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Nature Conservation

European expert meeting in preparation of SBSTTA-26

International Academy for
Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm

08–12 April 2024

REPORT



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REPORT

**European expert meeting in preparation of
SBSTTA-26**

International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm

Lennart Kümper-Schlake, Axel Paulsch (Eds.)

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Introduction and General remarks

The European expert meeting in preparation of the 26th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-26) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held as an informal workshop, **aiming to exchange information and views on the topics to be discussed at the upcoming SBSTTA-26** (13–18 May 2024, Nairobi, Kenya). The expert meeting was convened by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm, 08–12 April 2024. **The 43 participants from 18 countries attended in their personal capacities as biodiversity or biodiversity policy experts.**

Wadzanayi Mandivenyi from the CBD Secretariat (SCBD) took part in the meeting as resource person. Further experts introducing specific topics to the meeting were Martin Batic (Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy, Slovenia), Marja Ruohonen-Lehto (Finnish Environment Institute, Syke), Charles Bourgeois (Ministry of Environment, France), Janos Hennis (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, BfN, Germany), James Williams (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, United Kingdom), Catherine Debruyne (Service Public de Wallonie, Belgium) Han de Koeijer (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences), Lennart Kümper-Schlake (BfN, Germany) and Karin Zaunberger (DG Environment). Kristin Hagen and Samson Simon (both BfN, Germany) and Axel Paulsch (Institute for Biodiversity Network, Germany) served as

note takers during the sessions. Marianela Araya Quesada, Joseph Appiot and Jillian Campbell, Programme Officers, as well as Jihyun Lee, Division Director of the SCBD, stood ready as resource persons for a short virtual exchange.

Lennart Kuemper-Schlake and Barbara Engels (who also co- chaired the meeting) and Jutta Stadler (all BfN) welcomed the participants of the meeting. The topics were introduced briefly by the above-named specialists in their field and discussed extensively in small working groups and in plenary. **In this report, the main points of discussion are summarized and general reflections on the official meeting documents for SBSTTA-26, published by the CBD Secretariat, are given. In addition, amendments to the official documents and the draft decisions are suggested. The aim of the expert meeting was not to reach a consensus on the individual points but rather to have an exchange of information, opinions and ideas.**

This report is intended to help individuals and delegations in their preparation of the topics on the agenda of SBSTTA-26. The results of and inspiration from the meeting may feed into the international exchanges and negotiation process.

General comment: The Vilm expert meeting realised a lack of consistency in the choice of phrasing and the use of certain terms throughout the documents, e.g. relating to indigenous peoples and local communities. The meeting decided to stick to “indigenous peoples and local communities”, but is aware of the ongoing political discussions to capitalise Indigenous Peoples in different UN fora, as reflected by the UN General Assembly in resolution A/77/460.

How to read the report

Amendments and additions to the draft SBSTTA-26 documents are marked as follows throughout the report:

~~Text~~ = text is suggested to be deleted

Text = suggestion for new text

[(Text)] = comment on suggested change

This report tries to keep the text format as close as possible to the official SBSTTA-26 pre-session documents as provided by the SCBD to allow easy comparison of the expert meeting’s results with the original text. Nevertheless, there might occur slight differences in the format even of untouched paragraphs, due to formatting the report in a standardized European printing format. Footnote’s individual numbering might change due to abridging and continuing the text. This has no influence on the content whatsoever. Any proposed change in content is marked as mentioned above.

1 Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Item 3)

The topic was introduced by James Williams and the Catherine Debruyne who also chaired the small group. James reflected the work of the AHTEG he had co-chaired, including the work on the questions for the binary indicators.

The expert group discussed the addendum document SBSTTA/26/2/Add.1 firstly in general terms and then with respect to advice on some of the specific binary indicators.

As noted in the review of the draft Recommendation in SBSTTA/26/2, a consolidated document between the SBSTTA/25 recommendation and the SBSTTA/26/2 addendum document would help SBSTTA to produce final advice on the binary indicators, questions and responses.

The expert meeting was generally happy with the advice of the AHTEG in the addendum document, but noted that there may be some specifics points to be discussed at SBSTTA-26.

Following on from work by the small working group on biotechnology related items (5, 6 and 7) which also considered the binary indicator and questions for Target 17, taking into account the advice from the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the advice on this specific indicator from the AHTEG in Add.1, it was noted that the advice on using standardized answers could be applied to each question, including the proposal for re-labelling the standard four answers to 'No', 'Developing', 'Partially', and 'Fully'. The amendments proposed are appended below.

The expert meeting agreed with the advice from the AHTEG about re-labelling the standard four answers to 'No', 'Developing', 'Partially', and 'Fully'. Having considered the proposed aggregation methodology in SBSTTA/26/INF/14 the six-point aggregation scale was considered helpful, and that there could be a clear link between the answers to the individual questions and the aggregated result - the status of the indicator for a Party.

The expert meeting noted that for some binary indicator questions where Parties suggested edits at SBSTTA-25, it might be necessary to either convert them to multiple choice answers, or that in applying the answers into the aggregation method several answers might in effect be counted as 'Partially' responses. However, the detail of answers to individual questions should be available, so more detailed investigations could be undertaken if desired.

Document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2

Suggestions on the text

Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Note by the Secretariat

[Note: The expert meeting felt the need to ask during the first plenary session of SBSTTA-26 for a document combining the Annex of Recommendation SBSTTA/25/1 and SBSTTA/26/2/Add.1 to further facilitate the work at SBSTTA-26.]

I. Introduction

abridged; continued

IV. Recommendation⁷

~~15. The Subsidiary Body is expected to:~~

~~(a) Review and endorse the list of headline, binary, component and complementary indicators contained in annex I;~~

~~(b) Finalize the list of binary indicators and related questions and responses, on the basis of the annex to its recommendation 25/1, taking into account the further advice of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators on the wording of these questions and responses available in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2/Add.1;~~

~~(c) Take note of the summary of the status of operationalization of each of the headline indicators and of the coverage of the cross-cutting issues of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contained in annex II and of the summary of research needs and indicator development required for improved monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contained in annex III;~~

~~(d) Take note of the guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework, including metadata and on implementing section C of the Framework (CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14), and the analysis of gaps in the monitoring framework relating to spatial and temporal coverage, capacity and scientific and technical needs, and guidance to address the gaps (CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19).~~

[Comment: The Vilm expert meeting understood that the current paragraph 15 was not meant as a draft recommendation. The meeting proposes a draft recommendation as follows:]

15alt The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

(a) Welcomes with appreciation the outcomes of the work conducted by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the inputs from the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting,⁸ the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation,⁹ the scientific and technical review of the traditional knowledge indicators requested by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention at its the twelfth meeting,¹⁰ and the work of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; [Rationale: Acknowledging the work done.]

(b) Requests the Executive Secretary to produce, taking into account the

⁷ The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators has provided advice on the wording of the binary indicators (in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2/Add.1), as requested by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in paragraph 6 of its recommendation 25/1.

⁸ See CBD/FM/TEG/2024/1/2.

⁹ See CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2.

¹⁰ See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/11.

discussions at SBSTTA-26 based on document SBSTTA/REC/25/1 and SBSTTA/26/2/Add.1), (i) an updated Annex I with the final names of the binary indicators, (ii) an updated document as Annex XX, listing the questions and responses for the binary indicators, (iii) updated metadata for the binary indicators within SBSTTA/26/INF/14. [Rationale: To reflect the work undertaken in SBSTTA-26 and ensure that COP 16 has a clear decision. Annex XX cross-referenced in paragraph 2 of the draft COP decision.]

16. The Subsidiary Body may wish to prepare a draft decision for the Conference of the Parties along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth meeting, adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 15/5 of 19 December 2022, by which it adopted a monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and established the ad hoc technical expert group on indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Recalling also its decision 15/7 of 19 December 2022, in which it established the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting to work on financial indicators for the monitoring framework as a contribution to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Recalling further its decisions 15/4, 15/8, 15/10, and 15/22 of 19 December 2022,

*Welcoming **with appreciation** [Rationale: Acknowledging the work done.]* the work conducted by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the inputs from the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting,¹¹ the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation,¹² the scientific and technical review of the traditional knowledge indicators requested by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention at its the twelfth meeting,¹³ and the work of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,¹⁴

Welcoming also the contributions of international organizations and initiatives to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, as well as the work to maintain national and global databases and data collection relevant for monitoring the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Welcoming the work under the Bern process¹⁵ to improve collaboration on the development of indicators related to biodiversity,

Noting the ongoing processes to fill monitoring gaps through the development of ~~human health indicators further to decision 15/29 and~~ **[Rationale: The process requested under 15/29 is still pending.]** indicators for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation further to decisions 15/5 and 15/13,¹⁶

Noting with appreciation the financial contributions from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, which

¹¹ See CBD/FM/TEG/2024/1/2.

¹² See CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2.

¹³ See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/11.

¹⁴ See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/13.

¹⁵ See www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions.

¹⁶ See also recommendation 25/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

enabled the work of the Expert Groups, the contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for hosting an expert meeting on indicator 7.2, and the financial contributions from the Governments of the United Kingdom for the study on access and benefit-sharing indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the study on private sector finance (indicator D.3) and the capacity needs analysis; and of Canada for the development of the explanatory guidance and gap analysis; as well as the in-kind support from the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre in support of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators,

1. ~~Adopts~~**Endorses** the updates to the **adopted** monitoring framework **[Rationale: The monitoring framework has already been adopted. Updates could be endorsed.]** contained in annex I to the present decision, comprising headline, binary, component and complementary indicators, and headline indicator disaggregations, which supersede the lists of indicators contained in annex I to decision 15/5;¹⁷

2. *Adopts* the list of questions and responses for formulating the binary indicators, contained in annex XX to the present decision;¹⁸

3. *Takes note* of the current status of development of the headline indicators ~~and the current status of guidance related to the consideration of section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework when implementing the headline and binary indicators contained in table 1 of annex II, as prepared by the Technical Expert Group on Indicators, while recognizing that methodological development is an ongoing process;~~ **[Rationale: Split for clarity]**

3bis Welcomes the current status of guidance related to the consideration of section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework when implementing the headline and binary indicators contained in table 2 of annex II, complemented by section 2 of information document 14 [Rationale: Split for clarity. Text from former paragraph 3. Adding reference to Inf 14]

4. *Encourages* the organizations listed in **table 1 of Annex II** **[Rationale: Clarification]** to continue to work with Parties and relevant organizations to develop and improve headline indicator methodologies, to propose updates and to share proposed updates to the metadata with the Executive Secretary,¹⁹ including on headline indicators 1.1 and 9.1 which do not yet have a methodology;

5. *Notes* **with appreciation** that the monitoring framework provides good coverage in terms of monitoring the overall scope of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; ~~but that there are a number of gaps where further scientific and technical research and guidance is needed, as described in annex III;~~ **[Rationale: Avoid duplication with para 6.]**

6. *Encourages* Parties, multilateral environmental agreements, relevant academic and research institutions and other relevant organizations, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, to conduct research and undertake work to fill the gaps described in annex III²⁰; **[Comment: Footnote moved from paragraph 5.]**

¹⁷ The headline indicator list is the same as in decision 15/5 but includes technical adjustments to the indicator titles for C.1, C.2, 7.2, 15.1 and 18.2 based on the methodological work to progress those indicators and a renumbering of indicators 2.2 to 2.1.

¹⁸ This paragraph has been reproduced from recommendation 25/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The annex will be based on the annex to recommendation 25/1, taking into account the advice on the wording of the questions and responses prepared by the Expert Group and contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/2/Add.1.

¹⁹ The contact organization and person will be listed in section 10 of each metadata sheet presented in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.

²⁰ Many of the monitoring gaps correspond to a need for scientific and technical tools and guidance to support implementation of the targets of the Framework as described in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3 and its associated information documents, being considered under agenda item 4.

7. *Welcomes* current work under multilateral environmental agreements, including that of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals on connectivity indicators related to migratory species, the Minamata Convention on Mercury through its decision MC-5/17 on additional indicators related to highly hazardous chemicals and mercury, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on improving the assessment of the extent of land degradation, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the Cancun Adaptation Framework on indicators related to climate change and biodiversity;

8. *Highlights* the importance of mainstreaming the indicators across relevant processes, and invites multilateral environmental agreements and other processes to use the indicators contained in annex I, as appropriate;

9. *Welcomes* the guidance on the monitoring framework provided by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators contained in SBSTTA/26/INF/14 and SBSTTA/26/INF/19,²¹ **[Rationale: Editorial]** and invites Parties to make use of the guidance as relevant and appropriate, including the metadata for the headline and binary indicators, the approaches to taking section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework into consideration when implementing the monitoring framework, and the overarching guidance on implementing the monitoring framework and on gaps and opportunities,

10. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to take section C of the Framework into consideration when implementing the monitoring framework, including through disaggregating the headline indicators by indigenous peoples and local communities, gender, age, persons with disability and other relevant groups and ecosystem functional group, when possible, using relevant component, complementary and national indicators relevant to section C and strengthening community-based monitoring systems applying the traditional knowledge indicators, where relevant and applicable;

11. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to take a consistent approach to monitoring ecosystems and reporting data across the goals and targets of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** and to make use of the Global Ecosystem Typology level 3,²² including by ~~mapping~~ **linking** national ecosystem data to the **corresponding** Global Ecosystem Typology level 3; **[Rationale: Clarity]**

12. *Invites* private philanthropies and other relevant organizations to share data on biodiversity-related finance, in alignment with the monitoring framework, where possible;

13. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to invest in and strengthen their national monitoring systems, involving all relevant national institutions, **indigenous peoples and local communities** **[Rationale: IPLCs are working on monitoring in their lands and territories and contribute to the monitoring of TK indicators.]** and stakeholders in a participatory manner, and collaborating with relevant international organizations and initiatives, in particular to facilitate the reporting of indicators in the seventh national report due in February 2026;

14. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to make use of globally available data, where relevant, to complement data in national monitoring systems;

15. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to provide financial resources for the development and implementation of national monitoring systems to support the efforts of recipient countries;

16. ~~*Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological~~

²¹ CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14.

²² The Global Ecosystem Typology level 3 was adopted at the fifty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission as an official classification (dec. 55/119(d), E/2024/24-E/CN.3/2024/37) and its use was encouraged by the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature in its resolution 7.061.

~~Advice, at a meeting prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to consider options for how a global biodiversity observing system could be developed and operationalized;~~ **[Rationale: Redundance with updated paragraph 23(e).]**

17. *Encourages* Parties and relevant organizations, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, to continue to further develop methodologies ~~and build capacity related to the headline indicators and to the consideration of section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; when implementing the monitoring framework;~~ **[Rationale: Capacity building is dealt with in paragraph 20.]**

18. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments in a position to do so, as well as relevant organizations, to consider providing resources to contribute to ~~the global monitoring systems, standards and datasets that support Parties in implementing the monitoring framework;~~ **[Rationale: Not to limit it to global systems.]**

19. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, and invites other organizations to ~~coordinate and cooperate, including in supporting Parties in strengthening national monitoring systems and in support for national, regional and global assessments;~~ **[Rationale: Coordination implies a coordination structure and hierarchy.]**

20. *Notes that capacity building for the implementation of the monitoring framework at the national level is included in decision 15/8 on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation, and requests the* **regional and/or subregional and regional [Rationale: Simplification and adjustment to agreed language.]** technical and scientific cooperation support centres under the coordination of the global coordination entity to provide support for capacity-building **and development** for the implementation of the monitoring framework, **in particular for Parties that have identified it as a priority need; [Rationale: Focus]**

21. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider the gaps described in **table 1 of Annex II, [Rationale: Consistency with paragraph 4.]** in annex III and in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19 **in its work, including in undertaking [Rationale: Not to limit IPBES work to the assessments.]** the fast-track methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people and the fast-track methodological assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity;

22. *Decides* to review the implementation of the monitoring framework, including the functioning, **usage [Rationale: To see which indicators were used by Parties.]**, and effectiveness of the headline, binary, component, **and** complementary ~~and national~~ indicators **[Rationale: It is beyond the capacity of the Secretariat to assess all national indicators.]** in conjunction with the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be conducted at the seventeenth and nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;²³

23. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To support methodological work on the indicators, **particularly those indicators with the lowest state of development** including through working with the organizations mentioned **in table 1** of annex II **and the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership [Rationale: Consistency with paragraphs 4 and 17 above.]** to update the metadata, as necessary, and to share information with Parties on these updates on an ongoing basis;

(b) ~~To update the list of complementary indicators on an annual basis to include indicators related to the Framework which are developed and/or adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its future meetings, as well as by intergovernmental organizations, multi-lateral environmental agreements and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership;~~ **[Rationale:**

²³ The procedures for the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Framework will be discussed under agenda item 3 of the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Covered by new paragraph (f) below.]

