



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### Subsidiary Body on Implementation

#### Fourth meeting

Nairobi, 21–29 May 2024

Agenda item 5 (a)

**Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols: capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management**

### **Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on 29 May 2024**

#### **4/5. Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer**

##### *The Subsidiary Body on Implementation*

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation on its third meeting, including on its work on the assessment and selection of regional and/or subregional technical and scientific support centres,<sup>1</sup> and welcomes the progress made;

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

(a) To initiate, as soon as possible, the process of signing the host agreements with the entities and organizations selected to host the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(b) To prepare, with support from the Informal Advisory Group, guidance to address the specific capacity-building and development needs identified by Parties, for use by the regional and subregional support centres of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism in the development of their workplans, and to make such guidance available for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(c) To support the entities and organizations selected to host the regional and subregional support centres in the mobilization of resources for delivering support to Parties to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

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<sup>1</sup> CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2.

(d) To prepare an estimate of the required resources for various options for hosting and operationalizing the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, including scalable options, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

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

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions XIII/23 of 17 December 2016, 14/23 of 29 November 2018 and 15/8 of 19 December 2022,

*Taking note* of the progress report of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>2</sup> on the implementation of previous decisions on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management,<sup>3</sup>

*Recognizing* the importance of coordinated action on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management in supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>4</sup>

*Stressing* the need to operationalize the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism as soon as possible to support the implementation of the Framework,

*Noting with appreciation* the work undertaken by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation during the intersessional period,

*Noting* the progress made on the operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism,

*Emphasizing* that the effective implementation of the Framework and of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans relies on the facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation and access to and transfer of technology, including from developed country Parties to developing country Parties,

*Recognizing* the urgent need to address scientific, technological and innovation capability gaps identified, in particular, in developing country Parties,

## **I. Capacity-building and development**

1. *Invites* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth representatives, as well as other relevant stakeholders, initiatives, networks and partnerships, to share, through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, information about their ongoing and planned capacity-building and development activities in support of the implementation and monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the national and regional levels, with a view to fostering coordination and collaboration, and the sharing of information on opportunities to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

2. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to identify and share their biodiversity-related capacity-building and development needs, including for technology assessment, through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, and invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to offer support to address the capacity needs thus identified;

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>3</sup> CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.3.

<sup>4</sup> Decision 15/4, annex.

3. *Invites* Parties, according to their needs, circumstances and local contexts, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue to implement the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development,<sup>5</sup> including through the development of dedicated biodiversity capacity-building and development action plans and programmes, as appropriate;

4. *Welcomes* the indicators proposed by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation in document CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2 to be used by the Group in monitoring progress in the implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism [and reflected in the online reporting tool for the national reports];

5. *Decides* that the monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism will be conducted as part of the process for monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with decisions 15/6 of 19 December 2022 and 16/-- of [DATE],<sup>6</sup> making use of information contained in the progress reports prepared by the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres, national reports submitted by Parties [and reports submitted by non-State actors];

[6. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group to identify suitable options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified, in particular by developing country Parties, with a focus on the targets of the Framework, especially those related to the Protocols of the Convention, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;]

7. *Also requests* the Informal Advisory Group to prepare terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, to be undertaken in 2029 in conjunction with the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, using, among other things, the relevant indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including those for Target 20, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group, and subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To continue to support Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and other relevant stakeholders in assessing and communicating their capacity needs and priorities through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, in collaboration with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant organizations;

(b) To further identify and map, in collaboration with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the [global knowledge support service for biodiversity], initiatives and partnerships supporting capacity-building and development for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in order to

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<sup>5</sup> Decision 15/8, annex I.

