



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Biodiversity and health

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its decision [16/19](#) on biodiversity and health, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to inter alia, complete the work conducted pursuant to paragraph 13 (a) of decision [14/4](#) on the development of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health; facilitate capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer activities to support the uptake and implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health; continue to raise awareness of the interlinkages between biodiversity and health; enhance and strengthen cooperation with international organizations; and report on the outcomes of that work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. The present document contains information on the activities on biodiversity and health conducted in response to decision [16/19](#). Progress in the development of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health is addressed in section II, activities related to awareness-raising, capacity-building and cooperation are covered in section III, and a draft recommendation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body is provided in section IV.

II. Progress in the development of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health

3. By notification No. [2025-012](#) of 7 February 2025, the Secretariat invited Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations and stakeholders to submit information that could be useful to the development of the integrated science-

* [CBD/SBSTTA/27/1](#).

based indicators. In total, six Parties¹ and 17 organizations and stakeholders² submitted information.³ The information gathered from the submissions will inform the development of integrated, science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools, which only commenced in July 2025, owing to the time required to mobilize the financial resources necessary to engage expert support.

4. The submitters provided a wide range of information, including examples of initiatives and reports related to biodiversity and health that could inform the development of indicators. The examples included indicators currently used by government entities or other organizations; monitoring elements under development; and tools used to collect data, such as surveys, satellite monitoring, camera traps, impact assessments, reports, publications and websites. Data repositories that could support indicators at the national or global level, such as the World Health Organization Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence,⁴ the trade database of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora⁵ and the Global Health Security Index,⁶ were also referred to in the submissions.

5. Not all areas of the Global Action Plan were addressed consistently in the submissions. Some of the identified indicators or monitoring elements were directly aligned with actions listed in the Plan, for example in relation to species management, pollution, urban areas, policy development and mainstreaming efforts. Others, however, were more general in nature, and while useful for monitoring environmental, biodiversity or health-related trends, they lacked a direct correlation between biodiversity and health. The latter included indicators related to the status of biodiversity, ecosystem health or species population trends.

6. Past and ongoing efforts by various organizations and initiatives that could complement the work carried out under the Convention in relation to biodiversity and health indicators were also highlighted in the submissions. Examples included the development of metrics under the monitoring and evaluation guidelines of the Pandemic Fund,⁷ the ongoing development of a One Health assessment toolkit by The Nature Conservancy and a study on evaluating institutional structures to improve the health and wellness of indigenous peoples globally (the indigenous determinants of health measurement instrument) by the Indigenous Determinants of Health Alliance.⁸

7. Last, the importance of leveraging existing indicators developed for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework or other multilateral processes, such as those developed under the Sustainable Development Goals,⁹ and other multilateral environmental agreements was also underscored in the submissions. In this context, a list of potentially applicable indicators related to biodiversity and health from those processes will also be used to inform the development of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools over the coming months.

8. The following steps summarize the response to the request from the Conference of the Parties to develop integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health, including indicative activities and timeline:

- (a) Commissioning of a consultancy team and commencement of work: July 2025;

¹ Brazil, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

² Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, Indigenous Determinants of Health Alliance, Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Local Governments for Sustainability, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Smithsonian Institution, Swimmable Cities alliance, The Nature Conservancy, University of Louisville, Wildlife Conservation Society, Women4Biodiversity, World Federation for Animals and World Wide Fund for Nature.

³ The submissions are available at www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-012.

⁴ <https://pandemichub.who.int/pandemic-hub/>.

⁵ <https://trade.cites.org/>.

⁶ <https://ghsindex.org/>.

⁷ [www.thepandemicfund.org/sites/default/files/2025-](http://www.thepandemicfund.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/The%20Pandemic%20Fund%20M%26E%20Guidelines%20updated%20web%20April%2024%202025.pdf)

[05/The%20Pandemic%20Fund%20M%26E%20Guidelines%20updated%20web%20April%2024%202025.pdf](http://www.thepandemicfund.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/The%20Pandemic%20Fund%20M%26E%20Guidelines%20updated%20web%20April%2024%202025.pdf).

⁸ www.indigenousandha.org/.

⁹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>.

