

NON-PAPER

Biodiversity and climate change

The Conference of the Parties,

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

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

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

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

[Recalling that the United Nations Environment Assembly has decided that “nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits” (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5).

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

Acknowledging that the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to “Assess existing and discuss potential new proposals, criteria, standards and guidelines to address divergences, with a view to achieving a common understanding among Member States for the implementation of nature-based solutions, including to support Member States in designing, implementing and evaluating nature-based solutions, building on existing work, initiatives and platforms, as appropriate, and without prejudice to existing efforts and initiatives of and new proposals from individual Member States.”]

Noting that nature-based solutions with safeguards are estimated to provide 37 per cent of the climate change mitigation needed by 2030 to meet the goal of keeping global warming below 2°C, with likely co-benefits for biodiversity as stated in the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

¹ Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

Recalling in para. 8 (v) of decision X/33, in which the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and Other Governments, according to national circumstances and priorities, in planning and implementing effective climate-change mitigation and adaptation activities, including renewable energies to take into account impacts on biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services and avoid the conversion or degradation of areas important for biodiversity,

Also noting that nature-based solutions with biodiversity safeguards are an essential component of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

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

1. *Welcomes* the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;²

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

3. *Takes note with appreciation* the review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change and its implications for the work of the Convention contained in the note by the Executive Secretary,⁷

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

5. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national priorities, to mainstream ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction into existing, new and updated Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans, and other planning, and reporting processes, as appropriate, as well as in their implementation;

6. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in accordance with national legislation, when designing and implementing

² <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>.

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>

⁵ <https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/home/>

⁶ <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

⁷ CBD/SBSTTA/23/3.

climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction measures, including ecosystem-based approaches, taking into consideration national circumstances:

(a) To make use of the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction,⁸ as well as other tools and guidance developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international instruments;

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

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

(a) To scale up investments from all sources for ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration, including providing financial support to enable implementation by developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states, as well as countries with economies in transition;

(b) To mainstream ecosystem-based approaches in relevant sectoral policies and budgets according to national priorities;

(c) To develop and make use of synergies between biodiversity, climate change and land degradation financing mechanisms;

8. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the productive and financial sectors, to consider the potential opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change, including through the use of ecosystem-based approaches, with a view to reducing risk to these sectors and to facilitate coordinated actions to promote sustainable resource management;

9. *[Recognizes that global strategies adopted to address biodiversity and climate change must take into account national circumstances and capabilities as well as such principles as common but differentiated responsibilities;]*

10. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to consider the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;⁹

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, including when supporting activities under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to promote synergies and closer cooperation among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, the Rio conventions, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,¹⁰ the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the New Urban Agenda,¹¹ and other relevant organizations and processes to enhance integrated approaches to addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and land and ocean degradation;

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

(a) To provide and develop, as appropriate, guidance on ways and means to address threats to ecosystems impacted by climate change, ecosystems with high mitigation and adaptation potential, and

⁸ Adopted in decision 14/5 and published with complementary information in *CBD Technical Series No. 93*, available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf>

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

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

communities that directly depend on ecosystem functions and services, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and to submit a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) To facilitate capacity-building and development for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states, as well as countries with economies in transition, to increase awareness and understanding of [nature-based solutions] and ecosystem-based approaches, as a complement to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020;

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

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