



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XXI/1
14 December 2017

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Twenty-first meeting
Montreal, Canada, 11-14 December 2017
Agenda item 3

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

XXI/1. Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Emphasizing the need to continue to focus current efforts on to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020¹ and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

1. *Notes* that achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets would improve the starting position for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the prospects for realizing the 2050 Vision;

2. *Welcomes* the information provided in the notes by the Executive Secretary on scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development,² and *requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake a peer review of the information documents associated with these notes,³ with the participation of Parties other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders, as well experts, and to make the revised versions available for the information of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Expert Group on Models and Scenarios of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to develop a new set of multi-scale biodiversity scenarios through a stakeholder-driven process,⁴ and, noting the relevance of this work to the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, *recognizes* the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in this work, and *encourages* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and all stakeholders to engage in this process;

4. *Recommends* that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting take scenario analyses into account, including the information referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, in its consideration of the agenda item on the preparation for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;⁵

5. *Emphasizes* the need for capacity-building, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, to enable all countries to participate in the development and application of scenarios;

¹ [Decision X/2](#), annex.

² [CBD/SBSTTA/21/2](#) and [Add.1](#).

³ [CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/2](#), [CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/3](#), [CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/4](#) and [CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/18](#).

⁴ See <https://www.ipbes.net/deliverables/3c-scenarios-and-modelling> and [CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/18](#)

⁵ Item 16 of the [provisional agenda for the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation](#).

6. *Welcomes* the ongoing work by the scientific and other relevant communities working on scenarios and related assessments, including the increased collaboration between the communities working on biodiversity and on climate change, and, *recalling* the invitation to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in paragraph 5 of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommendation XX/10, *invites* these communities to continue these efforts to promote coherence in scenarios and related assessments;

7. *Invites* the scientific and other relevant communities working on scenarios and related assessments to take into account the following issues which are relevant to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

(a) The broad range of underlying drivers and systemic and structural issues related to biodiversity loss;

(b) Combinations of policy approaches at multiple scales and under different scenarios;

(c) The identification of potential synergies, trade-offs and limitations related to biodiversity that should be considered in order to identify effective policies and measures to enable the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) The contributions of the collective action of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components;

(e) The consequences of alternative scenarios for the customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities;

(f) Scenario analyses on financing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the attainment of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

(g) The potential positive and negative impacts of productive sectors such as inter alia agriculture, forestry and fisheries;

(h) Technology developments that may have positive or negative impacts on the achievement of the three objectives of the Conventions as well as on the lifestyles and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, when preparing proposals for the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to make provisions for sound analytical work in order to ensure that this framework is based on the best available evidence, building on previous work and taking into account the conclusions contained in the annex to the present recommendation, work related to the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, and relevant work under other multilateral environmental agreements and under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including the following:

(a) The links between biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁶ in providing an enabling environment;

(b) Lessons learned from the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,⁷ including successes, challenges, opportunities and capacity-building needs;

(c) Possible reasons for the varying levels of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(d) Policy options and recommendations under the Convention that could leverage the transformational change required to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

⁶ [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#), annex.

⁷ [Decision X/2](#), annex.

(e) Ways in which other biodiversity-related conventions, the other Rio Conventions and, other relevant international conventions and agreements could contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

10. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice regarding scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity contained in the annex to the present decision as well as the information contained in the notes by the Executive Secretary and supporting information documents,⁸ noting their relevance to the discussions on the long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, approaches to living in harmony with nature and the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

2. *Invites* the scientific and other relevant communities working on scenarios and related assessments to take into account the following issues which are relevant to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

(a) The broad range of underlying drivers and systemic and structural issues related to biodiversity loss;

(b) Combinations of policy approaches at multiple scales and under different scenarios;

(c) The identification of potential synergies, trade-offs and limitations related to biodiversity that should be considered in order to identify effective policies and measures to enable the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) The contributions of the collective action of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components;

(e) The consequences of alternative scenarios for the customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities;

(f) Scenario analyses on financing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the attainment of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

(g) The potential positive and negative impacts of productive sectors such as inter alia agriculture, forestry and fisheries;

(h) Technology developments that may have positive or negative impacts on the achievement of the three objectives of the Conventions as well as on the lifestyles and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant partners, to facilitate capacity-building activities in accordance with [decision XIII/23](#), especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, to enable all countries to participate in the development and application of scenarios;

4. *Recalling* [decision XIII/22](#) on the framework for a communication strategy, *requests* the Executive Secretary to promote the use of scenarios as a communication tool for raising public awareness and to foster participation and involvement of all stakeholders, in particular academia and the scientific community, and to scale up global support for biodiversity concerns, including by engaging celebrities as biodiversity ambassadors from all regions who would act as biodiversity voices.