<sup>6</sup> Decision on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

provide a global overview of their coverage, identify gaps, minimize the duplication of efforts and foster coordination and collaboration;

(c) To share the information collected through the process referred to in subparagraph (b) above through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) To continue to develop and implement joint capacity-building activities and programmes with the Secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>7</sup> the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa<sup>8</sup> and the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies, as appropriate, in the implementation of the respective conventions and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>9</sup> at the regional, subregional and national levels, while respecting their specific mandates;

## II. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

[9. *Takes note of*][*Welcomes*] the entities and organizations selected by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to host the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, as listed in annex I to the present decision;<sup>10</sup>]

10. *Decides* that the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism will be hosted by [the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity][an international organization with a global mandate];

[11. *Adopts*] the modalities for operationalizing the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, as contained in annex II to the present decision;]

[12. *Requests* the global coordination entity to apply the operational modalities and procedures outlined in section III of annex II to the present decision;]

13. *Decides* that, in the interim, and taking paragraph 28 of decision 15/8 into account, the Bio-Bridge Initiative will continue to provide coordination support until the global coordination entity is established and fully operationalized;

14. *Encourages* the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres to mobilize the necessary funding from various sources, including international and domestic, public and private sources, as well as the financial and in-kind contributions of the entities and organizations selected to host the centres, to support the operationalization and activities of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;

15. *Requests* the selected regional and subregional support centres to develop, with the support of the global coordination entity and the Informal Advisory Group, a biennial workplan for the period 2025–2026, in line with the mandate specified in paragraph 26 of decision 15/8 and the guidance provided in annex II to the present decision;

16. *Invites* Parties and, as appropriate, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make full use of the regional and subregional support centres to strengthen their capacities and to cooperate with one another to foster the effective use of science, various sources of knowledge, technologies and innovations, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous

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<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>10</sup> The list of the selected entities and organizations would be annexed to the decision.

peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent,<sup>11</sup> to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

17. *Requests* the regional and subregional support centres to collaborate among themselves and with Parties, relevant organizations, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity and development cooperation agencies in the delivery of support to Parties in the respective regions and subregions to consider filling gaps in geographical and thematic coverage and foster programmatic coordination, complementarity and synergy, including through the establishment of memorandums of understanding, as appropriate;

18. *Also requests* the regional and subregional support centres to submit to the global coordination entity their activity reports for the period 2025–2026 for review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties so that it may identify possible gaps and solutions for improving the delivery of technical and scientific cooperation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

19. *Invites* the global coordination entity to work with relevant international organizations, initiatives and partnerships to leverage expertise and resources in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation;

20. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and organizations in a position to do so to provide financial and in-kind contributions and other resources to support the programmes and activities supported by the regional and subregional support centres and the global coordination entity;

21. *Invites* the Kunming Biodiversity Fund [and other funds] to support the technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building support programmes and activities, [as well as the regional and subregional support centres [in developing countries],] in response to requests made by [developing country] Parties in their respective subregions;

22. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund [in accordance with its mandate], to continue to support country-driven projects that include technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

[22 alt. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and invites the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and other biodiversity-relevant funds, to support the operationalization and activities of the regional and subregional technical and scientific support centres, as appropriate, in response to requests by Parties in their respective subregions;]

[23. *Decides* to issue a second call for additional centres of excellence from institutions at the global level, with priority given to underrepresented regions in order to ensure the equitable geographical distribution of centres and a balance of focus among the centres of excellence on all objectives of the Convention and its Protocols;]

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

[(a) To initiate operations of the global coordination entity as soon as possible, in accordance with the modalities set out in annex II;]

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<sup>11</sup> All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

[(b) To organize, as appropriate, meetings of the selected regional and subregional support centres to orientate them on their mandate and operational procedures and provide them with guidance;]

(c) To identify and facilitate the mobilization of additional financial resources and technical assistance to enable the regional and subregional support centres to initiate support programmes and activities in their respective subregions as soon as possible, in response to the capacity needs and priorities identified by Parties;

[(d) To organize annual joint meetings of all the regional and subregional support centres to enhance coordination and synergy in the delivery of support to Parties and the sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned;]

[(e) To facilitate meetings of the regional and subregional support centres with key initiatives and partnerships to foster coordination and synergies;]

(f) To compile relevant requests for capacity-building and development activities in decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocols, and to communicate those to the regional and subregional support centres and the global coordination entity [and add them to the guidance contained in annex II and any subsequent guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties];