(c) To prepare an analysis of the functioning of the headline, binary, component ~~and complementary and national~~ **[Rationale: Alignment with paragraph 22.]** indicators, as an input to the review of the implementation of the monitoring framework (described in para. 22 above) ~~and submit the results to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration at a meeting prior to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;~~ **[Rationale: To have the analysis be discussed by SBSTTA before COP 17.]**

(d) To ~~undertake~~ **facilitate [Rationale: Facilitation rather than undertaking.]** capacity-building ~~and development~~ activities related to the implementation of the monitoring framework at the national level, ~~including in collaboration with the subregional and regional and/or~~ subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and global coordination entity, in accordance with decision 15/8, ~~as well as relevant initiatives and partners;~~ **[Rationale: To include different initiatives and partners, e.g. the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership.]**

(e) To prepare an analysis of options, **based on the experience of GEOBON, for on developing and operationalizing** how a global biodiversity observing system could be developed and operationalized and submit the results to the Subsidiary Body **for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice** for consideration **at a meeting prior to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;** ~~as described in paragraph 16 above~~ **[Rationale: Establish a clear process.]**

(f) To prepare an analysis of the contributions related to the work outlined in paragraphs 6 and 21 above and submit the results to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration at a meeting prior to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; [Rationale: Paras 6 and 21 relate to major work which needs to be considered by SBSTTA and COP.]

[Comment: The Vilm expert meeting also worked on the section on Target 17 of the Annex to CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/1.]

Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on 19 October 2023

25/1. Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Abridged

Continued

Target 17: Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.	
Proposed indicator text: Number of countries that have taken action to implement biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19.	
17.1 Has your country adopted and implemented biosafety related policy, legal, administrative and other measures further to as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention? <u>[Rationale: This indicator should focus on adoption of biosafety measures.]</u>	(a) No (b) No, but under development <u>Developing</u> (c) Yes, p Partially but not fully implemented (d) Yes, f <u>Fully</u> <u>[Rationale: We can get more detailed and accurate information.]</u>
17.2 Does [hHas your country have the legal instruments [and/or capacity], [policy and administrative measures] to implemented biosafety measures further to as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and [measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in] Article 19] [, in particular paragraphs 3 and 4]? <u>[Rationale: This indicator should focus on implementation of biosafety measures.]</u>	(a) No (b) No, but under development <u>Developing</u> (c) Yes, p Partially (d) Yes, f <u>Fully</u>
17.3 Has your country taken measures for the effective participation in, priority access to and the distribution of benefits from results of biotechnological research activities <u>by those Parties that provide the genetic resources for such research</u> based on the genetic resources of other Parties, as set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 19 of the Convention? <u>[Rationale: Have a specific and concise indicator for Article 19.1 (effective participation).]</u>	(a) No (b) No, but under development <u>Developing</u> (c) Yes, p Partially (d) Yes, f <u>Fully</u>

[17.3 alt.1] — Has your country taken legal or administrative measures to provide effective participation in biotechnological research activities, as set out in paragraph 1 of Article 19? 17.3 alt.1 bis Has your country taken practical measures to ensure access to results and benefit sharing arising from biotechnologies based on genetic resources provided by Parties, as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 19? [17.3 alt.2] — Has your country taken legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Parties, especially developing countries, that provide the genetic resources for such research? [17.3bis Has your country taken practicable measures to [ensure] [promote and advance] priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Parties, especially developing countries, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies, as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the Convention. based on genetic resources provided by those Parties? <u>[Rationale: Have a specific and concise indicator for Article 19.2 (access to results and benefits).]</u>	and my country has implemented the measures taken (a) No (b) No, but under development <u>Developing</u> (c) Yes, p <u>Partially</u> (d) Yes, f <u>Fully</u>, and my country has implemented the measures taken
[17.4 Does your country carry out scientifically sound risk assessments on the use and release of living modified organisms [and manage the identified [possible] risks]]? [17.4alt.bis Does your country manage the identified risks of living modified organisms? <u>[Rationale: Separate risk assessments and risk management to have more focused and accurate answers.]</u> [17.4 bis] — Has your country taken measures for the distribution of the benefits of biotechnology, as set out in Article 19 of the Convention? <u>[Rationale: Already included in 17.3bis]</u>	(a) No (b) No, but under development <u>Developing</u> (c) Yes, p <u>Partially</u> (d) Yes, f <u>Fully</u>
[17.5 Does your country provide access to biosafety-related information for the safe use of living modified organisms? [17.5alt Does your country have sufficient access to resources required for strengthening the capacity to implement Articles 8(g) and 19 of the Convention?	(a) No (b) Yes, some information available <u>Developing</u> <u>(c) Partially</u> (d) Yes, f <u>Fully</u>

2 Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Item 4)

The topic was introduced by Han de Koeijer and Lennart Kümper-Schlake.

In the discussion of the expert meeting, it was understood that the gaps identified are gaps of knowledge, guidance and tools for topics that are relatively novel to the KMGBF in comparison to the strategic plan 2010-2020 and might be missing in order to successfully implement the KMGBF. This is based on abroad analysis.

During consultations at the Vilm expert meeting with the small group working on the Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, it became clear that there was only one gap that is linked to agenda item 4. Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning as new additional subject has clear links with the request from the other group for further work for indicators on target 1. The other subjects weren't mentioned in their group as priority area for additional work.

The requests to IPBES, even though not yet available as part of Addendum 1, were partly reflected in one paragraph of the Monitoring Framework but not explicitly mentioned.

With respect to the Addendum on the IPBES programme of work the expert meeting faced the unfortunate situation that the pre-session document was not yet available. It has been published 18 April 2024 as pre-session document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3/Add.1. The document entails a

- collection of options for additional fast track assessments
- the review of IPBES deliverables and their relevance for the convention, as well as
- ideas for increased and potentially institutionalized cooperation between the convention and IPBES and synergies across all aspects of the IPBES work programme.

Also, the document includes a number of recommendations for SBSTTA-26, as well as draft decisions for COP 16, which could be foreseen. The group was of the view, that SBSTTA-26 could try to narrow down the number of requests if possible and that COP 16 in general terms comes up with a strong decision, that strengthens the links between IPBES and the convention, while respecting mandates and independencies.

Document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3

Suggestions on the text

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

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

abridged; continued

VI. Recommendation

45. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to ~~consider adopting~~ **adopt** 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~~ **and CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/16; [Rationale: The information in INF 16 has been submitted by Parties and others. This was added here to better reflect the process and increase transparency.]**

2. *Concludes* that ~~the~~ substantial guidance has been developed under the Convention ~~on Biological Diversity~~ **that [Rationale: Editorial]** 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 **(mainly for Target 1);**
- (b) Pollution and biodiversity **(mainly for Target 7);**
- (c) Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services and “the bioeconomy” **(mainly for Target 9 and 17);**
- (d) Equity and the human rights-based approach relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity **(mainly for Target 22 and Section C)..[Rationale: For clarification and transparency.]**

(3bis) Identifies that there are discrete and direct gaps in the programmes of work of the Convention as mentioned in Chapter IV section B of document CBD/SBSTTA/26/3 that need to be addressed; [Rationale: It is important to also highlight the identified need for updating existing work programmes, so these discrete and direct gaps need to be reflected in the SBSTTA recommendations.]

4. *Invites* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its the 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 ~~and 3bis~~ above to invite Parties ~~and observers,~~ **other Governments, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other agreements, intergovernmental processes, international organizations, initiatives, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and other stakeholders [Rationale: Clarification]** 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 **at its sixteenth meeting** in its consideration of recommendation 26/-.

5bis Invites Parties to consider scientific and technical gaps and needs to support the

implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework during the deliberations of the Subsidiary Body of Implementation at its fourth meeting in the agenda items as mentioned in chapter V of CBD/SBSTTA/26/3. [Rationale: A coordinated approach of SBSTTA and SBI is required. In document 26/3 the secretariat explicitly points to the many links with SBI-4 agenda items. The expert meeting sees the need that Parties internally communicate the outcomes of SBSTTA-26 with regard to SBI's agenda items 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 in due time.]

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 **and its Protocols** **[Rationale: To also mention the Protocols.]** are relevant to the implementation of the Framework;

(c) That a key opportunity is mainstreaming the Framework, and its tools and guidance, ~~into guidance in use by~~ **actively sharing them with other relevant intergovernmental agreements, processes and, international organizations and capacity building initiatives in order to support** ~~where there is a potential to further enhance consideration of biodiversity sufficiently~~ **biodiversity inclusive actions and outcomes; [Rationale: Suggest to make existing guidance from the Convention and its Protocols available to other processes in a more active manner; Rephrasing in order to convey the message more clearly];**

2. *Decides* **Welcomes and agrees with the identified scope of work as outlined in COP/16/XX** 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 bio-economy”;

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

[Rationale: Brackets introduced for procedural reasons. In paragraph 5 of the SBSTTA rec we ask the Secretariat to set out a process to invite views and experiences on the new areas of work and to prepare a note setting out proposed scope of work for each of the areas identified as well as for the programmes of work mentioned in section B of Chapter IV. As the expert meeting does not know yet if the 4 areas of work will be retained, depending on the views of Parties and observers, and possible addition of priority programmes of work, it is proposed to bracket the four areas for now in the draft COP recommendations as they might change.]

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

² Decision 15/4, annex.

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

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other agreements, intergovernmental processes, international organizations, initiatives, indigenous peoples and local communities, **women and youth** and **other** stakeholders, to make use of relevant tools and guidance to support **the** 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;

3bis Welcomes the establishment of the regional and/or subregional centres for technical and scientific cooperation and encourages them to make use of relevant tools and guidance to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. [Rationale: Following COP 15/8, the expert meeting is welcoming the centres and especially highlight their role and functions in the support to Parties to implement the KMGBF, by actively supporting capacity building and development.]

4. *Also encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, relevant international organizations, **the regional and/or subregional centres for technical and scientific cooperation.** **[Rationale: The centres can also contribute to the task.]** 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 for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 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, **subject to the availability of resources [Rationale: Important that the budget committee takes the financial implications into account, in line with chapter 6 of SBSTTA/26/3]:**

(a) To continue to facilitate the compilation and access to scientific and technical tools and guidance, in cooperation with relevant processes, **including under relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and relevant** organizations, and other stakeholders, including through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention; **[Rationale: To ensure, the Convention does not only work on its own, but is cooperating with other processes and materials developed there.]**

(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, **including under relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and relevant** organizations, and in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, **women and youth** 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”; **[Rationale: Agreed language.]**

(bbis) To facilitate the development and implementation of the scope of work in collaboration with secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental processes, international organisations and initiatives, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, other stakeholders, in the following

areas:⁴

(i) Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning;

(ii) Pollution and biodiversity;

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

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

[Rationale: Added in order to provide the momentum needed. Brackets introduced for procedural reasons. In paragraph 5 of the SBSTTA rec we ask the Secretariat to set out a process to invite views and experiences on the new areas of work and to prepare a note setting out proposed scope of work for each of the areas identified as well as for the programmes of work mentioned in section B of Chapter IV. As we do not know yet if the 4 areas of work will be retained, depending on the views of parties and observers, and possible addition of priority programmes of work we propose to bracket the four areas for now in the draft COP recommendations as they might change.]

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

(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~~ [Rationale: Unclear which expert processes are meant. If useful, it might be articulated more explicit.]

⁴ List to be aligned with recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

3 Synthetic Biology (Item 5)

The topic was introduced by Martin Batic.

In view of the absence of a section containing “draft recommendations from SBSTTA to COP / COP-MOPs” in the pre-session document on agenda item 5 Synthetic Biology (CBD/SBSTTA/26/4), and considering the need for SBSTTA to discuss and agree on recommendations to COP to continue the process of broad and regular horizon scanning, the participants to the expert meeting agreed to prepare what could be a set of draft recommendations as a potential basis for discussion, based on (i) elements of section VI. Recommendations of the pre-session document and (ii) Annex V (Recommendations of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to Support the Process for Broad and Regular Horizon Scanning, Monitoring and Assessment to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice) of the document.

Document CBD/SBSTTA/25/4

Suggestions on the text

Synthetic Biology

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

abridged; continued

VI. Recommendations

22. *The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, may wish to* [Rationale: Decision language]

(a) ~~Endorse~~ **Welcomes** [Rationale: This wording fits better the situation.] the results of the **broad** [Rationale: The mAHTEG addressed conceptual, cultural, socioeconomic and ethical aspects.] horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment conducted by the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group **as contained in Annex I; [Rationale: The work of the mAHTEG in Annex I is not expected to be discussed at SBSTTA-26.]**

(b) ~~Note~~ **Acknowledges** the needs for capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing related to synthetic biology identified by the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in the light of the outcomes of the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment provided in annex II; [Rationale: Highlights the importance of capacity building, technology transfer and knowledge sharing.]

(c) ~~Finalize~~ **Welcomes** [Rationale: Describes better the role of SBSTTA.] the review of the **process for a broad and regular** horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment contained in ~~annex I, on the basis of annex III; [Rationale: Readability], also taking into account the peer review of the outcomes undertaken for that process; [Rationale: Outcomes of peer review considerations moved to dbis.]~~

(d) ~~Adopt~~ **Welcomes** the refined methodology for a broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment, as contained in annex IV; **[Rationale: Describes better the role of SBSTTA.]**

(dbis) Takes note of the outcomes of peer reviews of annex I and IV contained in document SBSTTA/26/INF/6; [Rationale: Fulfilling the task of COP decision 15/31.]

(e) ~~Adopt~~ **Takes note of/welcomes** the recommendations of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group contained in annex V; **[Rationale: Describes better the role of SBSTTA.]**

(f) Acknowledges the potential interlinkages of several issues of horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment with those under consideration under SBSTTA-26 agenda item 9, particularly the draft Global Action Plan for Biodiversity and Health. [Rationale: The mAHTEG report highlights important issues of relevance to the principles and objectives of the draft Global Action Plan for Biodiversity and Health, particularly regarding the common drivers of biodiversity loss, disease risk, and negative health outcomes.]

[Comment: The following sections are entirely new and are needed to continue the broad and regular horizon-scanning process (paragraphs 1, 2, 4); They are based on the operational recommendations included in annex V of CBD/SBSTTA/26/4; the expert meeting did not consider non-operational elements of the annex due to time constraints.]

23. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 15/31, where a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology as set out in section A of the annex to that decision was established,

1. Agrees to continue the process of the broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment and extend the mAHTEG for the next intersessional period in accordance with the terms of reference contained in Annex A;

2. Invites Parties, other governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations, women and youth to strengthen the multidisciplinary approach while considering nominations for the mAHTEG, including through considering multiple knowledge systems and types of values in order to ensure the ability to evaluate socio-economic, cultural, conceptual and ethical impacts of synthetic biology on the objectives of the Convention; [Rationale: From paragraph 6, including reference to multiple knowledge systems and types of values; wording from IPBES.]

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To convene online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology to support the work of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group;

(b) To continue the literature review of the latest developments in synthetic biology, including conceptual, socio-economic and cultural and ethical aspects; [Rationale: A literature review is an extremely useful tool to get an overview of the landscape which is required for an effective assessment.]

