



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity
Sixteenth meeting**
Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024
Agenda item 12
**Capacity-building and development, technical
and scientific cooperation, clearing-house
mechanism and knowledge management**

Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 1 November 2024

16/3. Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [XIII/23](#) of 17 December 2016, [14/24](#) of 29 November 2018 and [15/8](#) of 19 December 2022,

Taking note of the progress reports of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ on the implementation of previous decisions on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management,²

Recognizing the importance of coordinated action on capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management in supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³

Stressing the need to operationalize the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism as soon as possible to support the implementation of the Framework,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation during the intersessional period,

Noting the progress made on the operationalization of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism,

Emphasizing that the effective implementation of the Framework and of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans relies on the facilitation of technical and scientific

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² [CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.3](#), [CBD/COP/16/INF/33](#) and [CBD/COP/16/INF/38](#).

³ Decision 15/4, annex.

cooperation and access to and transfer of technology, including from developed country Parties to developing country Parties,

Recognizing the urgent need to address the scientific, technological and innovation capability gaps identified, in particular, in developing country Parties,

I. Capacity-building and development

1. *Invites* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth representatives, as well as other relevant stakeholders, initiatives, networks and partnerships, to share, through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, information about their ongoing and planned capacity-building and development activities in support of the implementation and monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the national and regional levels, with a view to fostering coordination and collaboration, and the sharing of information on opportunities to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

2. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to identify and share their biodiversity-related capacity-building and development needs, including for technology assessment, through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, and invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to offer support to address the capacity needs thus identified;

3. *Invites* Parties, according to their needs, circumstances and local contexts, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue to implement the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development,⁴ including through the development of dedicated biodiversity capacity-building and development action plans and programmes, as appropriate;

4. *Welcomes* the indicators proposed by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation in document [CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2](#) for use by the Group in monitoring progress in the implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;

5. *Decides* that the monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism will be conducted in conjunction with the process for monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with decisions [15/8](#) and [15/6](#) of 19 December 2022 and 16/31 of 27 February 2025, making use of information contained in the progress reports prepared by the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and national reports submitted by Parties;

6. *Requests* the Informal Advisory Group to identify suitable options to further address the technological, technical and institutional capability gaps identified, in particular by developing country Parties, with a focus on the targets and cross-cutting considerations of the Framework, including those related to the Protocols of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting to be held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

7. *Also requests* the Informal Advisory Group to prepare terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, to be undertaken in 2029 in conjunction with the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, using, among other things, the relevant indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁵

⁴ Decision 15/8, annex I.

⁵ Decision 15/5, annex, and decision 16/31.

including those for Target 20, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting to be held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group, and subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To continue to support Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and other relevant stakeholders in assessing and communicating their capacity needs and priorities through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, in collaboration with the regional and subregional support centres and relevant organizations;

(b) To further identify and map, in collaboration with the regional and subregional support centres, relevant initiatives and partnerships supporting capacity-building and development for the implementation of the Framework, in order to provide a global overview of their coverage, identify gaps, minimize the duplication of efforts and foster coordination and collaboration;

(c) To share the information collected through the process referred to in subparagraph (b) above through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) To continue to develop and implement joint capacity-building activities and programmes with the Secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁶ the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa⁷ and the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies, as appropriate, in the implementation of the respective conventions and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁸ at the regional, subregional and national levels, while respecting their specific mandates;

II. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

9. *Welcomes* the entities and organizations selected by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to host the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, as listed in annex I to the present decision;

10. *Decides* that the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism will be hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

11. *Adopts* the modalities for operationalizing the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, as contained in annex II to the present decision;

12. *Requests* the global coordination entity to apply the operational modalities and procedures outlined in section III of annex II to the present decision;

13. *Decides* that, in the interim, and taking paragraph 28 of decision [15/8](#) into account, the Bio-Bridge Initiative will continue to provide coordination support until the global coordination entity is established and fully operationalized;

14. *Encourages* the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres to mobilize the necessary funding from various sources, including international and domestic, public and private sources, as well as the financial and in-kind contributions of the entities and organizations selected to host the centres, to support the operationalization and activities of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;

15. *Requests* the selected regional and subregional support centres to develop, with the support of the global coordination entity and the Informal Advisory Group, a biennial workplan for

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

the period 2025–2026, in line with the mandate specified in paragraph 26 of decision [15/8](#) and the guidance provided in document [CBD/COP/16/INF/24](#), as updated further to paragraph 25 (c) below;

