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**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
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Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda*
**Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation
of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:
areas of potential further work**

Areas of potential further work in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 9 of its decision [15/4](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to facilitate its implementation. In response, the Executive Secretary undertook an initial rapid analysis of the programmes of work established under the Convention with respect to the targets of the Framework.¹ In paragraph 2 of its recommendation [25/3](#), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice requested that the Executive Secretary undertake further work, including a comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that could support the implementation of the Framework, and identify gaps and redundancies and potential needs for updates. Further to that recommendation, the Secretariat prepared various documents² in which it identified, inter alia, gaps in tools and guidance.

2. In document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/3](#), the Secretariat identified overarching scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework and their implications for the work of the Convention. It also identified the following as topics that might warrant new areas of work under the Convention: biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning; pollution and biodiversity; sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services and “the bioeconomy”; and equity and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

3. In paragraph 2 of decision [16/12](#), the Conference of the Parties decided that work could be advanced in the following areas, avoiding duplication with existing multilateral processes and respecting their mandates:

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

¹ [CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/1](#). See also [CBD/SBSTTA/25/4](#).

² [CBD/SBSTTA/26/3](#), [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15](#) and [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/16/Rev.1](#).

- (a) Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning;
- (b) Pollution and biodiversity;
- (c) Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity;
- (d) Equity, gender equality and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;
- (e) Different value systems, as stated in paragraph 7 (b) of section C of the Framework.

4. In subparagraph 4 (d) of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, inter alia, to make proposals for potential further work for each of the areas identified above, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

5. In response to that request, the Executive Secretary invited in notification No. [2025-058](#) the submission of views and relevant information on the potential areas of work described above. The submissions³ received are available on the website of the Convention.⁴

6. The present document contains proposals for potential further work under the Convention, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body.

II. Proposals for potential further work

A. Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning

1. Background

7. In paragraph 12 of its decision [15/19](#), the Conference of the Parties invited the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider the requests contained in the annex to the decision, including the conduct of a fast-track assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity, considering such elements as land- and sea-use change and restoration. At its tenth session, the Plenary of the Platform approved such an undertaking for consideration at its fourteenth session.⁵ In its decision [16/11](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body to consider the methodological assessment at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which is scheduled for 2028.

8. In the scoping report for the methodological assessment, it is indicated that “biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning” is to be understood as the integration of biodiversity considerations into spatial planning, defined as a method or process for analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of activities in a given environment in order to achieve various objectives, including ecological, social and economic.⁶

³ Submissions were received from 11 Parties (Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, European Union, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Niger, Peru and South Africa) and 19 observers (Biovision Foundation, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, CropLife International, Environmental Defense Fund, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Govardhan Ecovillage, International Institute for Environment and Development, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Pesticide Action Network, Red Nacional por la Defensa de la Soberanía Alimentaria en Guatemala, Science Panel for the Amazon, SwedBio, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Women4Biodiversity, World Federation for Animals and World Wide Fund for Nature).

⁴ At www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-058.

⁵ See decision IPBES-10/1 of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, para. 6.

⁶ Ibid., annex II.

9. Under the Convention, guidance related to spatial planning has only been developed under the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity.⁷ Marine spatial planning has been a prominent focus of capacity-building activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, which is coordinated by the Secretariat, in accordance with guidance from the Conference of the Parties. Far less attention has been paid to spatial planning in terrestrial and inland water areas.

10. The programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030 includes the development of guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2), which is to inform biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning. Such draft guidelines will be considered at the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

2. Summary of submissions

11. A total of 21 submissions were received on the present topic.⁸ Submitters highlighted similar gaps to those identified in documents [CBD/SBSTTA/26/3](#) and [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15](#), including the absence of a definition of “biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning”, as well as the need for the following:

- (a) Guidelines for the cross-sectoral integration of relevant biodiversity-sensitive management approaches (such as agroecological approaches in farmed landscapes);
- (b) Guidelines for integrating biodiversity into engineering standards, municipal planning (including green and blue spaces) and connected networks of ecosystems for key urban biodiversity;
- (c) Strengthened co-governance models with indigenous peoples and local communities and review of enabling conditions for successful participatory planning processes;
- (d) Guidelines for integrating climate resilience into spatial planning;
- (e) Guidelines for the national regulation of the marine spatial planning approach within broader planning frameworks;
- (f) Access to coastal and marine monitoring technology and systems;
- (g) Further guidance on the valuation of ecosystem functions and services in relation to spatial planning and on the consideration of trade-offs;
- (h) Guidance on the design of ecological corridors;
- (i) Improved monitoring, access to data, and refinement and definition of relevant indicators.

12. Some Parties noted complementary initiatives and processes, including forthcoming guidance on biodiversity-inclusive marine spatial planning from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the European Commission.⁹ FAO referred to its ongoing work on integrated land-use planning, which is described in more detail in paragraph 19 below.

13. Submitters pointed to sources of existing guidance, such as the World Commission on Protected Areas Spatial Planning Taskforce of the International Union for Conservation of Nature;¹⁰

⁷ See decisions [X/29](#), [XI/18](#), [XII/23](#), [XIII/9](#), [14/10](#), [15/24](#), and [16/17](#).

⁸ From Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, European Union, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Niger, Peru and South Africa; and Biovision Foundation, Convention on Migratory Species, Environmental Defense Fund, FAO, Govardhan Ecovillage, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Science Panel for the Amazon, UNDP, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, World Wide Fund for Nature and Women4Biodiversity.

⁹ See www.mspglobal2030.org/biodiversity-inclusive-marine-spatial-planning/.

¹⁰ See iucn.org/our-union/commissions/group/iucn-wcpa-spatial-planning-task-force.

the Essential Life Support Areas mapping initiative, led by UNDP;¹¹ the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity, housed under the Convention on Migratory Species and launched in 2024 during the fourteenth meeting of its Conference of the Parties, which is aimed at maintaining, restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity across the globe; and the United Nations University and its partners in the context of their work on socioecological production landscapes.¹²

14. Submitters noted that planning was always done at various levels, from local to national and regional, and highlighted related approaches, such as environmental management frameworks, spatial development frameworks and integrated development plans. They also noted the need to take multiple considerations into account, including sustainable livelihoods and river basin-wide conservation frameworks that ensured freshwater ecosystem connectivity and protected key aquatic habitats.

15. Some submitters addressed protected area planning within the framework of spatial planning and drew attention to the fact that Target 1 of the Framework was mostly linked to Target 3. However, it was noted that approaches to protected area planning were among the most advanced areas of work under the Convention, and already took into consideration areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. For example, Goal 1.2 of the programme of work on protected areas is to integrate protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function. It is therefore necessary to distinguish between the need to accelerate the application of existing guidance under the Convention and the need for enhanced or new guidance.

3. Analysis and further information

16. Spatial planning is widely used as part of almost all land-use planning, often carried out independently by different sectors, at the local to national levels and for both urban and rural areas. The main need is to integrate biodiversity-related considerations into spatial planning approaches, especially in managed landscapes dominated by agriculture and other productive sectors, but also in urban landscapes and multi-use areas.

17. In its methodological assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will address many of the gaps identified in the submissions and in documents [CBD/SBSTTA/26/3](#) and [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15](#). It will also address relevant targets of the Framework, as well as biodiversity-sensitive urban planning; restoration; ecological connectivity; indicators; enabling environment for biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning; and synergies and trade-offs within the nexus elements of biodiversity, food, water, health and climate change.

18. One key topic that the Platform will not address in its assessment is the dynamic temporal and spatial variability of water systems, which can influence inland water, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems. This is a key aspect of ecological connectivity that can extend over large distances through interactions among river systems or groundwater flows. The primary planning tool for freshwater management is integrated water resources management. According to the analysis contained in document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15](#), while the extent to which the considerable available guidance on integrated water resources management is biodiversity-inclusive has not been fully assessed, it is known to be inconsistent.