(c) To convene at least one meeting of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to work according to the terms of reference as set out in Annex A;

(d) To facilitate international cooperation, and promote and support capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing, regarding synthetic biology, taking into account the needs of Parties and of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(e) To continue to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples

and local communities in the discussions and in the work on synthetic biology under the Convention, in accordance with decision X/40.

The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

1. Decides to consider self-limiting insects as a potential topic for the further development of guidance on risk assessment in line with Annex I of CP/9/13;

Annex

A. Terms of reference for the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to Support the Process for Broad and Regular Horizon Scanning, Monitoring and Assessment

1. The multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, building on the previous relevant work under the Convention and its Protocols, including the work of the previous Ad Hoc Technical Expert Groups on Synthetic Biology, shall:

(a) Undertake a process that may include, over the biennium 2025–2026, additional information gathering; compilation, organization and synthesis of information, including assisting the Executive Secretary in conducting the literature review of the latest developments in synthetic biology, including conceptual, socio-economic and cultural and ethical aspects; [Rationale: A literature review is an extremely useful tool to get an overview of the landscape which is required for an effective assessment.]

(b) Continue the in-dept assessment on: [Rationale: From the five priority trends and issues listed in paragraph 1 of Annex 1.]

(i) Potential impacts of artificial intelligence and machine learning on biosafety, the sustainable use of biodiversity, equitable access and benefit-sharing, social, economic and cultural aspects, impacts on traditional knowledge and practices, and other relevant matters; [Rationale: From paragraphs 19-22]

(ii) The ecological, socioeconomic, cultural and other impacts of self-spreading vaccines and any potential adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, ensuring that the assessment has been carried out in a transparent manner, in line with the precautionary approach, and that the conditions for the safe use of those vaccines have been met, and formulate recommendation on mechanism to ensure the free, prior and informed consent of all potentially affected communities, including indigenous peoples and local communities; [Rationale: From paragraph 23]

(iii) The wider ecological, socioeconomic, cultural and ethical impacts of engineered gene drives, in particular on indigenous peoples and local communities, to facilitate decision-making in line with the precautionary approach, decisions COP 14/19 and processes under the Cartagena Protocol; [Rationale: From paragraph 24]

(c) Consider measures to enhance the dissemination of information on scientific and technology assessments, including through the clearing-house mechanisms, and present recommendations to SBSTTA; [Rationale: From paragraph 13]

(d) Review, for reducing the inequitable participation of developing countries in the development of synthetic biology, the list of options for capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing needs related to synthetic biology contained in annex II of CBD/SBSTTA/26/4 and formulate recommendations to SBSTTA; [Rationale: From paragraph 25]

(e) **Prepare reports on the outcomes of its work to be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; [Rationale: Make results available.]**

4 Risk assessment and risk management (Item 6)

The topic was introduced by Marja Ruohonen-Lehto.

The expert meeting generally discussed on the readiness of the voluntary guidelines to be endorsed. As a consequence of that discussion the small group working on the draft recommendation proposed two options.

Document CBD/SBSTTA/26/5

Suggestions on the text

Risk assessment and risk management

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

abridged; continued

IV. Recommendations

26. Further to the request in decision CP-10/10 to develop additional voluntary guidance materials to support case-by-case risk assessments of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives, the Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt elements of a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decision CP-10/10 of 10 December 2022,

OPTION 1

1. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;¹

2. *Endorses* the additional voluntary guidance materials on the risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives **as contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/5/Add.1; [Rationale: Given the need by many Parties to have guidance at hand, the guidance should be endorsed.]**

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders to make use of the additional voluntary guidance materials;

3bis Invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders to share their experiences in using the additional voluntary guidance material; [Rationale: The expert meeting anticipates that future developments in technology may create a need to adapt the guidance as appropriate.]

¹ CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/4 and CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2024/1/3.

3ter Requests the Executive Secretary to report to COP-MOP on the information received; [Rationale: Due process]

4. *Calls* for broad international cooperation, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and resource mobilization to support, inter alia, the application of the additional voluntary guidance materials.

OPTION 2

1. *Welcomes **with appreciation** the ~~outcomes of the meetings~~ **work** [Rationale: **Recognizing the hard work.**] of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment **especially considering the time constraint; [Rationale: Only four months were available to produce a document that should have had two years.]***

2. *~~Endorses~~ **Welcomes** [Rationale: **Recognizing the hard work, but also that the document will benefit from further improvement for usability.**] the additional voluntary guidance materials on the risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives **as contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/5/Add.1, and recognizes the need for further development of its content, including through a peer review process to be incorporated by extending the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment, to be submitted for COP-MOP 12. Topics for further deliberation and improvement include inter alia:***

(i) providing more guidance when a risk assessment cannot be finalized,

(ii) describe in detail the conceptual and practical challenges implementing the steps,

(iii) difficulties in operationalizing protection goals. [Rationale: These are some of the points that would benefit from improvement.]

~~3. — *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders to make use of the additional voluntary guidance materials;~~

~~4. — *Calls* for broad international cooperation, knowledge sharing, capacity building and resource mobilization to support, inter alia, the application of the additional voluntary guidance materials. [Rationale for deleting 3. and 4.: **This would be applicable once the guidance is endorsed, which in this option is foreseen for COP-MOP 12.**]~~

27. Further to the requests in decision CP-10/10 to consider further guidance on living modified fish and additional issues on which guidance materials on risk assessment might be needed, the Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt the following additional elements of a draft decision, noting that the elements are set out below without prejudice to its decision to proceed or not with the development of such guidance.

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decision CP-10/10 of 10 December 2022,

Taking note of the assessment by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment **(March 2020) [Rationale: Clarification]** of additional issues on which guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed,

1. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group with terms of reference as contained in the annex to the present decision for the development of guidance materials to support the risk assessment of living modified fish;

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat information relevant to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;

3. *Decides* to extend the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to contribute to the development of guidance materials in support of the risk assessment of living modified fish;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To commission, subject to the availability of resources, and in compliance with decision 14/33 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity² of 29 November 2018 on the procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups, a detailed outline of additional guidance materials on risk assessment of living modified fish;

(b) To synthesize the information submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to facilitate the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;

(c) To convene, subject to the availability of resources, two meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment, at least one of which should be held in person.

Annex

Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment shall:

(a) Be composed of experts, selected in accordance with section H of the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, with specific scientific and technical expertise on living modified fish and their potential effects on biodiversity and on issues relevant to the mandate of the Expert Group, and include experts from relevant international organizations, ~~and~~ from indigenous peoples and local communities, **and women and youth, and [Rationale: For the importance of the participation of these groups to be spelled out]** in compliance with decision 14/33 of 29 November 2018 on the procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups;

(b) Subject to the availability of funds, hold a meeting before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and perform its work by online means of communication and engagement, as appropriate;

(c) Develop additional voluntary guidance materials for conducting case-by-case risk assessments of living modified fish in accordance with annex III to the Protocol, taking into account the current experience with the organisms and specific issues of risk assessment identified in annex I to decision CP-9/13 of 28 November 2018, including existing reports, general considerations of living modified fish, and existing national and regional risk assessment experiences;

(d) Analyse the information submitted by Parties further to paragraph 9 **28-1. [Rationale: Editorial correction]** of decision CP-11/--, and on that basis prepare a list of prioritized topics on which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed according to the criteria in annex I to decision CP-9/13;

(e) Prepare a report, including draft voluntary guidance materials on living modified fish and a list of prioritized topics further to subparagraph (d) above, on which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body;

2. In undertaking its work, the Expert Group shall consider the synthesis of views from the submissions and discussions in the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management prepared by the Secretariat; existing resources, including those identified in the

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

stocktaking exercise of the study on risk assessment: application of annex I to decision CP-9/13 to living modified fish;³ guidance materials already available; and relevant decisions on risk assessment and risk management adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

28. Further to the regular process established in decision CP-9/13 for the identification and prioritization of specific issues regarding risk assessments of living modified organisms for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol with a view to developing further guidance on risk assessment on the specific issues identified, the Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt elements of a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decision CP-9/13 of 28 November 2018, by which it established the process for the identification and prioritization of specific issues of risk assessment of living modified organisms that may warrant consideration,

Recalling also paragraph 17 of decision BS-VII/12 of 3 October 2014, in which it recommended a coordinated approach on the issue of synthetic biology, and noting the conclusions of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to Support the Process for Broad and Regular Horizon Scanning, Monitoring and Assessment, in particular its recommendation to consider self-limiting insects as a potential topic for the further development of guidance on risk assessment in line with annex I to decision CP-9/13,

1. *Invites* Parties to submit detailed information on their needs and priorities for further guidance materials on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, including a rationale following the criteria set out in annex I to decision CP-9/13 and, in doing so, to consider self-limiting insects as a potential topic;

2. *Decides* to extend the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to support the analysis of further topics of risk assessment in accordance with the criteria outlined in annex I to decision CP-9/13;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To synthesize the information submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in response to the invitation in paragraph 1 above;

(b) To convene discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management **and prepare a report on the results to support the AHTEG; [Rationale: Clarify the procedure.]**

(c) To collect and synthesize relevant information to support the risk assessment of self-limiting insects and to make it available on the Biosafety Clearing-House;

(d) To convene, subject to the availability of resources, capacity-building activities in support of risk assessment with a particular focus on risk assessments of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives.

³ CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2020/1/3.

5 Detection and identification of living modified organisms (item 7)

The topic was introduced by Charles Bourgeois.

Document CBD/SBSTTA/26/6

Suggestions on the text

Detection and identification of living modified organisms

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

abridged; continued

V. Recommendations

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

29. Notes In view of the information contained in the present document, ~~the Subsidiary Body may wish to~~ **and** concludes **[Rationale: Recommendation style text]** that *Biosafety Technical Series 05* is still relevant and useful to the detection and identification of living modified organisms, and that there is no need to update the training manual at this time.

30. Furthermore, ~~the Subsidiary Body may wish to~~ **[Rationale: Editorial]** recommends that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decisions CP-10/11 and CP-10/7 of 10 December 2022 and the need for capacity-building activities on new detection techniques and on detecting and identifying unauthorized living modified organisms,

Reiterating the importance of the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its relevance and applicability to other fields,

Recognizing that **detection and identification of** newly developed and unauthorized living modified organisms **may** pose challenges, ~~for the analysis of living modified organisms,~~ **[Rationale: readability]**

Noting the limited information available on **the use of [Rationale: Information on the techniques is available, but less on the use.]** new techniques for detecting and identifying living modified organisms and the limited experience with detecting and identifying newly developed and unauthorized living modified organisms,

0. **Welcomes the work of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in facilitating the exchange of experience, sharing of information and building expertise in the field; [Rationale: Highlighting the importance of the Network.]**

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms to share through the

Biosafety Clearing-House technical reference materials and publications related to digital polymerase chain reaction and next-generation sequencing in order to complement *Biosafety Technical Series 05: Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*;

2. *Encourages* Parties to explore the formation of regional networks of laboratories to support activities in the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms;

3. *Urges* Parties, and invites international organizations, to provide financial resources to laboratories to strengthen the infrastructure for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, the formation of regional networks of laboratories and capacity-building activities;

4. *Requests* that the Secretariat, **subject to the availability of resources: [Rationale: Agreed language]**

(a) Continues **[Rationale: Editorial]** to collect publications and technical resource materials and make them available on the Biosafety Clearing-House;

(b) Explores ways to enhance access to information through a dedicated section within the Biosafety Clearing-House, **including through raising awareness on and promoting the dedicated section; [Rationale: The expert meeting feels it is important to mention these two elements as ways to enhance access to the dedicated section on detection and identification of LMOs.]**

(c) Prepares ~~a summary of~~ **report on [Rationale: Summary would require too much work, and a report is sufficient.]** materials and publications submitted in response to the request in paragraph 1, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its twelfth meeting;

(cbis) Collects information on the use of documentation to support detection and identification of Living Modified Organisms, taking inspiration from other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, such as CITES, the Basel convention or other relevant agreements, for consideration by the COP MOP at its 12th meeting; [Rationale: Alternative approaches to detection and identification of LMOs from new methods may be needed.]

(d) Continues efforts to collaborate with relevant organizations and provides capacity-building support to Parties in the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms.

6 Marine and coastal biodiversity

(a) Further work on ecologically and biologically significant areas (item 8a)

(b) Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity (item 8b)

The topic was introduced by Janos Hennicke. He presented the SBSTTA-26 documents on Agenda Item 8a „Further Work on Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas“ (EBSAs, CBD/SBSTTA/26/7/Add.1) and on Agenda Item 8b „Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity“ (CSU, CBD/SBSTTA/26/7). In his presentation he also listed other relevant documents for both agenda items, including reports of EBSA workshops as well as INF documents which were not available at the time of the Vilm expert meeting though.

He provided short overviews of the two documents, including some background information on EBSA, and introduced the key points of the respective draft recommendations. In the short, general discussions in the plenary several issues and requests for consideration by the discussion/drafting group were made.

The drafting group discussed both draft recommendations in depth.

The EBSA-recommendation covers mainly the modalities on modification of existing EBSAs and description of new areas (Annex). Only very few amendments were made by the experts. This fact gives hope that it might actually be possible at COP 16 to agree on those modalities which have been discussed since COP 13 in 2016.

The CSU-recommendation covers mainly a list of gaps and areas in need of additional focus (Annex). The drafting group made a number of suggestions on all parts of the recommendation, i.e. preamble, operational paragraph and annex. Most of these amendments were on the detail level and are captured in the amended version below. However, two more general issues were raised: the experts wondered if the inclusion of the topic of “island biodiversity” in the agenda item on marine and coastal biodiversity was the best way to deal with the two thematic areas, as “island biodiversity” also covers a lot of terrestrial issues that are not really related to the issues outlined for marine and coastal biodiversity. Potentially, a separation in sections in the recommendation or even two separate recommendations might be a better solution. In the final plenary discussion, another general point was raised that the CSU-recommendation should not only stand for itself but should be used to improve the CBD work programmes on “Marine and coastal biodiversity” and “Island Biodiversity”.

Documents CBD/SBSTTA/26/7/Add.1

and CBD/SBSTTA/26/7

Suggestions on the text

Further work on biologically or ecologically significant marine areas

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

abridged; continued

IV. Recommendations

20. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming Articles 4 and 22 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹ as well as its decisions X/29 of 29 October 2010, XI/17 of 19 October 2012, XII/22 of 17 October 2014, XIII/12 of 17 December 2016, in particular paragraph 3, and 14/9 of 29 November 2018,

Recalling resolution 78/69 of the General Assembly of the United Nations on oceans and the law of the sea and its preambular paragraphs on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,^{2,3}

Reiterating the central role of the General Assembly in addressing issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Recognizing that the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is an important scientific and technical process that may contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁴ and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction,⁵

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Germany, Norway and Sweden for their financial support for the organization of the technical and legal expert workshops to review modalities for modifying the descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and describing new areas, and takes note of the reports of the workshops;⁶

2. *Extends* the term of the Informal Advisory Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, and requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate the work of the Group in line with its terms of reference, as contained in annex III to decision XIII/12 and amended in annex III to decision 14/9;

3. *Stresses* that the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, that it is strictly a scientific and technical exercise and that no action or activity carried out on the basis of the present decision shall be interpreted or considered as prejudicing the position of States on a land or maritime sovereignty dispute or a dispute concerning the delimitation of maritime areas;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, in line with paragraph 36 of decision X/29, paragraph 12 of decision XI/17 and paragraph 6 of decision XII/22, to continue to facilitate the description of areas meeting the criteria for

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

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

³ [Footnotes to be provided by Parties wishing to do so].

⁴ Decision 15/4.

⁵ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

⁶ CBD/EBSA/EM/2023/1/3 and CBD/EBSA/EM/2023/2/3.

ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through the holding of additional workshops;

5. *Adopts* the modalities for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas contained in the annex, and requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate the implementation of the modalities;

6. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, competent intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to collaborate in the implementation of the modalities;

7. *Notes-Stresses [Rationale: To highlight the importance of the synergies between the two processes.]* the importance of synergies between the process to facilitate the description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas using the modalities and the implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and invites Parties to the Agreement and intergovernmental organizations with competence in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction to actively engage in the development and review of submissions of the modification of descriptions of such areas and the description of new areas, in line with the modalities, in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Annex

Modalities for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas*

I. Guidance in the implementation of the modalities

1. The modification of a description of an ecologically or biologically significant marine area, which can entail a modification to the textual description of the area, a modification to the ranking of the area against the criteria for such areas or a change in the location, shape, depth or size of the area, may be proposed for any of the following reasons:⁷

- (a) Editorial errors in the description;
- (b) For areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction:
 - (i) Newly available or accessible knowledge, including scientific and traditional knowledge, on features associated with the area;
 - (ii) Change in the ecological or biological features of the area;
 - (iii) Scientific errors identified in the description;

(c) For areas within national jurisdiction, any of the reasons noted in paragraph 1 (b), as well as any other reason deemed valid by the State or States within whose jurisdictions the modification is proposed;*

2. The modification of an existing description or the description of a new area can only be submitted by the following proponents:

- (a) For areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, any State or States, individually or collectively, including through competent intergovernmental organizations;
- (b) For areas within national jurisdiction, the States or States within whose jurisdictions the modification or description is proposed.

3. Proponents that develop submissions for the modification of an existing description or the description of a new area should consider the following at an early stage:

* An asterisk inserted after a paragraph indicates that there were divergent views on the provisions of that paragraph during discussions at the technical and legal expert workshops.

⁷ The reason for a modification must be provided in the submission.

(a) Collaboration with competent intergovernmental organizations; other relevant organizations; experts; and knowledge holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, as holders of traditional knowledge, with their free, prior and informed consent,⁸ in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples⁹ and international human rights law;

(b) The need to avoid developing submissions that may raise concerns regarding sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction;

(c) The need for a strong scientific basis with sufficient information, as well as the importance of transparency;

(d) The regional dimensions of marine and coastal ecosystems and their ecological and biological features and processes, including regional differences in data availability, as well as collaboration across regions.

4. With respect to a submission for the modification of an existing description or the description of a new area,¹⁰ any State may formally communicate to the Executive Secretary, at any time, an objection to the inclusion of a description or modification in the repository or the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, owing to the existence of a claim or dispute relating to sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction involving an area included in the submission. In such a case, the submission will not be advanced any further and will not be included in the repository or information-sharing mechanism until a withdrawal of the objection is communicated to the Executive Secretary by the objecting State.¹¹

II. Repository and information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

5. The repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is to contain:

(a) The descriptions of areas meeting the criteria that have been considered by the Conference of the Parties and that the Conference of the Parties has requested the Executive Secretary to include in the repository and to transmit to the General Assembly of the United Nations for its information and relevant processes, as well as to relevant international organizations;

(b) For archive purpose, previous versions of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held in the repository, in cases where the descriptions have been modified, including information on the modalities by which the descriptions were initially included in the repository.¹²

6. The information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is to contain:

(a) Links to national processes and their related scientific information pertaining to areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally agreed scientific criteria in national jurisdiction that were provided by the State concerned as information for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Reports of the regional workshops convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine

⁸ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

¹⁰ Irrespective of whether the description is developed during workshops held pursuant to a decision of the Conference of the Parties or through the modalities in the present annex.

¹¹ A record of the fact that a submission was received and objected to will be included in the information-sharing mechanism, regardless of whether the objection is withdrawn or not.

¹² Paragraphs 5 (b) and 6 (c) reflect alternative options for where that paragraph should be placed. [Rationale: see solution as included in paragraphs 5b and 6c.]

areas;

(c) For archive purpose, previous versions of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held in the repository **information-sharing mechanism**, in cases where the descriptions have been modified, including information on the modalities by which the descriptions were initially included in the repository **information-sharing mechanism; [Rationale: Two separate archives to find previous information easily and intuitively in the respective data-bases. The history for EBSAs from the repository will be found in the repository, and the history of EBSAs from the information-sharing mechanism will be found in the information-sharing mechanism.]**¹²

(d) Guidance related to the application of the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the use of information contained in the descriptions of such areas;

(e) Other relevant scientific and technical information and other forms of knowledge, including the indigenous and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, where appropriate, related to areas described as meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;

(f) Information and experience relating to the application of other relevant and complementary intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria.

III. Modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and description of new areas

A. Modification for editorial errors

7. In the case of editorial errors in a description of an ecologically or biologically significant marine area, the Secretariat, after being informed by a State, is to issue a notification to provide information regarding the editorial error and the revision needed, and, subsequently, to implement the modification, three months after the issuance of the notification. A footnote is to be added to the modified description to indicate that an editorial change was made, and when. A report on modifications made to address editorial errors is to be submitted by the Secretariat to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties, for information.

B. Modification or description of areas within national jurisdiction

*Inclusion in the repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas*¹³

8. The submission¹⁴ of a modification or description of an area within national jurisdiction for inclusion in the repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas must be provided to the Secretariat together with information on the process by which the submission was developed, including any scientific peer-review process, and, in cases where information based on traditional knowledge is included, any information on consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities conducted with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines.¹⁵ The proponent may also use the following options with respect to the development of the submission:

(a) The proponent may request the Secretariat to issue a notification, for information purposes, regarding its intent to submit a description or modification before the submission is developed;

(b) The proponent may also choose to develop or refine a draft submission at a workshop

¹³ An inclusion under the present section entails consideration of the submission by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

¹⁴ To be included in the repository, the submission must be prepared in the template for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and include a map clearly indicating the area that is being modified or described.

¹⁵ Decision XIII/18, annex.

on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held pursuant to a decision of the Conference of the Parties before submitting it to the Secretariat.

9. Upon receipt, the Secretariat includes the submission **initially [Rationale: To clarify that the reference to the information-sharing mechanism is not a mistake, but only the first step in the process.]** in the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and issues a notification to provide information on the submission and communicate its inclusion in the mechanism. The submission will be open for a period of six months for comments by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, which are then transmitted to the proponent by the Secretariat.

10. Upon receipt of such comments, which will be posted in the information-sharing mechanism, the proponent may do one of the following:

- (a) Address the comments, if any, and, if necessary, provide a revised version of the submission to the Secretariat;
- (b) Not address the comments and not proceed further;
- (c) Request the Secretariat to remove its original submission from the information-sharing mechanism.

11. If the proponent decides to address the comments and provide a revised version of the submission to the Secretariat, the Secretariat will transmit the submission to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties for their consideration. The proponent may also request that the submission be discussed at a workshop on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held pursuant to a decision of the Conference of the Parties before it is submitted to the Subsidiary Body.

12. The Conference of the Parties decides whether to request the Executive Secretary to include the submission in the repository for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. A record of the submission remains in the information-sharing mechanism, regardless of whether it is included in the repository or not.

Inclusion in the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas¹⁶

13. The submission¹⁷ of a modification or description of an area within national jurisdiction for inclusion in the information-sharing mechanism for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas must be provided to the Secretariat together with information on the process by which the submission was developed, including any scientific peer-review process, and, in cases where information based on traditional knowledge is included, any information on consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities conducted with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines. The proponent may also use the following options with respect to the development of the submission:

- (a) The proponent may request the Secretariat to issue a notification regarding its intent to submit a description or modification before the submission is developed;
- (b) The proponent may also choose to develop or refine a draft submission at a workshop on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held pursuant to a decision of the Conference of the Parties before submitting it to the Secretariat.

14. Upon receipt, the Secretariat includes the submission in the information-sharing mechanism and issues a notification to provide information on the submission and communicate its inclusion in the information-sharing mechanism. The proponent may request that the submission

¹⁶ An inclusion under the present section does not entail consideration by the Conference of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies.

¹⁷ To be included in the information-sharing mechanism, the submission must contain geographical coordinates and a map clearly indicating the area that is being modified or described.

be open for comments by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations for a period of six months, in which case the Secretariat will transmit any comments received to the proponent.

15. Upon receipt of such comments, which will be posted in the information-sharing mechanism, the proponent may do one of the following:

- (a) Maintain the submission as provided to the Secretariat;
- (b) Address the comments and provide a revised submission to the Secretariat for inclusion in the information-sharing mechanism;
- (c) Request the Secretariat to remove its original submission from the information-sharing mechanism.

C. Modification or description of areas beyond national jurisdiction

16. The submission¹⁸ of a modification or description of an area beyond national jurisdiction must be provided to the Secretariat together with information on the process by which the submission was developed, including any scientific peer-review process, and, in cases where information based on traditional knowledge is included, any information on consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities conducted with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines.

17. Before developing a submission, the proponent may request the Secretariat to issue a notification regarding its intent to submit a description or modification.

18. The Secretariat includes a record of the submission, as received, in the information-sharing mechanism of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and disseminates information about the submission through a notification. The submission is open for comments by Parties, other Governments, competent intergovernmental bodies and relevant organizations for a period of six months.

19. The submission, as well as any comments received in response to the notification, are provided for discussion at a workshop on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas held pursuant to a decision of the Conference of the Parties, the outputs of which are submitted to the Subsidiary Body and the Conference of the Parties for their consideration.

20. The Conference of the Parties decides whether to request the Executive Secretary to include the submission in the repository of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas. A record of the submission remains in the information-sharing mechanism, regardless of whether it is included in the repository or not.

¹⁸ To be included in the repository, the submission must be prepared in the template for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and include geographical coordinates and a map clearly indicating the area that is being modified or described.

Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

abridged; continued

VI. Recommendations

[General Suggestion: It might be worth considering separating marine and coastal biodiversity from island biodiversity to give their respective importance necessary weight and this separation could be either by having different sections in the same recommendation, amending the preamble and operational paragraphs accordingly, or having two separate recommendations.]

31. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity as one of the key cross-cutting elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹ and as critical to achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity,

Recalling paragraph 8 of its decision 15/4 of 19 December 2022, in which it decided that the Framework should be used as a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity² and its Protocols, its bodies and its Secretariat over the period 2022–2030,

Recalling also its decisions IX/20 of 30 May 2008, X/29 of 29 October 2010, XI/18 of 19 October 2012, XII/23 of 14 October 2014, XIII/9 of 17 December 2016, XIII/10 and XIII/11 of 13 December 2016, XIII/12 of 17 December 2016, 14/8 of 29 November 2018, 14/10 and 14/30 of 29 December 2018 and 15/24 of 19 December 2022 with regard to cooperation and collaboration with relevant global and regional organizations and initiatives,

Recognizing the need to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with competent intergovernmental organizations, including organizations with competence in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in support of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, applying the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach,³ and using the best available science and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent,⁴ ~~within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention and its Protocols,~~
[Rationale: It is understood that the Convention and its Protocols do only operate within its jurisdictional scope.]

Acknowledging the importance of science for decision-making, and welcoming the work undertaken under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,

Acknowledging also that, through the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on island biodiversity, the Conference of the Parties has provided valuable guidance on a wide range of issues that is essential to the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the 2050 vision for biodiversity, and that the guidance should continue to be referred to in efforts to implement the Framework,

Considering that valuable guidance also emerges from the work of other competent

¹ Decision 15/4, annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³ Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

⁴ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

intergovernmental organizations, which complements guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties and should be used by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in their efforts to implement the Framework,

Welcoming the capacity-building, experience-sharing and partnership activities facilitated by the Secretariat to support the implementation of the Framework, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, at the national, regional and global levels, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, subnational governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women, youth and other relevant organizations, and expressing its gratitude to donor countries and many other partners for providing financial and technical support for the implementation of activities under the Initiative,

Welcoming also the collaborative efforts of the Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, regional seas conventions and action plans, regional fishery bodies, large marine ecosystem projects and programmes and other relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations and regional initiatives to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation on a regional and global scale in order to accelerate progress towards the Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies,

Deeply concerned about mass coral bleaching and the increasing risk of trespassing irreversible tipping points for coral reefs, reminding that failing to hold the increase in the global warming temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial levels would place many species and ecosystems with limited adaptive capacity as well as the people that depend on their functions and services, especially indigenous peoples and local communities and rural women under very high risk and stressing the urgency to address Target 8 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, [Rationale: To raise awareness of the urgency to conserve and protect coral reefs. Based on original text of Decision 14/5. This paragraph could also be placed at a different position within the preambular paragraphs.]

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction;⁵

1bis Encourages Parties and invites other Governments participating in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, to take into consideration the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in its negotiations as appropriate; [Rationale: The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework should be taken into consideration with the ongoing negotiations of the plastic treaty.]

1ter Urges the Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations and stakeholders to take action to prevent, mitigate and/or minimize the threats and pressures severely impacting the marine and coastal ecosystems globally, including unsustainable fisheries, pollution including underwater noise, offshore renewable energies, shipping, climate change and ocean acidification; [Rationale: To highlight the need for immediate action to protect and conserve marine and coastal biodiversity. This paragraph could also be placed at a different position within the operational paragraphs.]

1quater Urges Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of priority actions for coral reefs as adopted in decision CBD/XII/23; [Rationale: To highlight the need for immediate action for the protection and conservation of coral reefs. This paragraph could also be placed at a different position

⁵ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

within the operational paragraphs.]

2. *Recognizes* that the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on island biodiversity, together with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, still correspond to global priorities and contain guidance that provide essential support for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

3. *Notes* that there are certain elements of the targets of the Framework for which there is limited guidance available under the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on island biodiversity and which may require enhanced action and attention to implement the Framework, as listed in the annex to the present decision, and that such work may take the form of new guidance, where needed, the synthesis of best practices and experiences, capacity-building and development on the areas concerned and an invitation to competent organizations to expand their work in those areas;

4. *Stresses* that there are many areas of the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on island biodiversity that have not been fully implemented and for which enhanced capacity-building and development, in particular for least developed countries and small island developing States, are needed;

5. *Invites* relevant global and regional organizations to enhance their work on the issues listed in the annex to the present decision, in support of the implementation of the Framework, recognizing that many other organizations have mandates and are conducting work on issues relevant to the implementation of the Framework;

6. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary, with regard to the issues listed in the annex to the present decision, in collaboration with competent international organizations, and subject to the availability of resources:

(a) Enhance cooperation and collaboration with **multilateral environmental agreements, [Rationale: To broaden the scope of the cooperation and collaboration.]** intergovernmental organizations and processes with competence related to those issues;

(b) Compile and make available relevant guidance and experiences on those issues from Parties, other Governments, **multilateral environmental agreements, [Rationale: To broaden the scope for information-gathering and highlight the importance of relevant guidance from multilateral environmental agreements.]** and relevant organizations and stakeholders;

(c) Integrate those issues, as appropriate, into relevant capacity-building and development efforts undertaken under the Convention, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative;

7. *Notes* the areas of work conducted under the Convention outlined in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/8 and summarized in paragraph 26 of document CBD/SBSTTA/26/7 that may be used to support the planning and implementation of the Agreement **under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, [Rationale: To be clear what agreement is referenced.]** and requests that the Executive Secretary continue the cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, and competent organizations, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources;

8. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, convene an expert workshop, in collaboration with relevant global and regional organizations, on opportunities for scientific and technical work conducted under the Convention to inform the implementation of the Agreement **under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, [Rationale: To be clear what agreement is referenced.]** noting the modalities for collaboration and cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations in the context of the Agreement that are contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/8 and summarized in paragraph 27 of document CBD/SBSTTA/26/7, and provide the results of the workshop

for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Also requests* that the Executive Secretary:

(a) Continue to facilitate capacity-building and partnership activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, **ensuring the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, [Rationale: To ensure the inclusivity of the capacity-building and partnership activities.]** in order to support the implementation of the Framework, including its monitoring framework, with regard to marine, coastal and island biodiversity;

(b) Continue to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, regional seas conventions and action plans, regional fishery bodies, large marine ecosystem projects and programmes and other relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations and regional initiatives to strengthen cross-sectoral **and transboundary [Rationale: To address the need for transboundary cooperation in marine and coastal conservation.]** cooperation on a regional and global scale in support of the implementation of the Framework, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies;

(c) Enhance cooperation and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements, global and regional organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples⁶ and international human rights law, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders with regard to various thematic issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Annex

Gaps and areas in need of additional focus under the Convention on Biological Diversity to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with regard to marine, coastal and island biodiversity

1. With regard to marine and coastal biodiversity, further efforts are needed:

(a) To enhance ecological restoration in marine and coastal areas, building on experiences across various ecosystems and sectors and on different scales (most relevant to Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework);

(b) To improve the use of area-based conservation measures, in particular **marine protected areas and [Rationale: To stress also the importance of effective management within MPAs.]** other effective area-based conservation measures in various sectors active in marine and coastal areas, ensuring that such measures deliver tangible outcomes beneficial for biodiversity (most relevant to Target 3);

(bbis) To improve equitable governance of marine protected areas, participatory marine spatial planning, and recognition of ancestral waters and/or marine and coastal

⁶ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

indigenous and traditional territories (most relevant to target 1, 3 and 22); [Rationale: To better address the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.]

