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Agenda item 7

**Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation
of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:
strategic review of and update to the programme of work on
protected areas**

Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on 1 August 2026

28/5. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

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

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [VII/28](#) of 20 February 2004, [VIII/24](#) of 31 March 2006, [IX/18](#) of 30 May 2008, [X/31](#) of 29 October 2010, [14/8](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/4](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024,

Acknowledging that the programme of work on protected areas¹ and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity² continue to provide a strategic framework for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³ in particular Target 3, while noting that complementary activities are needed to enhance its alignment with the Framework and address identified gaps,

Recognizing that [ecological representativeness and] ecological connectivity [are critical qualitative requirements][is a foundational condition] for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively conserved and managed, and equitably governed systems[of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] under Target 3 of the Framework, and contributes to the achievement of other relevant targets and Goal A of the Framework,

¹ Decision [VII/28](#), annex.

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

³ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

[*Noting* the ongoing preparation by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity, and its potential relevance for the further [development and] implementation of the programme of work,]

1. [*Welcomes*][*Takes note of*] the forthcoming seventh International Union for Conservation of Nature World Protected and Conserved Areas Congress, organized in Panama by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Ministry of Environment of Panama;

[2. *Adopts* the definition of “conserved areas” as “areas with other effective area-based conservation measures”,⁴ [recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable;]]

3. *Decides* to revise the name of the programme of work on protected areas to “programme of work on [protected and conserved areas” in order to reflect the broader scope of][protected areas and [areas with] other effective area-based conservation measures[, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]”], in a manner consistent with Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation, and to enhance clarity and coherence;

4. [*Endorses*] the complementary activities for further or improved guidance contained in the annex to the present decision as an update to the programme of work to support the implementation of the Framework, with particular focus on Target 3;

5. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to integrate the updated programme of work in the development and implementation of actions to meet the relevant targets of the Framework, in particular Target 3, subject to national circumstances, legislation and priorities;

[6. *Invites* [developed country Parties, Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country] Parties, other Governments, subnational and local governments [and non-sovereign contributors, such as financing mechanisms], the private sector and philanthropic organizations, to mobilize, in accordance with Article[s] 20 [and 21] of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Target 19 of the Framework, new, additional, predictable, adequate and accessible financial resources from all sources to support the implementation of the updated programme of work, in particular for developing countries, including small island developing States, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 20 of the Convention;]

[7. *Recognizes* the importance of mobilizing predictable, adequate and sustainable means of implementation, including through financial resources, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity-building, to ensure the effective implementation of the updated programme of work;]

8. *Invites* the secretariats of relevant biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and United Nations entities, including the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity, indigenous peoples and local communities, including the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of the Framework by supporting knowledge exchange, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and development, and coordinated action in the implementation of the updated programme of work;

9. *Encourages* Parties [to apply a human rights-based approach in the implementation of][to implement] the updated programme of work, consistent with section C of the Framework and Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous

⁴ Decision [14/8](#), para. 2.

peoples and local communities, including by ensuring the full, equitable, inclusive and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, [recognizing their own governance systems,] [women, girls and youth, and, as appropriate, the protection of environmental human rights defenders];

10. *Invites* Parties to take into consideration findings from relevant assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services when implementing the updated programme of work and to engage in the preparations of the methodological assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity;

[11. [*Decides* to establish a fifth programme element][*Endorses* a cross-cutting complementary activity] on ecological connectivity within the programme of work, as set out in section II of the annex to the present decision, recognizing ecological connectivity as one of several foundational conditions for achieving ecologically representative, well-connected, effectively conserved and managed, and equitably governed systems[of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], to support the development and implementation of actions to meet the relevant targets of the Framework[, in particular Targets 1 to 6, 9 and 12];]

[12. *Invites* Parties to reinforce ecological connectivity in the implementation of the updated programme of work, in line with the relevant complementary activities set out in the annex to the present decision and in support of the implementation of the Framework;]

[13. *Decides* to consider at its eighteenth meeting, as appropriate, whether additional guidance related to ecological connectivity is required under the Convention, taking into account the findings of the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other relevant scientific and technical information, as well as experiences in implementing the Framework and progress in the implementation of the programme of work;]

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding duplication with other ongoing initiatives and relevant programmes of work:

(a) To further support the Target 3 Community of Practice as a flexible, inclusive and voluntary platform, with a view to facilitating coordination, knowledge exchange and implementation support, and to invite indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, relevant organizations and initiatives to participate in the Community;

(b) To collaborate with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and other relevant partners in order to deliver targeted scientific and technical support to Parties for meeting Target 3 of the Framework, based on the best available information and the best practices identified pursuant to subparagraph (c) (vii) below;