(g) To develop, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group and in line with the indicators outlined in document CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2, the criteria for evaluating the performance of the regional and subregional centres and of the global coordination entity;

(h) To prepare a progress report on the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, including operations of the regional and subregional support centres, based on their annual activity reports and those of the global coordination entity, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

## **Annex I**

### **Entities and organizations selected to host the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres**

#### **Africa**

- Central African Forest Commission
- Ecological Monitoring Centre
- Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
- Sahara and Sahel Observatory
- South African National Biodiversity Institute

#### **Americas**

- Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute
- Caribbean Community
- Central American Commission on Environment and Development

#### **Asia**

- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- International Union for Conservation of Nature – Asia Regional Office
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia
- Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences
- Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia

#### **Europe**

- European Commission Joint Research Centre
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

- International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences

### **Oceania**

- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

## **Annex II**

### **Modalities for operationalizing the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism**

1. Pursuant to paragraph 27 of decision 15/8, the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism will be operationalized in accordance with the modalities set out below and in line with its core functions, as outlined in that decision. The entity will support the identification of science, technology and innovation capability gaps, in particular for developing country Parties, in a transparent and inclusive manner, taking various regional perspectives into account. It will also facilitate, on a demand-driven basis, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer [and assessment] among Parties, in particular to developing country Parties, to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies.

#### **I. Organizational structure**

2. The global coordination entity will have a lean and agile team of professional and administrative staff, which will be responsible for the day-to-day administration and management of activities and operations, in line with the core functions outlined in paragraph 27 of decision 15/8.

3. The global coordination entity will establish partnerships with international organizations that have specialized expertise in areas related to biodiversity, such as the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, to provide, through the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, support in areas where expertise or capacity is lacking in order to respond to all needs identified by Parties.

#### **II. Governance and oversight**

4. The global coordination entity will be accountable to the Conference of the Parties and will operate under its strategic guidance and direction. The Conference of the Parties will provide guidance to the entity to support the drafting of its biennial workplan, along with a budget. The general programme priorities, the biennial workplan and the delivery approaches will be approved by the [Bureau of the] Conference of the Parties [following each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties]. The entity will report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, on the progress of its work and that of the regional and subregional support centres.

[5. The [Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation,][Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation] will provide technical advice to the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres on the effective and timely discharge of their functions. It will also assist in monitoring activities and operations and proposing measures to ensure that those activities and operations adequately respond to the needs and priorities identified by Parties.]

[6. The Executive Secretary will, if applicable, facilitate the preparation and signing of an agreement with any external organization selected to host the global coordination entity. The host agreement will include a requirement for the entity and the regional and subregional support centres to elaborate biennial results-based workplans, with appropriate performance indicators, and to produce periodic reports.]

[7. The Executive Secretary will communicate to the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres the priorities identified by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports regarding capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, as well as guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties and requests for capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation in decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and will maintain synergy and collaboration with biodiversity-related conventions and relevant organizations and initiatives.]

[8. The initial term of service of the host organization of the global coordination entity will be set until the end of 2030. The renewal of the term will be subject to satisfactory performance by the host organization and the outcomes of the independent evaluation of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism referred to in paragraph 17 below. Should the term not be renewed, the host organization will continue in its role until its replacement and a strategy for succession are put in place, in order to ensure continuity of support and the proper transfer of all related knowledge.]

[8. alt The performance of the host organization will be assessed on the basis of the outcomes of the independent evaluation of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism referred to in paragraph 17 below. Should performance be unsatisfactory for an extended period of time, the Conference of the Parties will consider ways to improve performance, expand the support base of the entity or replace the host organization.]

