

SBSTTA-28

Policy Recommendations

July 2026

Item 3 (a) of Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

[CBD/SBSTTA/28/2/Rev.1-CBD/SBI/7/2/Rev.1](#)

[CBD/SBSTTA/28/2/Add.1](#)

[CBD/SBSTTA/28/2/Add.3](#)

Key Messages

This agenda item constitutes the inaugural collective assessment of implementation progress under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM–GBF) and furnishes a critical opportunity to identify implementation gaps and accelerate actions in advance of COP17. The global review must systematically evaluate the operationalization of cross-cutting considerations—including human rights, gender equality, and the full, equitable, inclusive and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), women and youth—and determine whether these principles are being translated into measurable policy and programme outcomes.

Effective KM–GBF implementation requires targeted intervention on indirect drivers of biodiversity loss (e.g., unsustainable consumption patterns, sectoral incentives, trade dynamics, and land-use governance) and the reinforcement of governance architectures, policy coherence, and whole-of-society participation. Realizing transformative change depends on establishing enabling conditions such as harmonized legal and institutional frameworks, integrated land-sea planning, fiscal and market instruments aligned with biodiversity objectives, capacity development, and mechanisms to internalize externalities.

Robust planning, monitoring, reporting and review (PMRR) mechanisms must be strengthened through gender-responsive and rights-based approaches that prioritize disaggregated, interoperable datasets (sex, age, ethnicity, Indigenous status, socioeconomic indicators) and transparent indicator methodologies. Such enhancements are essential for accountability, adaptive management, and evidence-based policymaking.

IPLCs, women and youth are principal actors in KM–GBF implementation, PMRR and governance. Their traditional, local and experiential knowledge systems, leadership roles and tenure-based stewardship are integral to effective, equitable, and scalable biodiversity outcomes. PMRR enhancements should be accompanied by dedicated, accessible financing modalities and administrative mechanisms to support initiatives led by IPLCs, Afro-descendant, women and youth groups—ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, meaningful participation in decision-making, and the capacity and resources necessary to contribute directly to Framework implementation.

Textual Proposals

IV. Recommendation for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

15. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Endorses* the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and stresses that, to achieve the targets and 2030 mission of the Framework, the gaps and challenges, **especially those related to the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss**, described in its concise summary need to be addressed with urgency;

6. *Invites* Parties and all actors supporting the implementation of the Framework, including **Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth**, the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and research networks, to make use of the information contained in the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets, national reports and global report in relevant analyses and in executing their respective mandates and competencies, as appropriate;

8. *Invites* relevant partners, including the cooperation support centres, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and research networks, to develop and implement actions to address the relevant data and knowledge gaps, **including by promoting the use of disaggregated data**, so as to accelerate the implementation of the Framework, and in particular to support the further operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁰;

***Item 4 of Matters related to the work programme of the
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services***
CBD/SBSTTA/28/3

Key Messages

Document CBD/SBSTTA/28/3 provides a summary of the findings from the IPBES Methodological Assessment Report on the Impact and Dependence of Business on Biodiversity and Nature's Contributions to People. The Summary for Policymakers has been made available to the meeting, while the full assessment report is accessible through the IPBES website, as referenced in document CBD/SBSTTA/28/3.

The IPBES assessment identifies that women and girls, Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), youth, and rural communities are disproportionately exposed to the environmental and social impacts of business activities. The report concludes that these groups frequently bear the localized costs of biodiversity loss—including reduced access to natural resources, diminished ecosystem services, and limited adaptive capacity—while receiving fewer economic benefits from business operations and global value chains (Sections 3.2.4, 3.4.4 and 3.5.4). Despite these findings, the draft recommendations do not adequately reflect or operationalize these differentiated impacts, nor do they propose measures to address gender-specific and socially differentiated risks associated with business-related biodiversity loss.

The assessment further recognizes the growing international expectation that businesses integrate human rights, social safeguards, and environmental considerations into corporate decision-making and biodiversity risk assessments (Section 1.4.2). However, these principles are not sufficiently reflected in the draft recommendations. There is an important opportunity for the CBD to encourage Parties to promote mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence as part of business accountability frameworks, ensuring that measures to transform economic incentives and eliminate harmful subsidies do not result in adverse human rights impacts, labour exploitation, displacement, or loss of livelihoods for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and other rights holders.



Strengthening these recommendations would also contribute to addressing one of the implementation gaps identified in the Global Review of Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)—namely, the insufficient integration of the enabling conditions contained in Section C of the Framework, including human rights, gender equality, participation, equity, and inclusive governance.