(c) To compile, with input from Parties, other Governments, [subnational and local governments], relevant organizations and other stakeholders[, within their respective mandates, and recognizing traditional territories, where applicable], a synthesis report on experiences, lessons learned and different approaches, as well as relevant scientific information, including the findings of the assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that support the achievement of Target 3 of the Framework and the implementation of the programme of work [in a manner consistent with Target 3] [, with particular focus on the following areas:

(i) Equitable governance approaches, including the recognition and respect of the rights and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and other

groups, including through the implementation of relevant targets of the Framework;

- (ii) Ecological integrity, representativeness, effective conservation, ecosystem restoration and resilience, and ecological connectivity across terrestrial, wetland, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems, including in the context of climate change;
- (iii) The recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable [under Target 3 of the Framework], including by applying differentiated approaches for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact[, in line with the principles of no contact, intangibility and precaution], based on the outcomes of Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, as contained in decision 17/xx;
- (iv) Gender equality and gender-responsive and intergenerational approaches, and the integration of traditional knowledge, in planning, governance and [the] management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable];
- (v) The integration of [well-connected and equitably governed systems of] [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into broader landscapes and seascapes [and the ocean], across areas within and beyond national jurisdiction[, in line with [the mandates 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 the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority, regional fisheries management organizations and other] relevant international organizations,] including through biodiversity-inclusive and participatory spatial planning;
- (vi) The identification and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, and biocultural diversity, including underrepresented ecosystems and areas supporting ecological networks below ground;
- (vii) Planning, governance and [the] effective management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including the integration of climate change considerations and participatory risk assessment into species and ecosystem conservation, as well as the management of human-wildlife conflict to promote coexistence, as key conditions for achieving management effectiveness, including examples and best practices for other effective area-based conservation measures;
- (viii) Ecological networks, conservation mosaics, climate-informed spatial planning and corridor design, ecological connectivity on varying scales, transboundary conservation and its contribution to peace, and restoration, including in urban and peri-urban contexts;
- (ix) Monitoring and evaluation systems [for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including through biodiversity monitoring and the use of relevant new technologies, community-based monitoring, the strengthening of

⁵ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

national biodiversity databases, among other relevant dimensions, and, where possible, the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR) and of collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE)[, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation];

- (x) Sustainable finance approaches, innovative financial mechanisms, including from public and private sources [and environmental and social safeguards], relevant to the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework according to national priorities and in line with the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including direct and accessible financing approaches for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;
- (xi) Good practices related to access to information, participation in decision-making, access to justice and the protection of environmental human rights defenders, consistent with Target 22 of the Framework;]

(d) To report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

Update to the programme of work on [protected and conserved areas][protected areas and [areas with] other effective area-based conservation measures[, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]]

1. The table below shows the mapping of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁶ against complementary activities that could support the implementation of the programme of work.⁷ It highlights areas of strong alignment, opportunities to strengthen existing provisions and gaps where further development is needed. It is based on the findings of a strategic review of the programme, related submissions and a peer review analysis. The activities are categorized as follows: (A) activities that have existing strong alignment with Target 3 of the Framework and its interlinkages with other targets; (B) activities that address targets that are partially covered by the programme of work and where implementation can be strengthened; and (C) activities for further developing areas that the programme of work does not cover or only covers in a limited manner and where additional guidance is needed. For Targets 9, 13, 16, 17 and 18, no specific actions [relevant to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] are proposed.

2. The implementation of the updated programme of work should be conducted in line with section C of the Framework, [in particular by following a human rights-based approach,] and in accordance with national circumstances, legislation and priorities.

⁶ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁷ Decision [VII/28](#), annex.

I. Complementary activities to strengthen the programme of work on [protected and conserved areas][protected areas and [areas with] other effective area-based conservation measures[, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]] and its alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 1	1. Integrate [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into broader landscape and seascape planning to improve, in accordance with national legislation, biodiversity outcomes, ecological representativeness and connectivity, through participatory and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning processes, while recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. [1 bis Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	A
Target 2	2. Promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems [within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], and beyond, including buffer zones, ecological corridors, [soil biodiversity, in particular fungal biodiversity,⁸] and inland water ecosystems, with a view to restoring ecological integrity and ecological connectivity across landscapes and seascapes, including through the development of criteria for identifying priority restoration areas and approaches for measuring restoration success, ensuring inclusive and gender-responsive implementation of the restoration efforts[, as appropriate]. [2 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	B
Target 3	3. Incorporate the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Framework across implementation of the programme of work, updating relevant timelines and terminology, and ensuring coherence with related processes carried out under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030.⁹ 4. Strengthen guidance related to improving monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems for terrestrial, inland waters, coastal and marine ecosystems to improve the assessment of biodiversity outcomes, including in relation to ecological representativeness, connectivity, integrity, conservation effectiveness, management effectiveness, governance quality, species population trends and through the use of appropriately indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁰ as well as disaggregated indicators, including, as appropriate, by ecosystem type and level of protection. 5. Enhance guidance related to the recognition, respect, promotion and protection of indigenous and traditional territories, where	A

⁸ As described in Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and others, *State of Knowledge of Soil Biodiversity: Status, Challenges and Potentialities, Report 2020* (Rome, 2020).