### **III. Operational modalities and procedures**

9. The global coordination entity will implement fit-for-purpose operational modalities, procedures, criteria and guidelines related to its functions [developed with input from the Informal Advisory Group]. Those modalities and procedures will be developed taking into account the guiding principles of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, as outlined in annex II to decision 15/8, and will be refined over time on the basis of experience and lessons learned and revised by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as appropriate. The core modalities and procedures may include the following:

(a) Modalities for promoting and maintaining coordination, collaboration and synergies among the regional and subregional support centres;

(b) Criteria for priority setting and programming, including guidelines for the delivery of support tools, [in line with Articles 16 to 19 of the Convention and with the functions of the regional and subregional centres, as outlined in decision 15/8];

(c) Modalities to ensure balance and equity among regions in the delivery of support to Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, including in terms of access to information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation;

(d) Guidelines and modalities to enable the regional and subregional support centres to align their work with the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework, and with the capacity needs and priorities identified by [Parties, in particular] developing country Parties, including guidelines to ensure a gender-responsive approach;

(e) Criteria for the identification of organizations and experts that can be mobilized to assist the regional and subregional support centres at their request;

(f) Guidelines for ensuring the active engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and other relevant stakeholders;

[(g) Modalities for ensuring the application of the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, following a human-rights based approach, including respect for diverse knowledge systems, including the knowledge and experience of practitioners and of indigenous peoples and



local communities, as well as respect for their free, prior and informed consent<sup>12</sup> when accessing their traditional knowledge;]

[(g alt) Modalities for ensuring that the traditional knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities are considered, with their free prior and informed consent<sup>13</sup>;

(h) Modalities for operationalizing[, with the assistance of the global knowledge support service for biodiversity,] a help desk to provide information, advice and technical support at the request of the regional and subregional support centres;

(i) Guidelines, templates and procedures to assist the regional and subregional support centres with reporting on their work to the Conference of the Parties through the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

[(j) Guidelines for ensuring the incorporation of continuous education and learning opportunities, including interdisciplinary education;]

[(k) Guidelines on the promotion of research cooperation to foster the effective generation and use of relevant scientific and analytical information and facilitate science-policy dialogue to support evidence-based policies, actions tools and mechanisms, based on or informed by the best available science.]

10. The global coordination entity will work with the regional and subregional support centres to connect those Parties seeking specialized technical assistance with organizations, initiatives, networks and experts that can and are best suited to provide the support required.

#### **IV. Characteristics of the host organization of the global coordination entity**

11. The host organization of the global coordination entity will possess the following characteristics:

- (a) Ability to mobilize resources from diverse sources;
- (b) Familiarity and experience with processes under the Convention and its Protocols;
- (c) Ability to leverage expertise from external contacts and networks;
- (d) Expertise on issues related to biodiversity;
- (e) Strong convening power;
- (f) Recognition as a neutral convener;
- (g) Demonstrated experience in engaging with multiple stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;
- (h) Experience in programme and project management.

#### **V. Coordination and collaboration**

12. The global coordination entity will facilitate coordination and collaboration among the regional and subregional support centres through various means, including by organizing annual meetings with the coordinators of the centres and maintaining a collaborative platform with a view to promoting synergies among them. This will also enable the centres to leverage and maximize the expertise and resources available within other support centres and foster the sharing of experiences,

<sup>12</sup> All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

<sup>13</sup> All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

best practices and lessons learned. The collaborative online platform will be accessible through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism.

13. The global coordination entity will promote, as appropriate, cooperation with relevant initiatives supporting the implementation of the Framework and with relevant technical cooperation mechanisms led by other multilateral environmental agreements and relevant organizations.

## **VI. Financial arrangements**

[14. The Conference of the Parties will consider, if appropriate and necessary, a minimum supplementary budget to cover the basic operational costs of the global coordination entity.]

15. The global coordination entity will mobilize additional resources from a wide variety of sources, including from public and private grants and innovative financing instruments, as appropriate, and channel those resources to finance the technical and scientific cooperation support programmes of the regional and subregional support centres.

## **VII. Monitoring and review**

16. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group, will periodically review the operations of the global coordination entity and of the regional and subregional support centres, including by conducting analyses of their periodic reports. A first review will be carried out for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting. The results-based workplans and reports of the entities to the Conference of the Parties will be the primary source of information for monitoring and evaluating the mechanism [and determining the renewal of the hosting arrangements or agreements of the entity].

17. The Executive Secretary will commission an independent evaluation of the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres in line with decision 15/8. The report will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, subsequently, by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting.

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