

# ANIMALS FOR BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE & HEALTH ACTION

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS FROM CBD COP16





# ABOUT US

**The World Federation for Animals** is a federation of 70+ NGOs working towards the recognition of animal welfare as essential for the sustainable development agenda. Our efforts focus on integrating animal welfare into international health, food, and environmental regimes and trade and development finance rules.

**Born Free's** mission is to protect wild animals, natural habitats and functioning ecosystems in perpetuity and to end the exploitation of wild animals, whether free-living or in captivity. Our vision of a co-existent future is one where animals are respected for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world.

# CONTACT

## **World Federation for Animals**

Jessica Bridgers, [Jessica.Bridgers@wfa.org](mailto:Jessica.Bridgers@wfa.org), Deputy CEO

Silvia Mantilla, [Silvia.Mantilla@wfa.org](mailto:Silvia.Mantilla@wfa.org), Global Policy & Communications Manager

## **Born Free Foundation**

Adeline Lerambert, [adeline@bornfree.org.uk](mailto:adeline@bornfree.org.uk), International Policy Manager



# CONTENTS

<b>What the world needs from CBD COP16</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	
Item 10. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review	4
Item 16. Scientific and technical needs to support KMGBF implementation	6
Item 18. Diverse values of biodiversity	7
Item 19. Sustainable Wildlife Management	9
Item 21. Invasive Alien Species	13
Item 22. Biodiversity and Health	17
Item 25. Biodiversity and Climate Change	21
Item 13. Cooperation with international organisations and bodies	25

# WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS FROM CBD COP16



The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a key opportunity to assess progress on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and drive progress in biodiversity protection. Animal welfare is essential for achieving the KMGBF goals and addressing biodiversity loss. It boosts ecosystem resilience and catalyses global goals such as biodiversity conservation, health, and climate change mitigation. Our recommendations aim to ensure the long-term sustainability of ecosystems, wildlife, and communities.

## Implementation of the KMGBF

- Fill key gaps in the KMGBF monitoring framework to ensure robust indicators on the harvesting, use, and trade of wild species, with a focus on reducing and eliminating high-risk practices such as commercial wildlife markets. This is fundamental to guarantee ecological sustainability and safeguard human and animal health

## Diverse Values of Biodiversity

- Incorporate diverse knowledge and value systems into decision-making at all levels and across all sectors, prioritising intrinsic values to drive a transformative change, enabling people and nature to thrive.
- Enable a transparent, inclusive and participatory process for the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF.

## Sustainable Wildlife Management

- Promote a holistic, precautionary approach to wildlife management that prioritises animal welfare and biodiversity.
- Ensure that new guidance, tools and policies focus on humane and ecologically sustainable wildlife management, avoiding further species exploitation.



## **Invasive Alien Species**

- Operationalise humane and preventative approaches to managing invasive alien species, recognising the sentience of these animals, while aligning with global conservation efforts.

## **Biodiversity and Health**

- Adopt the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, focusing on ambitious, prevention-based actions that address the drivers of zoonotic disease emergence, in line with the One Health approach, recognising the nexus between health, biodiversity, and animal welfare.

## **Biodiversity and Climate Change**

- Recognise the essential role of wild animals in carbon sequestration and ecosystem functions that mitigate climate change.
- Implement policies that protect wildlife and ecosystems while transforming food systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, supporting both biodiversity and climate goals.

