



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Twentieth meeting
Montreal, Canada, 25-30 April 2016
Agenda item 8

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

XX/10. Biodiversity and climate change

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice

1. Takes note of the following reports, and the summary information provided in the note prepared by the Executive Secretary on biodiversity and climate change:¹

(a) Synthesis report on experiences with ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;²

(b) Managing ecosystems in the context of climate change mitigation: A review of current knowledge and recommendations to support ecosystem-based mitigation actions that look beyond terrestrial forests;³

(c) Relationships between the Aichi Targets and land-based climate mitigation;⁴

(d) Guidance on enhancing positive and minimizing negative impacts on biodiversity of climate change adaptation activities;⁵

(e) Voluntary guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning;⁶

2. Takes note of the synthesis report on further advice on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to assess contributions and impacts of actions on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries on biodiversity⁷ and the note by the Executive Secretary

¹ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/10](#).

² [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/2](#).

³ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/3](#).

⁴ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/29](#).

⁵ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/1](#).

⁶ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/4](#).

⁷ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/10/Add.1](#).

entitled “Further information on the potential contribution of REDD+ to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”,⁸

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to increase and share, through relevant means and platforms, knowledge on ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, as well as contributions to, and impacts on, biodiversity of actions aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, including alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral management of forests, and to make use of this knowledge to better inform decision-making;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to elaborate special reports on (a) the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels (b) climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems which may include both adaptation and mitigation, and (c) climate change and oceans and the cryosphere;

5. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, when elaborating its special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, to include consideration of the impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and of the contribution of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and of ecosystem restoration, to efforts to keep global warming within a limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius;

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

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming paragraph 8 of decision X/33,

Recognizing that cooperation among the biodiversity, climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster reduction communities results in a greater ability to design interventions that deliver multiple benefits,

Also recognizing the potential for synergies provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,¹⁰ the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹¹

Further recognizing the need for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities including through prior informed consent, and the need to pay particular attention to their differentiated needs in order to avoid detrimental impacts on their livelihoods and cultures,

Recognizing that gender-responsive approaches and engagement of the youth are critical to ensure the success and sustainability of climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction policies, programmes and projects,

Also recognizing the need for improved scientific information concerning the climate change adaptation of the protected areas networks, their functionality and connectivity,

Noting resolution XII.11 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) at its twelfth session, entitled “Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications

⁸ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/30](#).

⁹ [General Assembly resolution 70/1, annex](#).

¹⁰ [General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II](#).

¹¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, twenty-first session, decision 1/CP.21 (see [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#)).

for the Ramsar Convention”, which highlights the role of peatlands in climate change not only in adaptation but also in mitigation,¹²

Taking note of the following reports and the summary information provided in the note by the Executive Secretary on biodiversity and climate change:¹³

(a) Synthesis report on experiences with ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;¹⁴

(b) Managing ecosystems in the context of climate change mitigation: A review of current knowledge and recommendations to support ecosystem-based mitigation actions that look beyond terrestrial forests;¹⁵

(c) Relationships between the Aichi Targets and land-based climate;¹⁶

(d) Guidance on enhancing positive and minimizing negative impacts on biodiversity of climate change adaptation activities;¹⁷

(e) Voluntary guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning;¹⁸

1. *Welcomes* the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹⁹ in particular the articles related to biodiversity;²⁰

2. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, when developing their Nationally Determined Contributions and, where appropriate, implementing associated domestic measures, to fully take into account the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, and to integrate ecosystem-based approaches therein, involving the national focal points to the Convention on Biological Diversity in this work and ensuring that information, tools and guidance developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity are used;

3. *Recognizes* that ecosystem-based approaches can be technically feasible, politically desirable, socially acceptable, economically viable and beneficial and that implementation and investment into these approaches are, in general, increasing at the international and national levels;

4. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to integrate ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation into their strategic planning across sectors;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of marine protected areas, coastal resource management and marine spatial planning in protecting and building the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems, communities and infrastructure against the impacts of climate change;

¹² See http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop12_res11_peatlands_e.pdf.