⁹ Decision [16/4](#), annex.

¹⁰ Decision [15/5](#), annex I, as updated in decision 16/31, and decision 17/-- on planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	applicable, in the context of Target 3 of the Framework, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities. This encompasses differentiated approaches to ensure comprehensive protection, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, in line with the principles of no contact, intangibility and precaution, in accordance with national circumstances. 6. Increase the uptake of practical frameworks, guidance, emerging innovative tools, case studies and national experiences, lessons learned and different approaches to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, including the definition and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecological networks, corridor design for climate adaptation, large-scale ecological connectivity, including ecological processes below ground, other effective area-based conservation measures and transboundary conservation. 7. Strengthen the operationalization of equitable and effective governance in [the] planning and management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] [and a human rights-based approach] consistent with section C of the Framework, including by, as appropriate, shifting from beneficiary-based approaches to recognizing, respecting, promoting and protecting the rights and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities; promoting standards and good practices for participation, shared governance and co-management arrangements; ensuring culturally appropriate access to information; respecting and strengthening, where applicable, the implementation of free, prior and informed consent,¹¹ [consistent with national circumstances and legislation and international instruments]. 8. Strengthen inclusive monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems [for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including by identifying available tools, and facilitate the use of relevant new technologies to better assess ecological representativeness, integrity and connectivity, biodiversity outcomes, management effectiveness, governance quality, species population trends, relevant indicators of the monitoring framework, as well as [gender-]disaggregated indicators. 9. Promote the use of relevant and new approaches for ecological integrity and connectivity in the planning and management [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including through the development of ecological networks, ecological corridors, stepping stones and transboundary connectivity initiatives and corridor design for climate adaptation across wider landscapes and seascapes. 10. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of [protected and other effective area-	

¹¹ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including ecological corridors. [10 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	
Target 4	11. Strengthen capacities for planning and management through participatory risk assessment, rapid response mechanisms, where possible, and inclusive community engagements and the integration of traditional knowledge in addressing human-wildlife conflict and promoting coexistence[in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. 12. Integrate effective management of human-wildlife interactions, including human-wildlife conflict risk assessment, in order to minimize conflict to promote coexistence [in the context of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. [12 bis Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	B
Target 5	13. Address and manage the use of wild species [within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] where such use is allowed, in a manner that mitigates risks to native biodiversity and human health, consistent with site-specific conservation objectives and zoning, while preventing overexploitation and ensuring sustainable, legal and safe use at all stages, including through participatory biodiversity monitoring and the application of One Health risk assessment frameworks, as appropriate, and respecting and protecting the customary sustainable use practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.	B
Target 6	14. Strengthen the prediction, prevention, early detection, control or eradication of and the rapid response to invasive alien species[in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including through community-based monitoring, surveillance systems, and biosecurity and trade-related measures. ¹² 15. Strengthen guidelines, where applicable, for the development and implementation of national and regional plans for the management of invasive alien species and pathways of introduction into protected areas.	B
Target 7	16. Address pollution pressures[, including plastic pollution, pollution from hazardous substances, pesticide use and run-off, and noise and light pollution,] from all sources [affecting protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], cumulative impacts and land-sea interactions.	B
Target 8	17. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of [protected and other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous and traditional territories,	C

¹² Any international measures should be implemented in compliance with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization and with the International Plant Protection Convention.