## **Cooperation with international organisations and bodies established under other conventions**

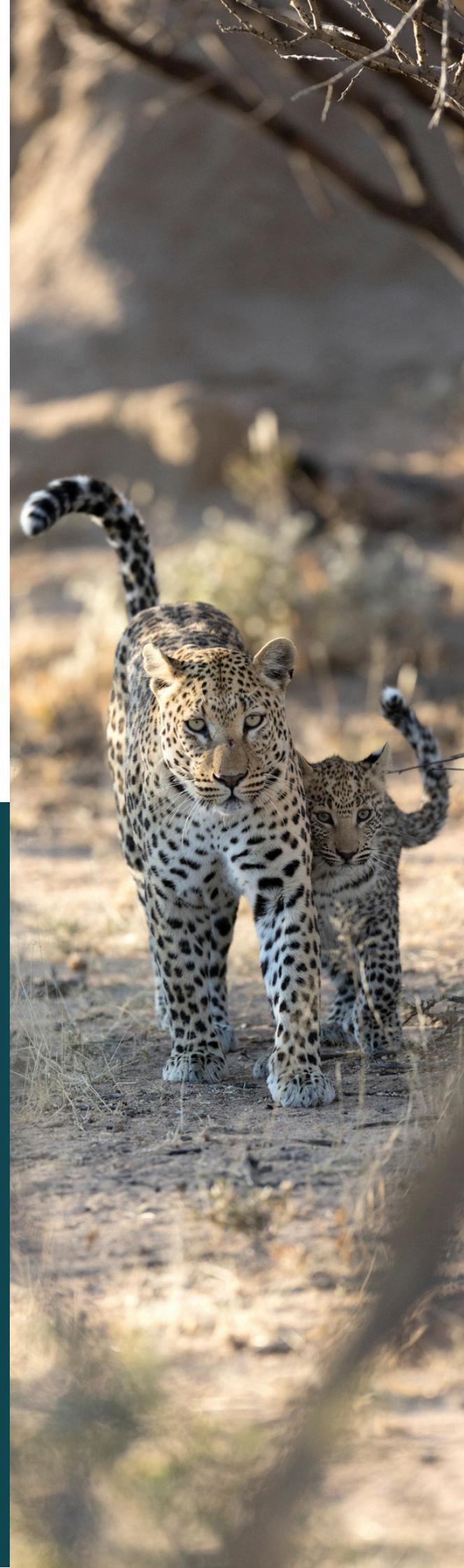
- Strengthening CBD cooperation with other Conventions and international organisations to optimise synergies and complementarities.

# A.

## AGENDA ITEMS 10 & 16

### Priority CBD COP16 outcome

Fill key gaps in the KMGBF monitoring framework to ensure robust indicators on the harvesting, use, and trade of wild species, with a focus on reducing and eliminating high-risk practices such as commercial wildlife markets. This is fundamental to guarantee ecological sustainability and safeguard human and animal health.



## Agenda item 10. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

### On draft decision in SBSTTA-26/1. Monitoring Framework for the KMGBF

We recommend maintaining the underlined text and removing brackets for the following paragraph:

[2. Agrees to add headline indicators for Target 22 of the Framework, including headline indicator 22.1, on land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and local communities, and binary indicator 5.b for Target 5, on trade in wild species;]

#### Rationale:

Although more work remains on this Target, we support adopting this binary indicator as a first step to fill the gaps evident in the monitoring framework under Target 5.

As highlighted in Annex III of CBD/SBSTTA/26/2, the sole current headline indicator for Target 5 focuses only on fish, leaving critical aspects—such as legality, sustainability, and pathogen risk for both terrestrial and marine wildlife—insufficiently covered.

Since both legal and illegal wildlife trade pose substantial threats to biodiversity, as well as human and animal health, it is urgent to develop and adopt suitable and operational headline, binary, component and complementary indicators to address all aspects of Target 5.

Additionally, we recommend removing the brackets from the following paragraphs and maintaining the underlined text:

[24. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to review the needs of Parties in the implementation of the monitoring framework and consider how to address any technical or capacity gaps, including by strengthening national biodiversity observing systems and connecting national systems at the regional and global levels;]

[30. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to work with Parties, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, relevant academic and research institutions and other relevant organisations, (...), to fill the gaps in the monitoring framework, and in particular those described in annex III to the present decision, as part of the implementation of the present decision;]

#### Rationale:

SBSTTA must have a mandate to review and strengthen the monitoring framework to ensure the KMGBF implementation. We emphasise the importance of a transparent, participatory process led by the Executive Secretary to engage Parties, other multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, and stakeholders. This inclusive approach will be essential for addressing the gaps in the framework.

We recommend maintaining headline indicator 9.1., as underlined below:

**31. (b) Identifying options and potential collaborators to address gaps identified by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, including for the development of headline indicators 1.1 and 9.1.**

**Rationale:**

Currently, there is a lack of methodology and data to support indicator 9.1, on the 'Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species.' It is thus essential to explore additional options and collaboration to fill this gap. Monitoring for Target 9 should focus on measuring benefits in a balanced and comprehensive way, capturing social and environmental benefits, including non-monetary benefits, from biodiversity to communities living with wildlife.

The sustainability of any use of wildlife must be considered and assessed in biological and ecological terms, since the long-term viability and equity of benefits to people depend on biological and ecological sustainability

**On Annex III**

We recommend removing brackets and maintaining Annex III 'Gap analysis: research needs and indicator development required for the improved monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework'.

**Rationale:**

Filling the indicator gaps in the KMGBF monitoring framework described in Annex III is essential. Gaps in Goal B and Targets 4, 5 and 9 are particularly significant and could hinder the effective implementation of the Framework if not addressed. Retaining the gap analysis within this document ensures easy reference to this essential analysis and helps guide targeted actions for improvement.



## **Agenda item 16. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the KMGBF, including implications for the programmes of work of the CBD.**

### **On draft decision in SBSTTA-26/2. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the KMGBF**

We emphasise the need for any assessment of biodiversity-based activities, products and services to take into account diverse values of nature by adding the language in bold as indicated below:

2. [Agrees to advance work in the following areas: **[to be determined]**]

**[(a) Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning;**

**(b) Pollution and biodiversity;**

**(c) Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, taking into account diverse values of nature]];**

#### **Rationale:**

The term “biodiversity-based products” is vague and could be misinterpreted as promoting the intensification of wildlife exploitation driven by large commercial consumer markets. Prioritising economic benefits has been a key driver of wildlife exploitation, which undermines the required precautionary approach. Economic benefits should be limited to non-consumptive activities that demonstrably enhance biodiversity. It is essential to move beyond utilitarian perspectives and consider the diverse values of nature, such as cultural and societal benefits of thriving nature and wildlife, as encouraged by the IPBES Values Assessment.





## B.

---

### DIVERSE VALUES OF BIODIVERSITY (ITEM 18)

#### **Priority CBD COP16 outcome**

Incorporate diverse knowledge and value systems into decision-making at all levels and across all sectors, prioritising intrinsic values to leverage a transformative change towards sustainable and just futures for people and nature.

## Agenda item 18. Diverse values of biodiversity.

### On draft decision in SBSTTA-25/5.

We recommend that Parties endorse the main findings of IPBES' Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature:

*[3. [Welcomes][Endorses] the key messages contained in the summary for policymakers of the assessment; ]*

We also recommend that Parties remove the brackets and maintain the following text:

*[(c) Reform policies and institutions, and their underlying norms and societal goals, to internalise the diverse intrinsic, relational and instrumental values of nature, and align them with the global objectives of sustainability and environmental justice through a gradual medium- and long term process;]*

### Rationale:

The IPBES' Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature must be operationalised by the CBD Parties. The Assessment emphasises shifting from a short-term profit-driven focus to one that values the myriad of nature's contributions. We strongly recommend that Parties 'endorse' as opposed to simply 'welcoming' the key messages of the Values Assessment. We also strongly encourage parties to commit to reforming policies and institutions to operationalise the findings of the IPBES Assessment.



## C.

### **SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (ITEM 19)**

#### **Priority CBD COP16 outcomes**

- Promote a holistic, precautionary approach to wildlife management that prioritises animal welfare and biodiversity.
- Ensure that new guidance, tools and policies focus on humane and ecologically sustainable wildlife management, avoiding further species exploitation.



## Agenda item 19. Sustainable wildlife management.

### On draft decision in SBSTTA-25/7.

We recommend removing the brackets and maintaining this paragraph:

*[5. Requests the Executive Secretary[, subject to the availability of resources,] in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and with inputs from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and relevant organisations, to prepare draft complementary guidance on those areas within the mandate of the Convention, with a view to supporting the effective implementation of the Framework, taking into account the seven key elements referred to in paragraph 4 (b), as well as the further gap analysis and revised list of areas that might require complementary guidance prepared pursuant to recommendation 25/7, and submit such guidance to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration at a meeting held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]*

### Rationale:

Maintaining this paragraph is crucial as it ensures that the views on the diverse values of nature held by a range of stakeholders can be integrated into the KMGBF's implementation.

### Ecologically sustainable use of wild species

We recommend adding the qualifier "ecologically" before each mention of "sustainable use of wild species." We offer two examples:

*(c) Incorporate inclusive and participatory mechanisms for the development of policy instruments (...) and strengthen the adaptive capacity of policy instruments concerning the **ecologically** sustainable use of wild species;*

*(h) Address ~~potential~~ challenges for the **ecologically** sustainable use of wild species, including the impacts of climate change and an increase in [demand and technological developments] ~~[unsustainable practices]~~ that have negative impacts on wild species, in an integrated manner to achieve Targets 4, 5, 9 [and 10] of the Framework;*

We also suggest maintaining the reference to 'unsustainable practices' above.

### Rationale:

The term "sustainable use" as defined under the CBD, fails to capture biodiversity's intrinsic value and ecosystem services. The Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines calls for considering these non-economic values, and the 2022 IPBES Sustainable Use Assessment note that *sustainable use should maintain biodiversity and ecosystem functions while supporting human well-being*. Adding the qualifier "ecological" prioritises biodiversity over exploitation. Ecological sustainability is key to ensuring biodiversity's ability to provide equitable benefits, central to KMGBF's Target 9.

## Ensure tools are *humane*

We recommend maintaining the underlined text and adding the language in bold:

**(I) Enhance the understanding of: (i) the links between the use of wild species and the major drivers of biodiversity loss, in particular pathways for the introduction and spread of invasive alien species; and (ii) **humane** tools to prevent such introduction and spread, in support of the achievement of Target 6 of the Framework;**

### Rationale:

Humane wildlife management is essential when addressing invasive alien species (IAS). Supporting the development of innovative methods that minimise animal suffering when interventions are necessary to protect biodiversity. The 2021 IUCN project for the European Commission highlighted the effectiveness of humane methods of managing invasive alien species, such as fertility control and other non-lethal interventions. Measures designed to spare avoidable pain, distress or suffering in targeted vertebrates, their cost-effectiveness, and possible negative impacts on non-targeted species were identified. Including humane tools supports countries in addressing the intrinsic value of nature by improving the humaneness of management practices.

## Halt *unsafe* harvesting

We recommend retaining the following paragraph, adding the term “unsafe,” and replacing “promoting” for “ensuring” as shown below in bold:

**(m) Coordinate efforts to halt the illegal [unsafe and unsustainable] harvesting and use of and trade in wild species, while promoting ensuring sustainable, safe, legal [and traceable] trade in support of the achievement of Target 5 of the Framework;**

### Rationale:

Unsafe and unsustainable wildlife trade and consumption pose enormous threats to biodiversity and human and animal health and well-being, as they increase the risk of zoonotic disease emergence. The conditions under which animals are captured, bred, handled, transported, kept, and slaughtered often compromise their welfare and immune responses, escalating the potential for pathogen spillover to other animals and humans.

A significant shift in how we interact with wildlife is essential. By integrating primary prevention measures through addressing high-risk activities like wildlife trade and trafficking, we can mitigate these threats. Adopting the “unsafe” qualifier in para (m) emphasises the importance of tackling harmful practices and aligns with the One Health approach, which is crucial for sustainable wildlife management.

We also recommend aligning the language with the language of Target 5, which is focused on “ensuring” trade meets the specified requirements, rather than “promoting” trade. The dramatic decline in wildlife populations as highlighted in the recent Living Planet Index provides further impetus for the need to not promote further wildlife trade.