19. FAO is in the process of updating its integrated land-use planning guidelines through an inclusive global consultation, by which it seeks to integrate climate change, biodiversity and land degradation considerations. The guidelines will include agriculture-wetland interactions, managing water-related ecosystem services and applying ecosystem-based approaches in land and water planning, as well as supporting enhanced collaboration that contributes to planning processes balancing food production, water allocation and biodiversity conservation.

¹¹ See digitalx.undp.org/catalogs/elsa.html.

¹² See unu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-07/Indicators%20of%20Resilience%20in%20SEPLS%202024%20Edition_V2_0.pdf.

20. Significant work is also ongoing under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, on integrated land-use planning to support Target 15.3, on land degradation neutrality, of the Sustainable Development Goals. The work includes a science-policy brief on integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management for land degradation neutrality,¹³ the land degradation neutrality toolbox¹⁴ and the second phase of the land degradation neutrality target-setting programme.¹⁵

4. Conclusions on a potential way forward

21. The fast-track methodological assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will cover methods, guidance, tools, scenarios, models, data, knowledge and capacity-building for integrating biodiversity considerations into and promoting connectivity (both structural and functional) in spatial planning, across sectors and scales. The Conference of the Parties is expected to consider the assessment at its eighteenth meeting, in 2028. It is therefore proposed to defer the development of further work in the present area until then.

22. The Conference of the Parties will conduct a global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework at its seventeenth meeting, which will include a target-by-target assessment of progress towards the 23 targets, the 2030 mission and other elements of the Framework, including its sections C, I, J and K. It is proposed that, as an interim measure, and while the assessment is being prepared, the Secretariat be requested to prepare a report on experiences with biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, drawing on the inputs into the global review, and to hold a workshop for relevant experts from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to advance a common understanding of biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning.

B. Pollution and biodiversity

1. Background

23. Although Target 7 of the Framework addresses pollution from all sources, it places an emphasis on excess nutrients lost to the environment, pesticides, highly hazardous chemicals and plastic pollution.

24. Under the Convention, pollution is addressed through several programmes of work. The programme of work on agricultural biodiversity addresses pollution in the most detail, including through cross-cutting initiatives.¹⁶ The programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity has also addressed the topic, including with regard to marine debris and underwater noise,¹⁷ although the nature and impacts of pollution have changed somewhat since the guidance was prepared. Pollution is also referred to in the recently adopted Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health¹⁸ through consideration of its negative effects on human, animal, plant and ecosystem health and the inclusion of voluntary actions to mainstream the biodiversity and health interlinkages in relation to Target 7 of the Framework.

25. In paragraph 19 of decision [16/35](#), the Conference of the Parties invited the governing bodies of the chemicals and waste conventions, FAO and other relevant conventions and organizations, including the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, to collaborate with the three Rio conventions on Target 7 of the Framework on the reduction of pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity, in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders.

¹³ See www.unccd.int/resources/brief/science-policy-brief-integrated-land-use-planning-and-integrated-landscape.

¹⁴ See <https://geo-ldn.org/ldn/about-toolbox/>.

¹⁵ See www.unccd.int/news-stories/notifications/call-requests-support-assist-countries-strengthening-ldn-targets.

¹⁶ See decisions [14/6](#) and [15/28](#).

¹⁷ See www.cbd.int/marine.

¹⁸ Decision [16/19](#), annex.

2. Summary of submissions

26. A total of 19 submissions were received on the present topic.¹⁹ Submitters noted the technical and scientific need for the following in relation to the implementation of Target 7:

(a) Consolidated guidance on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in pollution mitigation (nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches), including guidance for specific sectors and sources of pollution;

(b) Information on the impacts of pollution on biodiversity in different biomes, including which types and sources of pollution are of heightened interest for different biomes and species, as well as priority mitigation measures, for key sources, sectors and stakeholders;

(c) The identification of pollution thresholds, such as the levels at which pollutants are harmful to biodiversity and means to avoid those pollutants;

(d) Methods to identify which chemicals should be considered as “highly hazardous”, assessing relevant risks with regard to biodiversity, and measures to mitigate them;