(c) To minimize human-wildlife conflict in marine and coastal areas, in particular with regard to threatened, endangered and vulnerable species (most relevant to Target 4);

(d) To monitor **and conserve [Rationale: To highlight the need for conserving rather than only monitoring the genetic diversity.]** the genetic diversity of marine and coastal species (most relevant to Target 4);

(e) To improve understanding of marine and coastal biodiversity in mesopelagic systems, including with regard to linkages across benthic and pelagic ecosystems, in support of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in mesopelagic areas (most relevant to Targets 3, 4 and 5);

(f) To assess and minimize the cumulative impacts of various types of pollution when they co-occur in marine and coastal areas (most relevant to Target 7);

(g) To assess and minimize the impacts of ~~light~~ **[Rationale: There are other sources of pollution in deep-sea ecosystems.]** pollution on deep-sea ecosystems (most relevant to Target 7);

(gbis) To enhance the use of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches across a variety of ecosystem-types and consider the full range of potential impacts of climate change (most relevant to Target 8 and 11); [Rationale: The use of nature based solutions is a gap for marine and coastal ecosystems.]

(h) To **map, monitor and effectively [Rationale: To manage effectively, it is necessary to map and monitor.]** manage blue carbon ecosystems ~~effectively~~ in order to enhance their role in climate change mitigation and adaptation without undermining the range of other ecosystems services that they provide (most relevant to Target 8);

(i) To conserve and use sustainably biodiversity ~~in~~ **associated with [Rationale: To clarify what biodiversity is being referred to.]** sea ice ~~ecosystems~~, and improve understanding of the impacts of ~~fast~~ **[Rationale: The observations of sea-ice have exceeded worst-case IPCC climate scenarios. The alternative option is to keep the text as is.]** ~~changing~~ **decreasing [Rationale: It highlights that the sea ice is receding due to climate change.]** sea ice extent on marine ecosystems (most relevant to Targets 2, 3, 4 and 8);

(j) To manage aquaculture in marine and coastal areas sustainably, with a focus on minimizing impacts on habitats and ~~ecologically-important~~ **[Rationale: The inclusion of ecologically-important would be too limiting. The meaning of ecologically-important species is unclear.]** species (most relevant to Target 10);

(k) To improve understanding of the contribution of marine and coastal blue spaces to healthy functioning ecosystems and to human health and well-being, and to use blue spaces to support inclusive and sustainable urbanization and coastal development (most relevant to Target 12);

(l) To mainstream biodiversity into emerging marine economic **activities and [Rationale: Mainstreaming should also target the economic activities.]** sectors that have not been referred to under previous decisions, while also addressing collaboration across relevant intergovernmental processes (most relevant to Target 14);

(m) To ~~understand and~~ **[Rationale: The understanding is not a gap.]** avoid the negative impacts that harmful subsidies in fisheries and other sectors have on marine and coastal ecosystems (most relevant to Target 18);

(mbis) Improve the robust engagement of a broader range of stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and in particular ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities (most relevant to Target 22);

[Rationale: This is a gap identified by the strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work, see paragraph 14 C.iii of document SBSTTA/26/7.]

(n) To integrate gender considerations in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including through the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)⁸ in the context of specific marine sectors and ecosystems (most relevant to Target 23);

2. With regard to island biodiversity, further efforts are needed:

(a) To increase ~~levels of ambition in terms of~~ **[Rationale: To use concise and stronger language.]** the percentage of degraded terrestrial, inland water and marine and coastal ecosystems under effective restoration and the percentage of terrestrial and inland water areas and of marine and coastal areas to be conserved by 2030 (most relevant to Targets 2 and 3);

(b) To promote ecological restoration in island ecosystems, focusing on ecosystems that can contribute to disaster risk reduction and resilience to various pressures (most relevant to Targets 2 and 11); **[Rationale: To include a target-reference for disaster risk reduction.]**

(c) To engage various sectors and stakeholders in area-based conservation, ensuring that any sustainable use is consistent with conservation objectives (most relevant to Target 3);

(d) To identify islands and certain sites within island ecosystems as priority sites and areas for eradicating or controlling invasive alien species (most relevant to Target 6);

(e) To improve understanding of pollution risks on islands and levels of pollution that are harmful to island biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, taking into account food security and livelihoods (most relevant to Target 7);

(f) To assess and minimize the cumulative impacts of various types of pollution when they co-occur in island ecosystems (most relevant to Target 7);

(g) To improve understanding of the impacts of ocean acidification on island ecosystems, **in particular coral reefs, [Rationale: To stress the severity of the impact of ocean acidification on coral reefs.]** and enhance the resilience of ecosystems that are highly **[Rationale: To not restrict the scope.]** vulnerable to those impacts (most relevant to Target 8);

(h) To enhance the use of nature-based solutions and ~~or~~ **[Rationale: To align with the UAE consensus at COP 28.]** ecosystem-based approaches across a variety of ecosystem-types and consider the full range of potential impacts of climate change (most relevant to Targets 8 and 11); **[Rationale: To include a reference to the target which refers to nature-based solutions.]**

(i) To enhance the use of sustainable intensification, **regenerative agriculture, [Rationale: Providing an example which combines climate change and biodiversity objectives and contributes to food security.]** agroecological and other innovative approaches in the agriculture sector, thereby contributing to food security and avoiding negative impacts on ecosystems (most relevant to Target 10);

(j) To mainstream biodiversity into sectors that have not been explicitly referred to in the programme of work and decisions related to island biodiversity (most relevant to Target 14);

(k) To improve understanding of multiple values of biodiversity across islands, in particular with regard to indigenous peoples and local communities, and integrate those values into planning and decision-making (most relevant to Targets 14 and 21);

(kbis) Improve the robust engagement of a broader range of stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity and in particular ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities (most relevant to Target 22); [Rationale: This

⁸ Decision 15/11, annex.

is a gap identified by the strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work, see paragraph 14 C.iii of document SBSTTA/26/7.]

(l) To integrate gender considerations in the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity, including through the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) (most relevant to Target 23).

7 Biodiversity and Health (Item 9)

The topic was introduced by Karin Zaunberger.

The Vilm expert meeting observed that there is overall a lack of clarity on the choice of phrasing and use of certain terms throughout the whole document, e.g. relating to indigenous peoples and local communities, indigenous and local knowledge, etc. The expert meeting noted and suggested amendments in most cases. In the view of the expert meeting some editorial clarification and harmonization of such terms throughout this document would be beneficial.

Document CBD/SBSTTA/26/8

Suggestions on the text

Biodiversity and health

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

abridged; continued

IV. Recommendations

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

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions XII/21 of 17 October 2014, XIII/6 of 17 December 2016, 14/4 of 22 November 2018 and 15/29 of 19 December 2022,

Recalling also that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹ acknowledges the interlinkages between biodiversity and health and the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,²

Recognizing that the implementation of the Framework will contribute to the reduction in the global burden of disease, inter alia, by addressing drivers of biodiversity loss, which are often also drivers of ill health,

Recognizing also the multiple dimensions of health and well-being, which go beyond human health and include the health of ecosystems upon which human health depends,

Noting the important role of education and awareness-raising for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach,

Welcoming the participation of the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health in the preparation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, [Rationale: Appreciating the cooperation.]

Noting also the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on

¹ Decision 15/4, annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health,

Recognizing the interlinkages between biodiversity and health, including those outlined in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3, [Rationale: To replace Enclosure II.]

Acknowledging the potential interlinkages of the draft Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health with several issues covered in the horizon scanning report (Annex I of CBD/SBSTTA/26/4) containing results of the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, [Rationale: Health and biodiversity interlinkages with synthetic biology.]

Noting the options to integrate biodiversity into COVID-19 stimulus and recovery measures as contained in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3, [Rationale: Importance of acknowledging the lessons from the pandemic.]

Noting further the importance given to biodiversity and health interlinkages by other organizations and initiatives, including the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, which urged Parties and invited non-Party stakeholders to advance targets addressing biodiversity and health in its decisions 1/CMA.5 and 2/CMA.5, and the **United Nations** Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **[Rationale: Correct title]** which recognized the centrality of nature to health,³

Considering the importance of cooperation with other organizations and initiatives in the area of biodiversity and health,

1. *Adopts* the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health as contained in annex I to the present decision, and considers it an instrument for supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, complementary to the guidance contained in decisions XIII/6 and 14/4;

2. *Endorses/Welcomes* **[Rationale: Formulation depends on the outcome of the discussion of the targeted messages in Annex II.]** the targeted messages for mainstreaming biodiversity in the health sector contained in annex II to the present decision;

3. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, and on a voluntary basis:

(a) To implement the Global Action Plan and provide information on their implementing activities and the results thereof, *including* **inter alia [Rationale: Clarification]** through their national reports, as appropriate;

(b) To designate a national focal point on biodiversity and health to enhance national coordination, knowledge exchange, implementation and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among biodiversity and health actors, including those working in human, animal and plant health, and environmental sectors, and to work comprehensively with health and health-related agencies and professionals at the national level;

(c) To integrate biodiversity and health interlinkages into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with section C of the Framework, taking the elements of the Global Action Plan into account;

(cbis) To consider the potential contributions of the health sector towards resource mobilization in line with the resource mobilization strategy of the Global Biodiversity Framework; [Rationale: The broad scope for private health-care entities and national health budgets to support integrated biodiversity-health policies and actions is established but largely untapped.]

³ E/C.19/2023/5, para. 24.

(cter) To integrate the diverse values of nature associated with health and health outcomes in their national accounting frameworks, for example in line with the System of Environmental Economic Accounts – Ecosystem Accounting methodology adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission, in order to better support actions under Target 14 of the Global Biodiversity Framework; [Rationale: Development and testing of guidance and case studies on the inclusion of health-related ecosystem services in SEEA-EA are ongoing and could be important tools for mainstreaming biodiversity in the health sector.]

4. *Invites* other Governments, **relevant multilateral environment agreements**, relevant organizations, including the members of the Quadripartite alliance on One Health, to make use, as appropriate, of the Global Action Plan in order to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages into their respective constituencies and across sectors; **and invites IPLCs, women, youth, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of the Global Action Plan; [Rationale: More complete and inclusive language.]**

5. *Invites* the World Health Organization to take account of synergies in its work on biodiversity and health undertaken pursuant to its fourteenth General Global Programme of Work (2025 – 2028) and resolutions of the World Health Assembly related to environmental determinants of health, and ~~that~~ **the work [Rationale: Clarity]** undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, donors and relevant financial institutions to support capacity-building **and development for, and [Rationale: Clarity and broadening the scope of potential support.]** the effective implementation of the Global Action Plan;

7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to share information on:

(a) How the indicators in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework could be used to assess progress towards mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages, ~~including by identifying gaps in the coverage of such interlinkages in the monitoring framework;~~ **[Rationale: The monitoring framework for the GBF is not intended to monitor progress on individual action plans under the CBD.]**

(b) Specific indicators on biodiversity and health interlinkages that currently exist at the national, regional or global level;

(c) Examples of the implementation of the Global Action Plan and the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages at the national or international level;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources:

(a) To complete the work conducted pursuant to paragraph 13 (a) of decision 14/4 on the development of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurements tools on biodiversity and health, taking account of the information referred to in subparagraph 7 (a) and of work done under the monitoring framework, **and information contained in Annex III to the present Decision, [Rationale: To highlight the information in Annex III, former Enclosure I.]** among others;

(b) To facilitate, in collaboration with partners, capacity-building activities to support Parties in the uptake and implementation of the Global Action Plan, including by convening regional workshops and facilitating dialogues in collaboration with, inter alia, organizations members of the Quadripartite alliance on One Health and other multilateral environmental agreements;

(c) To continue to raise awareness at all levels, including through relevant processes of other multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental bodies, of the important interlinkages between biodiversity and health, including their relevance to the implementation of the Framework;

(d) To enhance cooperation with international organizations and other multilateral environmental agreements with regard to biodiversity and health interlinkages, including by promoting the consideration of those interlinkages with the other elements of ~~triple planetary crisis~~ **emergency, namely, including** biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution; **[Rationale: Strengthening language.]**

(e) To report on the outcomes of that work to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, **and to the World Health Assembly at its 79th meeting; [Rationale: This follows precedent from COP Decision X/20 and XII/21 which have been important in promoting cross-sector dialogue and consideration of biodiversity by the WHA.]**

(ebis) To explore, in consultation with the WHO, the development of an online information platform to collate knowledge and experience on interlinked biodiversity and health policies and actions, including *inter alia* case studies, indicators and assessment methods, in order to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building and thereby further support implementation of the Global Action Plan. [Rationale: To facilitate experience sharing and knowledge exchange.]

Annex I

Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health

I. Purpose

1. In line with, and further to, decisions [XII/21](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/6](#) of 17 December 2016, [14/4](#) of 22 November 2018 and [15/29](#) of 19 December 2022, the objective of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health is to support Parties and other Governments at all levels, relevant organizations and initiatives, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages into national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts. The Plan is aimed in particular at enabling relevant government authorities, including those responsible for finance, health (e.g. in relation to nutrition, food security and food safety), environment, agriculture, water, waste, planning (e.g. urban planning), climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction, to collaborate closely and coordinate their work on biodiversity and health interlinkages.

2. The Global Action Plan includes a set of voluntary actions that can be implemented at various levels and on different scales, from international to national and from multisectoral to sector-specific, with cross-sectoral collaboration at the governmental level, and that allow for the participation of ~~other stakeholders, such as~~ civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, **women and youth** and the private sector. **[Rationale: Standard language; also IPLCs are not stakeholders]** In view of the cross-cutting nature of biodiversity and health interlinkages, other multilateral instruments and processes should also be considered when implementing the Plan.

3. The Global Action Plan builds on previous work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁴ including that conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organization on biodiversity and health interlinkages through a joint work programme between 2012 and 2021. It is intended to complement and support the implementation of earlier decisions of the Conference of the Parties on biodiversity and health (decisions [XII/21](#), [XIII/6](#), [14/4](#) and [15/29](#)) and the information and guidance referred to therein, including the key messages in the joint publication of the World Health Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention entitled *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health – A State of Knowledge Review*, the guidance

⁴ See information document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3.

on integrating biodiversity considerations into One Health approaches⁵ and the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on health, environment and climate change: human health and biodiversity for the seventy-first World Health Assembly,⁶ in which he called for enhanced integration of health, health policies, plans and projects into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity into health plans and strategies. The Plan is also intended to facilitate the realization of biodiversity and health co-benefits from the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.⁷

4. The Global Action Plan also draws on the following:

(a) The findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, namely, that: (i) nature underpins all dimensions of human health and contributes to non-material aspects of the quality of life (inspiration and learning, physical and psychological experiences and supporting identities), which are central to the quality of life and cultural integrity; (ii) nature's contributions to people⁸ play an essential role in human health by regulating material and non-material ecosystem services;⁹ (iii) worldwide, social groups have unequal access to nature's contributions; (iv) the decline in nature's contributions to people threatens the quality of life; and (v) the deterioration of nature and consequent disruption of benefits to people have both direct and indirect implications for public health and can exacerbate existing inequalities in access to health care or healthy diets;

(b) The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, namely, that climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health;¹⁰

(c) The study on indigenous determinants of health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹¹ welcomed by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in which the centrality of nature to health and the interdependence of human beings and the environment are recognized, noting an equilibrium of spirituality, traditional medicine and biodiversity and the interconnectedness of all that exists, and it is also stated that the health of the land and peoples are synonymous, nurtured through relationships with the physical and social environments, providing a strong basis for health and overall well-being;

(d) The lessons learned from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has further highlighted the importance of the relationship between health and well-being and biodiversity, and the urgent need to conserve, **restore [Rationale: Importance of restoration.] and sustainably use biodiversity, and for enhanced global collaboration and co-operation on health and biodiversity interlinkages, [Rationale: Recognizing lessons learned from COVID-19 pandemic.]** for a sustainable and inclusive recovery, thereby contributing to minimizing the risk of future diseases of zoonotic origin.

