



Programme of Work on Protected Areas

CBD/SBSTTA/28/6

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Convention on Biological diversity -1992

Article 2: „Protected areas“ means a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.

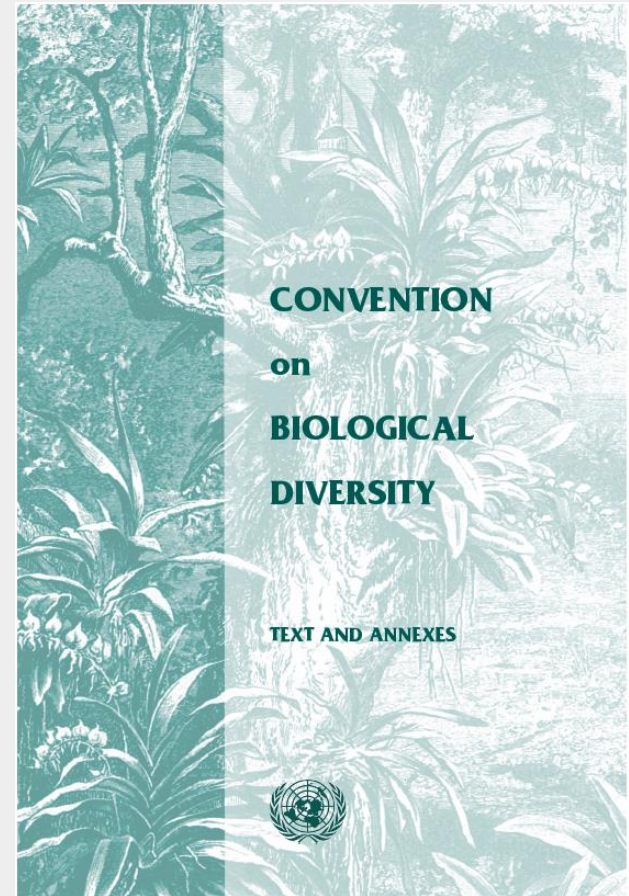
Article 8 (In-situ Conservation):

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:

(a) Establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;

(b) Develop, where necessary, guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;

(j) Subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity



Preparation process of the Programme of work on PAs



COP 4 1998 – PAs as one of the three main themes for its seventh meeting.

In order to implement the Article 8, at the COP 4 active collaboration was encouraged with the Vth World Parks Congress and an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas was established to review methods and approaches for the planning and management of protected areas, including options for appropriate policies, strategies, and practices consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

COP 6 2002 – adoption of Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity 2002–2010. Implementation of the Strategic Plan through: the Programme of work (**PoW**) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, implementation of NBSAP, and other national, regional and international activities.

COP 7 2004 – Programme of work on PAs was adopted.

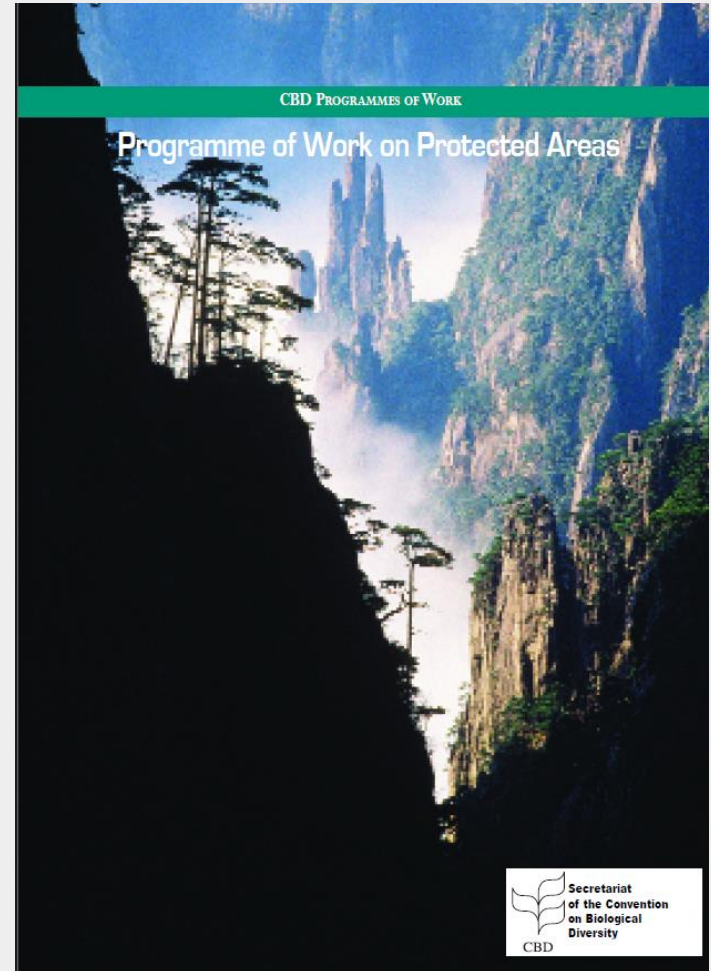
COP 7 recognized the central role of protected areas in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Programme of work on PAs

Overall objective - establishing and maintaining by 2010 for terrestrial areas and by 2012 for marine areas, “comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative systems of protected areas”

Goal - to collectively and significantly reduce the rate of loss of global biodiversity.

