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Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its decision [15/4](#), the Conference of the Parties decided that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (the Framework) would be used as a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, its bodies and its Secretariat over the period 2022–2030 and that, in this regard, the Framework should be used to better align and direct the work of the various bodies of the Convention and its Protocols, its Secretariat and its budget (para. 8). The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Framework to facilitate its implementation (para. 9).

2. In response, the Executive Secretary prepared document [CBD/SBSTTA/25/4](#) which included the results of an initial rapid analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Framework. Information document [CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/1](#) provided further details of this initial rapid analysis. Based partly on this information, the Subsidiary Body at its twenty-fifth meeting adopted recommendation [25/3](#), which in paragraph 2, requested the Executive Secretary to: (a) undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that can support the implementation of the targets and other elements of the Framework; (b) compile views and information submitted as inputs for undertaking the comprehensive review and analysis; (c) identify gaps and redundancies with a view to addressing those gaps and potential needs for updates; and (d) on the basis of the analysis carried out, prepare technical advice, including, if appropriate, recommendations for the adjustment of work undertaken under the Convention, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting, as appropriate, and subsequent consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting; such advice may include new guidance and tools to address gaps or updates, as needed.

* CBD/SBSTTA/26/1.

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

3. The current document identifies overarching scientific and technical needs to support implementation of the Framework and their implications for the work of the Convention. The full details of the gap and needs analysis for the Framework and how the existing programmes of work and cross-cutting issues support the Framework are provided in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15.

4. Additional information on gaps and needs is being provided through ongoing processes, including: (a) the strategic review of the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, as well as island biodiversity (agenda item 8); (b) scientific and technical needs regarding monitoring and indicators for the Framework (agenda item 3); (c) paragraph 5 of recommendation 25/7, in which the Subsidiary Body requested a further gap analysis to identify areas that are not adequately covered by existing guidance for sustainable wildlife management (to be submitted to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties); and paragraph 8 of recommendation 25/6, in which the Subsidiary Body recommended that the Conference of the Parties endorse various elements of voluntary guidance developed on invasive alien species to support the implementation of the Framework.

5. A number of targets and their associated issues are also supported by either formally established or informal support groups and initiatives (many are listed in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15) that are well placed to identify further gaps and fill them. There is also a wealth of guidance on the steps needed to develop, implement and monitor national biodiversity strategies and action plans, which is supported by the Enabling Activities Support of the Global Environment Facility, the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) Accelerator Partnership and others. The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism and the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation (decision 15/8, annexes I, II and II, respectively) can provide additional sources of identifying further scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework.

6. Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services are addressed in an addendum to the present document.

II. Submissions in response to notification No. 2023-120

7. In response to recommendation 25/3 of the Subsidiary Body, the Executive Secretary issued notification No. 2023-120 inviting submissions regarding: (a) information on existing tools and guidance to complement those identified for each target and already available on the website of the Convention;¹ (b) views regarding gaps and redundancies; and (c) views regarding the adjustment of work undertaken under the Convention.

8. The Secretariat received 50 responses to the notification: 10 from Parties² and 40 from 39 relevant organizations and stakeholders. A total of over 1,200 individual tools and guidance, including policy tools, regulatory and legislative measures, and individual technical and scientific resources and databases were referenced. These are listed in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/16. This information is being used to update the information on the website of the Convention. Six Parties, one secretariat of another biodiversity-related convention and one observer provided information on gaps and priorities. None referenced redundancies, while one Party noted the absence of reference to particular biomes and cross-cutting issues in the Framework as a basis for necessary adjustments of relevant programmes of work or work areas in cross-cutting nature. Submissions overwhelmingly provided additional tools and guidance that referred to the targets of the Framework, and in some cases to elements of the targets, with most referring to guidance for particular biomes.

¹ www.cbd.int/gbf/targets.

² Australia, Belarus, Canada, European Union, Finland, Gabon, Japan, State of Palestine, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Very few referred to the cross-cutting considerations of Section C or other sections of the Framework beyond the targets. Some suggestions regarding the adjustment of work undertaken under the Convention were identified by two Parties.³ Only one of the submissions provided specific suggestions for the adjustment of the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.