5. The following is recognized:

(a) Biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and negative health outcomes share many common drivers, including direct drivers of environmental change (changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of habitats and organisms, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species), which result from an array of underlying causes and are underpinned by social values and behaviours;

⁵ CBD/SBSTTA/21/9.

⁶ A71/11.

⁷ Decision 15/4, annex.

⁸ Nature's contributions to people are defined by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as all the contributions, both positive and negative, of living nature (i.e. diversity of organisms and ecosystems and their associated ecological and evolutionary processes) to people's quality of life.

⁹ Ecosystem services are defined by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as the benefits that people obtain from ecosystems. They include provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.

¹⁰ Planetary health refers to the health of the human species and the state of the natural system upon which it depends. It is based on the understanding that human health and human civilization depend on flourishing natural systems and the wise stewardship of those systems.

¹¹ E/C.19/2023/5.

(b) Environmental degradation contributes 24 per cent to the overall global burden of disease and 28 per cent to the global burden of disease for children under 5 years of age;

(c) Biodiversity is a key environmental determinant of human health,¹² and the conservation, **restoration [Rationale: Importance of restoration.]** and sustainable use of biodiversity can benefit human health by maintaining ecosystem services, fulfilling the psychological needs for nature relatedness and realizing the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050;

(d) The relationship among biodiversity loss, the emergence and spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases and increasing health inequalities is well known, as is the role of conservation, **restoration [Rationale: Importance of restoration.]** and sustainable use of biodiversity in prevention, reduction and proactive management of communicable and non-communicable disease risks;

(e) Halting biodiversity loss ~~contributes~~ **is fundamental [Rationale: Strengthening language.]** to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights to health and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;

(f) Within the context of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages (Sustainable Development Goal 3), children and youth are more physically, mentally and emotionally vulnerable to environmental degradation and environmental change, which are posing a major threat to the health of children and the achievement of their full development potential;

(g) Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss contribute to health inequities, especially for vulnerable groups, including women, children and the elderly, and have severe adverse impacts on the health of indigenous peoples and their unique interdependent relationship with local ecosystems, including their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health, foodways and healing practices and systems;

(h) More effective and integrated policy coordination on ecosystems and health, including by enhanced communication, dialogue and collaboration across government ministries and all governments and sectors, is needed. This includes the need to strengthen the environmental dimension of One Health, which is widely recognized, and that of other holistic approaches.

II. Considerations and tools for supporting the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health

6. Taking account of the cross-cutting nature of biodiversity and health interlinkages, the implementation of the Global Action Plan should be carried out in accordance with national circumstances and taking other international obligations and agreements into consideration.

7. The Global Action Plan embodies the view that the health of the environment and the health of all species are interconnected and interdependent, and that a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is required to mainstream that view into national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts. The concept of biodiversity and health interlinkages should be interpreted broadly, encompassing biodiversity from gene to planetary level, across and between species and ecosystems, and the multiple dimensions of health and well-being, including physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health. Elements of the Plan should be actioned towards enabling improved stewardship of the environment, animals, plants and other taxa and the realization of the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

8. The implementation of the Global Action Plan can be supported by a range of tools and a body of knowledge on biodiversity and health interlinkages, including:

(a) *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health – A State of Knowledge Review*, a joint publication of the World Health Organization and the Secretariat of

¹² Environmental determinants of health are global, regional, national and local environmental factors that influence human health. They include physical, chemical and biological factors external to a person. Further information on environmental determinants of health is available on the Pan American Health Organization website at www.paho.org/en.

the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) Guidance on integrating biodiversity considerations into One Health approaches; issued by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;¹³⁾

(c) Migratory species and health: a review of migration and wildlife disease dynamics, and the health of migratory species, within the context of One Health and ecosystem approaches to health, a document issued by the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;¹⁴

(d) The Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, adopted at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;¹⁵

(e) *Sustainable Healthy Diets: Guiding Principles*, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization;

(f) The Compendium of WHO and other UN Guidance on Health and Environment: *2022 Update*, published by the World Health Organization;

(g) The *One Health* Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026) and *A Guide to Implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at national level*, published by the Quadripartite organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization and World Organisation for Animal Health);

(h) *The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children’s Climate Risk Index*, published by the United Nations Children’s Fund;

(i) A study on indigenous determinants of health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development issued for the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;¹⁶

(j) *The Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature*, published by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(k) OIE Wildlife Health Framework – “Protecting wildlife health to achieve One Health”, a paper issued by the World Organization for Animal Health.

9. The Global Action Plan may be further supported by a compilation of additional resources, including a list of tools and resources that can assist its implementation, that are listed in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3.

III. Actions to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages into national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts

10. The following voluntary actions may be taken by Governments, at the appropriate level, in accordance with national circumstances and, where relevant, by other actors, to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages, thereby generating benefits for health and the environment. The proposed general actions (sect. A) can be complemented with actions to integrate biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the Framework (sect. B).

A. General actions

11. Proposed general actions include the following:

(a) Assessing biodiversity and health interlinkages, including ecosystem services and

¹³ CBD/SBSTTA/21/9.

¹⁴ UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Inf.12.4.3.

¹⁵ International Conference on Chemicals Management resolution V/1, annex II.

¹⁶ E/C.19/2023/5.

nature's contributions to people related to health, the environmental determinants of health and the environmental burden of disease¹⁷ at the national level, taking account of biocultural diversity,¹⁸ diverse value systems and a comprehensive understanding of health and well-being, including physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health, cognitive development, learning, supporting identities¹⁹ and social determinants of health;

(b) Encouraging and facilitating national dialogues and knowledge-sharing platforms and events to strengthen capacities among all sectors and actors with regard to biodiversity and health interlinkages, with a view to developing communities of practice, noting the positive role of nature in all aspects of health and well-being;

(c) Promoting policy coordination and mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into national biodiversity strategies and action plans; plans for mental health, **social and cultural well-being**, nutrition, non-communicable and communicable disease control and childhood development; economic and sustainable development policies; policies related to animal and plant health; **policies related to disaster risk reduction, relief and recovery**; and One Health antimicrobial resistance national action plans; **and policies on sustainability in the health sector**; **[Rationale: Additions align with thematic areas covered in the State of Knowledge Review on Biodiversity and Human Health, published by WHO-CBD in 2016.]**

(cbis) Developing sector-specific information material such as fact sheets to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages into important sectors, including *inter alia* agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, as well as health sectors such as public health, pharmacy, biochemistry and biotechnology; [Rationale: To provide targeted information for the audience of the Global Action Plan.]

(d) Developing and, as necessary, strengthening national coordination mechanisms on biodiversity and health interlinkages that are interdisciplinary and interministerial, ensuring the participation of all actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities; and designating a national focal point for biodiversity and health to facilitate the process;

(e) Taking steps to ensure the full and effective participation of children and youth²⁰ in decision making and action on biodiversity and health, including by [Rationale: To reflect that there are numerous ways to engage children and youth.] considering the designation of a national youth liaison focal point on biodiversity and public health, who, among other tasks, can report on the contributions and needs of children and youth in relation to environmental stewardship and intergenerational equity;

(f) Incorporating biodiversity and health interlinkages into assessments related to sustainable development, including environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments, health assessments **and health impact assessments**, **[Rationale: Aligns with previous COP decisions and recommendations in the State of Knowledge Review.]** socioeconomic assessments and other relevant assessments, in particular by:

(i) Considering the risks of biodiversity loss on biodiversity and health interlinkages in the aforementioned assessments as valuable tools to guide decision-making;

¹⁷ The environmental burden of disease is the magnitude of health impacts from modifiable environmental drivers.

¹⁸ See also decision 15/22 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

¹⁹ Supporting identities refer to the basis for religious, spiritual and social cohesion experiences; sense of place, purpose, belonging, rootedness or connectedness, associated with different entities of the living world; narratives and myths, rituals and celebrations; satisfaction derived from knowing that a particular landscape, seascape, habitat or species exists (see Manuela Carneiro da Cunha and others, eds., *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Secretariat, 2019).

²⁰ **In line with relevant guidance contained in general comment no. 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/GC/12, para 134)**

- (ii) Including diverse health stakeholders²¹ in the screening, scoping, review, decision-making and follow-up processes for the assessments and national reporting;
- (iii) Including comprehensive screening factors that reflect broad biodiversity and health interlinkages in assessments, ensuring, where possible, that they include cumulative and indirect impacts, scaled impacts (local, subnational and regional contributions to global environmental change)²² and temporal impacts (immediate, slow-onset and chronic impacts on health);
- (iv) Ensuring that the assessments, as well as national monitoring, reporting and review frameworks, consider biodiversity decline in the context of intergenerational and gender equity and the health of future generations, specifically the ability of children to be born, grow, develop and thrive physically and mentally;
- (g) Supporting research on biodiversity and health interlinkages to address knowledge gaps, **improving** access to scientific evidence **and good practices, recognizing traditional knowledge, indigenous science and good practices, through and enabling** transformative and transdisciplinary education; **[Rationale: Improving context and clarity.]**
- (h) Strengthening the understanding of biodiversity and health interlinkages by introducing them into the curricula of professionals in the fields of health care and medicine, biodiversity and environment, food system and animal welfare, **urban and spatial planning and other relevant fields, [Rationale: The list is not complete.]** as part of lifelong learning and skills development;
- (i) Promoting, in collaboration with health-related organizations, the integration of biodiversity-related metrics, indicators and tools into health strategies, plans and programmes and, conversely, the integration of health-related metrics, indicators and tools into biodiversity strategies, plans and programmes;
- (j) Enhancing international cooperation to support developing countries in addressing the specific environmental and health-related challenges that they face, including in implementing the One Health and other holistic approaches;
- (k) Encouraging cooperation among national focal points from multilateral environmental agreements on actions related to biodiversity and health interlinkages, including through participation in cross-sectoral events.

B. Actions to integrate biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

12. The interlinkages between biodiversity and health are acknowledged in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as one of the considerations for its implementation, as follows:

The Framework acknowledges the interlinkages between biodiversity and health and the three objectives of the Convention. The Framework is to be implemented with consideration of the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches that are based on science, mobilize multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to work together, and aim to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems, recognizing the need for equitable access to tools and technologies, including medicines, vaccines and other health products related to biodiversity, while highlighting the urgent need to reduce pressures on biodiversity and decrease environmental degradation to reduce risks to health, and, as

²¹ Health stakeholders include those related to human, animal and plant health and those with diverse knowledge of health.

²² Global environmental change refers to changes to the Earth's natural systems, such as the nine planetary boundaries identified by the Stockholm Resilience Centre, namely, novel entities, biosphere integrity, biogeochemical flows, climate change, land-system change, freshwater change, ocean acidification, stratospheric ozone depletion and atmospheric aerosol loading.

appropriate, develop practical access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

13. The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment are also acknowledged in the Framework.²³

14. Since the health of the environment and the health of all species are interconnected, all actions towards the implementation of the Framework will have co-benefits for all species and for human health. Actions for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the Framework are shown in the table below.

²³ UNGA resolution ref. A/76/L.75 [Rationale: Explanatory for para 13]

Actions for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework [General note: Inclusion of references for the second column presented throughout this table would be helpful.]

<i>Action areas and related Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
Land and sea use		
Targets 1, 2 and 3	Reducing the degradation and fragmentation of wildlife habitats and the encroachment of biodiverse areas by people and livestock contributes to the continued provision of nature's contributions to people, which in turn support health and reduce disease emergence and transmission among wildlife, livestock and people.	1. Integrate the consideration of biodiversity and health interlinkages into land- and sea-use planning and policies, plans and action for conservation and restoration to identify potential co-benefits and trade-offs for biodiversity and health, including by incorporating health impact assessments into such activities so as to promote the multiple dimensions of health and reduce and mitigate disease risks to people, livestock and wildlife, taking risks of disease spillover and spillback into account. 2. Establish, as appropriate, monitoring systems to include the evaluation of the impacts of those activities on human beings, animals and ecosystems, including by establishing surveillance sites in high-risk areas where environmental conditions are quickly changing and becoming conducive to disease emergence, such as areas that are being rapidly deforested, degraded or encroached on and other natural habitats experiencing land-use conversion. 3. Incorporate the consideration of biodiversity and health interlinkages into policies and programmes for water, sanitation and hygiene and measures to protect ecosystems that supply water; and promote sustainable water use. <u>4. Consider the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional practices to mitigate negative health impacts in land and sea use planning and actions for conservation and restoration. [Rationale: To strengthen the role of IPLCs in the implementation of targets 1, 2 and 3.]</u>
Species management		
Targets 4, 5 and 9	The sustainable management of populations of wild species is important for the health of ecosystems and the provision of ecosystem services, such as food security,	1. Protect the customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities in protected <u>areas, and areas under other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM)</u> and conserved areas, <u>indigenous and traditional territories,</u> [Rationale: To protect customary sustainable use and

<i>Action areas and related Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
	nutrition, biomedical discovery and medicine, and will enable people to continue to draw benefits from those populations. Protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities and other populations <u>those</u> particularly dependent on these <u>wild</u> species is especially important <u>[Rationale: Clarity and alignment with Target 9.]</u> At the same time, improving the regulation and management of the use of and trade in wild species and reducing human-wildlife conflict can reduce the transmission of infectious diseases.	<u>better align with CBD language.]</u> and related health benefits. 2. Consider the role of species and genetic diversity in the production of nutritious food, <u>for food security, nutrition, [Rationale: Better alignment with rationale.]</u> medicine and other goods, and the risk of biodiversity loss and species extinction arising from high demand for those goods, as well as the health risks associated with such loss; and promote collaboration among sectors to ensure that the medicinal use of wild species, including in traditional medicine, is sustainable, safe and legal; and, for threatened or protected species, encourage alternative, sustainable sources for medicinal use where possible. 3. Improve, in accordance with other international agreements, the regulation, management and use of and trade in wild species, such that it is <u>sustainable and [Rationale: To reflect focus of targets 4 and 9.]</u> safe for human and wildlife health, by: (a) Acknowledging and addressing the potential for health risks from use practices, such as the transport, marketing and commercialization of specimens of wild species; (b) Improving biosecurity and sanitation in markets and along the entire trade chain; (c) Encouraging the participatory monitoring of wildlife including by wildlife hunters, farmers and traders, in emerging disease hotspots, as elements of strategies for disease prevention; (d) Including policies and actions designed to limit pathogen spillover and spillback in wildlife use and management programmes and activities, such as wildlife farming and commercialization. 4. Strengthen the capacity to understand human-mediated factors with high potential to drive the transmission of zoonotic diseases, such as increasing human demand for animal protein, unsustainable agricultural intensification, the unsustainable use of natural resources, changes in food supply and climate change.
Invasive alien species^c		
Target 6	Invasive alien species ⁱ are a major driver	1. Consider the adverse impacts of invasive alien species on human, animal, plant

<i>Action areas and related Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
	of biodiversity loss and a major threat to nature, nature's contributions to people and a good quality of life. Many are pathogens or pests. Others affect human, animal, plant and environmental health in various ways, including by causing diseases, such as allergic diseases, because of their toxicity or as vectors of pathogen transmission. In addition, invasive alien species often reduce the quantity and quality of services provided by ecosystems and can affect livelihoods and food security.	and ecosystem health in strategies, action plans and projects, and undertake assessments on that matter to support informed decision-making and actions aimed at minimizing such impacts, including through the use of multisectoral and trans-disciplinary approaches. 2. Identify gaps in knowledge, monitoring and management of emerging infectious diseases affecting biodiversity and human health that relate to or are facilitated by invasive alien species. 3. Promote awareness of, and education on, the impacts of invasive alien species on human, animal, plant and ecosystem health, across sectors and among consumers.
Pollution		
Target 7	Pollution, in all its forms, is harmful to biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and the health of people, animals, plants and other organisms. It has an impact on the ability of biodiversity to contribute, for example, to the provision of clean air and water, soil fertility, pollination and pest control. Direct and indirect exposure to pollutants, in particular early-life exposure, can increase the risk of multiple non-communicable diseases over the life course.	1. Raise awareness of the negative impact of excess nutrients, antimicrobials, pesticides, hazardous chemicals, heavy metals, plastic (including microplastics) and air, light and noise pollution on biodiversity and human health. 2. Promote the implementation of joint guidelines for the environmentally sound management of public health, medical and veterinary operations and their waste, including to avoid the inappropriate use and disposal of medical products, heavy metals and waste, and monitor and limit the unnecessary use of antimicrobial treatments and other pharmaceuticals. 3. Minimize pollution from waste and wastewater municipal systems that are drivers of antimicrobial resistance; integrate biodiversity and health considerations into local and municipal waste and wastewater management plans; and incorporate national- and subnational-level strategies for the management of municipal wastewater effluents into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. 4. Promote strategies to reduce light and noise pollution that is harmful to human health and the health of other organisms. 5. Make use of national systems on human biomonitoring ^d to, among other objectives, mobilize resources to produce or enhance data to develop new strategies for strengthening pollution control measures.