Protected areas are the cornerstones for in situ conservation of biological diversity, but also a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (2010-2015), Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030) secure vital ecosystem services, support local livelihoods, and enable humans and nature to adapt to the impacts of climate change.



Programme of work on PAs



4 interlinked elements

- 1. Direct actions for planning, selecting, establishing, strengthening and managing protected area systems and sites**
- 2. Governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing**
- 3. Enabling activities**
- 4. Standards, assessment and monitoring**

Each programme element consists of specific goals, outcome-oriented targets and related activities.

There are **16** goals with corresponding targets that set specific dates (2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015) by which respective goals have to be completed.

In many cases the programme of work identifies indicators needed for measuring progress towards the goals.

There are **92** activities in total.

The PoW is intended to assist Parties in establishing national PoW with targeted goals, actions, specific actors, time frame, inputs and expected measurable outputs.

1. Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity 2002–2010

- o Adopted at COP 6 in 2002.
- o Included the 2010 Biodiversity Target, which aimed to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

No specific mentioning of PAs nor clear indicators.

2. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020

- o Adopted at COP 10 in 2010.
- o Established the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, organized under five strategic goals.

It translated core elements of the programme of work into measurable global commitments

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

3. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) (2022)

- o Adopted at COP 15 in 2022.
- o Contains 4 long-term goals for 2050 and 23 action-oriented targets for 2030

Target 3 - ensuring and enabling that, by 2030, at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and **other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories where applicable**, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

PoW - Montenegro

- NBSAP (2010-2015) – Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (Target 11.)
- NBSAP (2016-2020) - Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (Target 11.)
- NBSAP (2026-2030) - Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 3)

Law on Nature Protection

Law on National Parks

MoU MNE-ALB (Skadark Lake)

Socio-economic forums in NPs

Inclusive preparation of Management Plans

Guidelines for preparation of MPs and Annual Management Programmes (climate change mitigation, finance plan, participation etc.) and assesment of management effectiveness, data management etc.

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

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I Introduction

II Background

III Summary of the strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on protected areas

IV Potential approaches for addressing identified gaps

V Activities conducted by the Secretariat in support of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

VI Recommendation

Annex

Update to the programme of work on protected and conserved areas

Why a review and by whom?

- PoW on PAs - not formal update since its adoption (2004). However its implementation has been progressively reviewed and strengthened through successive decisions of the Conference of the Parties
- COP 15 (2022) and 16 (2024) *requested the Secretariat **to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work** of the Convention **in the context of the GBF** to facilitate its implementation and **to prepare draft updates** of those programmes for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.*

Who was involved in the review?

- Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations.



What are the main findings?

1. The Programme of Work remains highly relevant
(It continues to support national implementation and the achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework)
2. Rather to conduct an update than full revision
(Reinforcing linkages between existing elements and the Framework targets rather than undertaking a comprehensive revision of the programme. Few countries asked for full revision).
3. PoW should be strengthening guidance in support of Target 3 and language should clearly encompass other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous traditional territories alongside protected areas
4. The PoW provides substantial guidance for Targets 1, 13, 19, 20 and 22
(Room for improvement - evolving policy approaches, scientific knowledge and terminology)



What are the main findings?

5. In PoW partial or indirect guidance for Targets 2 to 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 21 and 23
6. PoW has limited or no explicit guidance for Targets 8, 10, 12 and 16 (climate change, sustainable use in production sectors, urban biodiversity)
7. Need for greater integration of protected and conserved areas within wider socioecological systems
8. Update the title of the PoW into the broader scope of “protected and conserved areas” for clarity
9. Overarching gaps: a) Outdated terminology, concepts and approaches (ecological integrity, ecological connectivity, OECMs etc.); b) Limited alignment with the monitoring framework for the Framework; c) Need for further incorporation a human rights-based approach, including equitable governance; d) Gaps in addressing gender-responsiveness and the inclusion of youth and persons with disabilities



SBSTTA Recommendations for the COP17 to adopt decision

Acknowledging that PoW remains strategic framework for GBF, especially Target 3, but additional guidance is needed to improve alignment and address existing gaps.

