



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Fifteenth meeting – Part II
Montreal, Canada, 7-19 December 2022
Agenda item 26

**DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

15/22. Nature and Culture

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision X/20, paragraph 16, in which it welcomed the Joint Programme of Work between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the links between biological and cultural diversity, and decision 14/30, in which it recognized the Joint Programme of Work as a useful coordination mechanism for advancing the implementation of the Convention and deepening global awareness of the interlinkages between cultural and biological diversity,

Welcoming the lessons learned from the international and regional initiatives conducted under the auspices of the Joint Programme of Work (2010–2020),¹

Noting that the Joint Programme of Work remains relevant for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²

1. *Decides* to renew its commitment to the Joint Programme of Work on the links between biological and cultural diversity, to be promoted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, as well as other relevant partners, including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, and, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities, taking a whole-of-society view and an integrated approach with full respect for human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, with the aim of supporting national and subnational implementation, including mainstreaming, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in accordance with national circumstances, fully incorporating the added value of biocultural diversity, building on biological and cultural heritage, and strengthening the links between biological and cultural diversity, including through environmental education, in order to achieve the goals of the Convention at all levels and the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature;³

¹ See the compilation of declarations on the links between nature and culture (CBD/WG8J/11/INF/2).

² Decision 15/4, annex.

³ Decision X/2.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, including the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, along with other relevant international agencies and processes, to explore and consider, subject to the availability of resources, inter-agency mechanisms, such as the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, to ensure complementarity of efforts, respecting individual mandates, avoiding unnecessary overlap and duplication, and maximizing efficiencies, to identify and overcome challenges, and promote lessons learned at a relevant scale towards the goal of the post-2020 Joint Programme of Work contained in the annex to the present decision;

3. *Encourages* Governments and Parties to all the relevant conventions, including the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the United Nations special rapporteurs, academia, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and civil society, to strengthen collaboration and coordination and to contribute to and support the Joint Programme of Work on the links between biological and cultural diversity, drawing on the elements and tasks contained in the annex to the present decision, and to implement lessons learned, according to national circumstances, in considering biological and cultural diversity throughout their respective work;

4. *Welcomes* the elements and tasks described in the annex to the present decision, which build on the existing Joint Programme of Work, for enhancing collaborations across the international system in pursuit of mutually supportive goals;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and other relevant international agencies, Parties and other Governments, along with a broad coalition of partners, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, to implement, subject to the availability of resources, the elements and tasks described in the annex to the present decision, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and other mechanisms, as appropriate.

*Annex***ELEMENTS AND TASKS RELATED TO THE JOINT PROGRAMME OF WORK ON THE LINKS BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

Goal: To recognize and promote natural and cultural heritage and diversity as enablers and drivers of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and a pathway to the vision of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of living in harmony with nature by 2050, the Sustainable Development Goals, and climate action, with a commitment to strengthening the links between biological and cultural diversity and considering lessons learned across the work of the Convention and other relevant processes, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Element 1

A joint strategy to stop the ongoing and often dramatic decline in global diversity of both nature and culture

Task 1.a

The Secretariat of the Convention will work together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant organizations, and, making use of the recommendations, studies, initiatives and documents developed through relevant bodies, such as the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, will develop a joint strategy consistent with conventions and agreements related to biological diversity and culture, to contribute to actions to stop the ongoing and often dramatic decline in global diversity of both nature and culture.

Task 1.b

The Secretariat of the Convention, together with UNESCO, IUCN, and other relevant bodies, will develop tools and guidance to ensure that the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably with indigenous peoples and local communities, in order to preserve their culture, health and well-being.

Element 2

Science dialogue, knowledge dialogue, equivalence of knowledge systems, indicators and monitoring efforts

Task 2.a

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, together with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will review and update the four adopted traditional knowledge indicators⁴ which were adopted in decision XIII/28 and are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the ongoing work on biological and cultural diversity and human well-being.

Task 2.b

The Secretariat of the Convention will continue efforts at the international level to operationalize the existing indicators and relevant indicators developed in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

⁴ In decision XIII/28, the Conference of the Parties adopted the following indicators for status and trends in the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity: (a) Trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages; (b) Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities; (c) Trends in the practice of traditional occupations; and (d) Trends in degree to which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through: full integration, participation and safeguards in national implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Framework, in partnership with the UNESCO, IUCN and other relevant bodies, and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Task 2.c

The Secretariat of the Convention will continue efforts at the international level to explore the full potential of community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) as methods and tools for monitoring the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, taking into consideration the elements of most relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities, and explore synergies in the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and other global processes.

Task 2.d

The Secretariat of the Convention, UNESCO and IUCN, together with other relevant organizations, and Parties, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent and attending to the adequate protection of traditional knowledge, will, with respect to biocultural diversity, create events, spaces and platforms to promote the transmission and exchange, between scientific and traditional knowledge systems, of values, knowledge, experiences, methods and results relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and facilitate sustained capacity-building and the development and promotion of open frameworks for knowledge dialogues and knowledge co-production at the international, national and regional levels.

Element 3

Biocultural diversity and linkages between nature and culture in integrated socio-ecological systems

Task 3.a

The Secretariat of the Convention, in partnership with UNESCO, IUCN, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Parties, other relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities, will contribute to initiatives to strengthen the links between biological and cultural diversity, in line with the Joint Programme of Work.

Task 3.b

The Secretariat of the Convention will work with UNESCO, IUCN, Parties and relevant organizations, to facilitate the development, support and implementation of specific efforts to enable indigenous peoples and local communities to record, document, protect and transmit traditional languages and dialects, in particular indigenous languages, with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities and with their full and effective participation, where this would support the objectives of the Convention.⁵

Task 3.c

The Secretariat of the Convention will work with UNESCO, IUCN, Parties and relevant organizations to enable indigenous peoples and local communities to record, document and transmit traditional knowledge, with their free, prior and informed consent, with a focus on traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation of nature and culture and the sustainable use of natural resources. This information could be made available with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, taking into account national circumstances.

Task 3.d

⁵ Recalling that UNESCO is the lead agency on languages, as proposed by participants in the Online Forum on the integration of Article 8(j) and provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and its Protocols.

The Secretariat of the Convention will work with UNESCO, IUCN, Parties and relevant organizations to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and co-management with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Element 4**Develop new approaches to communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)****Task 4.a**

The Secretariat of the Convention will work together with UNESCO, IUCN, other relevant bodies, and indigenous peoples and local communities to develop communication and educational materials to raise awareness, across society and all sectors, of the interdependence and interlinkages between biological, cultural and linguistic diversity, for human well-being and environmental sustainability, to strengthen recognition of traditional knowledge and the sustainable use practices of traditional knowledge holders. Such materials should be culturally appropriate to the needs of different audiences, and, as appropriate, be made available in formats and languages understandable to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Task 4.b

The Secretariat of the Convention will work together with UNESCO, IUCN, other relevant agencies, and indigenous peoples and local communities to help Parties and other stakeholders to develop communication and education materials, and awareness strategies on indigenous languages.