⁸ [CBD/SBSTTA/21/2](#) and [Add.1, CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/2, INF/3, INF/4, INF/18](#). The information documents will be updated in the light of the peer review requested in Subsidiary Body recommendation XXI/1.

*Annex***CONCLUSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE REGARDING SCENARIOS FOR THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY**

1. *The 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan remains relevant and should be considered in any follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.* The 2050 Vision (“Living in harmony with nature” where “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”) contains elements that could be translated into a long-term goal for biodiversity and provide context for discussions on possible biodiversity targets for 2030 as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
2. *Current trends, or “business-as-usual” scenarios, show continued loss of biodiversity, with major negative consequences for human well-being, including changes that may be irreversible. Urgent action on biodiversity therefore remains a pressing global societal issue.*
3. *Scenarios for future socioeconomic development demonstrate that there is a wide range of plausible futures with respect to population growth, education, urbanization, economic growth, technological development and approaches to international trade, among other factors, leading to varying levels of drivers of ecosystem and biodiversity change, such as climate change, overexploitation, pollution, invasive alien species and habitat loss, including land use change. This range of plausible futures provides space for developing policy measures to achieve the 2050 Vision and other global goals.*
4. *The biodiversity goals reflected in the 2050 Vision could be attained while also reaching broader socioeconomic objectives by deploying a combination of measures, including measures: (a) to increase the sustainability and productivity of agriculture, increasing and making better use of biodiversity within agricultural ecosystems to contribute to increases in sustainable production; (b) to reduce ecosystem degradation and fragmentation and maintain biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services including through proactive spatial planning, the restoration of degraded lands and ecosystems and the strategic expansion of protected areas; (c) to reduce overexploitation of fisheries and other biological resources; (d) to control invasive alien species; (e) to adapt to and mitigate climate change; and (f) to reduce waste and excessive consumption.*
5. *These measures could be developed in various “policy mixes” depending on the needs and priorities of countries and stakeholders.* For example, the combination of policy measures referred to in paragraph 4 above could vary with respect to the emphasis on changes in production and consumption, the degree of reliance on new technologies and international trade and the degree of global and local coordination such as illustrated by the three pathways identified in the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.⁹ Further visioning exercises, at multiple scales and with strong stakeholder engagement are needed to further elucidate options and promote action.
6. *The pathways towards a sustainable future, while plausible, require transformational change, including changes in behaviour at the levels of producers and consumers, Governments and businesses. Further efforts will be needed to understand motivations and facilitate change. Societal and disruptive technological developments can lead to transitions that may contribute to, or counter, sustainability and the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention. Governments and international institutions can play a critical role in establishing an enabling environment to foster*

⁹ See also Leadley et al (2014), Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An Assessment of Biodiversity Trends, Policy Scenarios and Key Actions. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Technical Series 78 (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-78-en.pdf>), and Kok, & Alkemade (eds) (2014), How sectors can contribute to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Technical Series 79 (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-79-en.pdf>)

positive change. Further work is required to identify ways and means by which the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework can leverage such change.

7. *A coherent approach is needed on biodiversity and climate change* to ensure that impacts on biodiversity of climate change are reduced, that biodiversity and ecosystems can contribute solutions related to climate adaptation and mitigation, and that climate change adaptation and mitigation measures do not negatively impact biodiversity through changes in land management.

8. *The 2050 Vision is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international goals.* Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would help to address many drivers of biodiversity loss and also support biodiversity objectives by creating a favourable enabling environment. The integrated and indivisible nature of the Agenda implies that the achievement of all goals is necessary, and scenarios and models may inform the choice of policies and measures and their limitations, highlighting the need for policy coherence.

9. *Scenarios and models may be useful in informing the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.* The development of the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was informed by biodiversity scenarios that include those developed for the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. There is also a potential for scenarios developed at appropriate scales to inform policymaking and implementation at the national level.

10. *Scenario analyses tailored to regional, national or local circumstances provide information to feed into strategic planning for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.* They can therefore directly support the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Furthermore, the inclusion of participatory approaches in scenario analysis is a valuable tool for building the capacity for decision-making that focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It can do this by allowing stakeholders to recognize the relationships between biodiversity and other sectors, and how enhanced benefits can increase human well-being.