¹³ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/10](#).

¹⁴ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/2](#).

¹⁵ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/3](#).

¹⁶ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/29](#).

¹⁷ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/1](#).

¹⁸ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/4](#).

¹⁹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, twenty-first session, decision 1/CP.21 (see [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#)).

²⁰ The reference to the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems as contained in the preamble of the Paris Agreement; Article 5, which calls upon Parties to take action to conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases; Article 7, which recognizes the role of adaptation in protecting livelihoods and ecosystems; Article 8 relating to loss and damage, including resilience of livelihoods, communities and ecosystems.

6. *Takes note* of alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, and the potential role of these approaches in the conservation of biological diversity and disaster risk reduction;

7. *Also takes note* of the potential for synergies between climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the conservation of biological diversity and disaster risk reduction in all ecosystems;

8. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations:

(a) To address the loss of, and impacts on, biodiversity and, where appropriate, related social, environmental and economic impacts associated with climate change and disasters, considering the costs of inaction, and the value of investing in actions in a timely manner in order to reduce biodiversity loss and other negative impacts;

(b) To take into consideration the status of biodiversity and its vulnerability to current and future climate change impacts when planning and implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction activities, and to minimize and, where possible, avoid activities that may increase the vulnerability and reduce the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems;

(c) To consider, throughout the development and implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, potential multiple benefits and trade-offs;

(d) To develop education and awareness-raising programmes for the general public on the importance of the ecosystem functions and services provided by biodiversity for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

(e) To raise awareness, particularly among decision makers in relevant sectors and at different levels of government, about ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

(f) To recognize the role of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures as cost-effective instruments for adaptation and mitigation of climate change as well as disaster risk reduction, and that increased investment for management and conservation will have positive economic, social and environmental effects;

(g) To develop and implement ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction that are based on reliable available science and better take into account indigenous, local and traditional knowledge and practices;

(h) To promote the wide use of ecosystem-based approaches where appropriate, including in marine and coastal and urban areas and in agricultural landscapes;

(i) To systematically assemble and analyse evidence to assess the effectiveness of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, including through development of improved monitoring and evaluation methods, noting that such methods are best developed and applied early in the planning phase;

(j) To make use of existing tools and guidance on ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction and, where appropriate, to further develop and refine these tools and guidance;

(k) To ensure that ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction activities maximize co-benefits to people and biodiversity;

(l) To promote platforms for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities on ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation in a holistic and integrated manner;

(m) To investigate the need to integrate climate change adaptation best practices, strategies and methodologies into conservation planning frameworks, in consideration of species and ecosystems responses, and vulnerability to past and future anthropogenic climate change;

(n) To share and disseminate knowledge and experiences on matters referred to in the present paragraph through, inter alia, the clearing-house mechanism;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of decision IX/16, in which it encouraged Parties, other Governments, donors and relevant organizations to provide financial and technical support to capacity-building activities, including through raising public awareness, so as to enable developing countries, especially least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, to implement activities related to the impacts of climate change, and of the positive and negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on biodiversity;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with relevant organizations, voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the voluntary guidelines consider existing guidance, including that developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and include information on:

(a) Tools for assessing the effectiveness of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at various scales;

(b) The design and implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at different scales, including at the subnational and local levels;

(c) Trade-offs in the provision of various ecosystem services and limits to ecosystem-based approaches for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;

(d) Tools and indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;

(e) Options for integrating alternative policy approaches into ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction;

(f) Integrating knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities related to addressing and responding to climate change and impacts on the biodiversity;

(g) Information on methods making use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in combination with hard infrastructure;

12. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to further promote synergies with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, ensuring that this includes increasing knowledge and sharing of information, guidance and tools developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to the impacts of climate change on biological diversity and the role of ecosystems for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, with a view to identifying possible solutions;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further enhance synergies between the work of the Convention on ecosystem restoration, ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation and the work on land degradation neutrality and sustainable land management under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and ensure coherence with relevant approaches under other United Nations bodies.