(e) Means to deal with overlapping and shared goals among multilateral environmental agreements and forums, including the role of and synergies with the chemicals and waste conventions and the Global Framework on Chemicals at the national level;

(f) Better access to data and improved information management, noting that there are several databases and sources related to the reduction of excess nutrients but that information on reducing the risk that pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals pose to biodiversity and reducing plastic pollution is highly dispersed and difficult to gain access to;

(g) Strengthened legal, policy and scientific information for addressing the effects of chemical pollutants and their cumulative effects on ecosystem diversity, functions and services;

(h) Developing protocols for nutrient recycling;

(i) Strengthening national integrated environmental monitoring systems and the alignment of data on pollution control measures with global targets, such as Targets 3.9²⁰ and 6.3²¹ of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Analysis and further information

27. Pollution is typically classified by the environment component that it has an impact on (e.g. air, water, soil), by pollutant (e.g. light, noise, plastic) or by source (e.g. agriculture, industry, urban, sanitation, mining). Water and soil pollution is known to have a significant impact on biodiversity. Air pollution is often of high public concern because of its direct effects on human health, but there is less information generally available on its direct impacts on biodiversity, except for such effects as acid rain and carbon dioxide-driven ocean acidification. The impacts of light pollution on biodiversity are minimally studied, although some work in that area has been conducted under the Convention on Migratory Species. The effect of noise pollution on biodiversity has mainly been considered for cetaceans, again under the Convention on Migratory Species. A major group of pollutants threatening biodiversity worldwide is nutrients, primarily originating from unsustainable agricultural practices, but also from poor sanitation and wastewater treatment.

¹⁹ From Canada, Colombia, European Union, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Niger and South Africa; and Biovision Foundation, Convention on Migratory Species, CropLife International, FAO, Govardhan Ecovillage, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Pesticide Action Network, Science Panel for the Amazon, SwedBio, World Federation for Animals and Women4Biodiversity.

²⁰ By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

²¹ By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

28. While there are varying levels of knowledge regarding the impacts of various categories of pollution on biodiversity, there is even less knowledge on the role that biodiversity plays in mitigating or eliminating the impacts of pollution through, for example, ecosystem functions and services and their proactive use in nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches.

29. Different aspects of pollution are addressed under many multilateral agreements, organizations and initiatives, albeit in a somewhat fragmented fashion. For example, pollution is addressed under the chemicals and waste conventions,²² marine pollution conventions, global multilateral environmental agreements not directly related to pollution²³ and various regional agreements.²⁴ In addition, several intergovernmental organizations²⁵ and inter-agency mechanisms²⁶ deal with various aspects of pollution. Furthermore, an international instrument on plastic pollution is currently under negotiation.²⁷ Many of those processes pay little attention to the impacts of pollution on biodiversity, or the role that biodiversity can play in mitigating pollution.

4. Conclusions on a potential way forward

30. The Conference of the Parties has not given much consideration to pollution beyond the areas listed in paragraph 24 above, and it is proposed to establish an ad hoc technical expert group on biodiversity and pollution to provide technical advice on that topic (see sect. III below).

C. Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity

1. Background

31. The sustainable use of biodiversity is enshrined in Article 1 of the Convention as one of its three objectives. Sustainable use is defined in Article 2 as the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. This is reiterated in Target 9 of the Framework, which is aimed at ensuring that the management and use of wild species are sustainable for the benefit of people.²⁸ Some elements of the target are addressed across many of the programmes of work under the Convention; however, Target 9 introduces the concept of sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, which has not been clearly defined.

2. Summary of submissions

32. The Secretariat received 16 submissions²⁹ related to the present topic. Submitters provided information on relevant approaches and experiences, including in relation to fisheries, agriculture, forestry and wild species of cultural importance to indigenous peoples and local communities. Views

²² Including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

²³ Including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat.

²⁴ Including the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and neighbouring Atlantic Area, regional seas conventions and most of the transboundary water agreements.

²⁵ Including FAO, the International Maritime Organization and the World Health Organization.

²⁶ Including the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, the Global Framework on Chemicals and UN-Water.

