

Agenda Item 7: Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: strategic review and update of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Date: 26 July, 2026

Statement on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

The IIFB welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft recommendations on the strategic review and update of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, in light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Our contributions reflect the proposals that the IIFB submitted in response to Notification 2025-135.

The IIFB supports changing the title to “Programme of Work on Protected and Conserved Areas”. This title better reflects the broader scope of Target 3 of the KMGBF, which includes protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), and Indigenous and traditional territories, where relevant. We recommend explicitly adding the words “recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities” to the scope of the Programme of Work, in line with the language of Target 3.

The IIFB strongly supports the implementation of the Programme of Work in accordance with Section C of the KMGBF, particularly through a human rights-based approach that ensures respect for the right of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to give or withhold their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), ensure their full and effective participation in the governance of protected and conserved areas, promote the inclusion of women and youth, and recognize the diversity of governance systems.

The IIFB supports the proposal inviting the Executive Secretary to prepare a synthesis report on good practices. This report should include, in particular:

- Status and trends in the recognition of and respect for Indigenous and Traditional Territories;
- Differentiated approaches implemented with respect to Indigenous Peoples living in voluntary isolation or in situations of initial contact;
- The implementation of human rights-based and equitable governance approaches, including respect for and recognition of the values, knowledge, and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- Inclusive monitoring, including monitoring and disaggregated indicators developed and implemented by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Regarding the alignment of the specific targets of the KMGBF with the Programme of Work, we propose that the complementary activities listed in the annex more closely reflect the following elements:

- Target 1: include respect and recognition for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in line with language of Target 1
- Targets 5 and 9: the text should explicitly refer to sustainable customary use;
- Target 19: include environmental and social safeguards, while maintaining the guarantee of direct and accessible financing for Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- Target 22: expand the actions to reflect all elements of this target, including access to justice, access to information, and the protection of environmental and human rights defenders, in accordance with the requirements of Target 22.

The IIFB reaffirms that direct funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities are essential for the effective, inclusive, and rights-based implementation of the updated Programme of Work.

The IIFB welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the updating of the Programme of Work on Protected and Conserved Areas and looks forward to continuing its collaboration to ensure that the revised Programme of Work fully reflects the rights, roles, values, and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in accordance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The IIFB suggested text is in **GREEN CAPITALS**, text we suggest deleted is ~~struck though in red~~ and the text to be maintained is **highlighted in green.**

Thank you, Chair.

Annex – Text proposals:

VI. Recommendation

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [VII/28](#) of 20 February 2004, [VIII/24](#) of 31 March 2006, [IX/18](#) of 30 May 2008, [X/31](#) of 29 October 2010, [14/8](#) of 29 November 2018 and [16/12](#) of 1 November 2024,

Acknowledging that the programme of work on protected areas and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity continue to provide a strategic framework for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular Target 3, **AND RECALLING THAT ITS IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION, INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW**, while noting that complementary guidance is needed to enhance alignment with the Framework and address identified gaps,

1. *Decides* to revise the name of the programme of work on protected areas to “programme of work on protected and conserved areas” in order to reflect the broader scope of “protected **AREAS** and **OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES, RECOGNIZING INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES, WHERE APPLICABLE AND RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES,**” in a manner consistent with **TARGET 3 OF** the Framework and enhance clarity and coherence;

2. *Endorses* the complementary activities for further or improved guidance contained in the annex to the present decision, as an update to the programme of work on protected and conserved areas, in order to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with particular focus on Target 3;

3. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to take into account the updated programme of work on protected and conserved areas in the development and implementation of actions to meet the targets of the Framework, in particular Target 3;

4. *Invites* the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and United Nations entities, **OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND PROCESSES**, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, women and youth, to contribute to the implementation of the Framework by supporting the implementation of the updated programme of work on protected and conserved areas;

5. *Encourages* Parties to **IMPLEMENT THE UPDATED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS IN LINE WITH SECTION C OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, IN PARTICULAR BY APPLYING** a human rights-based approach, ~~in the implementation of the updated programme of work on protected and conserved areas, including by~~ ensuring the full and effective participation of **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING WOMEN AND YOUTH, rights-holders**, and ~~the~~ **recognizing** ~~of~~ diverse 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:

(a) To further support the Target 3 Community of Practice as a flexible, inclusive and voluntary platform, with a view to facilitating coordination, knowledge exchange and implementation support, and to invite relevant organizations to participate in the Community;

(b) To collaborate with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and other relevant partners in order to deliver targeted scientific and technical support to Parties for meeting Target 3 of the Framework;

(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 **RESPECT AND** recognition of **THE RIGHTS ROLES, VALUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF** indigenous peoples and local communities ~~as rights-holders~~;
- (ii) Ecological integrity, ecosystem resilience and ecological connectivity, including in the context of climate change across terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine systems;
- (iii) The recognition **AND RESPECT** of indigenous and traditional territories, ~~including~~ by applying differentiated approaches for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact;

- (iv) Gender equality and gender-responsive approaches in planning, governance and the management of protected and conserved areas;
- (v) The integration of protected and conserved areas into biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and wider landscapes and seascapes;
- (vi) The identification and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services, including underrepresented ecosystems;
- (vii) Standards and best practices for planning, governance and the management of protected and conserved areas;
- (viii) Ecological networks, climate-informed, **SPATIAL PLANNING AND** corridor design, large-scale ecological connectivity and transboundary conservation, including in urban and peri-urban contexts;
- (ix) Monitoring and evaluation systems for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, including through the use of new technologies and disaggregated indicators **BY GENDER, AGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AMONG OTHER RELEVANT DIMENSIONS;**
- (x) Sustainable finance approaches, innovative financial mechanisms and direct and accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities;

(d) To report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the subsequent submission of a recommendation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.

Annex

Update SUPPLEMENT to the programme of work on protected and conserved areas

The table below shows the mapping of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework against ~~complementary~~ SUPPLEMENTARY activities that could support the implementation of the programme of work on protected and conserved areas. It highlights areas of strong alignment, opportunities to strengthen existing provisions and gaps where further development is needed. It is based on the findings of a strategic review of the programme, related submissions and a peer review analysis. The activities are divided into three categories: (a) priority actions, focused on strengthening alignment with Target 3 of the Framework and its interlinkages with other targets; (b) complementary actions, which address targets that are partially covered and where implementation can be strengthened; and (c) areas for further development that the programme does not cover or only covers in a limited manner and where additional guidance is needed. For targets where no significant alignment was identified through the gap analysis and relevant guidance or activities were not identified in submissions (notably Targets 13, 17 and 18), no specific actions are proposed.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN LINE WITH SECTION C OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, IN PARTICULAR FOLLOWING A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH.

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 Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 1	1. Integrate protected and conserved areas into broader landscape and seascape planning to improve ecological AND CULTURAL connectivity, through participatory, human rights-based and inclusive spatial planning processes that ensure the full and effective participation WHILE RECOGNIZING, RESPECTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS of indigenous peoples and local communities	Priority actions

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</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.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 3	3. Incorporate the language, scope and timelines of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework across the programme of work on protected and conserved areas, including by reflecting the concept of protected and conserved areas as an umbrella term encompassing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and, where applicable, indigenous and traditional territories, updating relevant timelines and terminology, and ensuring coherence with related processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities to 2030. 3 BIS ENSURE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OR DESIGNATION OF NEW PROTECTED AREAS AND OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES WITHIN INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES ENSURES THAT THE FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IS OBTAINED. IN CASES WHERE NEWLY ESTABLISHED PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS OVERLAP WITH INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES WITHOUT THE FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE. 4. Enhance guidance related to the recognition, RESPECT, PROMOTION AND PROTECTION of indigenous and traditional territories IN THE CONTEXT OF TARGET 3, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities	Priority actions

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	Complementary activities	Category
	(Footnote with the information). This encompasses differentiated approaches to ensure comprehensive protection, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact; 5. Facilitate the compilation and dissemination, through the clearing-house mechanism and relevant platforms, including the Target 3 Community of Practice and the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative, of practical frameworks, guidance, tools, case studies and best practices to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, including the definition and prioritization of areas of particular importance for biodiversity, ecological networks, climate-informed corridor design, large-scale ecological connectivity, other effective area-based conservation measures and transboundary conservation. 6. Strengthen the operationalization of equitable governance and a human rights-based approach in the planning, governance and management of protected and conserved areas, including by: shifting from beneficiary-based approaches to the recognition, RESPECT, PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND VALUES OF indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders; promoting standards and good practices for participation, shared governance and co-management arrangements THAT RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES; ensuring culturally appropriate access to information; RESPECTING AND strengthening IMPLEMENTATION OF free, prior and informed consent, while applying differentiated approaches, including for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact. 7. Strengthen INCLUSIVE monitoring and evaluation systems for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, including by identifying available tools, and facilitate the use of new technologies to better assess management effectiveness, governance quality, socioeconomic outcomes, equity considerations and biodiversity outcomes, including through the integration of gender-disaggregated indicators BY	

