanism (CHM) of practical frameworks, case studies, best practices, tools and practical guidance, particularly with respect to contemporary approaches to ecological networks, climate informed corridor design, ecological connectivity across largescale landscapes and seascapes, and best practices for the identification, recognition and legal and policy frameworks of other effective area-based conservation measures; as well as legislative and institutional support for transboundary conservation areas coordination platforms and for the designation and protection of wildlife corridors.

(k) Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems for terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems, including through the use of new technologies to better assess management effectiveness, governance quality, socio-economic outcomes, equity considerations and biodiversity outcomes, including through the integration of gender-disaggregated indicators.

(l) Strengthening capacity building efforts, including with respect to new technologies, institutional support and the professionalization of the conservation workforce, including rangers, and marine protected areas managers.

(m) Additionally, while the programme shows alignment with Target 19, Parties emphasized the need to strengthen support related to the identification and mobilization of funding sources, the application of sustainable finance approaches, and promote the use of innovative financial mechanisms, including private and non-public sources, build capacity to develop and implement sustainable financing mechanisms, and ensure adequate resources for long-term management, monitoring, enforcement and restoration, including in marine protected and conserved areas, while promoting direct and accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities.

153. Subsequently, the revision could consider addressing targets for which the programme currently contains limited or no specific provisions, as well as strengthening guidance in relation to targets that are only partially addressed or not explicitly covered. This could include, inter alia:

(a) Target 8, strengthening the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management, including through: (i) climate-informed system design that anticipates future species range shifts, including the identification of climate refugia, connectivity corridors and areas of future biodiversity importance; (ii) the use of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to support mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, while minimizing the impacts of climate change and climate responses on protected and conserved areas.

(b) Target 10, facilitating the compilation and dissemination of examples, case studies, and best practices to help distinguish biodiversity outcomes arising from sustainably managed production landscapes under Target 10 from those contributing to Target 3, including through other effective area-based conservation measures. This includes clarifying how such landscapes contribute to ecological connectivity, ecosystem functions, and resilience across landscapes and seascapes, including between protected and conserved areas.

(c) for Target 12, promoting actions to address ecological connectivity within urban and peri-urban planning frameworks, while emphasizing the need to recognize and enhance the contributions of protected and conserved areas to human health and well-being, including physical and mental health.

(d) in relation to Target 16, enhancing synergies between protected and conserved areas and demand-side measures, including tourism management as drivers of consumption, and the promotion of best practices.

154. In addition, for targets that are only partially addressed, this could include, inter alia:

(a) Target 2, developing clearer criteria for identifying priority restoration areas, guidance on rehabilitating buffer zones and ecological corridors, approaches for measuring restoration success,

and promoting the integration of threat-reduction and restoration objectives into management plans, ensuring socially inclusive and gender-responsive implementation, as appropriate.

(b) Target 4, promoting the integration of systematic human-wildlife risk assessment into the establishment, expansion and zoning of protected and conserved areas, including through strategic environmental assessment and environmental and social impact assessment processes, and strengthening capacities for conflict-sensitive planning, participatory risk assessment, rapid response, and community engagement.

(c) Target 5, strengthen integrated guidance on addressing and managing the use of wild species within protected and conserved areas, where such use occurs, in a manner that mitigates risks to biodiversity and human health, consistent with site-specific management objectives and zoning; promote co-management, benefit-sharing and participatory governance approaches; and apply One Health risk-assessment frameworks where wildlife use is permitted.

(d) Target 7, addressing key pollution sources and pathways across broader terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems, including erosion and sedimentation processes, plastic pollution, pesticide use and runoff, and cumulative impacts, taking into account the land–sea continuum. Light and noise pollution, and their impacts on protected and conserved areas, could also be explored.

(e) Target 9, compile and disseminate best practices highlighting contributions of protected and conserved areas to sustainable use and inclusive economic development.

(f) Target 11, strengthening guidance to identify areas of particular importance for ecosystems functions and services, and compile and disseminate case studies on demonstrating the contribution of protected and conserved areas to climate resilience, ecosystem services and human well-being, and promote improved risk assessment, early warning and forecasting for environmental hazards.