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	where applicable], including ecological corridors, by scaling up related response measures that promote resilience in order to minimize the negative impacts of climate change, while ensuring ecological integrity. 18. Promote system design for climate adaptation and resilience that anticipates future range shifts, including by identifying additional climate refugia, connectivity corridors[, soil biodiversity, in particular fungal biodiversity,] and areas of future biodiversity importance.	
Target 9	[19. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 10	20. Strengthen guidance on the sustainable management of productive landscapes and biodiversity-friendly practices to support[, while being distinguished from,] [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] and improvements in biodiversity, ecological connectivity, ecosystem functions and resilience across landscapes and seascapes, in particular by promoting nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and integrated land-use planning approaches, recognizing the value of traditional knowledge and practices [and ways to distinguish such activities from those that fall under Target 3 of the Framework].	C
Target 11	21. Highlight the role of [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] in restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, [including water security, coastal protection, pollinators and food security,] as well as strengthen capacities to measure and value those functions and services.	B
Target 12	22. Integrate [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into urban and peri-urban planning, including through green and blue infrastructure, to enhance ecological connectivity, restoration, the conservation of native species and climate change adaptation, and to support physical and mental health and well-being, and equitable access to nature especially for the most vulnerable. [22 bis. Additional complementary activities on ecological connectivity.]	C
Target 13	[23. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 14	24. Integrate [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into cross-sectoral policies, legislation, planning and development processes, where relevant for their planning and effective management.	B
Target 15	25. Support and promote the implementation of legal, administrative or policy measures that encourage and enable businesses and financial institutions to assess, disclose and progressively reduce biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts [on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] including across their operations, supply and value chains and	B

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	portfolios, in order to promote sustainable value chains and reduce risks to biodiversity. 26. Facilitate clearer direction on engaging financial actors and the private sector [in support of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] on a voluntary basis to develop the field of conservation, protection and restoration as a key economic area.	
Target 16	[27. No specific actions identified.] [27 Alt. Promote synergies between the policies and actions taken to protect and conserve biodiversity, and policies and actions that enable sustainable consumption choices, including through coherent policy frameworks, education, access to reliable information and sector specific approaches, such as sustainable tourism management, contributing to the reduction of consumption footprints and waste generation.]	[n/a]
Target 17	[28. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 18	[29. No specific actions identified.]	[n/a]
Target 19	30. Promote the identification of timely, predictable and accessible financial resources from all sources, including domestic, international, public and private resources, for the effective implementation and long-term financial sustainability and institutional resilience [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] [including] in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and innovative mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, especially to support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, consistent with national priorities and with environmental and social safeguards. 31. Promote [direct and] accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, where applicable under Target 3 of the Framework, in accordance with national circumstances.	A
Target 20	32. Strengthen capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for establishing and managing [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable], including with respect to new technologies and institutional support for the conservation workforce, such as rangers and other relevant personnel.	A
Target 21	33. Strengthen the application of advances in biodiversity monitoring, data management and knowledge-sharing through targeted capacity-building and development on comprehensive biodiversity monitoring and the use of innovative technologies, including digital technologies, remote sensing and national biodiversity databases, to improve monitoring, evaluation, reporting and decision-making [regarding biodiversity outcomes and ecological connectivity and representativeness, and] relating to [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] including through nationally appropriate approaches and indicators, while strengthening capacities and infrastructure for managing and integrating biodiversity data.	B

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 22	34. Strengthen access to information and the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making [related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. 35. [Ensure] access to justice by indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth and persons with disabilities[, including through the establishment of effective and accessible grievance mechanisms,] in accordance with national legislation and other relevant international agreements, to address issues related to the establishment, management and governance of [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable]. 36. [Ensure] the full protection of environmental human rights defenders engaged in activities related to [protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable].	B
Target 23	37. Promote gender equality and integrate a gender-responsive approach, including the use of [indicators disaggregated by sex][gender-disaggregated indicators], across the programme of work[, taking gender-based violence into due consideration].	A

[II. Programme element 5: ecological connectivity]

Objective

3. To maintain, enhance and restore structural and functional ecological connectivity across terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems, including by integrating ecologically representative and well-connected systems [of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable,] into wider landscapes and seascapes.

Goal 5.1 – Integrated planning and implementation

4. Integrate ecological networks, ecological corridors, stepping stones and other measures that maintain, enhance or restore ecological connectivity into biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, climate change adaptation and relevant sectoral and infrastructure planning, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and legislation.

Goal 5.2 – Equitable governance and enabling conditions

5. Promote equitable and effective governance, the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, the recognition and respect for their rights, including over their traditional territories, and the application of free, prior and informed consent,¹³ as applicable, while strengthening financial resources, capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and access to and transfer of technology.

¹³ “Free, prior and informed consent” refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

Goal 5.3 – Cooperation and coordination

6. Strengthen, as appropriate, national, transboundary and cross-sectoral cooperation on ecological connectivity and promote synergies with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals¹⁴ and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives, in accordance with their respective mandates and while avoiding duplication.

Goal 5.4 – Monitoring and knowledge

7. Strengthen nationally appropriate approaches and indicators for monitoring structural and functional ecological connectivity, drawing on scientific information and indigenous and local knowledge, subject to free, prior and informed consent, as applicable, and taking into account relevant findings of the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services once approved by the Plenary of the Platform.]

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1651, No. 28395.