



**WILD
HERITAGE**



**CLIMATE
ACTION BEACON**

COP 16 – SBI 5 Policy Brief: Protecting and Restoring Ecosystem Integrity to Maximize Climate - Biodiversity Synergies

- During 2024-2025, there is a crucial window of opportunity to mobilize large-scale finance for synergistic initiatives that protect and restore ecosystems, mitigate climate change and provide alternative economic development pathways for Indigenous peoples and local communities across large landscapes such as Amazonia and the Congo Basin.
- It is critical to seize this opportunity given that the status quo approach to fossil fuel development, mining and commercial logging is moving ahead rapidly, with little regard for the consequences for biodiversity, climate, people or rights. Time is running out: we are fast approaching ecosystem tipping points, including in Amazonia, which would have catastrophic local, regional and global consequences.
- Avoiding catastrophic consequences and meeting climate and biodiversity commitments and targets can only be achieved if we protect and restore the ecological integrity of ecosystems and in particular, Earth's forests and other carbon dense natural ecosystems. We can only achieve high levels of ecological integrity if we protect and restore all the components of an ecosystem's natural biodiversity. It is important to understand that:
 - Ecosystems in good ecological condition provide both more ecosystem services and higher quality / lower risk ecosystem services, including carbon storage and retention, than ecosystems of the same type that are degraded by industrial activities.
 - Primary ecosystems, which have the highest level of ecosystem integrity (i.e. they have all of their biodiversity, their natural vegetation structure and species composition), maximize ecosystem services: they provide the most benefits, and the highest quality benefits. Ecosystems of the same type that are damaged by industrial activity provide fewer benefits, are much more vulnerable (to fire, drought, insect outbreaks etc.) and are at much greater risk of loss and degradation.

For example, primary forests, protect more biodiversity and are home to more rare and endemic species than degraded forests of the same type. Primary forests also protect more carbon per hectare and at lower risk of loss because primary forests are less vulnerable and much more resistant and resilient to disturbance compared to young regrowth forests, degraded forests, or plantations. Primary forests also regulate water flows most effectively, while providing the highest quality freshwater.

- Protecting and restoring ecosystem integrity is the fastest and most cost-effective way to deliver win-win-win outcomes for climate, biodiversity, and Indigenous and local communities.
- Both Indigenous peoples and local communities and formally recognized Protected Areas have proven to be highly effective and provide complementary approaches for protecting and restoring ecosystem integrity. Biodiversity funding, climate finance, and development assistance for IPLCs and Protected Areas should be scaled up, including accelerating direct finance to IPLCs.
- Achieving win-win-win outcomes for people, biodiversity and climate mitigation requires strong policy signals from CBD COP 16 (and G20 and UNFCCC COPs 29 and 30) to better reflect the critical importance of retaining and restoring ecosystem integrity. In particular, the critical importance of retaining primary forests and other high integrity primary ecosystems should be recognized as a key operating principle for responding to the biodiversity and climate emergencies.

Specifically:

- Target 8 operational text should reflect the fundamental importance of ecosystem integrity to maximize climate-biodiversity synergies. Target 8 should also include a global focus, not just a national focus limited to NDC – NBSAP coordination. A purely national focus unnecessarily constrains the scope of work and potential funding on climate-biodiversity synergies.
- Consistent with decision 14/30, COP 16 should also explicitly recognize the crucial importance of protecting the planet's remaining primary ecosystems, including primary forests, while recognizing the importance of protected areas and of Indigenous lands and their demarcation in protecting and restoring ecosystem integrity. Primary forests are the most biodiverse, carbon dense ecosystems on the planet and as such deserve and require special mention.
- Greater collaboration and synergies between the Rio Conventions should be encouraged as neither the climate nor biodiversity crisis can be solved in isolation and protecting and restoring the ecological integrity of natural ecosystems is a common responsibility. Avenues

for joint work programs need to be explored to ensure the value of ecosystem carbon reservoirs and the functional role of biodiversity in helping to retain their huge carbon stores over the long term is understood.

- Funding mechanisms also need far greater coherence to eliminate subsidies for activities that harm biodiversity and ecological integrity (target 18), ensure there are no perverse outcomes for biodiversity from climate action (Target 8) and ensure the scale of funding required from developed countries (\$20bn) to achieve the goals and targets of the K-M GBF (Target 19).
- We support retaining paragraphs 29 and 30 of Item 10 Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, which call for additional review and refinement of existing indicators, as well as consideration of additional headline, component and complementary indicators.
- Text suggestions for items 13 and 25 are included below.

Annex 1: Item 25 COP 16 Text Suggestions

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,¹

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 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;

¹ 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).

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;²

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;

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](#) and [14/30](#) of 29 November 2018 and [15/4](#), [15/24](#) and [15/30](#) of 19 December 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity³ 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 Framework⁴ when implementing the Framework,

Recognizing that biodiversity loss, loss of ecosystem integrity, climate change, ocean acidification, desertification, land degradation, invasive alien species and pollution, among others, are interdependent crises that need to be addressed in a synergistic, coherent and balanced manner to achieve the goals of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵ and the Paris Agreement,⁶ as well as target 15.3, on land degradation neutrality, of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development⁷ and targets set out under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,⁸ in a manner consistent with the mandates of

² CBD/SBSTTA/25/INF/2.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁴ Decision 15/4, annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3156, No. 54113.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

multilateral environmental agreements and the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁹

Stressing that, according to *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,¹⁰ 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 including increasing risks to the capacity of ecosystems to retain and sequester carbon and avoid ecosystem tipping points,

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,¹¹

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,¹² 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 and ecosystem integrity play a critical role in combating climate change, that protecting high integrity ecosystems such as primary forests deliver high synergies with greenhouse gas abatement and that the conservation and ecological restoration of ecosystems are feasible, effective and low-cost options for effective mitigation and adaptation,

Recalling the findings in the *Sixth Assessment Report* (Chapter III, Mitigation) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which states that “avoiding the conversion of carbon-rich primary peatlands, coastal wetlands and forests is particularly important as most carbon lost from those ecosystems are irrecoverable through restoration by the 2050 timeline of achieving net zero carbon emissions” (7.4.2), and that “the protection of high biodiversity ecosystems such as primary forests (SDG15) deliver high synergies with GHG abatement.” (7.5.3).

Further recalling decisions 14/5, 14/30 and Goal A and Targets 1, 2 and 12, which note the importance of protecting and restoring ecosystem integrity.

⁹ *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.

¹⁰ 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).

¹¹ A/HRC/49/53.

¹² UNEP/EA.5/Res.5.

Deeply concerned that the rapidly increasing impacts of climate change, which exacerbates biodiversity loss and weakens the delivery of crucial ecosystem functions and services, including carbon sequestration and retention amplify existing threats to species and can push ecosystems and vulnerable species populations beyond their tipping points, increasing the risk of extinction and of releasing more carbon to the atmosphere,

Emphasizing that maintaining ecological corridors and promoting landscape connectivity are crucial for retaining ecosystem integrity and enabling species to migrate and for ecosystems to 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,

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 and loss of ecosystem integrity 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 integrity and 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 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 will result in 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,¹³ 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, ecosystem integrity and climate actions, including prioritizing the protection and restoration of high ecosystem integrity, carbon dense ecosystems, promote the positive, and avoid and, if not possible, minimize the negative impacts of climate actions on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, in particular for vulnerable species, ecosystems of high biodiversity importance or to which damage is irreversible by 2050, 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,¹⁴ 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;¹⁵

¹³ 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).

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

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

(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 protection and restoration of high ecosystem integrity, carbon dense ecosystems, 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 cooperation with the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, the Rio conventions, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹⁶ the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the New Urban Agenda¹⁷ and other relevant organizations and processes, and integrated approaches to addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ocean degradation;

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

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 adverse impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity and the impacts of biodiversity loss and loss of ecosystem integrity on climate change, 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;¹⁸

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

¹⁸ Decision 15/8, annex I.

considering establishing an Ad Hoc Technical Experts Group or a joint work programme to operationalize such integration at future meetings of the Conferences of the Parties.]

Annex 2:
CBD COP 16 Provisional Item 13 / SBI Rec. 4/9 Text suggestions

4/9. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation,

Reaffirming the importance of cooperation among all relevant conventions, organizations and initiatives for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in a manner respectful of their respective mandates,

Stressing the importance of close cooperation among the three Rio conventions,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat and invites the Chair of the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to invite the secretariats and relevant bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to continue to foster cooperation and enhance synergies, in line with their respective mandates;

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

**[The Conference of the Parties,*

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹⁹

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 78/155 of 19 December 2023,

Recalling further decisions XIII/24 of 17 December 2016, 14/5, and 14/30 of 29 December 2018 and 15/4 and 15/13 of 19 December 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Further recalling Goal A and Targets 1, 2 and 12, which emphasize the importance of protecting and restoring ecosystem integrity.

Welcoming the outcomes of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the inclusion of an item on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements in its agenda,

* The present draft decision was prepared by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation with the support of the Secretariat following the first reading of agenda item 7. The text was not reviewed by the Subsidiary Body at its fourth meeting.

¹⁹ *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.

Noting the work of the United Nations Environment Management Group in promoting a United Nations system-wide contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²⁰

Noting also the work undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme to support the implementation of the Framework at all levels, including in the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the One Health approach,

Noting further the relevance of the Man and the Biosphere Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the biosphere reserves nominated under that programme to the implementation of the Framework,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 77/334 of 1 September 2023 and welcoming the development of the United Nations system-wide water and sanitation strategy by the Secretary-General to enhance system-wide coordination and policy coherence between water action and sectors that are dependent on water resources and water-related ecosystems,

Stressing the need for further collaboration between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Science-Policy Interface of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,²¹

Welcoming the role of the joint statement on climate, nature and people,²² issued at the margins of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,²³ in promoting accelerated and integrated action for climate, nature and sustainable development, including for high-integrity ecosystems which billions of people depend on,

Recognizing the contribution of regional strategies, frameworks, plans and initiatives, such as the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework,²⁴ to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Reaffirming the importance of continued efforts to enhance cooperation and maximize synergies among all relevant conventions, organizations and initiatives, in a manner respectful of their respective mandates and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, to contribute to and monitor progress of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with its 2030 mission and the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁵ and its Protocols, and to identify common challenges and solutions for achieving global biodiversity and ecosystem integrity objectives,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by the Government of Switzerland and the leadership provided by the United Nations Environment Programme in the Bern process, the organization of the Bern III Conference on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and follow-up activities,

²⁰ Decision 15/4, annex.

²¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

²² The joint statement was an output of the nationally determined contributions – national biodiversity strategies and action plans ministerial, held on 9 December 2023 (see www.cop28.com/en/joint-statement-on-climate-nature).

²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

²⁴ Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians at its seventh meeting, held in October 2023, in its decision COP7/1.

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Noting with appreciation also the work of the Co-Chairs of the Bern III Conference and the active participation of representatives of Parties to the conventions, secretariats of various multilateral environmental agreements, relevant organizations and stakeholders that participated in the Conference,

1. *Welcomes* the decisions of the governing bodies of other conventions and organizations in which they recognized, welcomed or endorsed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework²⁶ and the coordination of their strategies and action plans with the Framework, in line with paragraph 4 of decision 15/13 of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of United Nations entities, other intergovernmental agreements and processes, international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to the development of tools and guidance on biodiversity and the Framework;

3. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Bern III Conference as an important contribution to effective implementation of the Framework;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions for enhancing cooperation among the conventions, including with regard to global objectives related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, and invites them to take actions in support of the implementation of the Framework;

5. *Invites* Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that are also Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to consider, as appropriate, opportunities to foster stronger synergies and coordination in the planning and implementation of national climate, biodiversity and land restoration plans and strategies and to strengthen, as appropriate, coherence among revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the next round of nationally determined contributions and the updated national adaptation plans;

6. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Rio conventions and other relevant partners, to continue to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through the road map for Target 2,²⁷ in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth groups, people living with disabilities, other marginalized and disadvantaged groups and relevant stakeholders;

7. *Invites* the Parties to the Convention that are members of the United Nations Forum on Forests to consider, as appropriate, the alignment of forest-related commitments and actions in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and voluntary national contributions with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;

8. *Invites* Parties to consider, as appropriate, the alignment of water-related voluntary commitments and actions set out in the Water Action Agenda, launched at the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, with their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

9. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to support cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions and of relevant multilateral environmental

²⁶ CBD/SBI/4/10, paras. 7–27.

²⁷ See www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/areas-of-work/restoration-monitoring/target-2-roadmap/en/.

agreements, contributing to the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, the Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals;

10. *Invites* Parties to consider the report of the Bern III Conference, share its conclusions at meetings and processes under relevant conventions and organizations, as appropriate and without prejudice to their respective mandates, and consider action to implement the outcomes set out in the report, in line with national priorities and circumstances;

11. *Encourages* Parties, in line with national priorities and circumstances, to raise awareness of their ongoing process for the update or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans across various national policy and planning processes, sustainable development strategies, including for poverty eradication, and policy instruments relevant to the implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements;

12. *Also encourages* Parties to enhance knowledge and understanding of the potential co-benefits of synergies, cooperation or collaboration when implementing the Convention and its Protocols, including by increasing efforts to use, collect and share good practices, and foster information exchange, as appropriate;

13. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to continue to reinforce actions to enhance synergies at the subnational, national, subregional and regional levels in the implementation of the Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral agreements and initiatives, in line with options for action at the national level provided in decision XIII/24, including for facilitating the alignment of financial flows towards their common objectives, in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities;

14. *Calls upon* Parties, in line with national priorities and circumstances, to establish effective national, regional and subregional coordination processes, mechanisms or approaches to support close collaboration among the national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the national focal points of other conventions and international processes relevant to the delivery of the Framework, including through the establishment of structured communication channels and the convening of relevant focal points, to support coherence in their respective policies, strategies and action plans, mainstream biodiversity across all relevant sectors and policies and improve the implementation of the Framework at the national level, without prejudice to the specific objectives of the various conventions and observing their independent and autonomous nature;

15. *Encourages* Parties to strengthen cooperation through a whole-of-government approach, including by promoting the active engagement and strengthening the capacity of subnational and local governments to contribute to the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention, other multilateral environmental agreements and the Framework at the national level;

16. *Calls upon* the secretariats of the chemicals and waste conventions²⁸ and other relevant conventions and organizations to develop, in collaboration with the three Rio conventions, as appropriate, a pathway for Target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on the reduction of pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity, in a manner coherent with the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders;

²⁸ Including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

17. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to further cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop tools and guidance on a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the Framework and requests the Executive Secretary to support the development of those tools, subject to the availability of resources;

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

(a) To continue to collaborate with the secretariats of other conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme in monitoring and following up on the implementation of the outcomes of the Bern III Conference and supporting the coordination of dedicated groups for the implementation of specific targets of the Framework, as appropriate;

(b) To strengthen collaboration with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, through such modalities as the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, to identify opportunities for the facilitation of national efforts to implement those conventions, facilitate the exchange of relevant information, continue to stress the importance of interlinkages between climate and biodiversity issues and explore the potential for a joint work programme among the Rio conventions;

(c) To further support cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions, chemicals and waste conventions, multilateral environmental agreements, other conventions and relevant science-policy bodies, including through joint activities and while respecting their specific mandates;

(d) To strengthen collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests and other relevant organizations, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization, and within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to support the coherent implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(e) To collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and UN-Water, in the context of the United Nations Water Conference to be held in 2026, to support the coherent implementation of relevant global water action, as well as voluntary commitments and the Framework;

(f) To facilitate the exchange of case studies and experiences among Parties in promoting synergies, cooperation and collaboration, as appropriate, in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements, including by convening regional dialogues or workshops;

(g) To further support the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in the implementation of and processes related to the Framework, including in technical expert groups established under the Convention and its Protocols, activities related to cooperation and synergies among conventions and exchanges with Parties and relevant stakeholders;

(h) To report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at a meeting to be held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on cooperation activities in support of implementation of the Convention and the Framework.]