(g) Target 14, facilitate stronger conceptual and operational approaches to intersectoral integration and biodiversity mainstreaming.

(h) Target 15, promote engagement with the private sector and work on guidance on biodiversity-related risk and impact disclosure, on a voluntary basis, including business dependencies and impacts.

(i) Target 21, reflect advances in biodiversity monitoring, citizen science, data management and knowledge-sharing, strengthen capacity-building on reporting and the use of technologies such as remote sensing.

(j) Target 23, enhance the integration of a gender-responsive approach across the programme, including by building stronger complementarities with the CBD Gender Plan of Action.

B. Potential approaches for collaboration with other relevant organizations and international processes

155. The programme recognizes the contribution of a range of partners and organizations that continue to play an important role in its implementation, alongside additional stakeholders whose engagement has increased in relevance as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is implemented. To support implementation and coordination, the Secretariat of the Convention, collaborates with the International Union for Conservation of Nature-World Commission on Protected Areas, on the Target 3 Community of Practice, building on the experience of the Aichi Target 11 Partnership. The Community of Practice provides an informal and inclusive platform to identify technical and financial needs and gaps, strengthen coordination and alignment of support, facilitate access to knowledge, tools and best practices, and promote synergies between Target 3 and other targets of the Framework.

156. Several submissions emphasized the importance of strengthened cooperation with other relevant international processes, including the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

(CMS), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

157. The designated subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centres can play a key role by providing tailored, demand-driven technical and scientific support to countries. Strengthening linkages between these centres, the programme and the Target 3 Community of Practice could enhance peer learning, South–South cooperation and access to relevant expertise and technologies.

C. Potential mechanisms to strengthen alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’s processes

158. Mechanisms to strengthen alignment include:

(a) Developing complementary guidance criteria and technical notes to support the implementation of the programme, in a manner that complements the existing Framework. Submissions emphasized the need for clearer technical guidance on regulatory and policy frameworks for other effective area-based conservation measures, including criteria to distinguish activities contributing to Target 3 from those contributing to Target 10. While a substantial body of guidance, toolkits and technical resources already exists to support Target 3 implementation from different perspectives, maintaining coherence and complementarity among these materials is key to avoid confusion and inconsistencies;

(b) Integration into national planning and implementation instruments. Several submissions and recommendations reflected in this document suggest that the revision could identify actions and activities that Parties may consider incorporating into NBSAPs, protected and conserved areas’ strategies, and management plans. Such an approach could support greater consistency between global guidance and national implementation, while allowing flexibility to reflect national contexts, priorities and capacities;

(c) Monitoring frameworks and indicators. Submissions emphasized on strengthening monitoring and indicator frameworks, including data-driven and, where feasible, near real-time monitoring systems aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework-Monitoring Framework. Priorities include improving monitoring and evaluation of management effectiveness, governance quality, socioeconomic outcomes and biodiversity results, integrating gender-disaggregated indicators, and incorporating both ecological and social dimensions of sustainable use. The integration of emerging monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) approaches were also highlighted;

(d) Capacity-building and knowledge sharing. Several submissions emphasized the relevance of continuous knowledge generation, scientific research and capacity-building. This includes capacity-building on the use of technologies such as remote sensing, spatial analysis and publicly available satellite imagery to monitor land cover and land-use change, as well as capacity-building on reporting and data interpretation. Facilitating knowledge-sharing and learning across Parties was also identified as important to support consistent application of guidance and indicators;

(e) Mainstreaming and awareness-raising. The analysis and multiple submissions highlighted the importance of mainstreaming protected and conserved areas across relevant sectors and raising awareness of their value, including their contribution to the achievement of the broader implementation of the Framework. Strengthened communication and outreach were seen as important mechanisms to support political commitment, cross-sectoral engagement and long-term alignment with the Framework’s objectives.

Annex I

Mapping of the programme of work against the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

159. The following table contains a summary of the relevant sections in the current programme of work on protected areas aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets, the identified gaps, as well as areas that may require further guidance and consideration by the Secretariat and relevant organizations in support of implementation.