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	GENDER, AGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AMONG OTHER RELEVANT DIMENSIONS; 8. Strengthen the application of contemporary approaches to ecological integrity and ecological and cultural connectivity in the planning and management of protected and conserved areas, including through the development and implementation of ecological networks, climate-informed corridor design, and connectivity across large-scale terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems. 9. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into the planning and management of protected and conserved areas, to: (a) minimize the impacts of climate change and climate response measures, including through adaptive management and resilience-building approaches; and (b) integrate protected and conserved areas as part of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.	
Target 4	10. Integrate systematic human-wildlife risk assessment into the establishment, expansion and zoning of protected and conserved areas, including through the application of strategic environmental assessment and environmental and social impact assessment processes, in order to anticipate, prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict. 11. Strengthen capacities for planning and management in protected and conserved areas, including through participatory risk assessment, rapid response mechanisms and inclusive community engagement approaches to address human-wildlife conflict.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 5	12. Provide guidance on addressing and managing the use of wild species within protected and conserved areas, where such use occurs, in a manner that mitigates risks to biodiversity and human health, is consistent with site-specific conservation objectives and zoning and contributes to addressing the legality, sustainability and safety of use across relevant stages of the use chain, including through the application of One Health risk assessment frameworks, as appropriate WHILE RESPECTING AND PROTECTING CUSTOMARY	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	SUSTAINABLE USE BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.	
Target 6	13. Strengthen prevention, early detection and rapid response to invasive alien species, including through community-based monitoring and surveillance systems, and biosecurity and trade-related measures.	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, plastic pollution, pesticide use and run-off, cumulative impacts and land-sea interactions.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 8	15. Strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into planning and management, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. 16. Promote climate-informed system design that anticipates future range shifts, including by identifying climate refugia, connectivity corridors and areas of future biodiversity importance.	Areas for further development (limited or not covered)
Target 9	17. Consolidate best practices for sustainable biodiversity-based products, services, trade regulation and participatory governance, WHILE PROTECTING AND ENCOURAGING CUSTOMARY SUSTAINABLE USE BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 10	18. Strengthen guidance on how sustainably managed production landscapes can contribute to ecological connectivity, ecosystem functions and resilience across landscapes and seascapes between protected and conserved areas.	Areas for further development (limited or not covered)
Target 11	19. Compile and disseminate case studies highlighting the contributions of protected and conserved areas to climate resilience, ecosystem services and human well-being, and promote their integration into climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, and improved risk assessment and early warning for environmental hazards.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 12	20. Integrate protected and conserved areas into urban and peri-urban planning, including through green and blue infrastructure, to enhance ecological connectivity and equitable access to nature and to support physical and mental health and well-being.	Areas for further development (limited or not covered)
Target 13	21. No specific actions identified (limited or no alignment). NOTE THAT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 8J AND 15, THE ACCESS TO TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING IN PROTECTED AREAS, SHOULD RESPECT THEIR FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT	n/a
Target 14	22. ENHANCE THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE RELEVANT SECTORS IN THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF Integrate protected and conserved areas into cross-sectoral policies, legislation, planning and development processes at all levels.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 15	23. Support and promote the implementation of legal, administrative or policy measures that encourage and enable businesses and financial institutions to assess, disclose and progressively reduce biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts affecting protected and conserved areas, including across their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios. 24. Facilitate clearer direction on engaging financial actors and private sector in protected and conserved areas on a voluntary basis.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 16	25. Promote synergies between the policies and actions taken to protect and conserve biodiversity and policies and actions that enable sustainable consumption choices, including through coherent policy frameworks, education, access to reliable information and sector-specific approaches, such as sustainable tourism management, contributing to the reduction of consumption footprints and waste generation.	Areas for further development (limited or not covered)
Target 17	26. No specific actions identified (limited or no alignment).	n/a
Target 18	27. No specific actions identified (limited or no alignment).	n/a

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
Target 19	28. Promote the identification of: (a) financial resources for protected and conserved areas, including through sustainable finance approaches, to mobilize private and other non-public funding; and (b) innovative mechanisms in support of effective implementation WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS. 29. Promote direct and accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities.	Priority actions
Target 20	30. Strengthen capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer for protected and conserved areas, including with respect to new technologies and institutional support for the conservation workforce, including rangers and other relevant personnel.	Priority actions
Target 21	31. Strengthen the application of advances in biodiversity monitoring, data management and knowledge-sharing through targeted capacity-building on reporting and the use of technology, including remote sensing, to improve monitoring, evaluation and decision-making	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)
Target 22	32. Strengthen access to information and THE FULL, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, EFFECTIVE AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES in decision-making related to protected and conserved areas, including by promoting a IN ACCORDANCE WITH A human rights-based approach, and the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. 32.BIS ENSURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WOMEN AND YOUTH, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EFFECTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS.	Complementary actions (target partially addressed)

<i>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i>	<i>Complementary activities</i>	<i>Category</i>
	32.TER ENSURE THE FULL PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS.	
Target 23	33. Promote gender equality and integrate a gender-responsive approach across the programme of work on protected and conserved areas.	Priority actions