16. *Requests* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to consider and approve, on an interim basis, the first programme priorities and workplan of the global coordination entity following its establishment;

17. *Invites* Parties and, as appropriate, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives and other relevant stakeholders to make full use of the regional and subregional support centres to strengthen their capacities and to cooperate with one another to foster the effective use of science, various sources of knowledge, technology and innovations, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent,⁹ to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

18. *Requests* the regional and subregional support centres to collaborate with one another and with Parties, relevant organizations, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity and development cooperation agencies in the delivery of support to Parties in the respective regions and subregions, to consider filling gaps in geographical and thematic coverage and to foster programmatic coordination, complementarity and synergy, including through the establishment of memorandums of understanding, as appropriate;

19. *Also requests* the regional and subregional support centres to submit to the global coordination entity their activity reports for the period 2025–2026 for review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting to be held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties so that it may identify possible gaps and solutions for improving the delivery of technical and scientific cooperation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

20. *Invites* the global coordination entity to work with relevant international organizations, initiatives and partnerships to leverage expertise and resources in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation;

21. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and organizations in a position to do so to provide financial and in-kind contributions and other resources to support the programmes and activities supported by the regional and subregional support centres and the global coordination entity;

22. *Invites* the Kunming Biodiversity Fund to support the technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building and development support programmes and activities in developing countries;

23. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, in accordance with their mandates, to continue to support in all eligible countries country-driven projects that include technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building for the implementation of the Framework;

24. *Also requests* the Global Environment Facility, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, in accordance with their mandates, and invites the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and other funds, to support the operationalization and activities of the regional and subregional support centres in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, as appropriate, in response to their requests in their respective subregions;

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

(a) To initiate operations of the global coordination entity as soon as possible, in accordance with the modalities set out in annex II;

⁹ All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

(b) To identify and facilitate the mobilization of additional financial resources and technical assistance to enable the regional and subregional support centres to initiate support programmes and activities in their respective subregions as soon as possible, in response to the capacity needs and priorities identified by Parties;

(c) To update document [CBD/COP/16/INF/24](#) with the relevant requests for capacity-building and development activities, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer support from decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, and to communicate those to the regional and subregional support centres and the global coordination entity;

(d) To develop, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group and in line with the indicators outlined in document [CBD/TSC/IAG/2024/1/2](#), the criteria for evaluating the performance of the regional and subregional support centres and of the global coordination entity;

(e) To prepare a progress report on the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, including the operations of the regional and subregional support centres, based on their annual activity reports and those of the global coordination entity, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting to be held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

Annex I**Entities and organizations selected to host the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres****Africa**

- Central African Forest Commission
- Ecological Monitoring Centre
- Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
- Sahara and Sahel Observatory
- South African National Biodiversity Institute

Americas

- Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute
- Caribbean Community
- Central American Commission on Environment and Development

Asia

- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- International Union for Conservation of Nature – Asia Regional Office
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia
- Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences
- Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia

Europe

- European Commission Joint Research Centre
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences

Oceania

- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Annex II**Modalities for operationalizing the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism**

1. Pursuant to paragraph 27 of decision [15/8](#), the global coordination entity of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism will be operationalized in accordance with the modalities set out below and in line with its core functions, as outlined in that decision. The entity will support the identification of science, technology and innovation capability gaps, in particular for developing country Parties, in a transparent and inclusive manner, taking various regional perspectives into account. It will also facilitate, on a demand-driven basis, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties, in particular to developing country Parties, to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies.

I. Organizational structure

2. The global coordination entity will have a lean and agile team of professional and administrative staff, which will be responsible for the day-to-day administration and management of activities and operations, in line with the core functions outlined in paragraph 27 of decision [15/8](#).

3. The global coordination entity will establish partnerships with international organizations that have specialized expertise in areas related to biodiversity, such as the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, to provide, through the regional and subregional technical and scientific

cooperation support centres, support in areas where expertise or capacity is lacking in order to respond to all needs identified by Parties.

II. Governance and oversight

4. The global coordination entity will be accountable to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and will operate under its strategic guidance and direction. The Conference of the Parties will provide guidance to the entity to support the drafting of its biennial workplan, along with a budget. The general programme priorities, the biennial workplan and the delivery approaches will be approved by the Conference of the Parties at each of its ordinary meetings, following a recommendation from the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The entity will report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, on the progress of its work and that of the regional and subregional support centres.

5. The Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation will provide technical advice to the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres on the effective and timely discharge of their functions.