<i>Framework targets</i>	<i>Relevant sections in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Identified gaps in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Potential complementary activities to the programme of work on protected areas</i>
Target 1 Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss	• Element 1, Goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 • Element 2, Goal 2.1 • Element 4, Goal 4.1	• Ecological integrity, biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, and large-scale ecological connectivity are not explicitly addressed	• Integrate protected and conserved areas into broader landscape and seascape planning to improve ecological connectivity, through participatory, human rights-based and inclusive spatial planning processes that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.
Target 2 Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems	• Elements 1, Goal 1.2 and 1.5 • Element 3, Goal 3.3	• Limited treatment of criteria for identifying priority restoration areas, restoration success, ecological integrity and contemporary restoration approaches.	• Promote restoration of degraded ecosystems within and beyond protected and conserved areas, including buffer zones and ecological corridors, including through the development of criteria for identifying priority restoration areas and approaches for measuring restoration success, ensuring socially inclusive and gender-responsive implementation, as appropriate.
Target 3 Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	• Element 1, Goal 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 • Element 2, Goal 2.1 and 2.2 • Element 3, Goals 3.1 and 3.2 • Element 4 Goal 4.1	• Gaps in other effective area-based conservation measures, indigenous traditional territories, where applicable, human rights-based governance approaches, FPIC, ecological integrity, ecological	• Incorporate the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework across the programme of work, including by reflecting the concept of protected and conserved areas as an umbrella encompassing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and, where applicable, indigenous and traditional territories, updating relevant timelines and terminology, and ensuring coherence with related processes under the

<i>Framework targets</i>	<i>Relevant sections in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Identified gaps in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Potential complementary activities to the programme of work on protected areas</i>
		connectivity, management effectiveness	Convention, including the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention. • Enhance guidance regarding the recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention, including differentiated approaches to ensure comprehensive protection for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact; • Facilitate the compilation and dissemination, through the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and relevant platforms, including the Target 3 Community of Practice and the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative, of practical frameworks, guidance, tools, case studies and best practices to support the implementation of Target 3, including the definition and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecological networks, climate-informed corridor design, large-scale ecological connectivity, other effective area-based conservation measures and transboundary conservation. • Strengthen the operationalization of equitable governance and a human rights-based approach in the planning, governance and management of protected and conserved areas, including by shifting from beneficiary-based approaches toward the recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders; promoting standards and good practices for participation, shared governance and co-management arrangements; ensuring culturally appropriate access to information; strengthening free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), while taking into account differentiated approaches, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact. • Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, including

<i>Framework targets</i>	<i>Relevant sections in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Identified gaps in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Potential complementary activities to the programme of work on protected areas</i>
			by identifying available tools and facilitate use of new technologies to better assess management effectiveness, governance quality, socio-economic outcomes, equity considerations and biodiversity outcomes, including through the integration of gender-disaggregated indicators. • Strengthen the application of contemporary approaches to ecological integrity and ecological connectivity in the planning and management of protected and conserved areas, including through the development and implementation of ecological networks, climate-informed corridor design, and connectivity across large-scale terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems. • Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of protected and conserved areas, to (a) minimize the impacts of climate change and climate response measures, including through adaptive management and resilience-building approaches; and (b) integrate protected and conserved areas as part of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
Target 4 Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts	• Element 1, Goal 1.1 and 1.3 • Element 3, Goal 1.3	• Human-wildlife conflict is not addressed; • Genetic diversity and climate-informed species conservation are not fully addressed	• Integrate systematic human-wildlife risk assessment into the establishment, expansion and zoning of protected and conserved areas, including, inter alia, through the application of strategic environmental assessment and environmental and social impact assessment processes, in order to anticipate, prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict. • Strengthen capacities for planning and management in protected and conserved areas, including through participatory risk assessment, rapid response

