

IUCN position paper on selected issues

**Convention on Biological Diversity
Fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI4)
21-29 May 2024, Nairobi, Kenya**

IUCN's Main Messages

Review of implementation: progress in national target setting and the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (Agenda item 2)

- ✓ IUCN encourages those Parties that are still to revise and finalize their NBSAPs to do so as soon as possible, well before COP16 to allow for a more comprehensive global analysis and review of progress.
- ✓ IUCN highlights the importance of aligning national targets to the targets of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and encourages Parties to make use of the template in Annex I of Decision 15/6.

Resource mobilization and financial mechanism (Agenda item 4)

- ✓ IUCN supports updating and strengthening of the resource mobilization strategy to fully align it with the KMGBF.
- ✓ IUCN welcomes the prompt establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) by the Global Environment Facility and urges donors to support its further capitalisation to ensure effective immediate support for the implementation of KMGBF.

Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and knowledge management under the Convention (Agenda item 5)

- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties to include their identified capacity needs and where possible, capacity development plans in the revision of their NBSAPs.
- ✓ IUCN is committed to collaborating with the entities selected to host regional and sub-regional centres, and the global coordination entity to ensure comprehensive coverage and to leverage each other's skills and expertise while avoiding duplication.

Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations (Agenda item 7)

- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties to consider and if possible, integrate in the revision of their NBSAPs their various commitments under relevant MEAs to facilitate synergies and coherence in implementation. Conversely, IUCN also encourages Parties to integrate, as appropriate, their biodiversity targets in the instruments and mechanisms for the implementation of relevant MEAs.

Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming (Agenda item 10)

- ✓ IUCN recommends amending inconsistencies in language by reviewing the LTAM and updating the milestones in the action plan.
- ✓ IUCN also recommends Parties to adopt the LTAM and the associated voluntary action plan as two guidance documents to inspire and structure mainstreaming actions at national level.

For more information, please contact:

Mrs. Sonia Peña Moreno
Director, International
Policy Centre
IUCN Headquarters
sonia.penamoreno@iucn.org

Ms. Victoria Romero
Senior Policy Officer –
Biodiversity
International Policy Centre
IUCN Headquarters
victoria.romero@iucn.org

IUCN World Headquarters
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 999 0000
Fax: +41 22 999 0002
www.iucn.org

Review of implementation: progress in national target setting and the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) (Agenda item 2)

IUCN commends the eight Parties that have submitted their revised NBSAPs since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

- ✓ IUCN encourages those Parties that are still to revise and finalize their NBSAPs to do so as soon as possible, well before COP16 to allow for a more comprehensive global analysis and review of progress.
- ✓ IUCN highlights the importance of aligning national targets to the targets of the KMGBF and encourages Parties to make use of the template in Annex I of Decision 15/6.

IUCN considers two elements of paramount importance for effective NBSAPs; firstly, their development must rely on a participatory process engaging all relevant stakeholders and rights-holders including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth, the business sector and civil society in planning and monitoring progress; and secondly, emphasis must be made on ways and means to enable proper mainstreaming of biodiversity into economic development, other sectors, and plans, including the adoption of NBSAPs as policy instruments.

IUCN also recommends including a robust communications plan in their NBSAPs to facilitate its uptake and raise awareness on the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity – also crucial elements for the successful implementation of the KMGBF.

IUCN welcomes the regional and sub-regional dialogues on NBSAPs organized by the Secretariat and supported by many partner organizations including IUCN, which have made possible the exchange of national experiences, lessons learnt, and obstacles encountered, and encourages more of these exchanges.

Acknowledging the need for scientific and technical support related to setting national targets and monitoring, IUCN highlights its collaborative efforts with UNEP-WCMC and BirdLife International to develop decision-support tools. For example, IBAT

Country Profiles provide nationally disaggregated information from integrated global datasets on species extinction risk, protected areas and key biodiversity areas, to assist Parties to better understand and report on the status of biodiversity within State boundaries and complement national data resources. The [Global Species Action Plan \(GSAP\)](#) can also assist the update of NBSAPs, providing strategic interventions and actions required to achieve successful outcomes for the conservation and sustainable use of species. Parties can choose from the menu of actions to fit their NBSAP goals and targets.

Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (Agenda item 3)

As stated in section C of the KMGBF, the Framework, including its Vision, Mission, Goals and Targets, is to be understood, acted upon, implemented, reported, and evaluated, consistent with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. It is therefore necessary not only to document the commitments from non-State actors but also to hold them accountable for their implementation.