III. General findings regarding scientific and technical tools and guidance, as well as their gaps and redundancies to support the implementation of the Framework

9. Tools and guidance to support the implementation of the Framework, can take many forms, such as national biodiversity strategies and action plans, other action plans, tools and guidance developed under or referenced by the Convention, including that specifically linked to the targets of the Framework, the thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues, as well as guidance from specific decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

10. Information compiled in documents CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15 and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/16 demonstrates that although numerous gaps are identified, there is a substantial set of tools and guidance already available to start implementation of the Framework without delay. It should be noted that much more information could be available in the broader public domain than on those currently referenced on the target guidance note available on the website of the Convention,⁴ as well as those identified through the submissions compiled in document CBD/SBSTTA/INF/16. Improved facility to direct users to other key sources of guidance and relevant processes would further enhance the accessibility to these available guidance documents. For example, the Biodiversity Knowledge Hub⁵ recently established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a significant relevant recent development.

11. A common need is for improved access to and dissemination of the various tools and guidance to increase their utility. Improved information on the effectiveness, and obstacles to uptake, of existing tools and guidance would help adaptive approaches in future development of tools and guidance.

12. A significant opportunity relates to guidance currently used or being developed by other relevant intergovernmental processes, organizations and stakeholders, which does not incorporate adequate considerations to biodiversity but has the potential to do so.

13. The Framework builds on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, its achievements, gaps and lessons learned (decision [15/4](#), annex, section A, para. 3), which was the basis for developing much of the previous guidance under the Convention. A comprehensive assessment of available tools and guidance to support achievement of the Aichi Targets was prepared and reviewed by the Subsidiary Body in 2013 and much of this information remains relevant.⁶ An information note⁷ provided for the Bern III Conference⁸ maps the targets of the Framework against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals confirming the close coherence across these.

14. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 included a number of targets that focused on specific biomes or groupings of biomes, whereas the targets of the Framework are mostly applicable

³ Canada and European Union.

⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets>.

⁵ www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/en.

⁶ See document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2 and its addenda and [recommendation SBSTTA-XVII/1](#).

⁷ See United Nations Environment Programme /World Conservation Monitoring Centre, [Key entry points for cooperation and collaboration amongst MEAs, annex 4](#).

⁸ Bern III Conference on cooperation among the biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. See details at: www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions.

in all biomes. Nevertheless, the previous biome-based work programmes and the work on cross-cutting issues and their tools and guidance support the implementation of the Framework. As this guidance is migrated to support the Framework, some gaps in biome-based guidance may remain. It would be important to ensure any less represented biomes are included, where relevant, when implementing the Framework, including in implementing and developing further tools and guidance. For example, grasslands are mentioned in the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands but have otherwise been relatively invisible in tools and guidance developed under the Convention. Tools and guidance addressing biodiversity issues in polar regions and in urban areas may also be gaps, given the absences of programmes of work on these areas under the Convention.

15. Most of the targets of the Framework are much more detailed compared to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and include multiple and diverse elements. Some of the targets already specify approaches for implementation. For example, spatial planning (Target 1), nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches (Targets 8 and 11) and sustainable intensification (Target 10). Tools and guidance relating to the targets and other cross-cutting areas of the Framework need to be further developed for multiple biomes and sectors so that they can be more relevant, practical and effective in implementation. New main topics of targets include biosafety and biotechnology (Target 17) and gender⁹ (Targets 22 and 23), as well as the introduction of new elements or expanded scope (e.g. plastics in Target 7 compared to Aichi Biodiversity Target 8).

16. This assessment considers potential gaps in each of the targets, including sub-elements. Document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15 contains a summary of the detailed findings. A summary of the gaps identified is annexed to the present document. Many of these gaps could be addressed within existing programmes of work of the Convention (see section IV B below). However, a few areas, such as issues related to spatial planning, biodiversity-based activities, products and services and to pollution may require that new workstreams are advanced (see section IV A below).