<i>Framework targets</i>	<i>Relevant sections in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Identified gaps in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Potential complementary activities to the programme of work on protected areas</i>
			mechanisms, and inclusive community engagement approaches to address human-wildlife conflict.
Target 5 Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species	Element 1, Goal 1.4	Limited treatment of sustainable, legal and equitable use of wild species across landscapes and seascapes, including co-management and One Health approaches	Provide guidance on addressing and managing the use of wild species within protected and conserved areas, where such use occurs, in a manner that mitigates risks to biodiversity and human health, is consistent with site-specific conservation objectives and zoning, and contributes to addressing the legality, sustainability and safety of use across relevant stages of the use chain, including through the application of One Health risk-assessment frameworks, as appropriate.
Target 6 Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact	Element 1, Goal 1.6	Gaps in prevention, pathway management, early detection and rapid response to invasive alien species. Are only partially addressed	Strengthen prevention, early detection and rapid response to invasive alien species, including community-based monitoring and surveillance systems, as well as biosecurity and trade-related measures.
Target 7 Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity	Element 1, Goal 1.5	Limited integration of pollution pressures, cumulative impacts and land-sea interactions	Address pollution pressures affecting protected and conserved areas across terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems, including erosion and sedimentation processes, plastic pollution, pesticide use and runoff, and cumulative impacts and land-sea interactions.
Target 8 Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience	Element 1, Goal 1.4	- Minimizing the negative impact of climate actions on protected and conserved areas. - Climate-relevant concepts such as ecological integrity, ecosystem resilience, and	- Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into planning and management, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. - Promote climate-informed system design that anticipates future range shifts, including the identification of climate

<i>Framework targets</i>	<i>Relevant sections in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Identified gaps in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Potential complementary activities to the programme of work on protected areas</i>
		climate adaptation insufficiently reflected.	refugia, connectivity corridors and areas of future biodiversity importance.
Target 9 Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People	• Element 1, Goal 1.5	• Focus on illegal exploitation; broader guidance on sustainable biodiversity-based activities and community benefits	• Consolidation of best practices for sustainable biodiversity-based products, services, trade regulation, and participatory governance.
Target 10 Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry	• None	• No explicit provisions related to sustainably managed production landscapes and seascapes	• Strengthening guidance on how sustainably managed production landscapes can contribute to ecological connectivity, ecosystem functions and resilience across landscapes and seascapes between protected and conserved areas.
Target 11 Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People	• Element 1, Goals 1.2 • Element 3, Goal 3.1	• Limited outcome- oriented focus on ecosystem functions and services, climate resilience and human well-being.	• Compile and disseminate case studies highlighting the contributions of protected and conserved areas to climate resilience, ecosystem services and human well-being, and promote their integration into climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, , and improved risk assessment and early warning for environmental hazards.
Target 12 Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity	None.	• Urban and peri urban protected and conserved areas were not considered in the programme	• Integrate protected and conserved areas into urban and peri-urban planning, including through green and blue infrastructure, to enhance ecological connectivity and equitable access to nature, and to support physical and mental health and well-being.
Target 13	• Element 2, Goal 2.1	• No significant gaps	• No specific actions identified.

<i>Framework targets</i>	<i>Relevant sections in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Identified gaps in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Potential complementary activities to the programme of work on protected areas</i>
Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge			
Target 14 Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level	• Element 1, cross cutting references	• Limited operational approaches for biodiversity mainstreaming and cross-sectoral integration.	• Integrate protected and conserved areas into cross-sectoral policies, legislation, planning and development processes at all levels
Target 15 Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts	• None	• Limited directions	• Support and promote the implementation of legal, administrative or policy measures that encourage and enable businesses and financial institutions to assess, disclose and progressively reduce biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts affecting protected and conserved areas, including across their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios. • Facilitate clearer direction on engaging financial actors and private sector, in protected and conserved areas, on a voluntary basis.
Target 16 Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Overconsumption	• None	• Limited directions	• Promote synergies between protected and conserved areas and policies and actions that enable sustainable consumption choices, including through coherent policy frameworks, education, access to reliable information, and sector-specific approaches such as sustainable tourism management, contributing to the reduction of consumption footprints and waste generation.

