



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XXI/3
14 December 2017

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-first meeting
Montreal, Canada, 11-14 December 2017
Agenda item 4

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

XXI/3. Health and biodiversity

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Aware that, at its twenty-second meeting, it may consider possible suggestions for the second work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and that, in this context, it may wish to consider the topic of biodiversity and health,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [XII/21](#) and [XIII/6](#) on health and biodiversity,

Welcoming United Nations Environment Assembly [resolution UNEP/EA.3/L.8/Rev.1](#) on environment and health,

Noting the reports issued by the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization entitled *Urban green spaces and health: a review of evidence* (2016)¹ and *Urban green space interventions and health: a review of impacts and effectiveness* (2017),²

Acknowledging that consideration of health-biodiversity linkages can contribute to improving several aspects of human health and well-being, including through the prevention and reduction of both infectious and non-communicable diseases, and by supporting nutrition and healthy diets,

Also acknowledging the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and of traditional knowledge for the health of indigenous peoples and local communities,

Recognizing the importance of the human microbiome for human health, and the value of biodiverse green spaces in urban environments, protected areas and their physiological and psychological benefits, and further highlighting the importance of ecosystem-based approaches for the delivery of multiple benefits,

¹ <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/urban-health/publications/2016/urban-green-spaces-and-health-a-review-of-evidence-2016>

² <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/urban-health/publications/2017/urban-green-space-interventions-and-health-a-review-of-impacts-and-effectiveness.-full-report-2017>

Acknowledging that accessible biodiverse green spaces can enhance human health benefits by providing contact with nature, including for children and the elderly,

Noting the opportunities to contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Target 14, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ and the Sustainable Development Goals, through the mainstreaming of health-biodiversity linkages into relevant sectors and initiatives, including those for health, environment, agriculture, finance, nutrition and food security, food safety, planning (including urban planning), climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction,

Highlighting, in this respect, the importance of all dimensions and components of biodiversity, including plants, animals and micro-organisms, and the interactions among them, as well as their genetic resources and the ecosystems of which they are part,

1. *Welcomes* the Guidance on integrating biodiversity considerations into One Health approaches,⁴ *recognizes* the importance of ecosystem-based approaches for the delivery of multiple benefits to health and well-being and *encourages* Parties, and *invites* other Governments and relevant organizations to make use of the guidance, in accordance with national circumstances;

2. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to consider integrating One Health policies, plans or projects in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and, as appropriate, national health plans, and other instruments including those under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, to jointly support the implementation of the Convention, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ and other relevant global commitments;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and other relevant stakeholders to consider gender-differentiated impacts and responses in the integration of biodiversity and health linkages in their policies, plans and actions;

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and cooperation agencies to support capacity-building for the efficient and effective use of the guidance;

5. *Encourages* Parties to promote dialogue among ministries and agencies responsible for the sectors of health (including domestic animal and wildlife health), environment, pollution (such as marine plastic debris), pesticides, antimicrobial resistance, agriculture, nutrition and food security, food safety, planning (including urban planning), climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, to foster integrated approaches, with a view to enhancing implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020⁵ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages into existing and future policies, plans and strategies, as appropriate;

6. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to share their experience on implementing the Guidance on integrating biodiversity considerations in One Health approaches,⁴ including through the clearing-house mechanism;

7. *Invites* the World Health Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations to consider ecosystem-based approaches in their efforts to strengthen the prevention of ill health;

³ [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#), annex.

⁴ [CBD/SBSTTA/21/4](#), section III.

⁵ Decision X/2.

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, and *invites* the World Health Organization and other members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Biodiversity and Health, and other partners, as appropriate, to collaborate:

(a) To promote and facilitate dialogues on biodiversity-health approaches with relevant national, regional and subregional stakeholders, as appropriate, in order to assist Parties in developing strategies to mainstream biodiversity-health linkages effectively, and in particular, to promote holistic One Health approaches;

(b) To co-convene further regional and subregional capacity-building workshops in all regions;

(c) To compile information on relevant research, experiences and best practices on the microbiome and human health, and on the design, management and implementation of production systems based on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and traditional knowledge and the corresponding benefits to nutrition and healthy diets, particularly, but not restricted to, vulnerable and marginalized sectors;

(d) To explore a mechanism that would facilitate access to, regularly update, synthesize and disseminate scientific literature and other reports on health and biodiversity, with a view to supporting the development of good practice guidance;

(e) To report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-third meeting and to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting.