17. The assessment has also considered other elements and cross-cutting areas of the Framework beyond the targets. For example, Section C of the Framework states that the Framework, including its vision, mission, goals and targets, is to be understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated, consistent with a set of considerations (as listed in Section C). As such, existing guidance and gaps in tools and guidance for each of these are relevant to the implementation of the Framework. This includes the ecosystem approach for which much guidance has been developed under the Convention. It also includes a number of considerations related to equity, including “intergenerational equity”, gender equality and to human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Considerable guidance has been developed under the Convention in relation to Article 8(j) and related provisions and additional elements are being considered in the context of the new programme of work on this area, which are to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. The Framework is also accompanied by a Gender Plan of Action. However, while there is substantial guidance developed on the issues of human rights under the relevant bodies of the United Nations, there is little specific guidance on how this related to the biodiversity and the Convention. Similarly, there is little specific guidance related to equity yet this is not only an important cross-cutting consideration, but also closely related to Targets 13, 16, 22 and 23 and Goals B and C.

18. There is limited guidance on how to achieve transformative action and change (Section B of the Framework). However, the assessment on transformative change of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is due to be finalized and approved by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its upcoming session in December 2024, and the Subsidiary Body is due to consider

⁹ Gender was mentioned extensively in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 but not as a stand-alone element in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

implications of the assessment for the work of the Convention at a meeting prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

IV. Potential gaps that may require further work

19. The identified gaps are organized under two categories according to their scope, scale of needs and options for addressing them: (A) topics that may warrant new areas of work under the Convention; (B) discrete and specific gaps that may be addressed within existing work areas. It is proposed that any work to be advanced in these areas should be in cooperation with relevant organizations, intergovernmental processes and initiatives, with a view to leveraging existing guidance, especially that prepared under the auspices of competent intergovernmental processes, to avoid redundancy and to promote mainstreaming of biodiversity within those other organizations, processes and initiatives.

A. Potential new work areas under the Convention

1. Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning

20. Target 1 focusses on biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change. While marine spatial planning and integrated marine and coastal area management have received some attention under the Convention, there is a significant gap regarding biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning on land. The extent to which the available external guidance on spatial planning is biodiversity inclusive has not been fully assessed in the context of the present review but gaps are known to exist. The methodological assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will address this gap but it will be completed only in late 2027 and be considered under the Convention in 2028. Given that biodiversity inclusive spatial planning is an important basis for achieving progress on Target 1, as well as Targets 2, 3 and 12, it would seem urgent to undertake some work during the coming biennium. Such work could:

(a) Build upon relevant experience of Parties in various aspects of land planning, ecological zoning, water basin management and integrated water resource management, through the compilation of submissions, workshops, webinars and other information-sharing events;

(b) Involve cooperation with relevant organizations, such as FAO, to identify relevant tools and approaches and explore opportunities for making such tools and approaches more biodiversity-inclusive.

21. Such work could be pursued through the compilation of submissions, workshops, webinars and other information-sharing events, as well as through expert processes to identify guidance for integrating biodiversity-related considerations into spatial planning.

2. Pollution and biodiversity

22. The impacts of pollution on biodiversity have received limited attention, mostly through the work under the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity (e.g. the impacts of marine debris, underwater noise, ocean fertilization, etc), despite it being recognized as one of the key five drivers of biodiversity loss. Work in this area could:

(a) Strengthen cooperation with the chemicals and waste-related conventions and agreements, including in the context of the Global Framework on Chemicals,¹⁰ and opportunities for mainstreaming the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework into these and other relevant processes;

¹⁰ Adopted at the 5th session of International Conference on Chemicals Management held in Bonn, Germany, in September 2023.

(b) Further enhance cooperation with the other conventions and organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO, on the management of nitrogen and phosphorous with a view to making available appropriate tools and guidance;

(c) Explore synergies with the process for the development of an international treaty on ending plastic waste;

(d) Scope other sources of pollution that are particularly relevant to biodiversity, including noise and light pollution;

(e) Develop guidance on avoiding the breach of pollution thresholds that are harmful to biodiversity;

(f) Consolidate guidance on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in pollution mitigation, including guidance for specific sectors and/or sources of pollution.

3. Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services and “the bioeconomy”

23. Target 9 of the Framework includes the use of sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services to provide social, economic and environmental benefits for people, particularly vulnerable groups. Promoting sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services is sometimes referred to as “bioeconomy”. More generally, “bioeconomy” aims to reduce our dependence on non-renewable natural resources, to prevent biodiversity loss and to create new economic growth and jobs that are in line with the principles of sustainable development. Many elements of the Framework are relevant in this context, including Targets 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. However, little guidance is available to define biodiversity-based activities, products and services or to determine the sustainability of such activities, products and services. Work in this area, could:

(a) Build upon relevant experience of Parties in promoting a sustainable bioeconomy, identifying the social, economic and environmental benefits for people benefits, and approaches to assess and ensure sustainability of resource use;

(b) Undertake expert processes, drawing upon Parties’ experiences, to develop guidance to promote sustainable biodiversity-based activities products and services and to ensure equitable and sustainable outcomes of a bioeconomy.

4. Equity and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

24. The implementation of the Framework should follow a human rights-based approach. The Framework acknowledges the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Moreover, human rights-based approaches are referenced in a number of targets of the Framework. Target 22 calls for access to justice and the protection of environmental human rights defenders. Human rights have been a pillar of the United Nations since its inception.¹¹ Human rights are also a foundation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹² Ongoing work related to the human rights-based approach include the following:

¹¹ For further information see: unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/human-rights-based-approach#:~:text=The%20human%20rights%2Dbased%20approach,promoting%20and%20protecting%20human%20rights.

¹² Resolution 70/1 of the General Assembly of the United Nations. For example: “The Sustainable Development Goals ... seek to realize the human rights of all..” (Preamble); references in paragraphs 8, 10, 19, 35, among others; Goal 1 Target 1.4 “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”.

(a) General guidance provided and developed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group;¹³

(b) Guidance specifically for the Framework currently being developed, for example, by the International Union for Conservation of Nature,¹⁴ among others;

(c) The “Human Rights in Biodiversity Working Group”, consisting of several stakeholder groups, currently working on related guidance;

(d) Guidance on integrating human rights into National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans produced by the Environment Management Group;¹⁵

(e) The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Advancing a Human Rights-Based Approach to the Global Biodiversity Framework;¹⁶

(f) The United Nations Development Programme Social and Environmental Standard Toolkit;¹⁷

(g) UNEP and the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment have produced guidance for environmental human rights defenders.

25. There is a potential for work under the Convention, not only to *safeguard* human rights, but to actively *employ* human rights-based approaches to advance implementation of the Framework. Work in this area could compile such guidance, identify gaps and work with relevant agencies of the United Nations to fill such gaps where necessary.

26. The tools and guidance developed under Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention are relevant and the twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions considered a proposed new programme and institutional arrangements for Article 8(j) and other provisions in response to decision 15/10.¹⁸ However, there is no guidance under the Convention with regard to groups other than indigenous peoples and local communities.

27. Successful implementation of the Framework will also depend on ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and on reducing inequalities. Implementation is also guided by the principle of intergenerational equity. Equity is also central to Targets 13, 16, 22 and 23 of the framework.

B. Discrete and specific gaps under existing work areas

Area of gap: human-wildlife conflict

28. Relevant tools and guidance with respect to human-wildlife conflict are available, but this issue has not been addressed under the Convention. Thus, this aspect of Target 4 may warrant work that could be developed through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management.

Area of gap: biodiversity and sustainable fisheries in inland water areas

29. Previous guidance referenced under the Convention, that originates from Aichi Biodiversity Target 6, refers mostly to marine fisheries whereas the approaches required for inland fisheries are quite different. Some relevant guidance is available through partners, such as FAO, but might need

¹³<https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/human-rights-based-approach#:~:text=The%20human%20rights%2Dbased%20approach,promoting%20and%20protecting%20human%20rights.>

¹⁴<https://www.iucn.org/story/202212/rights-based-path-people-and-planet-realising-human-rights-post-2020-global#:~:text=A%20human%20rights%2Dbased%20approach%20to%20conservation%20and%20sustainable%20use,effective%2C%20efficient%2C%20and%20transformative.>

¹⁵ <https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Guidance-on-integrating-human-rights-in-National-Biodiversity-Strategy-and-Action-Plans-NBSAPs.pdf>.