Finally, the transition towards nature-positive economies and the restructuring of harmful incentives may generate resistance from vested economic interests and increase pressures on communities defending biodiversity and natural resources. In this context, the implementation of KMGBF Target 22, including the protection of environmental human rights defenders, ensuring meaningful participation, and safeguarding access to justice, should be explicitly recognized as an enabling condition for achieving equitable and effective business transformation.

Textual Proposals

VI. Recommendations

1. The Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt elements of a decision along the following lines, for consolidation into the draft decision contained in recommendation 27/2:

The Conference of the Parties

(b) To provide or enhance enabling environments for sustainable business practices through the implementation of the needed actions listed in the assessment, including by:

(iii) Incorporating traditional knowledge into capacity-building frameworks; **with their free, prior and informed consent, as appropriate;**

(iv)bis. Incorporating measures to prevent and remediate gender-based violence and discrimination associated with business actions.

(e) To strengthen engagement and collaboration with business and financial sectors and other actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, **women and other rights holders**, consumers, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and academia, to address gaps in knowledge and the application of knowledge, as described in the assessment, and to engage in conservation, restoration or the sustainable use of biodiversity;

Item 5 of Synthetic biology

CBD/SBSTTA/28/4

CBD/SBSTTA/28/4/Add.1

Key Messages

The thematic action plan should incorporate robust precautionary safeguards, prioritising the development of independent capacities for assessment, governance and regulation. It should avoid promoting research, development or deployment of synthetic biology technologies in the absence of adequate safeguards.

The production of compounds that replace traditional crops may undermine rural economies and the food sovereignty of indigenous peoples and local communities who directly depend on these systems. These impacts are especially severe for rural and indigenous women, who are often the primary custodians of native seeds.

Certain technologies, such as gene drives, present significant risks of uncontrolled transboundary dispersal, with potentially irreversible consequences for local, native, and endemic biodiversity.

In Annex I, the example of current benefits of synthetic biology in relation to the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets should remain illustrative only. They should reference the AHTEG report for informational purposes, but should not be incorporated into the decision text, as these findings are preliminary and require further verification.



Textual Proposals

III. Recommendation

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopt elements of a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

4bis. Recognizes the importance of horizon scanning and monitoring mechanisms, including anticipatory approaches, to support the timely identification and assessment of future developments in synthetic biology and their potential positive and potential negative impacts, while applying a precautionary approach.

5. Further notes the potential positive and potential negative impacts of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology, and decides that work should continue on the following specific areas of technological development; **ensuring that future studies draw upon multidisciplinary and diverse knowledge systems and sources²¹:**

*** NEW footnote to be added ²¹ See [CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2026/1/3](#)**

Annex I. Current benefits of synthetic biology in relation to the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

2 (e) Alignment with the targets of the Framework may require further verification and consideration, while alignment with the indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework remains to be established.

Current benefits of synthetic biology in relation to the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework		
Example	Targets of the Framework	Current benefit(s)
• Recombinant factor C (a synthetic replacement for limulus amoebocyte lysate sourced from horseshoe crabs) • Semi-synthetic artemisinin (an antimalarial compound sourced from Asian sweet wormwood (<i>Artemisia annua</i>))	5 and 9	Reduced harvesting pressure on biodiversity
• Microbes engineered to produce ethanol from industrial emissions through a gas fermentation process	8 and 9	Carbon dioxide emissions reduction
• Cultured meat products (animal muscle tissue generated directly from cultured animal cells)	9	Reduced greenhouse gas emissions Land-use reduction Water-use reduction
• Genome edited plants (for example, poplar trees designed to enhance carbon sequestration and accelerated biomass accumulation; and transgenic American chestnut trees with resistance to chestnut blight)	2, 4, 8 and 10	Carbon sequestration Reforestation Sustainable agroforestry
• Underlying tools of synthetic biology (for example, stewardship of enzyme expression plasmids, use of synthetic genomics and advancements in genome editing for xenotransplantation) • International genetically engineered machine competition	20, 21 and 22	Improved scientific infrastructure to support research and development Improved regulation of synthetic biology Improved scientific and technical cooperation in the context of synthetic biology

***Item 7: 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
CBD/SBSTTA/28/6/Rev.1***

Key Messages

The Programme of Work should mainstream human rights-based approaches, gender equality, intergenerational equity, and the rights, knowledge and governance systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities across all targets, consistent with the implementation principles of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In particular, Target 2 should strengthen the integration of traditional knowledge, including women's knowledge, into restoration efforts; Target 7 should recognize and address the disproportionate impacts of hazardous pollutants on women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and Target 23 should be implemented as a cross-cutting target, in alignment with the Gender Plan of Action.