IUCN supports having standardized templates for reporting those commitments. IUCN notes however, that the information thus collected cannot remain a collection of commitments if it is to make a valuable contribution to the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review. It should be analysed and considered, as appropriate, as part of the elements of the global review of collective progress that, while being a Party-led process, would be incomplete without accounting for the contributions of the whole of society.

Regarding the elements that would form the basis of the global review of collective progress presented in CBD/SBI/4/4 and considering the discussions at SBSTTA 25 on the scientific, technical and technological inputs that should inform the global review, IUCN notes that the global review could be considerably simplified by considering only 2 elements – the global report and the high-level discussions under the auspices of the Presidencies of the seventeenth and nineteenth Conferences of the Parties. Indeed, as reflected in SBSTTA recommendation 25/2, the global report would have already considered as inputs, the global analysis of

NBSAPs, reports from the voluntary country reviews, and a technical dialogue among Parties, Indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, the private and financial sectors and other stakeholders and experts, on other relevant inputs to the global review.

IUCN underscores that the goal of global review of progress is to assess what has been done and to identify additional actions necessary to achieve the 2030 targets and Mission, informing subsequent revisions of national action plans/national targets to increase ambition and achieve the mission and vision of the GBF.

Resource mobilization and financial mechanism (Agenda item 4)

IUCN supports updating and strengthening of the resource mobilization strategy to fully align it with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

IUCN welcomes the prompt establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) by the Global Environment Facility, confirmed pledges by Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Spain, and Luxembourg to make more than US\$ 200 million available for the first GBFF programming tranche, and targeting 20% of the funds for Indigenous Peoples.

✓ IUCN urges donors to support further capitalisation of the GBFF to ensure effective immediate support for the implementation of KMGBF.

IUCN welcomes positive recent trends in development finance for biodiversity, while recognising that further increases in biodiversity funding are needed to reach the levels agreed in the GBF target 19, including at least 20 billion dollars per year by 2025 and at least 30 billion dollars per year by 2030.

IUCN calls for the strengthening of efforts to implement actions needed to achieve Target 18 by reducing harmful incentives by at least \$500 billion per year and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity.

IUCN emphasizes the need to increase funding for biodiversity from all sources, including public, private, and blended financing, domestic and

international funding, and aligning all financial flows with the GBF. A whole-of-economy approach to mainstreaming biodiversity into all economic decisions is urgently needed to achieve the GBF goals and targets.

IUCN recently launched with IIFB the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative to facilitate the Indigenous-led design of direct funding approaches; scale-up direct investment of Indigenous-led conservation and climate actions; strengthen and build the capacity of Indigenous organisations to access, manage, and govern these investments; and promote Indigenous rights and leadership, particularly that of women and youth, in global biodiversity and climate policy spaces. The initiative aims to mobilise up to US\$ 200 million by 2030 in biodiversity and climate finance to provide direct funding to Indigenous Peoples, ensuring no less than 85 per cent of these funds reach Indigenous territories and communities.

IUCN notes with concern that lack of financial commitment is a significant obstacle to fully implementing the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) outlined objectives and it requires urgent attention to secure the necessary resources for its successful implementation. Bridging this gap will require concerted efforts to incorporate gender-responsive budgeting tools and ensure that financial allocations are aligned with the gender objectives set out in the Gender Plan of Action.

Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols (Agenda item 5)

IUCN contributes with a number of partnerships and initiatives to advance capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and knowledge management and notes with appreciation the progress report on the implementation of previous decisions related to this agenda item. IUCN will continue cooperating on the Executive Secretary and other initiatives in building and developing capacity of Parties to facilitate the implementation of the KMGBF.

Considering the importance of capacity-building and development for the implementation of the KMGBF, IUCN encourages Parties to include their identified

capacity needs and where possible capacity development plans in the revision of their NBSAPs.

With regards to the operationalisation of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, and the selection process of the regional and sub-regional technical and scientific support centres, it will be of critical importance to ensure that the combination of selected candidates not only ensures comprehensive geographic coverage, but that the entities have existing relationships and a track record of working with all relevant actors, including CBD focal points, as well as a strong network of collaborators across the region.

A number of IUCN Regional Offices¹, representing consortia of organizations, have been considered suitable by the Informal Advisory Group to host the support centres. IUCN is committed to collaborating with the entities selected to host regional and sub-regional centres, and the global coordination entity to ensure comprehensive coverage and to leverage each other's skills and expertise while avoiding duplication. IUCN is also accredited by a number of multilateral funding mechanisms, thus will be able to access funding required for successful delivery of technical and scientific services to Parties, via its regional offices.