¹⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/climatechange/2022-1207/CBD-KM.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://ses-toolkit.info.undp.org/>.

¹⁸ The report of the meeting is available as document [CBD/WG8J/12/8](#).

to be enhanced regarding biodiversity inclusiveness. While fisheries are mentioned specifically only in Target 10, it is also an important element of Targets 5 and 9.

Area of gap: biodiversity and sustainable aquaculture, in particular on land and in inland water areas

30. There has been limited previous attention to aquaculture across the Convention. Improved guidance on sustainable aquaculture, in the context of the Convention, is needed. Aquaculture in inland areas (mostly freshwater but also brackish water coastal aquaculture) is highlighted because that is where most of the production, expansion and impacts are occurring. Much guidance has been developed by FAO and other partners as a foundation for this.

Area of gap: in-situ conservation of genetic diversity

31. Guidance on the importance of genetic diversity, including small population sizes and in-situ genetic conservation approaches and methods (in addition to agricultural biodiversity dealt with by FAO and Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture). This is relevant to Targets 3 and 4, among others.

Area of gap: expanded guidance on mainstreaming for various sectors

32. Mainstreaming is an important task to achieve the goals and targets of the Framework and will be addressed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting, which will consider elements of guidance for mainstreaming across sectors. Under the Convention there is much guidance developed to address sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism (see decision XIII/3), but specific guidance for other sectors is limited to decision 14/3. Tools and guidance developed under the Convention on impact assessment are relevant. Thus, additional guidance may be needed to fill gaps for various sectors not referenced in the previous mainstreaming decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Area of gap: biodiversity and climate change mitigation

33. The voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction could be updated and expanded to include mitigation.

Area of gap: reforming harmful subsidies

34. Guidance on how to reform and/or phase-out harmful subsidies once they have been identified, would be useful.

Area of gap: formal and informal education.

35. Although education is addressed by the Convention in the context of communication, education and public awareness, and through collaboration with organizations, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), there may be a need to review and make available relevant guidance and tools on education (in particular informal education) as it relates to biodiversity and to develop guidance on how formal and informal education can support implementation of each target of the Framework. The contribution of UNESCO will be essential in this regard.

V. Implications for the adjustment of work undertaken under the Convention

36. While the above assessment has revealed some gaps in the tools and guidance developed under the Convention to address the actions required to achieve the targets of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to address the cross-cutting issues of the Framework, it has also demonstrated (a) that the substantial guidance that has been developed under the Convention remains relevant; much of it is probably underused (for various reasons) and some may require updating; and

(b) that there is wealth of tools and guidance developed through other processes and an important potential to “mainstream” the Framework by working with the relevant bodies, where necessary, with a view to integrating considerations from the Framework into such tools and guidance such that they become “biodiversity-inclusive”.

37. In the light of this, and in line with the requests in recommendation 25/3, the way forward might encompass: (a) improved knowledge management of the available tools and guidance; (b) further enhanced cooperation with other processes and organizations; (c) taking the gaps identified into account in ongoing work under the Convention; (d) consideration of advancing new work on a strictly limited number of issues; (e) taking the gaps into account in work on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation; and (f) taking the gaps into account in developing proposals for the programme of work and budget of the Secretariat. These issues are further explored in the following paragraphs.