²⁷ An intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, was established by the United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2022, by its resolution 5/14.

²⁸ Wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species contribute to human well-being in multiple ways, including by providing nutrition, food security, medicines and livelihoods.

²⁹ From Brazil, Canada, Colombia, European Union, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico and Niger; and Convention on Migratory Species, Govardhan Ecovillage, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Science Panel for the Amazon, UNDP, World Federation for Animals, World Wide Fund for Nature and Women4Biodiversity.

on further technical and scientific needs matched those already listed in documents [CBD/SBSTTA/26/3](#) and [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15](#), but also included the need for the following:

- (a) Guidance on development and scaling of biotechnologies;
- (b) Ways and means to strengthen community capacities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and production;
- (c) Consolidation of data platforms and impact indicators;
- (d) Increased financing for sustainable enterprises.

33. Some submitters also drew attention to the knowledge gap analysis presented in appendix 2 to *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species: Summary for Policymakers* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. *The Thematic Assessment Report of the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity* was also referred to as highly relevant.

34. In its submission, a Party noted that the topic could be broadly understood to cover two main interdependent elements: (a) the sustainable use of wild species; and (b) activities, products and services that had a net positive impact on biodiversity. It was observed that, in all cases, this should also lead to social, economic and environmental benefits for people, while protecting and fostering customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with the broader objectives of the Convention and the Framework. The same submitter noted that promoting sustainable biodiversity-based activities products and services was sometimes referred to as “bioeconomy” and referenced definitions of the term.

35. In the submission from another Party, it was noted that bioeconomy and associated approaches were becoming a cornerstone of investment strategies in support of the Framework. For example, the Biodiversity Sector Investment Portal, supported by UNDP and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative, acted as a catalyst for connecting national investment opportunities with suitable investors and intermediaries, thereby contributing to job creation, inclusive and sustainable economic transformation and economic growth. The submitter showcased several case studies of land reform and biodiversity stewardship projects.

36. Other submitters mentioned related concepts, such as the green economy, which also emphasized the promotion of sustainable products and services that supported a transition towards more resilient economic models, or the promotion of sustainable activities that generated social, economic and environmental benefits, while contributing to biodiversity conservation.

3. Analysis and further information

37. The submissions covered two distinct broad topics. The first was the sustainable exploitation of wild species, with most examples referring to the wild meat sector, but also some other subsectors and uses, such as fisheries. Submitters did not mention how those activities “enhanced” biodiversity. The second topic was sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhanced biodiversity in the context of broader economic approaches or strategies, often categorized under the concept of “bioeconomy” or similar macroeconomic concepts. The Subsidiary Body might find it helpful to distinguish the two.

38. Sustainable wildlife management involves the sound management of wildlife species to sustain their populations and habitat over time, considering the socioeconomic needs of human populations,³⁰ and is a subset of sustainable biodiversity-based activities. In paragraph 6 of its decision [16/15](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare draft global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and

³⁰ See www.fao.org/forestry-fao/wildlife-partnership/en/.

multiple practices. Such guidance can inform and support, in part, the broader development of guidance and tools for sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services.

4. Conclusions on a potential way forward

39. Although several submitters mentioned the bioeconomy, the term is not mentioned in Target 9 of the Framework, which introduces the concept of sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services. As such, and while there may be a need for further work on the bioeconomy under the Convention, it is not covered in the proposed approach.

40. Further consideration and analysis are required regarding Target 9 and “sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity”. Submitters recognized its potential relevance and importance for Target 9, but noted uncertainties regarding the term and its suitability for the purposes of the Convention. Before recommendations can be made regarding a new area of work on the present topic, or its incorporation into existing areas, further consideration needs to be given to the issue.

D. Equity, gender equality and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources

1. Background

41. The programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, which is to be implemented by the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and the Secretariat, contains many tasks that address the human rights-based approach. Task 7.3 concerns the development of guidelines on the implementation of Target 22 of the Framework. Under Task 7.1, the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) is to develop guidelines to contribute to the enhancement of the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

42. The Convention has long established work on gender and gender equality, including under the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), the implementation of which is based, inter alia, on the application of a human rights-based approach. The purpose of the Gender Plan of Action is to support and promote the gender-responsive implementation of the Framework.

