

Agenda item 5

**Biodiversity and climate change**

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**Non-paper**

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,*

Recalling decisions [VII/15](#) of 20 February 2004, IX/5 and [IX/16](#) of 30 May 2008, [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010, XI/19 and XI/21 of 5 December 2012, [XIII/4](#) of 13 December 2016, [14/5](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/30](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/22](#) of 1 November 2024 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>1</sup> as well as the critical role of biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and ecosystem functions and services in climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction,

1. *Takes note of* the work undertaken towards the draft supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction,<sup>2</sup> as contained in the annex to the draft decision below and the expanded version contained in CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/11, and stresses the need to include strengthened social and environmental safeguards, including for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

1.bis *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, and other observers, to participate in a peer review of the supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

2. *Takes note of* the synthesis of submissions, the statement of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the report of the technical information exchange on enhancing policy coherence and cooperation across the Rio conventions contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/8, noting that the views summarized in these subsections are not intend to represent any consensus, and some of the views may not be implementable at current stage or contradict with national legislation, policies and common practice;

2.bis *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite the Executive Secretaries of the UNFCCC and UNCCD to collaborate on strengthening the role and function of the Joint Liaison Group, including increasing transparency and reporting from the JLG to Parties;

2.ter *Requests* the Chair of the SBSTTA to exchange with the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Chair of the UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, with a view of bringing this recommendation and options to enhance policy coherence referenced in SBSTTA/27/4 to the attention of the UNFCCC SBSTA at its 63rd session, in November 2025 and the UNCCD CRIC at its 23rd session, in December 2025 in order that they may take it into account during their deliberations and consider its contents;

3. *Notes* the relevance of work conducted under the United Arab Emirates-Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 of decision 2/CMA.5 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>2</sup> Decision [14/5](#), annex; see also [CBD Technical Series No. 93](#) for complementary information.

Parties to the Paris Agreement to the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;<sup>3</sup>

4. *Recognizes* that consistency between approaches to monitoring and reporting frameworks should be used for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>4</sup> and the Paris Agreement<sup>5</sup>, including the broader use of shared indicators to reduce reporting burdens and improve synergies;

5.bis *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite the executive secretaries of the other Rio conventions to collaborate on the organization of a technical information exchange in 2026 to further discuss options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence and synergies across the Rio conventions, and to develop of a multilevel roadmap with short, medium and long-term actions, including a mapping study to help identify gaps and overlaps in existing national and international policies and existing coordination bodies that address implementation of the Rio Conventions for the consideration of COP17;

5. ter *Requests* the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions in accordance with its mandate and renewed engagement to develop, with involvement of experts and bodies of the Rio Conventions, a joint work plan and a multi-level roadmap as referenced in SBSTTA/27/4 as a mechanism to support Parties in enhancing synergies and policy coherence at national and international levels and to present it to the Parties to UNCCD COP17, CBD COP17 and UNFCCC COP31;

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

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Reaffirming* paragraph 8 of decision [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010 and paragraph 3 and 6 of decision [16/22](#) of 1 November 2024,

*Recognizing* that biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification, land and ocean degradation are interrelated and interdependent crises, requiring coherent action under the respective frameworks, agreements, and mandates, in full respect of their distinct principles, processes, and decision-making authorities,

Bis. *Recognizing* that biodiversity loss, climate change, ocean acidification, desertification, land degradation, invasive alien species and pollution, among others, are interdependent and need to be addressed urgently and in a coherent and balanced manner of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Ter. *Recalling* decision 16/22 of 1 November 2024 which recognizes the crucial role and capacity of the ocean in regulating the climate, and the need to address the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus in an integrated manner in order to achieve the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Quarter. *Recognizing further* that coherent action must be gender-responsive and human rights-based, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in line with Section C of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* *The Thematic Assessment Report on Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health* (“nexus assessment”) and *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity* (“transformative change assessment”) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and

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<sup>3</sup> Decision [15/5](#), annex I.

<sup>4</sup> Decision [15/4](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3156, No. 54113.