<i>Framework targets</i>	<i>Relevant sections in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Identified gaps in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Potential complementary activities to the programme of work on protected areas</i>
Target 17 Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology	None	No explicit provisions	No major gaps identified.
Target 18 Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity	Element 3, Goal 3.1	None	No major gaps identified.
Target 19 Mobilize \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance	Element 1, Goal	Limited treatment of sustainable finance approaches, innovative financing mechanisms and direct financing for indigenous peoples and local communities.	- Strengthen support for the identification and mobilization of financial resources. - Promote innovative financing mechanisms, including private and non-public sources. - Support capacity building. - Ensure adequate resources for long-term management, monitoring, enforcement and restoration, including in marine protected and conserved areas. - Promote direct and accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities.
Target 20 Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity	Element 1	Limited attention to new technologies and institutional support.	- Promote the identification and mobilization of financial resources for protected and conserved areas, including through sustainable finance approaches, to mobilize private and other non-public funding, and innovative mechanisms, to support effective implementation. - Promote direct and accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities.

<i>Framework targets</i>	<i>Relevant sections in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Identified gaps in the current programme of work</i>	<i>Potential complementary activities to the programme of work on protected areas</i>
Target 21 Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action	• Element 1; Goal 1.3 • Element 2; Goals 2.1, 2.2 • Element 3; Goals 3.2, 3.5 • Element 4: Goal 4.4	None.	• Strengthen the application of advances in biodiversity monitoring, data management and knowledge-sharing through targeted capacity-building on reporting and the use of technologies, including remote sensing, to improve monitoring, evaluation and decision-making.
Target 22 Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all	• Element 2	• No major gaps	• Strengthen access to information and participation in decision-making related to protected and conserved areas, including by promoting a human rights-based approach, and the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.
Target 23 Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action	Element 2, Goal 2.2	• Gender remains marginal and not treated as a cross-cutting issue.	• Promote gender equality and integrate a gender-responsive approach across the programme of work.

Annex II

CBD COP decisions relevant to protected and conserved areas, 1995-2024

<i>COP</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Subject</i>
COP 1	N/A	1994	General discussion of in situ conservation under the CBD, but no specific decisions on protected areas
COP 2	II/9	1995	Early thematic guidance relevant to in situ conservation
COP 4	IV/7	1998	Ecosystem approach and sustainable use
COP 7	VII/28	2004	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
COP 8	VIII/19	2006	Protected areas and ecosystem networks in climate change mitigation and adaptation
COP 8	VIII/24	2006	Protected areas: financial resources and capacity-building
COP 9	IX/18	2008	Protected areas: review of implementation of the Programme of Work
COP 10	X/2	2010	Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020: Aichi Target 11 on Protected Areas
COP 10	X/33	2010	Climate change adaptation and mitigation through protected areas
COP 10	X/31	2010	Protected areas: guidance for implementation of Aichi Target 11
COP 11	XI/24	2012	Protected areas: integration into wider land- and seascapes
COP 11	XI/28	2012	Invasive alien species and human health
COP 12	XII/6	2014	Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives
COP 12	XII/18	2014	Sustainable wildlife management
COP 12	XII/19	2014	Ecosystem conservation and restoration
COP 12	XII/21	2014	Biodiversity and human health
COP 13	XIII/2	2016	Progress in implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11
COP 13	XIII/3	2016	Strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
COP 13	XIII/4	2016	Biodiversity and climate change
COP 13	XIII/5	2016	Ecosystem restoration
COP 13	XIII/8	2016	Sustainable wildlife management
COP 14	XIV/1	2018	Emphasizes strengthening connectivity and effective management of protected areas
COP 14	XIV/3	2018	Environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment
COP 14	XIV/4	2018	Biodiversity and human health
COP 14	XIV/7	2018	Sustainable wildlife management
COP 14	XIV/8	2018	Other effective area-based conservation measures
COP 14	XIV/30	2018	Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives
COP 15	XV/4	2022	Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
COP 16	XVI/31	2024	Monitoring framework & indicator definitions
COP 16	XVI/L30	2024	Cooperation with other agencies
COP 16	XVI/12	2024	Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework