



Agenda Item 6B: Strategic review of and update to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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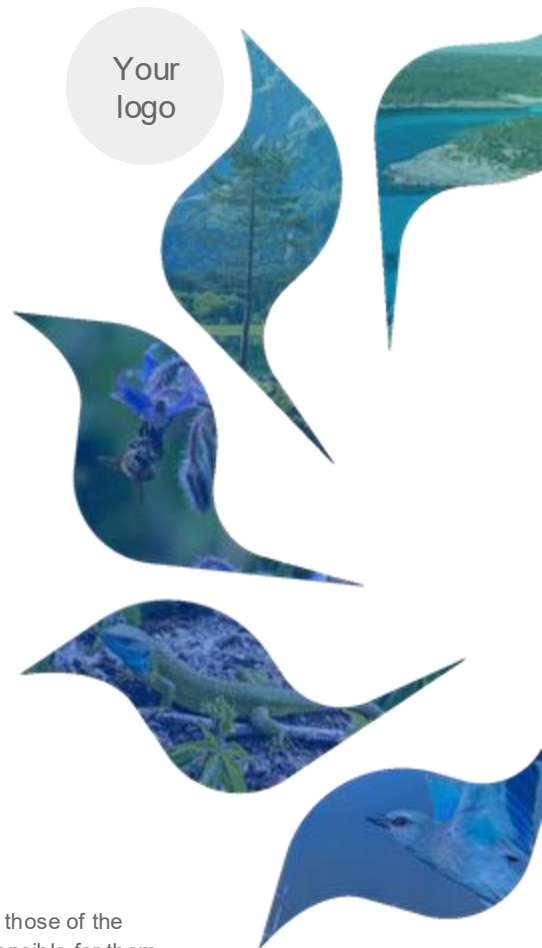
Ministry of Environment, Belgium

SBSTTA-27 Training session / 05/09 / Online



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Background

- First Programme of Work adopted in 1994 (decision IV/7)
 - In 2000, COP requested an expansion (Decision V/4)
- Expanded Programme of Work adopted in 2002 (decision VI/22)
 - AHTEG established to assist SBSTTA to develop further recommendations for forest Biodiversity



COP 15 & 16

Decision 15/4 & 16/12

15/4

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to facilitate its implementation, and, on the basis of this analysis, to prepare draft updates of these programmes of work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as appropriate, at meetings during the period between the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and to report on this work to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

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(c) Recalling paragraph 9 of decision [15/4](#) of 19 December 2022, to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Framework to facilitate its implementation, to prepare draft updates of the programmes of work on the basis of the analysis, taking into account documents prepared for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice related to that work, and to submit them for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at a future meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Actions since COP 16



- Notification 2025-031: Submission of views and information relating to the strategic review and analysis of the current expanded forest biodiversity programme of work in the context
 - 23 submissions (15 from Parties)
- Notification 2025-079: Invitation to participate in the peer review of the draft document containing the strategic review and analysis, and a draft update of the current expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
 - 26 submissions (18 from Parties)
- Mapping of activities of the programme of work against the targets of the Framework, resulting in a reorganized display of the programme of work (Not available yet)



- I. Introduction
- II. Background information
- III. Summary of the strategic review and analysis of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity
- IV. Overview of forest biodiversity-related initiatives and partnerships supported by the secretariat
- V. Potential approaches to updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity
- VI. Recommendation

III. Summary of the strategic review and analysis of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity

(b) The elements identified in the submissions that need to be incorporated or strengthened in the expanded programme of work could be grouped around several key areas:

- (i) The conservation of primary and high-integrity forests and the restoration of connectivity through integrated landscape planning;
- (ii) The reduction of the impact of climate change on forest biodiversity, including through integrated wildfire management approaches;
- (iii) The contribution of forests to people, innovative business models and sustainable value chains for forest products;
- (iv) Capacity-building and development;
- (v) Equitable forest governance that recognizes and respects the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and promotes gender-responsive approaches in forest conservation and sustainable use;

16. The following main gaps were identified in the expanded programme of work:

- (a) Terminology, concepts and approaches that emerged or were developed after 2002 (e.g. ecological integrity and connectivity, other effective area-based conservation measures, nature-based solutions, human-wildlife conflict and One Health approach);
- (b) Guidance on urban forests, which is essential to the implementation of Target 12 of the Framework, and digital sequence information on genetic resources, as relevant to Target 13;
- (c) Elements related to the long-term productivity and resilience of forest ecosystems, agroecological approaches and forest contribution to food security;
- (d) The level of ambition for the restoration and conservation of forests, as defined in Targets 2 and 3 of the Framework;
- (e) The consideration of approaches to forest management inclusive of gender, youth and persons with disabilities.

V. Potential approaches to updates

28. The following options are available for updating the programme of work:

(a) Revising the programme of work and adding complementary activities, as appropriate. Such an approach would imply re-negotiating the programme of work and thus might not be the most effective way forward at a time when implementation should be prioritized. Furthermore, a revision based on the targets of Framework, which are currently valid until 2030 only, might require realignment with future strategic directions decided by the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Reorganizing the current programme of work against each target of the Framework and adopting new complementary activities. Such an approach would be focused on a limited number of complementary activities that could facilitate a better alignment of resources and of technical and methodological support with the targets of the Framework. The draft decision proposed below has been prepared using the latter approach.

VI. Recommendation

7. *Requests* that, with regard to the issues listed in the annex to the present decision, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁴ in collaboration with relevant international organizations and subject to the availability of resources:

(a) Enhance cooperation with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members to compile and make available relevant recent guidance and tools related to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the complimentary activities listed in the annex to the present decision, giving particular attention to sustainable forest management, as related to the activities linked to Target 10 of the Framework outlined in the annex to the present decision;

(b) Liaise with the executive secretaries of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa⁵ and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁶ to identify joint activities to support the conservation and restoration of forests in view of their role in achieving land degradation neutrality and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

(c) Compile and make available relevant guidance and experiences from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations and stakeholders on the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the complimentary activities listed in the annex;

(d) Integrate the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and the complimentary activities listed in the annex, as appropriate, into relevant capacity-building and development and scientific and technical cooperation efforts undertaken under the Convention, including through the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative and the Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme;

(e) Report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the aforementioned cooperation activities in support of the implementation of the Convention and the Framework.

4 Major Components:

- How should the PoW be updated (para 1-3)
 - 2. *Endorses* the complementary activities for further or improved guidance contained in the annex to the present decision, as an update to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, noting that the development of further guidance should take into account the work undertaken under the relevant targets of the Framework and in collaboration with the relevant intergovernmental organizations, respecting their mandates and avoiding duplication;
- How to support the implementation of the Programme of work (para 4-6)
- Requests for ES (para 7)
- Annex

VI. Annex: Update to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity

Targets 4, 5 and 9	<p>5. Manage human-wildlife conflict, using nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches where possible, including through successful methods based on case studies, while recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.</p> <p>6. Raise awareness and promote the application of best practices for conserving forest habitats and maintaining the genetic diversity of forest wild species to prevent and mitigate disease risks to people.</p>
Target 6	<p>7. Taking cross-cutting work on invasive alien species into account, provide guidance to assist forest managers with preventing the introduction of invasive species, in particular those that may be unintentionally spread through forest machinery and operations.</p>
Target 7	<p>8. Taking the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health² into account, reduce soil loss and the impacts of pesticides on forest biodiversity and human health.</p>
Targets 8 and 11	<p>9. Enhance the benefits for biodiversity, and avoid the negative impacts, of carbon market-driven incentives for large-scale restoration and afforestation.</p> <p>10. Apply guidance from the Paris Agreement^d to forest restoration and management, including for market-based incentive mechanisms.</p> <p>11. Enhance forest ecosystem integrity and resilience by using nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches as an objective for climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction, considering likely long-term ecosystem changes and relevant environmental and social safeguards.</p>
Target 10	<p>12. Promote biodiversity-friendly practices, including reduced-impact logging practices, sustainable intensification, agroforestry and inter-cropping to reduce forest fragmentation.</p> <p>13. Promote approaches that improve the socioeconomic conditions of indigenous peoples and local communities, including alternative livelihoods based on the sustainable use of forest resources.</p>
Target 12	<p>14. Provide and apply the principles of urban forestry and urban green space planning to urban development to enable green spaces, including by establishing guidelines for</p>

Thank you for your attention!

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