Decides to revise the name of the PoW to “PoW on protected and conserved areas” to reflect the broader concept.

Endorses the complementary activities for further or improved guidance contained in the annex to the decision, as an update to the programme of work on protected and conserved areas.

Invites Parties and other Governments to take into account the updated PoW on protected and conserved areas in the development and implementation of actions to meet the targets of the Framework (Target 3).

Invites governments, organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders to support implementation.

Encourages Parties to apply conservation approaches that respect human rights, recognize diverse governance systems, and ensure the meaningful participation of rights holders.

SBSTTA Recommendations for the COP17 to adopt decision

Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources

Strengthens collaboration and knowledge exchange through a voluntary Target 3 Community of practice and partnerships with regional technical support centres.

Enhances scientific and technical support to help Parties implement Target 3 effectively.

Develops a synthesis of best practices for protected and conserved areas, focusing on key themes such as:

- human rights-based and equitable governance (including Indigenous Peoples and local communities);
- ecological integrity, connectivity and climate resilience;
- gender equality and inclusive approaches;
- integration into spatial planning and landscape/seascape approaches;
- identification of biodiversity priority areas;
- standards for management and governance;
- ecological networks and transboundary conservation;
- monitoring systems and new technologies;
- sustainable and accessible financing, including for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

To report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision to the SBSTTA before the

COP 18



Update to the PoW on protected and conserved areas



Table shows the mapping of the targets of the GBF against complementary activities that could support the implementation of the programme of work on protected and conserved areas.

Activities are organized into three categories:

1. priority actions for Target 3,
2. complementary actions to strengthen existing coverage, and
3. new areas requiring additional guidance.



<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 1	1. Integrate protected and conserved areas into broader landscape and seascape planning to improve ecological connectivity, through participatory, human rights-based and inclusive spatial planning processes that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.	Priority actions
Target 2	2. Promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems within and beyond protected and conserved areas, including buffer zones and ecological corridors, including through the development of criteria for identifying priority restoration areas and approaches for measuring restoration success, ensuring a socially inclusive and gender-responsive implementation of the restoration efforts, as appropriate.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)



Target 3	<p>3. Incorporate the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework across the programme of work on protected and conserved areas, including by reflecting the concept of protected and conserved areas as an umbrella term encompassing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and, where applicable, indigenous and traditional territories, updating relevant timelines and terminology, and ensuring coherence with related processes 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.</p> <p>4. Enhance guidance related to the recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, 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.</p> <p>5. Facilitate the compilation and dissemination, through the clearing-house mechanism and relevant platforms, including the Target 3 Community of Practice and the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative, of practical frameworks, guidance, tools, case studies and best practices to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, including the definition and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecological networks, climate-informed corridor design, large-scale ecological connectivity, other effective area-based conservation measures and transboundary conservation.</p> <p>6. Strengthen the operationalization of equitable governance and a human rights-based approach in the planning, governance and management of protected and conserved areas, including by: shifting from beneficiary-based approaches to the recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders; promoting standards and good practices for participation, shared governance and co-management arrangements; ensuring culturally appropriate access to information; strengthening free, prior and informed consent, while applying differentiated approaches, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.</p>	Priority actions
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Target 3	<p>7. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, including by identifying available tools, and facilitate the use of new technologies to better assess management effectiveness, governance quality, socioeconomic outcomes, equity considerations and biodiversity outcomes, including through the integration of gender-disaggregated indicators.</p> <p>8. Strengthen the application of contemporary approaches to ecological integrity and ecological connectivity in the planning and management of protected and conserved areas, including through the development and implementation of ecological networks, climate-informed corridor design, and connectivity across large-scale terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems.</p> <p>9. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of protected and conserved areas, to: (a) minimize the impacts of climate change and climate response measures, including through adaptive management and resilience-building approaches; and (b) integrate protected and conserved areas as part of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.</p>	Priority actions
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For discussion – ITTs

Target 3 - equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, **recognizing indigenous and traditional territories where applicable,...**“

At **COP 16**, Parties adopted a new *Programme of Work on Article 8(j)* and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Tools for nature protection and conservation:

1. Protected Areas – Conservation is an objective
2. OECMs – Conservation is an outcome
3. (?) *Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas* (ICCAs) – Territories governed by IPLCs
4. (?) *Indigenous and Traditional Territories* (ITTs) – Right-based territorial system

CAN ITTs be OECMs or NOT?



Thank you for your attention!

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