Finally, IUCN supports the adoption of the knowledge management strategy and appreciates the inclusion of recent developments in the field of knowledge management, especially with regards to the application of artificial intelligence.

Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations (Agenda item 7)

The KMGBF stresses the imperative of cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant MEAs and provides a framework for streamlining actions to achieve their respective objectives. IUCN views positively that this has been most recently recognised in Resolutions 14.1 - *Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032* and 14.3 - *CMS Engagement In CBD Processes Including The Global Biodiversity Framework* of the Convention on Migratory Species as well as in Decision 1/CMA.5 *Outcome of the First*

Global Stocktake under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties to consider and if possible, integrate in the revision of their NBSAPs their various commitments under relevant MEAs to facilitate synergies and coherence in the implementation. Conversely, IUCN also encourages Parties to integrate as appropriate, their biodiversity targets in the instruments and mechanisms for the implementation of relevant MEAs.

IUCN appreciated the exchange of ideas at the Bern III Conference and concurs with the preliminary highlights and actions presented in the Briefing Note for UNEA-6². In this regard, IUCN offers its full support for this important agenda, mobilising its Standards and conservation knowledge and tools, in particular the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the Red List of Ecosystems, the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology, the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, the Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, among others, and by facilitating exchanges and raising awareness making use of IUCN's 2025 World Conservation Congress and its preparatory process throughout 2024.

Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming (Agenda item 10)

IUCN highlights the importance of the Long-Term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM) and its associated action plan as an important support mechanism for the implementation of and the KMGBF.

IUCN considers the LTAM provides a useful structure by identifying actors and actions while the more detailed catalogue of activities provided in the action plan in CBD/SBI/3/13/Add.1 can be used as a toolbox and a guidance by many actors to undertake mainstreaming actions to implement the targets of the KMGBF.

- ✓ IUCN recommends amending inconsistencies in language by reviewing the LTAM and updating the milestones in the action plan and calls on SBI to recommend Parties to adopt the LTAM and

¹ IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Regional Office for West Asia, and the IUCN Asia Regional Office

² [Briefing Note for UNEA-6: Bern III Conference – Preliminary Highlights](#)

the associated voluntary action plan as two guidance documents to inspire and structure mainstreaming actions at national level.

- ✓ IUCN invites Parties to consider adding an additional Headline Action 6 under Strategy Area III: Mainstreaming biodiversity across society in the Annex of SBI recommendation 3/15 as follows:

Headline Action 6: Governments at all levels, businesses, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant stakeholders across society are engaged or represented in national multi-sectoral platforms that creates an interface between scientific experts and all stakeholders to inform decisions and progresses, follows the implementation of the Action Plan and its contribution to the NBSAPs, creates accountability mechanisms between the different stakeholders and creates joint ownership of the transformation process.”

Rationale: A multi-stakeholder platform creates an interface between scientific experts and non-experts, policy, and economic decision-makers, which is essential for understanding the issues at stake, the cost of inaction and identifying priorities in a concerted manner, while ensuring coherence between the national strategy for sustainable development and the development strategies centered on the sectors. Such a multi-stakeholder platform would promote cross-sectoral cooperation, which is necessary at national level but also where several sectors operate in a given territory and cause cumulative pressures. Such a platform offers a space for periodic and transparent monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan by the

different actors, in order to ensure accountability of all for their contributions. It also helps actors and stakeholders to take ownership of the issues, take part in the debates and be made accountable for the actions and impacts.

The methodology developed by the [BIODEV2030](#) project³ highlights the importance of collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders as a crucial step for buy-in and ownership, something that is currently lacking from the proposed strategy and action areas for transformative systemic change.

With respect to mainstreaming, more generally, IUCN

- ✓ recommends involving representatives of the business sector in the mainstreaming discussions, especially when updating or implementing the NBSAP at national level;
- ✓ encourages Governments at all levels, businesses, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant stakeholders to design and engage in the activities set out in the action plan.
- ✓ encourages greater outreach and engagement with stakeholders through multi-stakeholder platforms, to facilitate dialogue and collaboration to solve biodiversity problems in a systemic way, for a successful mainstreaming approach. Such multi-stakeholder platforms should be fit-for-purpose, inclusive and based on a robust stakeholder mapping. They must engage representatives of governments at all levels, the private sector, civil society organisations and indigenous peoples and local communities into regular discussions informed by scientific data and evidence-based studies to support decision-making.

³ BIODEV2030 is a joint project by IUCN, WWF and Expertise France to operationalize biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors in 16 developing countries.