



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XXI/4
14 December 2017

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-first meeting

Montreal, Canada, 11-14 December 2017

Agenda item 6

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

XXI/4. Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Takes note* of the information contained in the note by the Executive Secretary¹ as well as information documents² on mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing sectors, information considered under its agenda item on health and biodiversity³ as well as relevant resolution on health adopted at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;⁴

2. *Notes* that mainstreaming is a critical approach to assist Parties in the implementation of the Convention, and that transformational change is required in the conservation, use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems, including changes in behaviour and decision-making at all levels, for the achievement of the 2050 Vision for biodiversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020⁵ and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

3. *Also notes* its conclusions at its twenty-first meeting regarding scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity⁶ that pathways towards a sustainable future, while plausible, require transformational change to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ and its Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, including behavioural changes, at all levels, of producers and consumers, governments and businesses, that are relevant to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing sectors;

¹ CBD/SBSTTA/21/5.

² Documents [CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/5](#) (Environmental assessment legislation - a global overview); [INF/9](#) (Energy and mining); [INF/11](#) (Infrastructure and biodiversity); [INF/12](#) (Manufacturing and processing); [INF/13](#) (Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Assessment); [INF/14](#) (Cities and Infrastructure and Biodiversity Implications); [INF/15](#) (Options on how to make best use of existing programmes of work to further enhance the implementation of the Convention in the light of mainstreaming needs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020).

³ CBD/SBSTTA/21/4 (Biodiversity and human health) considered under agenda item 5 which resulted in recommendation XXI/3..

⁴ Resolution UNEP/EA.3/L.8/Rev.1 on environment and health.

⁵ [Decision X/2](#), annex.

⁶ Subsidiary Body recommendation XXI/1.

⁷ [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#), annex.

4. *Further notes* that, while numerous policies and tools exist to address the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors, many gaps in their implementation also exist, including with respect to strategic planning and decision-making, economy and sector-wide policies, and the wider application of biodiversity-inclusive impact assessments, in particular strategic environmental assessment of policies, plans and programmes, and the use of spatial planning at the national, subnational, regional and interregional levels, as appropriate;

5. *Emphasizes* the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as women, youth, local and subnational governments, and other relevant stakeholders, and the roles and contributions of community-based monitoring and information systems in addressing mainstreaming in these sectors;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme's International Resource Panel, when undertaking its assessment on mineral resource governance, to include, as far as possible, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services and indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as mitigation measures for avoiding or minimizing negative effects, and to inform the Executive Secretary on progress, and of its conclusions when the assessment is finalized;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To prepare an additional note expanding on the above-mentioned note⁸ and information documents² and taking into account the list of elements contained in the annex to the present recommendation, and to make it available to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting;

(b) To invite Parties and other relevant stakeholders to submit case studies and practical examples of the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing, and health, and to consider these in its preparations for deliberations on this issue at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

(c) To prepare, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting, a proposal for a long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming with identification of key tasks and priorities, that includes best practices, guidelines, methodologies, experiences and tools, as well as challenges and gaps, avoiding duplication with other initiatives, based on the information contained in the additional note to be prepared by the Executive Secretary, and other relevant information sources, to ensure implementation of the Convention in a manner coherent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, ensuring broad participation in the process, along with draft terms of reference for a possible ad hoc technical expert group on the mainstreaming of biodiversity;

(d) To convene a time-limited informal advisory group, regionally balanced, that will work electronically, with advice from the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to assist the Executive Secretary in preparing for the discussions on the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Invites* the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to take the information contained in the additional note to be prepared by the Executive Secretary, as well as information submitted by Parties and other relevant stakeholders, requested under paragraph 7(b) above, into consideration during its deliberations on this issue at its second meeting, as well as when preparing proposals for the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

9. *Recommends* that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting, in preparing its recommendation on the mainstreaming of biodiversity, consider the following elements of a draft decision for the Conference of the Parties to be adopted at its fourteenth meeting:

⁸ CBD/SBSTTA/21/5.

[The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision XIII/3, in which it considered the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism as well as cross-cutting issues, and in which it decided to address, at its fourteenth meeting, the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health,

Taking note of the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being adopted during the high-level segment in Cancun, Mexico, on 3 December 2016,⁹

Recognizing that the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing and health sectors, on the one hand, depend, to varying degrees, on biodiversity and the ecosystem services that biodiversity underpins and that the consequent loss of biodiversity can impact these sectors negatively, and that, on the other hand, these sectors have potential impacts on biodiversity which may threaten the provision of ecosystem functions and services that are vital to humanity,

Bearing in mind that mainstreaming biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health, is essential for halting the loss of biodiversity and for the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020¹⁰ and the goals and objectives of different multilateral agreements and international processes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Noting the important role of relevant stakeholders such as indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, the private sector, civil society, local and subnational governments and youth, in addressing the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these and other sectors,

Taking note of the *Cities and Biodiversity Outlook*¹¹ and its key messages to mainstream biodiversity at the city level given the strong linkages to the energy, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors,

1. *Notes* that, while numerous policies and tools exist to address the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors, many implementation gaps remain, including with respect to strategic planning and decision-making, economy and sector-wide policies, and the wider application of biodiversity-inclusive impact assessments, in particular strategic environmental assessment of policies, plans and programmes, and the use of spatial planning at the national, regional and interregional levels;

2. *Also notes* that there are also valuable initiatives that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and, to some extent, promote its mainstreaming in productive processes;

3. *Welcomes* the resolution on pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session;¹²

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders:

(a) To review the trends with respect to the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health in their own countries, as well as existing laws, policies and practices, to address potential impacts on biodiversity and on the traditional livelihoods and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities from these sectors;

⁹ UNEP/CBD/COP/13/24.