43. In paragraph 20 of its decision [16/35](#), the Conference of the Parties invited OHCHR to develop tools and guidance on a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the Framework and to convey the results to the Secretariat. In its resolution 57/28 on biodiversity and human rights, the Human Rights Council encouraged OHCHR to cooperate with the Secretariat on advancing human rights-based biodiversity action and requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct a global analytical study on the implementation of a human rights-based approach into the goals and targets of the Framework and to submit it to the Council at its 61st session, which may be held during the first quarter of 2026.

2. Summary of submissions

44. The Secretariat received 18 submissions³¹ related to the present topic. Submitters expressed overwhelming support for further work in the area, noting that such work should build on existing work, avoid duplication of effort and include capacity-building and the dissemination of any existing guidance. Several submitters noted the cross-cutting nature of a human rights-based approach and its being closely linked to several key components of the Framework, including other elements of its

³¹ From Brazil, Canada, Colombia, European Union, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico and Niger; and Environmental Defense Fund, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Govardhan Ecovillage, International Institute for Environment and Development, OHCHR, Red Nacional por la Defensa de la Soberanía Alimentaria en Guatemala, Science Panel for the Amazon, SwedBio, World Wide Fund for Nature and Women4Biodiversity.

section C, such as the whole-of-society-approach, specific targets, such as Target 3, and overarching implementation support, such as resource mobilization.

45. Many submitters made reference to gender and the Gender Plan of Action, noting that, although women usually tended to be disadvantaged, matrimonial land tenure systems were in place in some countries. One submitter identified gaps in the Gender Plan of Action, including the lack of indicators for gender diversity and inclusion in biodiversity decision-making processes and the lack of methodologies for gender-disaggregated biodiversity data collection.

46. Submitters also often emphasized the role and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030. Some also pointed to the close links between land tenure, rights, gender and equality.

47. Submitters included references to many relevant tools, guidance, approaches and processes at the national, regional and global levels. Referring to Human Rights Council resolution 57/28 and the obligation of the States under international human rights law, OHCHR provided a robust rationale demonstrating the importance of a human rights-based approach for achieving the targets of the Framework. Submitters noted the opportunity to advance work in that area in a manner that did not duplicate the mandate of OHCHR and that fostered greater coherence, collaboration and synergies, including with other human rights institutions and bodies, such as the Human Rights Council.

48. One submitter highlighted the importance of the participation of youth in relevant processes and decision-making.

3. Analysis and further information

49. In document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15](#), it was noted that considerations relevant to indigenous peoples and local communities were well covered under the Convention, and that gaps in tools and guidance in the present area of work concerned primarily other issues related to women, youth and persons with disabilities. One submitter noted gaps in relation to other stakeholders referred to in the Framework, such as children, youth, persons with disabilities and environmental human rights defenders. The aforementioned global analytical study by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is expected to address the gaps noted by submitters. The study is scheduled to be released in the first quarter of 2026. Its outcomes will help to identify potential further work under the Convention in addition to existing relevant work on gender and the implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030.

4. Conclusions on a potential way forward

50. It is proposed that the matter be taken up by the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, in line with its programme of work, as outlined in paragraph 41 above, and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

E. Different value systems, as stated in paragraph 7 (b) of section C of the Framework

1. Background

51. The programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030 contains specific tasks aimed at ensuring that different knowledge systems are valued. Its general principles include placing value on the traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities and adopting a holistic approach consistent with the spiritual and cultural values and customary practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.

52. The joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity,³² with its focus on the interconnection between cultural and biological diversity, is of direct relevance to the consideration of different value systems and multiple values of biodiversity. The goal of the joint programme of work is to recognize and promote natural and cultural heritage and diversity as enablers and drivers of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and a pathway to the vision of the Framework of living in harmony with nature by 2050. It contains a commitment to strengthening the links between biological and cultural diversity and considering lessons learned through the work undertaken under the Convention and other relevant processes, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. It also provides a strategic framework for incorporating diverse values, world views and knowledge systems into the implementation of the Framework.