Action areas and related Framework targets ^a	Relevance to health ^b	Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration
Climate change		
Target 8	Climate change is <u>exacerbated by biodiversity loss, and</u> is a driver of biodiversity loss and ill health. <u>[Rationale: Climate change and biodiversity loss are inter-dependent.]</u> It increases the risks of extreme weather events (e.g. heatwaves, forest fires, droughts and floods) and ocean acidification and has an adverse impact on water quality and quantity, food production from agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and infrastructure supporting cities and settlements, increasing risks of vector-borne, waterborne and food-borne diseases, malnutrition, heat illness, mental health and displacement. Risks from climate change affect human beings, animals, plants and ecosystems. Nature-based solutions ^e and/or <u>[Rationale: Clearer language and aligned with UNFCCC COP28.]</u> ecosystem-based approaches can help to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	1. Integrate the consideration of climate change, <u>impacts on [Rationale: Recognizing interdependence.]</u> biodiversity and health interlinkages into, for example, national and subnational vulnerability assessments, national health adaptation plans, national disaster risk reduction strategies, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions, as well as in assessments of loss and damage. 2. Strengthen capacity to address the interlinkages among biodiversity, climate change and health, including through research, <u>education [Rationale: Stress the importance of education for knowledge generation and awareness.]</u> and by developing knowledge and communication tools. 3. Co-develop and implement early warning systems to predict disease outbreaks in terrestrial, inland water and marine ecosystems by incorporating interoperable^f climate and environmental information and epidemiological information on appropriate spatial and temporal scales to support local decision-making. 4. Promote research on potential climate change, <u>impacts on [Rationale: ibid] biodiversity and health interlinkages, for example, on vector-borne and waterborne diseases and community mental health. [Rationale: Clarity and to broaden the scope of mental health.]</u> 5. Integrate <u>holistic [Rationale: Acknowledging benefits and potential risks of nature-based solutions.]</u> health considerations into the design, implementation and monitoring of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches. <u>6. Promote the development of indicators on the climate, biodiversity and health linkages. [Rationale: Support and reflect related efforts under other processes, e.g. the UAE Belem work programme.]</u>
Agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry		
Target 10	Biodiversity at every level (genetic, species and ecosystem levels) is a pillar of food security, nutrition and dietary quality.	1. Raise awareness of the interlinkages between biodiversity and health for nutrition, food security, livelihoods and food system resilience. 2. Reduce the negative impacts on biodiversity and health of agriculture,

<i>Action areas and related Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
	The quality and quantity of food and the way in which it is produced have implications for human health, as well as the health of livestock, wild animals and the environment. Dietary diversity, underpinned by diverse crops, livestock, healthy forests and marine and freshwater food, among others, provide a wide range of essential nutrients and non-nutrients, such as fibre. The cultivation of nutrient-rich crops depends, among other things, on pollinators and the diversity of beneficial micro-organisms in the soil. Sustainable intensification, integrated pest management and agroecological approaches can reduce the need for pesticides, including those harmful to people and pollinators.	aquaculture, fisheries and forestry, among others, by leveraging sustainable practices, such as sustainable intensification, agrobiodiversity, agroecology, integrated landscape planning and the use of integrated pest management to reduce the need for and use of [Rationale: Broader language] pesticides and other chemical inputs. 3. Promote improved standards of animal welfare for their health and well-being, including to reduce the risk of communicable disease in farm animals and aquaculture, by, <i>inter alia</i>, limiting the unnecessary use of antimicrobials, including antibiotics to prevent antimicrobial resistance. 4. Recognize the value of traditional food practices, the foodways of indigenous peoples and the role of local foods in strategies for health, well-being and disease prevention. 5. Support initiatives to conserve genetic diversity for healthy ecosystems and food security, including from <i>inter alia</i> seeds, livestock, forestry, fisheries and pollinators. [Rationale: Broader and clearer language]
Nature's contributions to people		
Target 11	Biodiversity underpins nature's contributions to people^g. Safeguarding those contributions benefits human health, including physical and mental health, and reduces mortality and morbidity. The contributions include: (a) The regulation of climate, ocean acidification and hydrological cycles; (b) The regulation and improvement of air and fresh and coastal water quality and the regulation of water flows; (c) Soil biodiversity, quality and fertility and the degradation or storage of	1. Consider nature's role in national policies, strategies and programmes as a life support system for human beings and species and for health equity, including across the life course and for different community groups, recognizing nature's positive contributions to all dimensions of human health and well-being. 2. Take steps to address the adverse impacts of biodiversity loss on health, including mental and emotional health, such as eco-anxiety, for example, by: (a) supporting initiatives that assist individuals and communities suffering from those impacts; (b) fostering positive narratives on the environment for the future, especially among children and youth; (c) recognizing relevant public health tools, such as nature prescriptions and nature-based therapy, to engage the health sector in building capacity to minimize, prevent and treat adverse impacts.

<i>Action areas and related Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
	pollutants; (d) The regulation of natural hazards and extreme events; (e) Pollination and seed dispersal; (f) Food and feed production from wild, managed or domesticated land or sea organisms; (g) The regulation of pests, pathogens, predators, competitors, parasites and potentially harmful organisms; (h) Learning (education, knowledge acquisition and inspiration for art and technological design, such as biomimicry); (i) Healing, relaxation, recreation and leisure; (j) Intrinsic interconnection and supporting identities (i.e. the basis for, for example, religious, spiritual and social-cohesion experiences, and the sense of place, purpose, belonging, rootedness or connectedness); (k) The provision of medicinal, biochemical and genetic resources	3. Use nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and innovative approaches to achieve benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and natural systems while delivering sustainable health benefits to people, such as supporting access to safe water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management, <u>and for disaster risk reduction, relief and recovery. [Rationale: Broader scope and reflects consideration of DRR in the State of Knowledge Review on biodiversity and health.]</u>
Urban areas		
Target 12	Green and blue spaces and urban planning that takes biodiversity into account can optimize ecosystem integrity and connectivity and increase physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health through various mechanisms, including by improving air	1. Consider benefits for human health, in all its dimensions, in biodiversity-inclusive urban planning policies and the provision of blue and green spaces. 2. Improve access to <u>and accessibility of [Rationale: More inclusive language.]</u> green and blue spaces for all, including children, youth and people with disabilities. 3. Develop communication tools in collaboration with the health sector on how

<i>Action areas and related Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
	quality, reducing the heat island effect, enhancing flood resilience, providing beneficial microbiota, bringing cultural and psychological benefits and facilitating physical exercise, and for healing, relaxation, recreation and supporting identities, as well as community and social cohesion activities.	enhancing biodiversity and ecological integrity and connectivity in urban areas is essential for the health and well-being of all species; and take steps to disseminate those tools across sectors, within all health sectors and to schools and community organizations. <u>4. To promote nature's contributions to people relating to healing, relaxation, recreation and leisure in particular urban and densely populated areas [Rationale: Stress the importance of specific NCPs relevant for target 12.]</u>
Access and benefit-sharing, biosafety and biotechnology		
Targets 13 and 17	Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization are essential to health, health practice and effective health systems. Vaccine and therapeutic development rely on access to the diversity of organisms, molecules and genes found in nature. Many important therapeutics are derived from indigenous knowledge and traditional medicine practice. The safe use of biotechnology, including through biosafety measures to regulate, manage and control potential adverse effects on biodiversity and human health, can play an important role in providing tools and solutions for biodiversity and health challenges.	1. Recognize the role of genetic resources, digital sequence information on genetic resources, and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, in the research and development of health products and services, and the importance of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization in this regard, in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols. 2. Ensure that means are in place to evaluate, regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology that could affect the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, also taking risks to human health into account. 3. Support coordination mechanisms where potential benefits and risks from biotechnology applications could be assessed in a multidisciplinary manner, taking health and environmental perspectives into account.
Mainstreaming		
Targets 14, 15 and 18	The consideration of biodiversity and health interlinkages in decision-making across all sectors can mobilize action to reduce indirect economic and institutional	1. Take biodiversity and health interlinkages into account in corporate environmental social governance standards ^h through active dialogues with the business community, and in assessments of the values and beneficiaries of biodiversity. 2. Include biodiversity and health interlinkages in nature-related financial

<i>Action areas and related Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
	drivers of biodiversity loss.	disclosures. 3. Promote private and public investment and incentives that safeguard a broad spectrum of biodiversity and health interlinkages, especially those affected by the commercial determinants of healthⁱ. 4. Communicate to decision makers at all levels the importance and economic value of a healthy environment for healthy and resilient societies and economies. 5. Promote the consideration of the multiple values of nature for health on the basis of diverse knowledge and knowledge systems, in educational curricula and training programmes at all levels and across disciplines, ensuring the engagement of knowledge holders and communicators from indigenous peoples and local communities and the health sector, among others. 6. Take into account biodiversity and health interlinkages in processes for reforming incentives and subsidies harmful for biodiversity. [Rationale: Scope and language aligns with Target 18.]
Consumption		
Target 16	Overconsumption is an underlying driver of biodiversity loss and ill health. More equitable and sustainable use of resources, including a reduction of waste and overconsumption, allows all to live well and in harmony with nature. Diets that are more diverse tend to be healthier. In addition, depending on the national or local context, there are opportunities for achieving co-benefits between human health and a reduced environmental footprint through sustainable healthy diets^k.	1. Promote sustainable consumption choices to reduce the global footprint of consumption in order to generate environmental and health co-benefits by: (a) Identifying opportunities to promote healthy lifestyles, sustainable consumption patterns, waste reduction and associated behavioural change that would benefit biodiversity and health, and to limit the negative effects of telecoupling^j; (b) Providing incentives for products and services with lower negative biodiversity and health impacts; ® Developing knowledge tools and educational activities to raise the consumers' awareness and understanding of the negative impacts of overconsumption and waste on biodiversity and health. 2. Promote diverse sustainable healthy diets through national dietary guidelines, national and subnational policies, public procurement, investments, supply chains, school environments and projects, among others.

<i>Action areas and related Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
Means of implementation		
Targets 19 and 20	Understanding the health co-benefits of investing in strategies and activities to halt biodiversity loss can help to mobilize necessary financial resources <u>as well as resources for capacity-building and development, scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer activities.</u> <u>[Rationale: Relevance for target 20.]</u>	1. Engage investors, donors, philanthropic institutions and the financial sector to consider the inclusion of budget lines for biodiversity and health interlinkages in their operations, policies, strategies, programmes and accounts. 2. Incorporate biodiversity and health interlinkage in capacity-building <u>and development, scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer activities</u>, technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation activities by supporting capacity-building <u>and development [Rationale: Agreed CBD language]</u> programmes and training initiatives for diverse health professionals and health-care providers to enhance their understanding of the interlinkages between biodiversity and health, including in traditional medicine practices (e.g. traditional healing techniques and herbal medicine) and indigenous knowledge. 3. Support research efforts to document and validate the efficacy, safety and quality of traditional medicine practices, in particular those used by indigenous peoples <u>and local communities, only with their free, prior and informed consent [Rationale: If such research is supported in para 3 in such a prescriptive manner the principle of FPIC has to be applied. More inclusive and in line with CBD, recognizing wider meaning of traditional knowledge; Comment: The group acknowledges the need to assess traditional medicines to make use of its benefits in different health systems; however, the group is also aware of potential misuse originating in commercial interests and therefore sees FPIC as absolute prerequisite. Reference: WHO Strategy on Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014 – 2023 https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241506096],</u> and take the findings into consideration.
Knowledge and engagement of people		
Targets 21, 22 and 23	Ensuring that knowledge is available to all and that all groups of people are engaged in decision-making related to biodiversity can help to ensure that biodiversity and health interlinkages of particular importance to certain groups are taken into	1. Facilitate the establishment or strengthening of knowledge-sharing platforms and learning networks on biodiversity and health interlinkages to facilitate the exchange of best practices, lessons learned and innovative solutions. <u>(1bis) Promote and disseminate advocacy tools, best practice and examples</u>

<i>Action areas and related Framework targets^a</i>	<i>Relevance to health^b</i>	<i>Actions to ensure biodiversity and health co-benefits, to be implemented taking the One Health and other holistic approaches into consideration</i>
	consideration, thereby contributing to the protection of rights, gender responsiveness and intergenerational and health equity.	<u>of policies that maximize biodiversity and health co-benefits and highlight the relevant contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, and vulnerable groups such as women, youth and the elderly and persons with disabilities. [Rationale: To ensure adequate knowledge sharing, ensure inclusivity and highlight the contributions of IPLCs etc., and link with Annex I.]</u> 2. Recognize indigenous <u>and traditional</u> knowledge <u>[Rationale: Aligns with CBD]</u> as an important knowledge system that contributes to scientific, technical, social and economic advancements for human and planetary well-being. 3. Promote and support the meaningful and active participation of all actors of civil society, including traditional knowledge holders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and the elderly <u>and persons with disabilities, [Rationale: Aligns with CBD]</u> also recognizing their unique contributions to and active roles in the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages. 4. Invest in communication tools and strategies that raise awareness of the value of ecosystem functions and services in ensuring health, well-being and health equity for different stakeholders in languages and formats accessible to the diverse groups of actors. 5. Use the Gender Plan of Action adopted by the Conference of the Parties to support a gender-responsive consideration of biodiversity and health interlinkages. <u>(5bis) Communicate on the health risk and costs arising from inaction and continued ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss. [Rationale: Importance of addressing risks and costs.]</u>

^a For the text of the targets, see decision [15/4](#), annex, sect. H.

^b See CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/3 for additional information on biodiversity and health interlinkages.

^c An invasive alien species is a species the introduction or spread of which threatens biological diversity. See decision [VI/23](#) for further information.

^d Human biomonitoring directly measures the concentration of chemicals pollutants or their metabolites in human fluids (e.g. blood, urine, breast milk and saliva) and tissues (e.g. hair, nails and teeth) (see World Health Organization, “Human biomonitoring: assessment of exposure to chemicals and their health risks – Summary for decision makers”, technical document WHO/EURO:2023-7574-

47341-69480 (Geneva, 2023)).

^e Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems that address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits (see United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5).

^f Interoperable information generally refers to information that can be used across sectors and disciplines, in particular for use by Governments with limited human, financial and technical resources, to address concurrent issues separately.

^g See Eduardo S. Brondizio and others, eds., *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019), table 231, p. 318.

^h Environmental, social governance considerations and standards for corporate sustainable investing.