6. The Executive Secretary will communicate to the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres the priorities identified by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their national reports regarding capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, as well as guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties and requests for capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation in decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and will maintain synergies and collaboration with biodiversity-related conventions and relevant organizations and initiatives.

7. The initial term of service of the host organization of the global coordination entity will be set until the end of 2030. The performance of the entity will be evaluated in line with paragraph 15 below. The outcomes of the independent evaluation will be considered by the Conference of the Parties, which will determine the renewal of the term and, if required, ways to improve the performance of the entity or a strategy for its succession.

III. Operational modalities and procedures

8. The global coordination entity will implement fit-for-purpose operational modalities, procedures, criteria and guidelines related to its functions developed with input from the Informal Advisory Group. The modalities and procedures will be developed taking into account the guiding principles of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, as outlined in annex II to decision [15/8](#), and will, as appropriate, be refined over time on the basis of experience and lessons learned and revised by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The core modalities and procedures may include the following:

(a) Modalities for promoting and maintaining coordination, collaboration and synergies among the regional and subregional support centres;

(b) Criteria for priority setting and programming, including guidelines for the delivery of support tools;

(c) Modalities for ensuring balance and equity among regions in the delivery of support to Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, including in terms of access to information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation;

(d) Guidelines and modalities for enabling the regional and subregional support centres to align their work with the Convention and its Protocols and the Framework, as well as with the capacity needs and priorities identified by Parties, in particular developing country Parties, including guidelines to ensure a gender-responsive approach;

- (e) Criteria for the identification of organizations and experts that can be mobilized to assist the regional and subregional support centres at their request;
- (f) Guidelines for ensuring the active engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders;
- (g) Modalities for ensuring that the traditional knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities are considered, with their free prior and informed consent,¹⁰ to enable the regional and subregional support centres to act in accordance with relevant national legislation and international instruments and treaties;
- (h) Modalities for operationalizing, with the assistance of relevant organizations, a help desk to provide information, advice and technical support at the request of the regional and subregional support centres;
- (i) Guidelines, templates and procedures for assisting the regional and subregional support centres with reporting on their work to the Conference of the Parties through the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;
- (j) Promotion of research cooperation.

9. The global coordination entity will work with the regional and subregional support centres to connect those Parties seeking specialized technical assistance with organizations, initiatives, networks and experts that can and are best suited to provide the support required.

IV. Characteristics of the host organization of the global coordination entity

10. The host organization of the global coordination entity will have the following characteristics:
- (a) Ability to mobilize resources from diverse sources;
 - (b) Familiarity and experience with processes under the Convention and its Protocols;
 - (c) Ability to leverage expertise from external contacts and networks;
 - (d) Expertise on issues related to biodiversity;
 - (e) Strong convening power;
 - (f) Recognition as a neutral convener;
 - (g) Demonstrated experience in engaging with multiple stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;
 - (h) Experience in programme and project management.

V. Coordination and collaboration

11. The global coordination entity will facilitate coordination and collaboration among the regional and subregional support centres through various means, including by organizing annual meetings with the coordinators of the centres and maintaining a collaborative platform, with a view to promoting synergies among them in the delivery of support to Parties and the sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned. This will also enable the centres to leverage and maximize the expertise and resources available within other centres and to foster the sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned. The collaborative online platform will be accessible through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism.

12. The global coordination entity will organize, as appropriate, meetings of the selected regional and subregional support centres to orientate them on their mandate and operational procedures and

¹⁰ All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

provide them with guidance. It will also facilitate meetings and other activities to promote, as appropriate, cooperation with relevant initiatives and partnerships supporting the implementation of the Framework and with relevant technical cooperation mechanisms led by other multilateral environmental agreements and relevant organizations to foster coordination and synergies.

VI. Financial arrangements

13. The global coordination entity will mobilize additional resources from a wide variety of sources, including from public and private grants and innovative financing instruments, as appropriate, and channel those resources to finance the technical and scientific cooperation support programmes of the regional and subregional support centres.

VII. Monitoring and review

14. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group, will periodically review the operations of the global coordination entity and of the regional and subregional support centres, including by conducting analyses of their periodic reports. A first review will be carried out for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting. The results-based workplans and reports of the entities to the Conference of the Parties will be the primary source of information for monitoring and evaluating the mechanism.

15. The Executive Secretary will commission an independent evaluation of the global coordination entity and the regional and subregional support centres in line with decision [15/8](#). The report will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting.