2. Summary of submissions

53. The Secretariat received 16 submissions³³ related to the present topic. Two submitters proposed that no further work be undertaken, while four provided information on national activities and identified minor gaps, but made no suggestions for further work. All submitters acknowledged and supported *The Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and highlighted the importance of factoring multiple values into decision-making, including by enhancing and integrating multiple sources of evidence and knowledge systems for the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their implementation.

54. One submitter noted that, despite normative advances, there was limited evidence that such different value systems were effectively being recognized and incorporated into real-world decision-making, and the submitter suggested to: (a) deepen the integration of different value systems into the work undertaken under the Convention, including in relation to Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention; (b) strengthen partnerships to build and develop capacity; (c) assess the revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans to identify tools, methods and good practices that have successfully integrated different value systems; and (d) consider diverse values in monitoring, reporting and review.

3. Analysis and further information

55. Overall, submitters focussed on diverse values, world views and knowledge systems related to indigenous peoples and local communities. However, all stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, women, youth and other stakeholders, have their own values, world views and knowledge systems that shape their relationship with and concept of biodiversity. Recognizing and respecting the diversity of perspectives are essential to ensuring the inclusive and equitable implementation of the Framework.

56. In its decision [16/14](#), the Conference of the Parties welcomed *The Methodological Assessment Report on the Diversity Values and Valuation of Nature*, noting its relevance to the implementation of the Framework, and provided extensive guidance on its use. There is already ongoing work undertaken under the Convention, including under the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030 and the joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity, that addresses the immediate needs in terms of tools and guidance. No calls for additional work beyond those efforts were made in the submissions.

³² Decision [15/22](#).

³³ From Canada, Colombia, European Union, Japan, Marshall Islands and Peru; and Environmental Defense Fund, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Govardhan Ecovillage, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Red Nacional por la Defensa de la Soberanía Alimentaria en Guatemala, Science Panel for the Amazon, SwedBio, World Federation for Animals, World Wide Fund for Nature and Women4Biodiversity.

4. Conclusions on a potential way forward

57. The topic of different value systems of biodiversity remains a priority for the Convention and the implementation of the Framework. A number of elements related to the issue are addressed through existing tools and guidance and ongoing work undertaken under the Convention. The programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030 is the main vehicle through which ongoing additional work is being undertaken, including such supporting activities as capacity-building, information exchange and the co-production of new knowledge by indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists and other stakeholders. The main need is to strengthen the implementation of existing tools and guidance and of the Convention.

III. Recommendations

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

27/--. Equity, gender equality and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling the adoption of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) by decision [15/11](#) of 19 December 2022 and of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030 by decision [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024, both of which promote the application of a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²

Noting the conduct by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of a global analytical study on the implementation of a human rights-based approach to the goals and targets of the Framework, as requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 57/28 on biodiversity and human rights of 11 October 2024,

Requests the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, subject to the availability of resources, to review the global analytical study on the implementation of a human rights-based approach to the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, once available, and to submit a proposal for potential additional work on the human rights-based approach, including intergenerational and gender equity, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

59. The Subsidiary Body may also wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, adopt a decision along the following lines:

Areas of potential further work in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

A
Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the ongoing methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

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

² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

Recognizing that marine spatial planning has been adequately addressed in previous decisions, in particular decision [XIII/9](#) of 17 December 2016, and has been the focus of capacity-building activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative,

Noting the existing experience and guidance on marine spatial planning on different scales, including under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,³ subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To prepare a report on experiences with biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, drawing on the inputs into the global review of collective process in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁴ and, on the basis of the findings of the review, to hold an expert workshop to advance a common understanding of biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and its approaches, in the context of the implementation of the Framework;

(b) To prepare, on the basis of the findings of the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the activities referred to in subparagraph (a) above, an updated proposal for potential further work on biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

B

Pollution and biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024 and [16/31](#) and [16/35](#) of 27 February 2025,

Recognizing that pollution is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss,

2. *Decides* to establish, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc technical expert group on pollution and biodiversity, with a time-bound mandate until the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to develop guidance on ways to address the impacts of pollution on biodiversity, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present decision;

3. *Invites* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to submit scientific and technical information to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵ in relation to:

(a) The impacts of pollution on biodiversity in different biomes, including the types and sources of pollution of priority concern for different biomes and species;

(b) Priority biodiversity considerations to be incorporated into pollution prevention, control and mitigation measures, for key sources, sectors and stakeholders;

(c) The role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in pollution mitigation (nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches), including guidance for specific sectors and sources of pollution;

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to make the scientific and technical information submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 above available to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Pollution and Biodiversity;

5. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review the outcomes of work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Pollution and Biodiversity and to present its recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

6. *Invites* the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,⁶ the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade⁷ and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,⁸ the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,⁹ the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority and the secretariats of the regional seas conventions and action plans to strengthen their focus on the interaction of chemicals and waste, including plastic waste, with biodiversity and ecosystem services;

Annex

Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Pollution and Biodiversity

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Pollution and Biodiversity shall provide technical advice to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on:

(a) The impacts of pollution on biodiversity in different biomes, including the types and sources of pollution of priority concerns for different biomes and species;

(b) Priority biodiversity considerations to be incorporated into pollution prevention, control and mitigation measures, for key sources, sectors and stakeholders; and the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in pollution mitigation (nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches), including guidance for specific sectors and sources of pollution;

(c) Data and information management, in particular in relation to information on reducing the risk of identified pollutants of priority concern for biodiversity;

(d) Biodiversity considerations to be taken into account in national integrated environmental monitoring systems and the alignment of data on pollution control measures with the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹⁰

2. The Technical Expert Group shall comprise 30 technical experts nominated by Parties, including experts on biodiversity and pollution, and up to five representatives nominated by observer organizations and other relevant organizations.

3. The Technical Expert Group shall nominate two co-chairs from among the selected experts.

⁶Ibid., vol. 1673, No. 28911.

⁷ Ibid., vol. 2244, No. 39973.

⁸ Ibid., vol. 2256, No. 40214.

⁹ Ibid., vol. 3201, No. 54669.

¹⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

4. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall be invited to participate, ex officio, in the meetings of the Technical Expert Group.
5. The Technical Expert Group shall conduct its work primarily electronically; subject to the availability of resources, it shall also meet in person at least twice during the intersessional period.
6. The Technical Expert Group should be established and start its work immediately after the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

C

Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024 and [16/15](#) of 25 October 2024,

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹¹ subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a report on experiences with sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, drawing on the inputs into the global review of collective process in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹² and, on the basis on the findings of the review, to hold an expert workshop to provide technical advice on the definition, scope and elements of the concept of sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services, and to prepare a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

D

Equity, gender equality and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the global analytical study on the implementation of a human rights-based approach into the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹³ conducted by the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights,

Taking note also of the proposal for potential additional work on the human rights-based approach, including intergenerational and gender equity, prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁴ pursuant to recommendation 27/-- of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to finalize a proposal for potential additional work on the human rights-based approach, including intergenerational and gender equity, taking into account the global analytical study on the implementation of a human rights-based approach to the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to submit the proposal for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Communities at meetings to be held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

E

Different value systems, as stated in paragraph 7 (b) of section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that, in subparagraph 7 (b) of section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁵ the Conference of the Parties affirmed that different value systems should be taken into account in its implementation and that, in Target 14 of the Framework, it called for the integration of multiple values of biodiversity in decision-making,

Recalling also the adoption of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030 by decision [16/4](#) of 30 October 2024 and the elements and tasks related to the joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity in the annex to decision [15/22](#) of 10 December 2022, both of which support the application of diverse value systems in the implementation of the Framework,

Recalling further The Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices among Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, including through the holding of dialogues and through learning platforms, to support the effective integration of diverse values and knowledge systems into the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

¹⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.