



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

#### Twenty-fifth meeting

Nairobi, 15–19 October 2023

Agenda items 4 and 7

### Findings from the assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention

#### Biodiversity and climate change

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

### 25/8. Biodiversity and climate change

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,*

Recalling decisions [VII/15](#) of 20 February 2004, [IX/16](#) A to D of 30 May 2008, [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010, [XI/19](#), [XI/20](#) and [XI/21](#) of 19 October 2012, [XII/20](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/4](#) of 13 December 2016, [14/5](#) of 29 November 2018 and [15/24](#) and [15/30](#) of 19 December 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and, in particular, the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

Recalling also decision [15/2](#) of 10 December 2022, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomed *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the related regional and thematic assessments, and decision [15/19](#) of 19 December 2022, in which the Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the workshop on biodiversity and climate change co-sponsored by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,<sup>1</sup>

1. Welcomes the *Sixth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and takes note of its findings and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention;

2. Expresses alarm and utmost concern about the accelerating negative impact of climate change on biodiversity and on the capacity of nature to provide its contributions to people and that of ecosystems to provide their functions and services, including for climate adaptation, resilience and

<sup>1</sup> Hans-Otto Pörtner and others, *IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop: Biodiversity and Climate Change: Scientific Outcome* (Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2021).

mitigation and for disaster risk reduction, and especially the impact on the most vulnerable people, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and on the most vulnerable ecosystems;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its tenth session, to undertake a second global assessment, a methodological assessment on spatial planning and connectivity and a methodological assessment on monitoring, also stressing the importance to consider those outcomes at a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and encourages Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to consider those outcomes, where appropriate, in the consideration of their work;

4. *Encourages* further collaboration between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, reaffirming the need for transparency for any activity, in conformity with the decisions of the Panel and the Platform and their respective policies and procedures;

5. *Takes note* of the synthesis of views and information on biodiversity and climate change, made available by the Secretariat to inform the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;<sup>2</sup>

6. *Stresses the importance* of national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity engaging with their United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change counterparts and of enhancing collaboration among Parties to those Conventions to raise awareness of relevant interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change so as to support relevant national planning processes, in line with national commitments, circumstances and priorities, as appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, when undertaking the comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that can support the elements of Targets 8 and 11 and other aspects of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with recommendation 25/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to include those developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity and assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, taking note of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022 on nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development;

8. *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 [VII/15](#) of 20 February 2004, [IX/16](#) A to D of 30 May 2008, [X/33](#) of 29 October 2010, [XI/19](#), [XI/20](#) and [XI/21](#) of 19 October 2012, [XII/20](#) of 17 October 2014, [XIII/4](#) of 13 December 2016, [14/5](#) of 29 November 2018 and [15/24](#) and [15/30](#) of 19 December 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>3</sup> and, in particular, the critical threat to biodiversity posed by climate change and its role in adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, while stressing the importance of considering climate change beyond Targets 8 and 11 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>4</sup> when implementing the Framework,

*Recognizing* that biodiversity loss, climate change, ocean acidification, desertification, land degradation, invasive alien species and pollution, among others, are interdependent crises that need to be addressed in a coherent and balanced manner to achieve the goals of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and of the United Nations Framework

<sup>2</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/2.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

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

Convention on Climate Change<sup>5</sup> and the Paris Agreement,<sup>6</sup> as well as target 15.3, on land degradation neutrality, of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development<sup>7</sup> and targets set out under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>8</sup> in a manner consistent with the mandates of multilateral environmental agreements and the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>9</sup>

*Stressing* that, according to *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,<sup>10</sup> fossil fuel subsidies, which are valued at 345 billion United States dollars annually, result in global costs of 5 trillion United States dollars when including the reduction of nature's contributions,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 76/300 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment,<sup>11</sup>

*Stressing* that holding the increase in global average temperature below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is a prerequisite to avoid further biodiversity loss and land and ocean degradation and to achieve the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature, and will require transformative change,

*Recalling* decision 15/13 of 19 December 2022, in which the Conference of the Parties took note of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022 on nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development,<sup>12</sup> in which the Environment Assembly recognized that nature-based solutions might contribute significantly to climate action, while recognizing the need for analysis of their effects, including in the long term, and acknowledging that they did not replace the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but could improve action for adaptation and resilience to and the mitigation of climate change and its impact,

*Emphasizing* that biodiversity plays a critical role in combating climate change and that conserving and restoring ecosystems are feasible, effective and low-cost options for effective mitigation and adaptation,

*Deeply concerned* that the rapidly increasing impacts of climate change, which exacerbates biodiversity loss and weakens the delivery of crucial ecosystem functions and services, amplify existing threats to species and can push vulnerable populations beyond their tipping points, increasing the risk of extinction of such species,

*Emphasizing* that maintaining ecological corridors and promoting landscape connectivity are crucial for enabling species to migrate and adapt to new conditions, which is particularly urgent in the context of climate change and its impact on habitats,

*Deeply concerned* that increased carbon dioxide emissions are causing the ocean to absorb more carbon dioxide, raising their temperature and leading to ocean acidification and deoxygenation, with severe consequences for marine life, in particular coral reefs,

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3156, No. 54113.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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

<sup>9</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>10</sup> Eduardo S. Brondízio and others, eds., *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (Bonn, Germany, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Secretariat, 2019).

<sup>11</sup> A/HRC/49/53.

<sup>12</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.5.

*Recognizing* the crucial role and capacity of the ocean in regulating the climate and noting the outcomes of the 2023 ocean and climate change dialogue, in which reference is made to the need for strengthened institutional linkages across United Nations mandates and processes, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to enhance global ambition and action for a climate-resilient ocean,

*Deeply concerned* that biodiversity loss undermines the capacity of ecosystems to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts,

*Recognizing* that biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to climate change are decreased by maladaptive actions, which can have adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and marginalized and vulnerable groups, and worsen overall mitigation and adaptation outcomes,

*Stressing* that the large-scale deployment of intensive bioenergy plantations, including monocultures, replacing natural forests and subsistence farmland will likely have negative impacts on biodiversity and can threaten food and water security, as well as local livelihoods, including by intensifying social conflicts,

*Stressing also* that the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is not possible without urgent and effective action on climate change in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and vice versa, in particular through the urgent and sustained reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, and that increasing warming levels pose risks of irreversible loss of biodiversity,

*Emphasizing* the need for enhanced international cooperation and synergies, including through capacity-building, scientific and technical cooperation and the sharing of technological resources, to strengthen national capabilities to anticipate and monitor the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and biodiversity-dependent communities,

*Recalling* decision 15/8 of 19 December 2022, in which the Conference of the Parties recognized that many Parties, in particular developing country Parties, might not yet have the necessary capacities to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the requests made to the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources,

1. *Welcomes* the *Sixth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,<sup>13</sup> and takes note of its findings;

2. *Also welcomes* decision 10/1 of 2 September 2023 of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Plenary, in which the Plenary decided to foster further collaboration between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

3. *Encourages* Parties, when undertaking actions to ensure the achievement of Targets 8 and 11, as well as related targets, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with national circumstances and priorities and with the obligations and principles of the multilateral environmental agreements, to implement strong social and environmental safeguards:

(a) To ensure a human rights-based approach and the full and effective participation of rights holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities;

(b) To identify and maximize potential synergies between biodiversity and climate actions, promote the positive, and avoid and, if not possible, minimize the negative impacts of climate actions on biodiversity, in particular for vulnerable species, ecosystems of high biodiversity importance or

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<sup>13</sup> Hoesung Lee and others, eds., *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report – Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (Geneva, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2023).

to which damage is irreversible, and ecosystems functions and services, in particular for indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders that directly depend on biodiversity;

(c) To integrate and promote, where appropriate, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction into their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans and relevant national targets, as appropriate, and to promote synergies with other national planning processes established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, in coordination with the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate, including through national coordination, planning, review and reporting processes, in a complementary and synergistic manner;

(d) To use the tools and information available under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction,<sup>14</sup> as appropriate, as well as relevant tools and guidance developed under other biodiversity-related conventions, such as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat;<sup>15</sup>

(e) To take into account the diversity of values and knowledge systems, as well as the intersectional approaches to ensure contextually relevant actions for enhancing human rights, empowerment, agency and intergenerational equity;

4. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments at all levels, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, to take into account the existing and projected impacts of climate change and climate-related policies on biodiversity when implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

5. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments at all levels, financial institutions, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, consistent with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to provide new and additional resources to collectively scale up investments for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and sustainable infrastructure that also contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction, in compliance with Article 20 of the Convention and the Framework, and optimize co-benefits and synergies of finance from all sources to address jointly climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction, and for halting and reversing biodiversity loss. in line with Target 19 (e) of the Framework, while avoiding double counting and enhancing transparency;

6. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to assess, manage and avoid the potential adverse impacts on biodiversity that could arise from the economic and sectoral transitions, in land use, energy, infrastructure and industrial systems, undertaken as a response to climate change;

7. *Welcomes* the intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in compliance with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5;

8. *Invites* the respective bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its Parties, to consider using the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction for Parties to integrate biodiversity safeguards in mitigation and adaptation measures;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, including when supporting activities undertaken under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to promote synergies and closer

<sup>14</sup> Decision 14/5, annex; see also [CBD Technical Series No. 93](#) for complementary information.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

cooperation with the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, the Rio conventions, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>16</sup> the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the New Urban Agenda<sup>17</sup> and other relevant organizations and processes, and integrated approaches to addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ocean degradation;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, avoiding the duplication of efforts and enhancing synergies, in collaboration with relevant organizations and processes, in particular the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, as well as such initiatives as the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Accelerator (NBSAP) Partnership, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership, the National Adaptation Plan Global Network, the Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for an Accelerated Climate Transformation (ENACT) Partnership, the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation network and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, and their respective members, to facilitate capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, and to increase awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, including through the implementation of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, as a complement to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development;<sup>18</sup>

11. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the recently adopted 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, to explore opportunities for addressing the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus in an integrated manner in order to achieve the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding the duplication of efforts, to open a call for and compile submissions by Parties, observers and other relevant organizations of existing information on carbon and biodiversity credits and offsets and other market-based approaches and their effects on biodiversity, and to make the compilation available to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and avoiding the duplication of efforts, to develop a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction providing guidance for the design and effective implementation of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to bring the present decision to the attention of the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in order to discuss it in the context of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and to assess options for better integration, including by considering establishing a joint work programme to operationalize such integration at future meetings of the Conferences of the Parties.]

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<sup>16</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>17</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>18</sup> Decision 15/8, annex I.