These recommendations were also submitted in response to Notification 2026-023: Invitation to participate in the peer review of the draft strategic review and analysis of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as submitted by Women4Biodiversity. For further details, please refer to the following: [peer-review-draft-systematic-review-pa-W4B.xlsx](#)



Textual Proposals

VI. Recommendation

5. Encourages Parties to apply a human rights-based **and gender- responsive** approach in the implementation of the updated programme of work on protected and conserved areas, including by ensuring the full and effective participation of rights holders and the recognition of diverse governance and **promoting equitable governance** systems, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030.

6. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(c) To compile a synthesis report on best practices to meet Target 3 of the Framework and implement the programme of work on protected and conserved areas, with particular focus on the following areas:

(i) Human rights-based and equitable governance approaches, including the recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders **and measures to prevent and remediate gender-based violence and discrimination associated with conservation actions;**

(x) Sustainable finance approaches, innovative financial mechanisms and direct and accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities and **women's and other rights holders;**

(x)bis Contributions of regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres towards implementation of the Programme of Work, including lessons learned and opportunities for scaling implementation support.



Annex

Update to the programme of work on protected and conserved areas

Complementary activities to strengthen the programme of work on protected and conserved areas and its alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Network</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
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, and integrating the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women's.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 7	14. Address pollution pressures affecting protected and conserved areas across terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems, including erosion and sedimentation processes, hazardous pollutants , plastic pollution, pesticide use and run-off, cumulative impacts and land-sea interactions, including those associated with deep-sea mining, taking into account different impacts on women, Indigenous Peoples' and local communities.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 23	33. Promote gender equality and integrate a gender-responsive approach across the programme of work on protected and conserved areas, and ensure the effective participation of women.	Priority actions

Item 8: Marine and coastal biodiversity

CBD/SBSTTA/28/7

CBD/SBSTTA/28/7/Add.1

Key Messages

CBD/SBSTTA/28/7 largely reflects a technical approach to identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), whereas the post-2022 KMGBF framework calls for implementation that is rights-based, gender-responsive, and inclusive. Incorporating explicit references to human rights, gender equality, Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' knowledge, traditional knowledge, and women's leadership would better align the decision with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the CBD Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), Target 22, Target 23, and the establishment of the permanent Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j). These additions would strengthen both the legitimacy and effectiveness of marine biodiversity governance while ensuring coherence across recent CBD decisions. Since the adoption of the KMGBF, Parties have committed to implementing biodiversity action through a human rights-based approach - Section C.

As of the date of this submission, 25 July 2026 the information document CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/2 was not available on the meeting webpage. However, in line with the review of CBD/SBSTTA/28/7/Add.1, we would like to encourage Parties and the Secretariat for the repository to include, where appropriate and with the free, prior and informed consent of knowledge holders, relevant traditional knowledge and community-generated information that contributes to understanding ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.

This agenda is also very important and relevant to Target 1,2 and 3, including the parallel discussion taking place on the programme of work on protected (and conserved areas) and within that work the growing recognition of the community-based monitoring systems, which can also contribute and support the work of the EBSAs.



Textual Proposals

General Recommendation

Throughout the decision, replace references to "best available scientific information with **"best available scientific information, together with traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, where appropriate and with their free, prior and informed consent."**

V. Recommendations

19. The Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision¹¹ along the following lines: The Conference of the Parties,

I Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

3. Encourages Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other ~~stakeholders~~ **rights holders** to contribute to the work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas under the Convention using the best available scientific information as well **as the traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities, where appropriate and with their free, prior and informed consent of knowledge holders, while ensuring their full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation in relevant decision-making processes,** ~~in order to~~ **in the identification, modification and** increase **in** the number and coverage of such areas around the world;

3.bis. Recognizes that the identification, modification, description and management of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas should be undertaken in a manner consistent with a human rights-based approach, respecting the rights, knowledge systems, governance institutions and customary sustainable use practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, while promoting gender equality and the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation of women and girls.

6. Also requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate and support, as appropriate, efforts to develop submissions for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas, and, subject to the availability of resources, to convene a global expert workshop to synthesize the best available scientific information **together with traditional knowledge, Indigenous and local knowledge systems, community-based monitoring data, citizen science and other complementary knowledge systems** on such areas beyond national jurisdiction in support of the potential development of future submissions;