Knowledge Management

38. Much of the tools and guidance developed under the Convention is probably underused, in part because it is not clearly visible and its relevance is therefore not always realized. This also applies to relevant tools and guidance developed under other processes and organizations. To address this, the Secretariat is already in the process of improving the Convention’s website and the clearing-house mechanism, including through a dedicated site for the Framework. Work under way includes: enhancing the user interface design, visual layout and functionality; further classifying the available information relating to the targets and other elements of the Framework; enhancing the coherence, interoperability and information exchange services among the various clearing-house mechanisms, web pages in the website of the Convention, decision-tracking tools and the national clearing-house mechanism portals; continuing to establish and strengthen interoperability with external relevant knowledge bases and sources; further enriching the information on the Framework in the website of the Convention, by providing references and linkages to relevant initiatives and resources that are managed outside the Secretariat; encouraging continued submission and sharing of information and further improving and strengthening the submission mechanism; and continuing to develop and strengthen biodiversity related vocabularies, taxonomies and meta data standards.

Cooperation

39. As noted above (para. 10), much information is available in the broader public domain, thus improved facilities to direct users to other key sources of guidance and relevant processes would enhance the accessibility to this information. This may be accomplished through the clearing house mechanism either by directly including such information or by enhancing interoperability with sites, such as the Biodiversity Knowledge Hub of FAO. Other organizations may be encouraged to develop similar information hubs. Moreover, given the broad interest inspired by the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, many other organizations are interested in developing, or co-developing, additional tools and guidance to fill gaps. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, for example, is currently developing much relevant guidance. As noted above (paras. 12 and 34), a particular opportunity arises from the potential to work with such relevant bodies to integrate considerations from the Framework into tools and guidance under development by such bodies, thereby ensuring that the tools and guidance are “biodiversity-inclusive”. This also has the advantage of engaging such bodies and their constituencies directly in efforts to implement the targets of the Framework.

Ongoing Work under the Convention, including on the deliverables from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

40. Work of the Convention has evolved from the crucial early establishment of priority programmes of work and cross-cutting issues, through the more integrative approach of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, to the more holistic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In parallel, there has been increased emphasis on work of a cross-cutting nature, either

through the existing biome-based programmes of work or through the emergence of new work areas (e.g. mainstreaming, biodiversity and health, gender, etc.). However, the thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues¹⁹ of the Convention remain important in providing guidance to support the work of the Convention; none are assessed to be redundant. Many of the gaps and needs identified above could be addressed within these programmes work when they are relevant to items on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as is the case currently, for example, for marine and coastal biodiversity. Given the continued relevance of these programmes of work, the urgency of national level implementation of the Framework, limited agenda time of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and resource constraints (including that of Parties, the Secretariat and partners), further in-depth review of these programmes of work may not be a warranted.

41. As noted above (para. 4), other ongoing work under the Convention is related to the Framework and clearly this work should take into account the gaps identified. In accordance with established practice (following decision 15/4), the Subsidiary Body is expected to review the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as they become available to identify implications for the work of the Convention, and this provides a key opportunity to address gaps. In particular, the Nexus Assessment and the Assessment on Transformative Change are both due to be reviewed in the coming biennium, and this provides an opportunity to identify or develop guidance related to several targets of the Framework.

Possible new areas of work

42. Notwithstanding the above, the Subsidiary Body may wish to consider recommending advancing new work on a limited number of topics, such as those identified in section IV above. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation might then propose to include such items in the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties. To facilitate such consideration by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat could prepare a note setting out a proposed scope of such work on any of the issues recommended by the Subsidiary Body.

Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

43. Another possible reason for the underuse of much of the tools and guidance developed under the Convention is limited capacity to use the material and limited sharing of practical experience in doing so. This matter could be addressed through the implementation of decisions 15/6 and 15/8.

Programme of work and budget of the Secretariat

44. The Secretariat will take into account the assessment of gaps and needs, and any recommendations of the Subsidiary Body and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation when preparing proposals for the programme of work and budget of the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

¹⁹ See www.cbd.int/programmes for a list of these.

VI. Recommendation

45. The Subsidiary Body may wish to consider adopting a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Takes note* of the findings of the analysis of scientific and technical needs to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the identification of gaps in tools and guidance, as described in documents CBD/SBSTTA/26/3 and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15;

2. *Concludes* that the substantial guidance has been developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity largely remains relevant and that there is wealth of tools and guidance developed through other processes, as well as an important potential to work with such processes to mainstream considerations from the Framework in their activities;

3. *Identifies* that there is a limited number of issues on which new work may be advanced, including:

- (a) Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning;
- (b) Pollution and biodiversity;
- (c) Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services and “the bioeconomy”;
- (d) Equity and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

4. *Invites* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to consider the implications of this recommendation for work related to capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation, cooperation, the programmes of work of the Convention and the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat, for each of the issues identified in paragraph 3 above to invite Parties and observers to provide submissions on their views and relevant experiences, and, drawing upon such submissions, to prepare a note setting out a proposed scope of work for the information of the Conference of the Parties in its consideration of recommendation 26/-.

6. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting consider adopting a decision along the following lines, noting that complementary recommendations may be elaborated by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation:

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered recommendation 26/- of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

1. *Recognizes*:

(a) That the programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ remain important tools to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;²

(b) That the tools and guidance developed under the Convention are relevant to the implementation of the Framework;

¹ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² Decision 15/4, annex.

(c) That a key opportunity is mainstreaming the Framework, and its tools and guidance, into guidance in use by other relevant intergovernmental processes and international organizations where there is a potential to further enhance consideration of biodiversity sufficiently biodiversity inclusive;

2. *Decides* to advance work in the following areas:³

(a) Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning;

(b) Pollution and biodiversity;

(c) Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services and “the bioeconomy”;

(d) Equity and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other agreements, intergovernmental processes, international organizations, initiatives, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders, to make use of relevant tools and guidance to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adapted to the national context as needed, and to share their national experience and lessons learned with the use of tools and guidance through the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention;

4. *Also encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, relevant intergovernmental bodies and organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to assess the effectiveness of tools and guidance, identify barriers to their uptake and ways and means of overcoming these, particularly at the national level, and to report on relevant experiences through the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body to review the draft tools and/or guidance, prepared by the Secretariat in line with paragraph 6 (e) of the present decision and to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to facilitate the compilation and access to scientific and technical tools and guidance, in cooperation with relevant processes and organizations, and other stakeholders, including through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;

(b) To facilitate the development of further tools and guidance, where needed, to address gaps identified in documents CBD/SBSTTA/26/3 (section IV B and annex) and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15, in cooperation with relevant processes and organizations, and in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders, and, where appropriate, to work with such relevant processes and organizations to integrate considerations from the Framework into tools and guidance under development by such processes and organizations such that the tools and guidance are “biodiversity-inclusive”;

(c) To explore further ways and means for improving access to, and dissemination and use of, tools and guidance to support implementation of the Framework;

³ List to be aligned with recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

(d) To report on progress on the above tasks to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) To prepare, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, draft tools and/or guidance, as appropriate, drawing upon compilations of submissions from Parties and observers, cooperation with relevant organizations, and/or through expert processes.

Annex

Summary of key gaps in tools and guidance to support implementation of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework identified in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15

Note: findings regarding “other” elements of the Framework (outside the targets) are presented in the text of the present document.