ⁱ Commercial determinants of health are the private sector activities that affect people's health, directly or indirectly, positively or negatively, through business actions and societal engagements; for example, supply chains, labour conditions, product design and packaging, research funding, lobbying, preference shaping and others (see World Health Organization, "Commercial determinants of health", fact sheet, 21 March 2023).

^j Telecoupling refers to socioeconomic and environmental interactions over distances (see the glossary on the website of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at www.ipbes.net/glossary).

^k Sustainable healthy diets are dietary patterns that promote all dimensions of individuals' health and well-being; have low environmental pressure and impact; are accessible, affordable, safe and equitable; and are culturally acceptable. The aims of sustainable healthy diets are to achieve optimal growth and development of all individuals and support functioning and physical, mental, and social well-being at all life stages for present and future generations; contribute to preventing all forms of malnutrition (i.e. undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency, overweight and obesity); reduce the risk of diet-related non-communicable diseases; and support the preservation of biodiversity and planetary health. Sustainable healthy diets must combine all dimensions of sustainability to avoid unintended consequences (see Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization, *Sustainable Healthy Diets: Guiding principles* (Rome, 2019)).

Enclosure I Annex III [Rationale: Restructuring; The expert meeting proposes that this text should be an annex to the Recommendation, and is now referred to in paragraph 8(a).]

Monitoring Informative list of possible additional elements to support implementation of for the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health [Rationale: Clarify the intention of this enclosure.]

The ~~monitoring of the~~ implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health can be supported by indicators from the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹ and by the following ~~indicators or monitoring~~ elements: **[Rationale: Clarification]**

- (a) The environmental burden of disease per year (percentage) is used as a metric in government reporting at the national level;
- (b) Biodiversity and health interlinkages are considered in sector-specific policies and strategies and as an element of environmental determinants of health;
- (c) Intergenerational equity, the differentiated roles of women and men and the unique interdependent relationship of indigenous peoples and local communities with nature are considered in national policies, strategies and programmes that address biodiversity and health interlinkages;
- (d) Multisectoral, multidisciplinary coordination mechanisms exist at the national level to address biodiversity and health interlinkages;
- (e) National focal points on biodiversity and health interlinkages are appointed;
- (f) National coordination mechanisms that address biodiversity and health interlinkages incorporate diverse knowledge and perspectives;
- (g) Biodiversity and health interlinkages are included in national health strategies;
- (h) Biodiversity and health interlinkages are included in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (i) One Health projects take biodiversity and health interlinkages into consideration;
- (j) Number of measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity that support the prevention and reduction of communicable and non-communicable disease risks;
- (k) Disease alerts are detected and reported through cross-sectoral interoperable surveillance systems;
- (l) Environmental impact assessments incorporate biodiversity and health interlinkages;
- (m) Communication materials and tools adapted to the national context are available to promote the understanding of biodiversity and health interlinkages and facilitate the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders across sectors;
- (n) Education curricula and training programmes on biodiversity and health interlinkages are included in national strategies, programmes and accounts;
- (o) Funding is allocated to transdisciplinary research on biodiversity and health

¹ Decision 15/5, annex I.

interlinkages;

(p) Funding is allocated to knowledge-sharing platforms and spaces on biodiversity and health interlinkages;

(q) National dialogues are convened and knowledge-sharing platforms are established to discuss biodiversity and health interlinkages;

(r) Biodiversity and health interlinkages are incorporated into medical and health curricula and the curricula of environmental management professionals;

(s) The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is recognized and included in capacity-building and training programmes across sectors.

Enclosure II

Biodiversity and health interlinkages identified for health promotion and disease prevention^{*}

- ~~Air quality~~
- ~~Freshwater and coastal water quality, quantity and access~~
- ~~Soil quality, fertility and microbiome and degradation or storage of pollutants~~
- ~~Pollination and seed dispersal~~
- ~~Food and feed production from wild, managed or domesticated organisms on land and in the ocean, and nutrition and dietary diversity~~
- ~~Habitat (ecological conditions necessary for or favourable to human life)~~
- ~~Health care (traditional medicine and traditional medical knowledge, medicines and health products, biomedical discovery, biochemical and genetic resources)~~
- ~~Nature-based learning (education, knowledge acquisition and inspiration for art and technological design, such as biomimicry)~~
- ~~Regulation of earth systems, such as climate change, ocean acidification and hydrological cycles~~
- ~~Resilience to natural hazards, extreme events and disasters~~
- ~~Beneficial microbial biodiversity and human microbiome, including immune regulation~~
- ~~Regulation of pests, pathogens, predators, competitors, parasites and potentially harmful organisms~~
- ~~Healing, relaxation, recreation, leisure and aesthetic enjoyment based on positive exposure, experience or engagement with nature~~
- ~~Intrinsic interconnection, culture and supporting identities (i.e. the basis for religious, spiritual and social cohesion experiences; sense of place, purpose, belonging, rootedness or connectedness, associated with various entities of the living world; narratives and myths, rituals and celebrations; satisfaction derived from knowing that a particular landscape, seascape, habitat or species exists)~~

^{*} Health promotion and disease prevention are an ambition of public health. Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over and improve their health. Disease prevention describes measures taken to reduce the occurrence of risk factors by preventing the occurrence of disease or arresting its progress and reducing its consequences once established. These biodiversity and health interlinkages function as environmental and ecological determinants of health and health equity, as defined in the *Health Promotion Glossary of Terms 2021* published by the World Health Organization.

[Rationale: The above is included in the INF document, which is now referenced in the preamble to the recommendations.]

Annex II

Targeted messages for mainstreaming biodiversity into the health sector

The targeted messages below are aimed at supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the health sector and the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health. They could also be used by Parties, institutions working in the fields of human, animal and plant health and the environment, organizations working on the interlinkages between biodiversity and health, such as other multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental bodies, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders.

1. Biodiversity² is essential to human health and well-being and to all of life on Earth

(a) Health and well-being of all species are interconnected and interdependent. A holistic consideration of the health of all people, as well as of animals, plants and other organisms, is needed to ensure living in harmony with nature;

(b) Biodiversity is a key environmental determinant of human health, and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can benefit human health by maintaining ecosystem services;

(c) Halting the loss of biodiversity contributes to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights to health and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

2. Biodiversity loss affects everyone and is a threat to human and planetary health³

(a) Nature's contributions to people affect almost every aspect of life, and changes in nature can have a profound impact on people's quality of life, health and health equity;

(b) The adverse impacts of biodiversity loss on health are unequal across populations **and for example** disproportionately ~~affect~~ **affecting** poor and vulnerable populations, **women, children and youth, elderly people and people with disabilities; [Rationale: Inclusivity]**

(c) Environmental degradation has severe adverse impacts on indigenous peoples and their interdependent relationship with local ecosystems, including with regard to their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health, foodways and healing practices and systems;

(d) Environmental degradation is a planetary and global health crisis that shapes the epidemiology of communicable and non-communicable diseases, tests community resilience and puts future generations at risk.

3. Health practitioners and health systems, including traditional medicine practice, depend on biodiversity to prevent, diagnose, improve and treat physical and mental illnesses

Science, including indigenous science, and diverse knowledge and health practices should be considered together to exchange knowledge and revise the scientific validation of different approaches to improving and promoting health and well-being. Overcoming dualism, separation and imbalances in relationships between human beings and nature is central to addressing the

² Biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2).

³ Planetary health refers to the health of the human species and the state of the natural system upon which it depends. It is based on the understanding that human health and human civilization depend on flourishing natural systems and the wise stewardship of those systems (see the *Health Promotion Glossary of Terms 2021* published by the World Health Organization).

biodiversity and health crises. **Furthermore, consideration of the unique relationships between biodiversity and the health and well-being of vulnerable groups is key to the development and delivery of culturally competent health care. [Rationale: Implementing culturally competent health care is a growing concern which is hindered by lack of attention to these relationships.]**

4. Both health and biodiversity-related interventions are needed to manage short- and long-term health risks resulting from biodiversity loss and unsustainable practices

(a) **All ecosystems, including man-made ecosystems,** ~~ecosystems, agricultural and urban ecosystems,~~ **[Rationale: To cover all ecosystems.]** as well as the use of wildlife, should be managed to promote healthy ecosystems, animal and plant populations and people;

(b) Safeguarding environmental determinants of health is a shared challenge. Integrated environmental and health policies and practices are mutually reinforcing, while siloed approaches to addressing environmental and health challenges and risks are ineffective and may have unintended adverse impacts on health and the environment.

5. The impact of climate change on nature drives and exacerbates health risks for people and is detrimental to the healthy functioning of ecosystems

Safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems is fundamental to climate resilient development and to minimizing the adverse impacts of climate change on health, as well as to preventing unintended negative impacts of narrowly focused climate mitigation and adaptation actions on health.

6. Pollution in all its forms is harmful to biodiversity and introduces health challenges to human beings and all other species

Effectively reducing pollution from all sources can improve health and well-being and prevent diseases.

A Appendix

A.1 Participants of the European expert meeting in preparation of SBSTTA-26, 08–12 April 2024, INA Vilm, Germany

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A.2 Programme of the European expert meeting in preparation of SBSTTA-26, 08–12 April 2024, INA Vilm, Germany

Background and objectives

The 26th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will take place in May 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The aim of the workshop on Vilm Island is to stimulate a focused discussion and allow for an in-depth preparation of the issues which will be dealt with at SBSTTA-26.

In preparation for SBSTTA-26, experts from European countries (EU member states and others) are invited to attend the European expert meeting convened by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, to be held from 08 – 12 April 2024.

The meeting will be characterized by informal discussions between National Focal Points and other experts, focusing on the agenda items that will be considered at SBSTTA-26. The aim is to work on the text and to have participants jointly develop text suggestions in a unique atmosphere.

The results of and inspiration from the meeting may feed into the international negotiation process. The outcomes of the discussions will be published and shared among the CBD- and SBSTTA National Focal Points and made available to SBSTTA-26.

Target group

The target group of the meeting are National Focal Points and/or secondaries, experts on thematic topics and/or procedural matters as well as selected experts from NGOs, IPLCs and Youth. Members of the CBD-Secretariat and the SBSTTA-Bureau are invited as resource persons.

Organiser

Division of International Nature Conservation, Bonn, and International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

Costs

Ca. 400 € per participant (including full board and lodging). For prices and fees please see the [price list of the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm](#).

Payment by EC card or credit card please. Bank transfer is only possible in exceptional cases.

Please note, that participants from developing countries or countries with economies in transition and members of NGOs can apply for financial assistance via the comment box in the registration form. The travel support is based on a reimbursement policy.

Travel information

By train via Stralsund – Bergen auf Rügen – Lauterbach Mole

By car via Stralsund or Glewitzer Fähre, Garz, Putbus to Lauterbach

The ferry transfer from Lauterbach to the Isle of Vilm takes 10 minutes. The ferry is run by BfN. Information on how to get to the Isle of Vilm and the current ferry schedule to Vilm from Lauterbach (Rügen) can be found [here](#).

Contact

German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)

Content

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Organizational issues

Evelyn Rohde, Jutta Stadler

International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm

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Programme

Monday, 08.04.2024

Arrival	Ferry crossings from harbour Lauterbach/Mole at 4:10, 05:10 and 06:10 pm (very last possibility at 08:00 pm)
06:30 pm	Dinner
07:30 pm	Welcome and Introduction Lennart Kümper-Schlake and Jutta Stadler (BfN)
08:30 pm	Informal get-together

Tuesday, 09.04.2024

From 07:30 Breakfast

Plenary: Introductory Presentations and Discussions

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 09:00 am | Synthetic Biology (Item 5)
Martin Batic, Ministry of the environment, climate and energy, SVN |
| 09:45 am | Risk assessment and risk management (Item 6)
Marja Ruohonen-Lehto, SYKE |
| 10:30 am | <i>Break</i> |
| 11:00 am | Detection and identification of living modified organisms (Item 7)
Charles Bourgeois, Environment Ministry, FRA |
| 11:30 am | Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (Item 8 a+b)
Janos Hennicke, BfN |
| 12:30 pm | <i>Lunch</i> |

Parallel Drafting/Discussion Groups

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 02:00 pm | Drafting/Discussion Group
Contribution to the workshop report |
| 03:30 pm | <i>Break</i> |
| 04:00 pm | Drafting/Discussion Group
Contribution to the workshop report |
| 06:00 pm | <i>Dinner</i> |
| 07:30 pm | Drafting/Discussion Group
Contribution to the workshop report, including parallel Q&A session for Item 8 (a+b) with Joseph Appiot (CBD Secretariat) at 8:00 pm |
| 09:00 pm | Informal get together/Preparation of working group results (as needed) |

Wednesday, 10.04.2024

From 07:30 Breakfast

Ferry crossings from harbour Lauterbach/Mole at 7:40, 08:10, 8:40 and 10:15 am

Parallel Drafting/Discussion Groups

09:00 pm **Drafting/Discussion Group**
Contribution to the workshop report

10:00 am *Break*

Plenary: Discussion of Working Group Results

10:30 am **Presentation and Discussion of working group results**

12:30 pm *Lunch*

Ferry crossings from harbour Lauterbach/Mole
at 1:15 and 2:15 pm

Ferry crossings from Vilm
at 12:05, 1:35, 3:05, 3:35 and 4:35 pm

01:45 pm **Guided tour through the nature reserve of the Isle of Vilm**
Jutta Stadler, BfN

03:15 pm *Break*

Plenary: Introductory Presentations and Discussion

03:30 pm **Introduction**
Barbara Engels, BfN

03:45 pm **Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Item 3)**

James Williams, JNCC & Catherine Debruyne, Service Public de Wallonie

04:30 pm **Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Item 4)**

Han de Koeijer, RBINS & Lennart Kümper-Schlake, BfN

05:15 pm **Biodiversity and health rafting (Item 9)**
Karin Zaunberger, CION, DG ENV

06:00 pm *Dinner*

Parallel Drafting/Discussion Groups

07:00 pm **Drafting/Discussion Group**
Contribution to the workshop report, including parallel Q&A session for Item 8 with Jihyun Lee (CBD Secretariat) at 8:00 pm

09:00 pm Informal get together/Preparation of working group results (as needed)

Thursday, 11.04 2024

From 07:30 Breakfast

Plenary: Status of Discussions

09:00 am **Status of Discussions**

09:30 am **Drafting/Discussion Group**
Contribution to the workshop report

10:30 am *Break*

11:00 am **Drafting/Discussion Group**
Contribution to the workshop report

12:30 pm *Lunch*

01:45 pm **Information on COP 16 in Cali**
Eduardo Mc Ausland-Bustillo

Parallel Drafting/Discussion Groups

02:00 pm **Drafting/Discussion Group**
Contribution to the workshop report and preparation of working group results

04:00 pm *Break*

Plenary: Discussion of Working Group Results

04:30 pm **Finalisation of the workshop report**
Contribution to the workshop report

06:00 pm *Dinner Reception at the invitation of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation*

Plenary

07:30 pm **Finalisation of the workshop report**

Friday, 12.04.2024

Departure

From 07:30 Breakfast

07:25 am First ferry crossing: Early **departure (from Vilm)** - packed breakfast
will be provided

08:25 am Further ferry crossings from Vilm

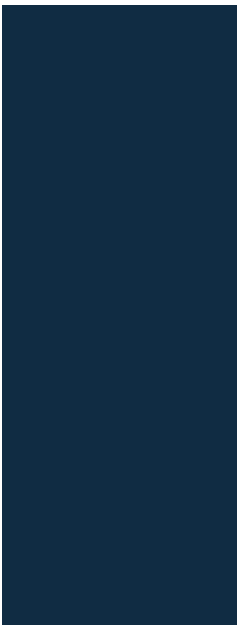
09:20 am

International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm: A platform for dialogue

The INA is a centre for capacity building and dialogue on issues with relevance to nature conservation on national and international level. The unique natural setting of the academy and the transdisciplinary, international orientation of various workshops have attracted around 50,000 people from 150 countries to Vilm since the establishment of the INA in 1990.

In cooperation with other organisations, the INA provides about 60 workshops, retreats, conferences and training events each year on national and international nature conservation topics.

More information:
www.bfn.de/en/ina



Federal Agency for
Nature Conservation