- (b) Expert consultation¹⁰ to support the development of integrated science-based indicators, inviting the Quadripartite collaboration on One Health and other organizations currently active in the nexus between biodiversity and health;¹¹ September 2025;
- (c) Invitation by means of a notification to participate in the peer review of a first draft: November 2025;
- (d) Peer review: November/December 2025;
- (e) Final draft made available for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (19–30 October 2026).¹²

III. Activities related to awareness-raising, capacity-building and cooperation

9. As indicated in section I, in its decision [16/19](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to carry out a series of activities, such as facilitating capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer activities to support the uptake of the Global Action Plan; continuing to raising awareness of the interlinkages between biodiversity and health; and enhancing and strengthening cooperation with international organizations. In response to those requests, the Secretariat conducted the following activities:

- (a) *Information webinar.* A webinar on the Global Action Plan and mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages was held on 25 March 2025.¹³ In total, 339 participants attended the webinar, which was aimed at raising awareness of the importance of the Plan and highlighting the critical connections between human well-being and a healthy environment. A range of organizations and initiatives partnered with the Secretariat to deliver presentations showcasing how the Plan supports their respective areas of work;
- (b) *Development of communication and awareness-raising materials.* Several social media posts were created to highlight the relevance of biodiversity and health and of the Global Action Plan. In addition, a video¹⁴ was produced to explain the significance of the outcomes of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on biodiversity and health. The video included a brief introduction to the importance of biodiversity for health and an overview of the Plan;
- (c) *Cooperation activities.* The Secretariat partnered with several organizations in the area of biodiversity and health. For example, it collaborated in the hosting of the information webinar mentioned above, participated as a partner in the Nature for Health initiative,¹⁵ and participated, along with other organizations,¹⁶ in a workshop aimed at identifying key monitoring elements that could serve as early warning signals of disruptions that may have a negative impact on the health of people, animals and the environment. In addition, pursuant to paragraphs 13 (a) of decision [14/4](#) and 9 (a), (b) and (e) of decision [16/19](#), the Secretariat started discussions with the Quadripartite collaboration on One Health to explore potential opportunities for collaboration. Members of the Quadripartite have expressed interest in continuing those discussions with the Secretariat, with a focus on:
 - (i) Identifying ways to support the uptake of the Global Action Plan;
 - (ii) Providing input into the development of integrated science-based indicators on biodiversity and health;
 - (iii) Organizing or participating in capacity-building and awareness-raising activities;

¹⁰ In line with decision [14/4](#), para. 13 (a).

¹¹ Such as members of the former [Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Biodiversity and Health](#).

¹² Pending adoption by the Subsidiary Body of the text in paragraph 1 of the draft recommendation.

¹³ See www.cbd.int/health/currentactivities for details and a recording of the webinar.

¹⁴ Available at www.cbd.int/health/videos.shtml.

¹⁵ <https://nature4health.org/>.

¹⁶ The Nature Conservancy, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations University, World Health Organization and World Organisation for Animal Health.

- (iv) Assessing the feasibility of developing an online information platform to collate knowledge, tools and experiences related to interlinked biodiversity and health policies and actions.

10. During the discussions, it was noted that any further engagement and collaboration would be contingent upon the availability of resources. In the case of the proposed online platform, more detailed information would be required, such as identifying the target audience, determining where the platform would be hosted, establishing a timeline and expected longevity, and deciding how and when content would be updated, among other considerations.

IV. Recommendations

11. The Subsidiary Body may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the final list of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its seventeenth meeting;

2. *Recommends* that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the relevance of the interlinkages between biodiversity and health for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹

Recalling paragraph 8 of its decision [16/19](#) of 1 November 2024, in which it invited Parties, other Governments, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations to share measures, guidance and tools, examples, best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health² and the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages at all levels,

1. *Welcomes* *The Thematic Assessment Report on Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,³

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁴ subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To compile and synthesize information from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations on measures, guidance and tools, examples, best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health and the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages at all levels, and to make the information available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention or on its website, as appropriate;

(b) To continue cooperation on biodiversity and health with relevant organizations, as outlined in subparagraphs 9 (b), (c), (d) and (e) of decision [16/19](#);

(c) To submit a report on the outcomes of its work for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.

¹ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

² Decision [16/19](#), annex.

³ At the time of reporting, only the summary for policymakers had been published, but it is expected that the full report will be available by the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.