

# IUCN's position paper on selected issues

**Convention on Biological Diversity  
Twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical  
and Technological Advice (SBSTTA27)  
20-24 October 2025, Panama City, Panama**

## Key messages

With only five years left to achieve the 2030 targets, Parties must ensure that the implementation, monitoring and review mechanisms are robust, science-based, and inclusive. SBSTTA27 must provide sound recommendations to support decision-making at the COP in order to keep the Parties - and non-Parties- on track to meet the targets.

- ✓ The timely submission of the national reports will be crucial to the development of the global report and the entire review process. IUCN urges Parties to submit their seventh national reports on time and encourages them to make use of the headline indicators and other globally available data, in addition to any available nationally-specific data.
- ✓ IUCN reiterates the importance of considering the contributions of actors other than national governments and highlights that rich information is available through existing intergovernmental platforms and processes like the IUCN Contributions for Nature.
- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties to consider the findings of the IPBES assessments in the implementation of their NBSAPs and recommends SBSTTA to invite regional and subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) centres to draw from these assessment results.
- ✓ IUCN also recommends SBSTTA to collaborate with the scientific bodies of the other Rio Conventions to identify specific scientific and technical themes shared by these Conventions and to provide advice on how these can be addressed, including by drawing on relevant existing CBD guidance and tools. IUCN highlights that Nature-based solutions offer a high-integrity framework for operationalizing synergies across the Rio conventions.
- ✓ In relation to the Programmes or Areas of Work, IUCN recommends these are considered in dedicated agenda items, linked to corresponding KMGBF Targets, where Parties could request new or updated guidance and tools to fill in the gaps, as necessary, and to include in the multi-year programme of work of the Convention a rota of agenda items that would allow to assess the effectiveness of such tools and refine guidance on implementation, as needed.
- ✓ IUCN and its SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) reiterate their continued support towards the implementation of Target 6, including in the development of capacity-building materials to address the technical and scientific needs of Parties.
- ✓ SBSTTA could consider expanding its recommendations to the COP in relation to biodiversity and agriculture to go beyond soil biodiversity and address various elements of Target 10.

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### **Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: global review of collective progress (Agenda item 3)**

With the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) taking place in October 2026, IUCN stresses that the timely submission of the national reports is crucial to the development of the global report and the entire review process.

- ✓ IUCN urges Parties to submit their seventh National Reports by February 28, 2026, in accordance with decisions 15/6 and 16/32.
- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties to make use of the headline indicators and other globally available data, in addition to any nationally-specific data which are available.
- ✓ IUCN stands ready to provide information to support the review, based on its own global scientific assessments relevant to this task and in response to any specific requests for data from the Parties, the Secretariat and the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the purposes of the global report and review (para 23 decision 16/31).
- ✓ IUCN recommends SBSTTA to encourage the regional and subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) centres to provide current and future support to Parties in the use of headline indicators and in the preparation of national reports.

While recognizing that the global review should be first and foremost based on national reports, IUCN also reiterates the importance of considering other contributions, such as those of actors other than national governments, including but not limited to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector, and international organizations. In that regard, IUCN:

- ✓ Recommends SBSTTA to invite actors other than national governments to report on their commitments to advance the goals and targets of the KMGBF into formal national or intergovernmental platforms, and to encourage Parties to take these contributions into account in their upcoming national reports.
- ✓ Further highlights that rich information is already available through existing

intergovernmental platforms and processes like the IUCN Contributions for Nature Platform, that could be drawn from in the global report.

Finally, IUCN underscores that the primary objective of the global review is not only to assess progress but also to drive action. The review process must inform the necessary policy adjustments, resource allocations, and implementation strategies to keep the world on track to achieve the 2030 targets and the goals and mission of the KMGBF. Therefore, the global report must provide Parties with the best available information to support decision-making at COP17, COP18, and COP19.

### **Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Agenda item 4)**

The various assessments from IPBES provide valuable scientific information for the implementation of the KMGBF, and the recent Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments, are welcome in this light. Capacity should now be developed, where needed, and guidance provided to adequately consider the findings and act upon them.

IUCN encourages Parties to consider the findings of IPBES assessments in the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other biodiversity-related commitments.

IUCN highlights that at its eleventh meeting the IPBES Plenary also approved the intersessional workplans for the implementation of objectives 2, 3 and 4 of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030. These objectives concern building capacity, strengthening knowledge foundations and supporting policy, respectively.

In particular, IUCN recalls Annexes II (workplan for building capacity) and III (workplan for data and knowledge management) to [decision IPBES-11/1](#), which include activities such as facilitation of access to expertise and information from completed IPBES assessments for organizations, networks and initiatives that build capacity in the context of implementing conventions related to biodiversity, upon their request; and sharing of relevant information on data and knowledge with

capacity-building initiatives under biodiversity-related multilateral agreements and with other research and support centres, as appropriate. These activities could enable the implementation of the KMGBF.

IUCN recommends SBSTTA27 to include in its recommendation to COP17:

- ✓ An invitation to the regional and sub-regional technical and scientific cooperation support centres to engage with the IPBES task force on capacity-building to facilitate the uptake of the Platform's approved assessments.
- ✓ A request to the Executive Secretary to continue its collaboration with IPBES in enabling the uptake of the findings of the assessments in decision-making.

### **Biodiversity and climate change (Agenda item 5)**

To achieve the goals and targets of the KMGBF, it is important to ensure ambitious action on climate change, to consider existing and projected impacts of climate change on biodiversity when implementing all targets, to avoid or minimize negative impacts of climate change responses on biodiversity<sup>1,2</sup>, and to address the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss in a coherent and synergistic manner. In this sense, IUCN:

- ✓ Welcomes efforts by the COP Presidencies of the Rio Conventions to further explore opportunities for collaboration, in addition to efforts by the Conventions' secretariats. The technical information exchange on options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence to support the implementation of the Conventions, held at the margins of UNFCCC SB62 session in Bonn in June provided a good opportunity to further advance discussions on this topic.
- ✓ Considers that UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil – the birthplace of the Rio Conventions – provides an invaluable opportunity for Parties to consider

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN has developed guidance for Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development : guidelines for project developers <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2021.04.en> and is currently developing guidance for optimal spatial planning and cumulative impact assessment for the renewable energy sector.

this issue, and to lay the necessary groundwork ahead of 2026, when the COPs of all the Rio Conventions will convene and a common and coordinated decision can potentially be formally taken.

- ✓ Recommends SBSTTA to work with the scientific bodies of the other Rio Conventions to identify specific scientific and technical themes shared by these Conventions and, consistent with its mandate, to provide advice on how these can be addressed, including by drawing on relevant existing CBD guidance and tools. The upcoming UNFCCC SBSTA/COP and the UNCCD CRIC meeting provide a good opportunity for the Conventions to continue advancing work on synergies.
- ✓ Submits that an area that could benefit from such cross-Convention collaboration is on how ecological integrity and the preservation of natural GHG reservoirs (including in the context of REDD+) can be ensured, and how the potential perverse outcomes of actions that fulfil the goals of one Convention but undermine the goals of another, can be better addressed<sup>3</sup>.
- ✓ Highlights that Nature-based solutions offer a high-integrity framework for operationalizing synergies across the Rio conventions. Initiatives and tools like the [ENACT Partnership](#) on Nature-based Solutions, the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation ([FEBA](#)) network, and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction ([PEDRR](#)) respond to the Parties' requests to facilitate capacity-building and to increase awareness and understanding of their combined benefits for climate change and biodiversity conservation, in line with Decision 16/22, which emphasized the need for enhanced international cooperation and partnerships.

IUCN welcomes the Supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches

<sup>2</sup> Additional information in the IUCN CEM report "Climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation: A review of progress and key issues in global carbon markets and potential impacts on ecosystems" <https://doi.org/10.2305/WGZ15482>

<sup>3</sup> For example, see: "[Connecting the Dots 2: Calling for a work programme to establish priorities for synergistic climate and biodiversity action](#)", IUCN Technical Brief, 29 November 2024.

to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction as an important tool to strengthen implementation of the Targets 8 and 11.

- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties to make use of the Voluntary Guidelines and recommends Parties and relevant stakeholders to make use of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions<sup>4</sup> alongside the Supplement. The Standard provides globally recognised criteria and indicators to assess and verify the robustness of nature-based solutions interventions, thereby complementing the practical guidance in the Supplement and supporting coherent, rights-based and high-integrity action across biodiversity, climate, and disaster risk reduction agendas.

### **Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework (Agenda item 6)**

#### ***(a) Strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work under the Convention in the context of the Framework***

With only 5 years to go until 2030, IUCN stresses that efforts should focus on implementing the GBF targets.

For this, it is necessary to ensure tools and guidance are evidence-based and continually updated to support the implementation of the Framework. In this respect, IUCN:

- ✓ Supports filling the gaps under existing work areas as identified in [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15](#), in order to meet most elements of the targets of the KMGBF<sup>5</sup>.
- ✓ Encourages continued collaboration between relevant organisations and bodies to improve the accessibility, availability, and compatibility of tools and guidance available to Parties, including those relevant to reporting.
- ✓ Recommends the Areas of Work are considered in dedicated agenda items, linked to corresponding KMGBF targets, where Parties could request guidance and tools to fill in the

gaps, as necessary, and to include in the multi-year programme of work of the Convention a rota of agenda items that would allow to assess the effectiveness of such tools and refine guidance on implementation, as needed.

#### ***(b) Strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity***

The Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity remains highly relevant for the implementation of the KMGBF, as forests are central to achieving multiple goals and targets, including those on spatial planning, protected and conserved areas, species, climate, restoration, and legal and sustainable use. Forests also underpin commitments under other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CITES, providing synergistic benefits for climate mitigation and adaptation, land degradation neutrality, and sustainable and legal wildlife use and trade.

Strengthening and updating the expanded Programme of Work can therefore help Parties deliver on the GBF while ensuring coherence and synergies across the broader international environmental agenda.

- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties to recognise the variable and unique contributions of different forest types, as well as the unique challenges facing them—notably, primary forests including high integrity forests and intact forest landscapes to biological diversity, and the threats and pressures which are impacting these.
- ✓ IUCN also urges the development of a shared understanding among the three Rio Conventions and other MEAs about the magnitude and importance of the biodiversity crisis and its threat to human health and well-being, and that protecting, conserving, and restoring forest ecosystem integrity and preventing further loss, fragmentation and degradation to primary forests and other natural forests is essential to achieve not only KMGBF goals and targets but also the goals of the UNFCCC and SDGs and other multilateral

<sup>4</sup> IUCN (2020). Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2020.08.en>

<sup>5</sup> Annex I in document [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19](#) contains a list of distinct elements of the KMGBF goals and targets.

agreements<sup>6</sup>, supporting the findings of the IPBES Nexus Assessment.

- ✓ IUCN reiterates the importance of conserving and restoring forest ecosystems for achieving Goal A and targets 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8 of the KMGBF and recommends the identification of priorities that can maximise synergies between climate and biodiversity action, i.e., actions that can protect and recover biodiversity and consequently prevent or reduce greenhouse gas emissions within Target 8 of the KMGBF.
- ✓ IUCN reaffirms its commitment to working with other organisations, including Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to streamline tools for reporting and improve guidance relevant to Parties and the Framework.

### **(c) Areas of potential further work**

Regarding the potential new work areas under the Convention:

- ✓ IUCN supports further work on pollution and biodiversity. While other MEAs have the mandate to address pollution – such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions, among others, Target 7 concerns both the impact of pollution on biodiversity, and the role of biodiversity in mitigating pollution risks, for example through Nature-based Solutions. Avoiding duplication of work, the Convention could develop guidance to address gaps identified in [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/15](#).
- ✓ IUCN recommends the consideration of a new agenda item on biodiversity and pollution at a future meeting of the COP and for the COP to extend an invitation to relevant MEAs and international organisations to collaborate in developing guidance on this topic to ensure coherence and synergies.

### **Invasive alien species (Agenda item 8)**

As part of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS), IUCN welcomes the collaboration between the IALG-IAS

and the Executive Secretary and reiterates its continued support towards the implementation of Target 6, including in the development of capacity-building materials to address the technical and scientific needs of Parties<sup>7</sup>.

IUCN highlights the resources produced in collaboration with the IALG-IAS in response to COP Decision 16/18, including the Data Accessibility Report (INF document) that provides recommendations on collaborative data solutions across data providers, various awareness-raising materials addressing IAS in e-commerce, tourism, climate change, and socio-economic contexts, and the IAS Capacity Building Workshop in Oceania<sup>8</sup>, building on the IAS Toolkit launched at COP, and fostering regional implementation, among others.

- ✓ IUCN recommends SBSTTA explicitly recognises the need for coordinated efforts among key data providers (ISSG, CABI, etc.) and aggregators (e.g., GBIF), and the need for sustained resources to improve data and information accessibility, to ensure timely and effective delivery of Target 6.

IUCN takes note of the report of the Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species ([CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/2](#)), and the expressed difficulties in establishing priorities for addressing invasive alien species, and the need to fill data and capacity gaps in relation to the prioritization of species, pathways and sites. In that regard,

- ✓ IUCN stands ready to continue supporting Parties and other stakeholders in the provision of data, information and capacity building for implementing actions towards meeting Target 6.
- ✓ The IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) continues to update and fill data gaps in its datasets, including assessing the impacts of the 3,500 known IAS using the Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT) and publishing them on the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD), and continues to update national alien species checklists through the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS).

<sup>6</sup> IUCN [Resolution 6.045](#) – Protection of primary forests, including intact forest landscapes

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/invasive/trainingias>

<sup>8</sup> The outputs of the workshop can be found here: <https://www.cbd.int/invasive/current/TCT62025.shtml>

- ✓ The ISSG is also already supporting Parties with ISSG mobilised data for reporting on the binary and headline indicators for Target 6.
- ✓ With its diverse membership of national and sub-national governments, international and national NGOs, and Indigenous Peoples Organisations, IUCN can further facilitate regional and cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration on IAS, including within One Health frameworks.

## **Biodiversity and agriculture (Agenda item 9)**

The IPBES Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments highlight the strong interlinkages between agriculture and biodiversity, and the need for transformative change in this sector. Agriculture impacts biodiversity both negatively and positively and no fewer than 34% of species (from species groups comprehensively assessed on the IUCN Red List) have agriculture documented as a threat. At the same time, agricultural lands provide habitat for 17%, indicating the importance of sustainably managed agroecosystems for biodiversity conservation<sup>9</sup>.

Nearly half of the global potential to reduce species extinction risk depends on how food and agricultural systems are managed, and it is similarly important for genetic diversity and ecosystems. As such, achieving Goal A of the KMGBF will largely depend on the ability to produce food for humanity in ways that are consistent with safeguarding nature<sup>10</sup>.

Through new modelling approaches, the IUCN flagship report on Agriculture and Conservation also shows that although trade-offs exist, with better land-use planning, landscape-level management, accompanied with agricultural support reforms, it is possible to deliver biodiversity gains, strengthen food security, mitigate climate change, and maintain economic returns. However, there is not a one-size-fits-all approach and integrated and spatially flexible solutions are

needed to reconcile food production with biodiversity conservation.

In light of these recent publications, IUCN highlights that:

- ✓ Addressing the intertwined challenges of agriculture, climate change, and food security makes the adoption of systemic and holistic approaches, like Nature-based Solutions, necessary.
- ✓ Less than 5% of global agricultural support currently qualifies as “green subsidies”. Reforming agricultural support is crucial to the resource mobilisation for achieving the KMGBF, including Target 18 on phasing out harmful subsidies and scaling up incentives for sustainable land management, agroecology, regenerative agriculture, sustainable intensification and other Nature-based Solutions<sup>11</sup>. Such incentives could include public compensation mechanisms that can take the shape of subsidies but also payments for ecosystem services, compensating farmers for services rendered to society and the environment.
- ✓ Transforming complex food and agricultural systems requires the balancing of competing sectoral demands. Multi-stakeholder collaboration between national and subnational governments, producers (including smallholder farmers), the corporate sector, financial institutions and civil society organisations, can effectively support this process. Though evidence in agriculture is limited, findings suggest that community-based models can foster greater farmer cooperation and consumer awareness, highlighting the value of integrated, multi-level governance.
- ✓ Given that agricultural sustainability varies across products and food systems, and over spatial and temporal scales, it is important that sustainability metrics, indicators, and monitoring frameworks are similarly scalable, comparable across dimensions, and are able to incorporate remote or telecoupled impacts. Tools such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened

<sup>9</sup> IUCN (2024). Agriculture and conservation: Living nature in a globalised world. IUCN Flagship Report Series No. 2. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2305/AMHX3737>

<sup>10</sup> IUCN (2024). Agriculture and conservation: Living nature in a globalised world.

<sup>11</sup> Demozzi, T., Oberč, B.P., Prieto López, A., Larbodiè, L., Borges, M.A., (2024). Sustainable agriculture and Nature-based Solutions. Arroyo Schnell, A. (ed.). IUCN Common Ground on Food and Agricultural Systems Series No. 1 Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. <https://doi.org/10.2305/EZVW9195>

Species, Red List of Ecosystems and the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric can help identify risks, track impacts, and guide more sustainable agricultural transitions.

SBSTTA is considering biodiversity and agriculture for the first time after the adoption of the KMGBF thus presenting an opportunity to go beyond the implementation of the plan of action for conservation of soil biodiversity.

IUCN proposes that SBSTTA considers recommending the COP encourages Parties to:

- ✓ Integrate the options presented in the IPBES Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments into their NBSAPs, and consider including agricultural sustainability in implementing actions towards targets related to spatial planning, restoration, protected and conserved areas, pollution reduction, and sustainable agriculture (Target 10).
- ✓ Reform harmful agricultural subsidies and scale up positive incentives, in line with KMGBF Target 18, to accelerate transition towards agroecology, sustainable intensification, and regenerative practices.
- ✓ Make use of indicators and metrics such as STAR and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and Red List of Ecosystems.
- ✓ Recognise the role of subnational authorities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and community-based approaches in delivering sustainable agricultural landscapes.

### **Biodiversity and health (Agenda item 10)**

The Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health provides a useful framework for promoting collaboration with different organizations to mainstream biodiversity-health interlinkages into health and conservation sectors, and to deliver on the goals and targets of the KMGBF.

Implementing the actions set out in the Plan are needed to mainstream the One Health approach in the implementation of the KMGBF while supporting the prevention and preparedness objectives of the WHO Pandemic Agreement and advancing the

response options identified by the IPBES Nexus Assessment.

In this regard, IUCN:

- ✓ Reiterates the need to consider health from all perspectives – human, domestic and wild animals and plants, and ecosystems – using a trans-sectoral One Health approach, when implementing the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, and the KMGBF.
- ✓ Encourages the active participation of wildlife and environment authorities in multisectoral (e.g., One Health) coordination platforms and decision-making processes to ensure the mainstreaming of biodiversity and especially, protected areas in the development of National One Health Strategic Plans, and in the development of National One Health Strategic Plans and Intergovernmental Panels.
- ✓ Conversely, encourages the active participation of the health sector (e.g., public health and veterinary authorities) in the environmental decision-making process and in landscape and protected area management strategies, to ensure the mainstreaming of health aspects across conservation planning, implementation and evaluation.
- ✓ Encourages integration of more complex biodiversity–health metrics into NBSAPs to support strategic, cross-sectoral action, such as the level of contaminants in animal populations that act as food sources for humans, and the risk of pathogen spillovers from wildlife to humans and livestock. Where relevant, align with WOA, WHO, FAO, and UNEP indicators to streamline monitoring and focus resources on implementation and action.
- ✓ Encourages integration of biodiversity-health metrics in both NBSAPs and NDCs, supporting the results of the IPBES Nexus Assessment, whose response options that integrate benefits for biodiversity, health and climate mitigation could be used as indicators.
- ✓ Stresses that taking actions to prevent zoonotic transmission pathways between animals and human and disease outbreaks (prevention at source) is far more likely to succeed, be sustainable, as well as more cost-effective than responding and trying to control them.
- ✓ Recalls that addressing drivers of biodiversity loss through Nature-based Solutions can lead

to co-benefits for biodiversity and improved health outcomes for humans and wildlife, reduce spillover risk to protect human, livestock, and wildlife health and inform early warning systems<sup>12 13</sup>.

- ✓ Stands ready to support the implementation of the Action Plan at global, regional and national

levels, with its Members and various Commission expert groups<sup>14</sup> providing capacity building and providing guidance, standards and tools<sup>15</sup> to support mainstreaming of biodiversity-health interlinkages into environmental policy, NBSAPs, impact assessments and other strategies.

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<sup>12</sup> [IUCN Resolution 7.135](#): Promoting human, animal and environmental health, and preventing pandemics through the One Health approach and by addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss

<sup>13</sup> Hopkins et al. (2024). Editorial Essay: Protected Areas and One Health. Parks Vol 30.1 May 2024  
<https://parksjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/PARKS-301-ALRE8783-Hopkins-et-al-1.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Such as, but not limited to, the IUCN SSC Wildlife Health Specialist Group, IUCN WCPA Protected Areas and One Health Task Force, IUCN CEM Human Health and Ecosystem Management Thematic Group.

<sup>15</sup> [PANORAMA One Health](#) promotes best practices, solutions and lessons learned that facilitate the implementation of a One Health approach.