Key gaps in tools and guidance for each target of the Framework
<p>Target 1. Biodiversity inclusive spatial planning for terrestrial systems, including urban planning; Integrated water resources management; definitions and guidance on “biodiversity inclusive”, “areas of high biodiversity importance” (including also as related to livelihoods and poverty reduction), “spatial planning”, “ecosystems of high ecological integrity”, data sources and data collection methods, etc.</p>
<p>Target 2. Restoration and sustainable livelihoods and human well-being, including: (a) sustainable livelihoods-based restoration planning; (b) prioritizing ecosystems particularly important for the provision of goods and services for well-being, in particular poverty reduction; (c) ensuring the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable; restoration of managed anthropogenic landscapes (enhancing functional uses); addressing trade-offs and synergies; Guidance for inland waters and offshore marine areas (coastal areas/wetlands are covered by Ramsar Convention guidance); Meaning of “degraded” ecosystems, “effective” restoration, “reduction of impacts, remediation, rehabilitation, ecological restoration”, standardized methodology for assessing ecosystem degradation (also relevant to Targets 1, 3 and Goal A).</p>
<p>Target 3. Relevance and inclusion of genetic diversity, including for small population sizes, including genetic conservation approaches, terminology, and methods; refining, enhancing or updating the scientific and technical guidance on other effective area-based conservation measures; analysis on pathways to achieve 30 per cent by 2030.</p>
<p>Target 4. Human-wildlife interactions and minimizing human-wildlife conflict; tools for the gathering of information on the threat status of species at population and subpopulation levels (genetic diversity); further guidance in response to paragraph 5 of recommendation 25/7 is anticipated.</p>
<p>Target 5. Biodiversity and trade (other than endangered species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora); biodiversity-inclusive sustainable inland fisheries (mainstreaming further the guidance available from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations); further gaps identified in appendix III of the <i>Summary for policymakers of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</i> (2022) and further guidance in response to paragraph 5 of recommendation 25/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is anticipated.</p>
<p>Target 6. Recommendation 25/6 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the various elements of voluntary guidance developed on the basis of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species and further complemented through a peer review process to support the implementation of the Framework, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.</p>
<p>Target 7. Identification and acting on “highly hazardous” and assessing and dealing with risks; impacts of pollution on biodiversity and in different biomes (including which types and sources of pollution are of heightened interest for different biomes and species) as well as priority means to address these; tools and measures for plastics (noting current processes to develop a global instrument on plastics); synergies with the chemicals conventions and the Global Framework on Chemicals.</p>

Key gaps in tools and guidance for each target of the Framework
Target 8. Synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity/ecosystem services and climate change mitigation/adaptation financing; updating the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction to include mitigation.
Target 9: biodiversity-inclusive sustainable inland fisheries (mainstreaming further the guidance available from FAO); definition of “sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services”; sustainable management of plants; further guidance in response to paragraph 5 of recommendation 25/7 is anticipated.
Target 10. Biodiversity-inclusive sustainable aquaculture, in particular in inland areas; biodiversity-inclusive sustainable inland fisheries (mainstreaming further the guidance available from FAO); See gap regarding integrated water resources management (Target 1).
Target 11. See gaps for restoration (Target 2); synergies and trade-offs between ecosystem services bundles; ecosystem restoration that uses sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction as entry points.
Target 12. Biodiversity inclusive spatial planning for urban areas, in particular for green and blue spaces
Target 13. Measures of benefit-shared (monetary and non-monetary) and tracking benefits shared.
Target 14: mainstreaming of biodiversity for various sectors that were not addressed so far; synergies and trade-offs between the Paris Agreement, 2030 Agenda and the Framework
Target 15. Guidance for various sectors that were not addressed so far; need broadly accepted measurement approaches for impacts and dependencies on biodiversity.
Target 16. Guidance for various sectors, notable gaps include energy, infrastructure, water, fashion and textiles; impacts of unsustainable consumption practices on the conservation and sustainable use of diverse ecosystems.
Target 17. Measuring the aspects related to “ <i>measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention</i> ”.
Target 18. Guidance on how to reform and/or phase-out harmful subsidies once they have been identified.
Target 1.9. Synergies and trade-offs among finance areas and sectors; guidance on section (c) leveraging private finance, and section (d) regarding scaling-up innovative schemes; clarification and guidance on section (f).
Target 20. Capacity-building needs are being addressed by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation established in decision 15/8.
Target 21. Assess the utility of available guidance and accessibility of external guidance and alternative knowledge platforms.
Target 22. Relevant considerations for women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and environmental human rights defenders beyond that covered by Article 8(j) and related provisions.
Target 23. Assessment of incorporation of gender into all other tools and guidance; gender-neutral assessment of access to land and natural resources and the Framework (could be included under “human rights”, etc.); guidance to build the capacity of government officials and other key stakeholders to integrate gender in biodiversity policy and action to support the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action; tools that effectively monitor and systematically evaluate progress in terms of mainstreaming gender responsive policies in the Convention and other international processes and also in relation to national implementation policies and initiatives.