¹⁰ Decision X/2, annex.

¹¹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2012). *Cities and Biodiversity Outlook*. Montreal, Canada.

¹² UNEP/EA.3/L.6/Rev.2.

(b) To foster the mainstreaming of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in these sectors by, inter alia, including the economic, social and environmental value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in decision-making on investments, including by the evaluation of alternatives to such investments, by exploring innovative ways to better integrate biodiversity in these sectors, and promoting the creation of standards and good practice guidelines related to biodiversity in these sectors, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches and the implications of cumulative environmental effects on biodiversity;

(c) To review and, as necessary, update legal frameworks, policies and practices, to foster the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as ecosystem services, in business policies and planning by, among other things, designing and implementing incentives along supply chains and strengthening small and medium enterprises in sustainable production and consumption patterns;

(d) To establish, strengthen or foster institutional, legislative and regulatory frameworks, incorporating an inclusive economic, social and environmentally sustainable approach involving relevant stakeholders, such as indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, civil society, the private sector and national and subnational governments, as appropriate;

(e) To review the mainstreaming of biological diversity in the elaboration, updating and reform of policies, plans and strategies of the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, with the full and effective participation of the relevant sectors, private, governmental, and academic institutions, indigenous and local communities, among others, and as appropriate;

(f) To promote and strengthen good practices on sustainable production and consumption implemented in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health sectors that favour conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(g) To encourage investments in biodiversity as a means of enhancing the functioning of ecosystems and the services they provide;

(h) To work with the private sector and civil society to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and mainstream biodiversity across all relevant sectors and jointly develop recommendations that will help mitigate biodiversity-related risks;

(i) To promote partnerships and strengthen institutional capacities and cooperation arrangements on mainstreaming;

(j) To strengthen mainstreaming in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in national reports;

(k) To establish knowledge platforms to bring together State agencies, the private sector and indigenous peoples and local communities to address these complex and technical issues, taking into account matters related to environmental stewardship and corporate social responsibility, and tailored to specific audiences;

(l) To generate and share through the clearing-house mechanism information on the mainstreaming of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors, including case studies, lessons learned, and good practice policies and tools, as well as information on gaps identified and additional options for more effective mainstreaming in these sectors;

5. *Agrees* to establish a long-term approach to mainstreaming biodiversity in key sectors, and an intersessional process to help guide the Secretariat in its work;

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

(a) To include information on mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into relevant sectors in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*;

(b) To identify appropriate methodologies to evaluate and strengthen the participation of relevant actors, including the private sector, in the mainstreaming of biodiversity in production and consumption patterns in the energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing sectors;

(c) To promote, at the regional and global levels, the exchange of experiences and information on possible mechanisms for the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing;

(d) To liaise with the key regional and international agencies which are relevant to these economic sectors to facilitate enhanced dialogue on biodiversity and these economic sectors and to identify and promote win-win scenarios;

(e) To facilitate capacity-building and training activities at the regional and subregional levels, and the sharing of experiences, in the utilization of the approaches and tools outlined in the updated note and related information documents referred to in recommendation XXI/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

(f) To implement a long-term strategic approach to the mainstreaming of biodiversity, including through the development of guidelines to support efforts at the national level;

(g) To report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]

Annex

INFORMATION FOR USE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN PREPARING AN ADDITIONAL NOTE ON MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY IN THE SECTORS OF ENERGY AND MINING, INFRASTRUCTURE, MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING, AND HEALTH, TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION AT ITS SECOND MEETING

1. A brief assessment of the challenges and gaps in knowledge that hinder the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors being addressed.
2. Clear indication of the linkages to other ongoing work under the Convention and in other forums in order to avoid duplication of work (such as work on renewable energy and climate change adaptation and mitigation, marine infrastructure and marine spatial planning, urban infrastructure and health).
3. Relevant inputs from the United Nations Environment Programme, including the International Resource Panel.
4. Relevant inputs from other scientific, technical and technological conventions and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.
5. How to make the best use of existing programmes of work to further enhance the implementation of the Convention in the light of mainstreaming needs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
6. An analysis of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities.

7. Relevant documents submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-first meeting.¹³

8. Additional comments provided by Parties at the twenty-first session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

¹³ [CBD/SBSTTA/21/4](#) (Biodiversity and human health); [CBD/SBSTTA/21/5](#) (Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health sectors); [CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/5](#) (Environmental assessment legislation – a global overview); [INF/9](#) (Energy and mining); [INF/11](#) (Infrastructure and biodiversity); [INF/12](#) (Manufacturing and processing); [INF/13](#) (Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Assessment); [INF/14](#) (Cities and Infrastructure and Biodiversity Implications); [INF/15](#) (Options on how to make the best use of existing programmes of work to further enhance the implementation of the Convention in the light of mainstreaming needs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020).