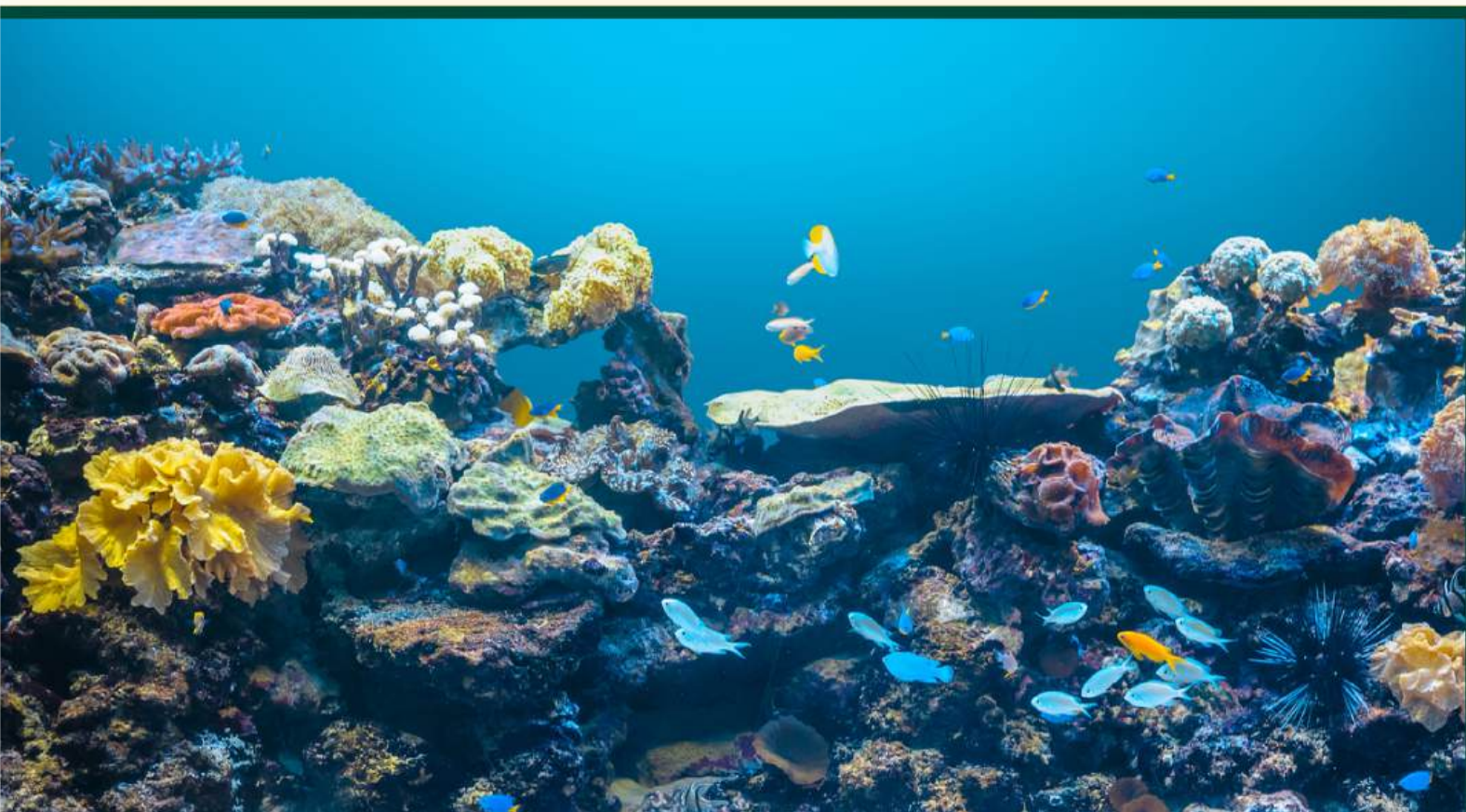
II Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

9. Encourages Parties and other Governments to strengthen **coordinated action, inclusive and gender-responsive** at the national approaches level on **to** issues related to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;

10. Also encourages Parties and other Governments, and invites organizations with competence in areas beyond national jurisdiction, to take into consideration the wide range of **scientific, technical, traditional knowledge and rights based** tools, guidance and experiences developed under the Convention in their work to conserve and use sustainably marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including in the implementation of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary to further cooperate with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and organizations with competence in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular with a view to sharing tools **including approaches that promote gender equality, Indigenous Peoples and local communities rights, participatory governance, equitable benefit-sharing and the integration of traditional knowledge**, guidance and experiences developed under the Convention relevant to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, as appropriate and within the mandates of the respective organizations;

12. Bis. Encourage Parties, relevant organizations and competent international bodies to ensure that marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use measures are implemented in accordance with a human-rights based approach, respecting the rights, knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and promoting the full, effective and equitable participation and leadership of women and girls



For more information on CBD SBSTTA-28:

[Official meeting.page](#)

Recommendations can be found on the SBSTTA-28 webpage

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