Ecosystem Services and its relevance to the work undertaken under the Convention and to the implementation of the Framework;

2. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments at all levels, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, relevant organizations and stakeholders to identify an integrated, synergistic and holistic approach to address biodiversity and the other nexus elements including climate change, as appropriate, to strengthen policy coherence and interjurisdictional coordination in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, including national and subnational planning, monitoring, reporting and review processes, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

3. *Takes note of* the Advisory Opinion 31 of 2024, of 21 May 2024, of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea and the advisory opinion of 23 July 2025 of the International Court of Justice concerning the obligations of States in respect of climate change, in both of which the inextricable links between climate change and biodiversity loss are highlighted, and acknowledges that urgent action including under the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>6</sup> is recognized for the long-term well-being and resilience of people in the face of a changing climate;

4. *Stresses* that the achievement of the mission, goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is not possible without urgent and effective action on a nexus approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and that for achieving them it is highly critical to avoid further biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation;

4. bis *Urges* Parties and encourages other Governments to take into account CBD decisions on climate-related geoengineering, as reaffirmed in decision 16/22 of 1 November 2024;

5. [*Adopts*] the supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction contained in the annex to the present decision, to be applied by the Parties in their territories, in accordance with current national law and applicable international law;

6. *Encourages* Parties, and other governments at all levels, when undertaking actions to ensure the achievement of Targets 8 and 11 of the Framework, as well as Target 2, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, people in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity:

(a) To identify and operationalize potential biodiversity and climate synergies through their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and relevant national targets including by prioritizing the conservation and restoration of ecological integrity, ensure synergies with other national planning processes, including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans, land degradation neutrality targets and gender plans of action, and promote positive impacts and avoid negative impacts of climate action on biodiversity and for communities that directly depend on biodiversity, including the recognition of customary rights and the respect for free, prior, and informed consent at all stages, and ensuring that the development and implementation of these integrated plans are supported by adequate, predictable, and easily accessible means of implementation;

(a bis) To prioritize the protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable management and enhancement of carbon-rich terrestrial, freshwater, marine and coastal, managed and unmanaged ecosystems and of ecosystems with high ecological integrity and adaptive capacities, strengthening carbon sinks and limiting the risk of crossing tipping points;

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

(b) bis To promote and support the use of the 71 response options assessed in the Thematic Assessment Report on Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

7. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments at all levels and relevant organizations, in accordance with domestic priorities, circumstances and capabilities, to make use of the Voluntary Guidelines and its supplement including the essential social and environmental safeguards to avoid or minimize social and environmental risks, when designing and implementing nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, recognizing the co-benefits for biodiversity and livelihoods;

8. *Urges* developed country Parties and *encourages* other Parties in a position to do so, other Governments at all levels, financial institutions, multilateral development banks, and other relevant organizations, including the private sector, consistent with Article 20 of the Convention and Target 19 of the Framework, to collectively scale up investments for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and sustainable infrastructure including through supporting climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, through the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and leveraging the potential of nature-based solutions<sup>7</sup> and/or ecosystem-based approaches and their multiple benefits with environmental and social safeguards;

9. *Invites* the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action and its institutional partners to further integrate biodiversity and climate change interlinkages into its work programme, including through the development of tools and guidance to support the implementation of the Framework;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to include, as appropriate, the indicators used under the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as the basis for monitoring the contribution of biodiversity, and ecosystem functions and services to climate change adaptation, ensuring that data and tracking systems are accessible and usable by developing countries, with provision of technical, technological, and financial support for their effective implementation;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to develop dissemination tools for Parties, other governments, observers, relevant organisations, indigenous peoples and local communities, children and youth on the use of the Voluntary Guidelines and its supplement, which could include, *inter alia*, possible development of harmonised joint reporting elements, joint indicators, examples of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches activity-based reporting templates, metrics for demonstrating multiple benefits, or other practical tools or toolkits, and share them, as appropriate, through the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism and the network of regional and/or subregional support centres, with a view to promoting both enhanced capacities and effective uptake of scientific and technical guidance by Parties;

11.bis *Invites* the respective bodies of the UNFCCC and its parties to consider using the Voluntary Guidelines and its supplement for Parties to integrate biodiversity, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, and social and environmental safeguards in mitigation and adaptation measures;

11. ter *Encourages* the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to make use of the Voluntary Guidelines and its supplement in supporting parties in the implementation of targets 8 and 11 of the KMGBF;

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<sup>7</sup> As of UNEA 5/Resolution 5

12. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding the duplication of efforts, in collaboration with the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Joint Capacity-building Programme, rights holders including indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders, other multilateral environmental agreements, organizations, partnerships, initiatives and coalitions<sup>8</sup> and their respective members, to further pursue enhancing policy coherence in cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

12. bis. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Executive Secretaries of the UNFCCC and UNCCD on assessing and strengthening the mandate of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio Conventions, and increase transparency and engagement between the JLG and Parties;

12.ter. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to invite Parties, other governments and other relevant organizations to submit information on carbon and biodiversity credits and offsets, other market-based approaches and their effects on biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and indigenous peoples and local communities, and to make them available for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, prior to the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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<sup>8</sup> Organizations, partnerships, initiatives and coalitions include, but are not limited, to the following: NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, the NDC Partnership, the NAP Global Network, the ENACT Partnership, the FEBA network and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction.