



CO-OP4CBD Technical Brief and Recommendations (DRAFT)

STSTTA25 Biodiversity and Climate Change

Authors (in alphabetical order): Cathy Yitong Li, Craig Ritchie, Ignacio Palomo, Javier Velazquez, Nathalie Morata, with the support of other experts of the CO-OP4CBD project.

Views and opinions expressed are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. For questions, please contact robin.goffaux@fondationbiodiversite.fr and cathyleeyt@gmail.com.

Preamble

1. 2023 marks the halfway point in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which include goals on climate change, life on land, life below water, among others which are mutually reinforcing.
2. To be concluded at UNFCCC COP28, the first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement is a critical opportunity to reflect on the challenges as well as inform the upcoming second round of the Nationally Determined Contributions. We encourage the COP28 decisions to highlight the synergies between nature, biodiversity and climate, especially in negotiations on the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake.
3. Recently, the [Stockholm Resilience Centre](#) shared that six of the nine planetary boundaries have already been crossed. Systemic and transformative change is urgently needed to tackle climate change and conserve biodiversity, based on leading scientific research, including the [IPBES Global Assessment](#). The IPCC also stated that “limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society”.
4. Regretting the limited progress on biodiversity and climate change at CBD COP15, we call for ambitious progress on this agenda item at SBSTTA 25. We strongly encourage the EU negotiators to support the below demands to be integrated into the decision text:

Science (related to para. 41.4.1 of CBD/SBSTTA/25/12)

5. Recognises the credibility of IPBES and IPCC findings, and that more synergies between the two bodies would help build further synergies on biodiversity and climate action, through joint research and regular dialogues. For example, on the topic of species extinction in ocean and freshwater environments.
6. Urges all negotiated decisions to be based on the best available scientific findings, including the IPCC and IPBES, as well as scientific publications of UNFCCC and CBD. For example, CBD/WG2020/4/INF/2/Rev.1.
7. Welcomes the findings of both IPCC and IPBES, including the [IPBES Methodological Assessment on Values](#), which touched base on both biodiversity conservation and climate change and found that *“Economic and political decisions have predominantly prioritised certain values of nature, particularly market-based instrumental values of nature, such as those associated with food produced intensively. Although often privileged in policymaking, these market values do not adequately reflect how changes in nature affect people’s quality of life. Furthermore, policymaking overlooks the many non-market values associated with nature’s contributions to people, such as climate regulation and cultural identity.”*.
8. Encourages IPBES to develop future biodiversity scenarios and a comparative framework of the species distribution models, in line with the findings of the [IPCC](#) in relation to climate scenarios and other [research](#).

Credits (para. 41.4.4)

9. Encourages Parties to take lessons learned from the development of carbon markets in the design of biodiversity and nature credit systems, including ensuring all actions will be based on the best available scientific research. For example, on the additionality of credits, in light of the investigation from [The Guardian](#).

Rights and equity (para. 41.4.4)

10. Ensures a just and rights-based approach in all policies and implementation, including respecting human rights, Indigenous rights in accordance with ILO Convention No. 169, intergenerational equity and gender equality.
11. Recognises that landscapes are inhabited by people and should be considered as coupled human-natural systems with both ecological and cultural components in relation to ecosystem-based approaches, in line with para. 15 of CBD/SBSTTA/25/12, to achieve CBD’s 2050 vision to ‘live in harmony with nature’.

12. Notes that the [IPBES Global Assessment Report](#) has stated that areas of the world projected to experience significant adverse effects from changes in climate, biodiversity, and ecosystem functions are also home to large concentrations of Indigenous Peoples and many of the economically least developed communities.

Targets and indicators (para. 41.4.4b)

13. Recommends the use of quantitative targets and indicators to monitor the implementation of goals associated with the Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with paras. 9, 10, and 29 of CBD/SBSTTA/25/12. For example, the draft [European Union Restoration Law](#) has integrated quantitative targets: *“Member States shall ensure that there is an increase in the total national area of urban green space in cities and in towns and suburbs of at least 3% of the total area of cities and of towns and suburbs in 2021, by 2040, and at least 5% by 2050.”*.

Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) (para. 41.4.5)

14. Recognises the findings of the IPCC that 22% of global emissions in 2019 were from AFOLU, and to limit global warming to 1.5°C, the emissions of AFOLU must decrease by 136%. Noting that agricultural practices and climate change may decrease the ability of trees and other natural carbon sinks to store carbon.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) (para. 41.4.5)

15. Recognises that the distribution of certain species may be increased or modified due to climate change, despite these species are not considered as IAS and are referred to as neonative or expatriated species. These species may enter into competition with endemic species and result in consequences on ecosystems' structure and function. For example, [research](#) has shown that in Arctic marine systems, with the decrease of ice and increase in seawater temperature, the Arctic species of copepods have been replaced by Atlantic species that are smaller and less rich in lipids, impacting the population of fish, bird and mammal.

Nature-based Solutions (para. 41.4.7)

16. Recommends Parties to make an explicit reference to the [IUCN Global Standard for Nature based Solutions](#) in the decision text, given the urgency and importance of nature-based solutions and their social and ecological safeguards, including in

verification processes, as advocated by civil society stakeholders including the [NbS Youth Coalition](#).

17. Notes that nature-based solutions have been recognised by multiple key multilateral bodies, including through decisions of the CBD COP15, UNEA5, UNFCCC COP27, and IUCN.
18. Recognises that various civil society stakeholders (including the [Global Youth Biodiversity Framework](#) and [Global Forest Coalition](#)) and [researchers](#) have raised concerns about terms including Nature Positive, based on the lack of widely adopted definitions and safeguards to eliminate greenwashing.

Rio Conventions (para. 41.4.8)

19. Encourages stronger collaborations between the Rio Conventions, given climate change, biodiversity loss, and desertification are transnational phenomena and that intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation are essential.
20. Proposes the establishment of a Joint Work Programme on Nature between the CBD and UNFCCC, as proposed by [researchers](#) and to ensure continuous concrete progress, including building further synergies between National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Adaptation Plans.
21. Establishes further synergies between the technical processes of the CBD and UNFCCC. For example, through regular exchanges of views between the Financial Mechanisms of both conventions, including but not limited to exploring further synergies in their guidance to the operating entities; sharing lessons learned from the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism in establishing the regional technology centres of the CBD; utilising mandated events under both conventions, like the annual UNFCCC Oceans Dialogue.

Technology

22. Urges Parties to avoid relying on the deployment of unproven, untested and unregulated technologies, especially geoengineering, including bioenergy with carbon capture and storage as well as other carbon dioxide removal methods, in line with paras. 8 and 38 of CBD/SBSTTA/25/12 as well as the [IUCN COP28 Position Paper](#), in order to avoid harming biodiversity or climate.