**FOCUS ON  
HUMANE & ECOLOGICALLY  
SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**



## D.

---

## INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (ITEM 21)

### Priority CBD COP16 outcome

Operationalise humane and preventative approaches to managing invasive alien species, recognising the sentience of these animals, while aligning with global conservation efforts.

## Agenda item 21. Invasive alien species.

On draft decision in SBSTTA 25/6.

### **Ensure humane and compassionate management of Invasive Alien Species**

We recommend adding the text in bold to Annex I.III.14(e).

*Communicating risks associated with invasive alien species, including related uncertainties, in a holistic manner, and the potential consequences associated with their introduction, and considering impacts on biodiversity, the economy, the cultural and social values of indigenous peoples and local communities, public health, animal health and welfare, the quality of life and climate resilience, while recognising the sentience and intrinsic value of these animals;*

We recommend the following text addition in the preambular section, in line with current footnote 38:

**Urges Parties to research, develop and prioritise, where feasible, humane methods and guidelines when implementing management measures.**

We also recommend incorporating the following text:

**Urges Parties to consider the International Consensus Principles for Ethical Wildlife Control when establishing measures for managing invasive species, to minimise animal welfare harms to the fewest number of animals and to develop a culture of coexistence with wild animals.**

### **Rationale:**

Animal welfare considerations are present throughout the recommended process, from assessment to management, but can be further strengthened with concrete applications, particularly by developing preventative, humane, non-lethal, and efficient methods. The International Consensus Principles for Ethical Wildlife Control (Dubois et al. 2017) offers a robust set of principles for the ethical management of human-wildlife conflicts. These principles can be easily used as entry points to include animal welfare considerations in programmes to manage wildlife, including invasive alien species, while addressing broader sustainability goals.

We support the need for communication on Invasive Alien Species and the risks associated with their introduction. It is essential to raise awareness among the general public. However, we emphasise the need for communication strategies and approaches to recognise and highlight the sentience of these animals, the need for humane management and prevention and the responsibilities of human behaviour.

**ADOPT  
HUMANE, PREVENTATIVE APPROACHES  
TO INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**



## Regulate the trade in and keeping of exotic species

We recommend adding the text in bold:

*Annex II.1.A.2(d). Enhancing international and regional cooperation initiatives and networks, with a view to exchanging good practices to enhance national and subnational policies and legislations, **including measures regulating the keeping trade in and keeping of exotic animals, recognizing specific circumstances and priorities;***

### Rationale:

Humane management alone is insufficient; strengthening prevention through a stronger framework for regulating the trade and keeping of exotic animals is also critical. While the current recommendations focus on online trade risks, a large part of this trade remains legal. It is therefore essential to implement stricter restrictions on keeping wild animals to reduce invasion risks. Enhanced international and regional coordination will allow countries to share best practices on prevention, which is especially important considering the current gaps in legislation and management strategies as detailed in the IPBES thematic assessment report on Invasive Alien Species.

## Maintain One Health language

We also recommend maintaining all references to One Health in the decision.

### Rationale:

A holistic, One Health approach is essential for addressing the impacts of Invasive Alien Species on biodiversity, as well as the consequences of various management methods, including the use of chemicals. In this context, we strongly support specific discussion on Invasive Alien Species in the context of international cooperation implementing a One Health approach.

## E.

---

## BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH (ITEM 22)

### Priority CBD COP16 outcomes

Adopt the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, focusing on ambitious, prevention-focussed actions that address the drivers of zoonotic disease emergence, in alignment with the One Health approach, recognising the nexus between health, biodiversity, and animal welfare.



## Agenda item 22. Biodiversity and Health

### On draft decision in SBSTTA 26/9.

We recommend keeping the following text in Annex I, point 7:

*(d) Several human-mediated factors are most likely driving the emergence of zoonotic diseases, including increasing human demand for animal protein, unsustainable agricultural intensification, the increased use and exploitation of wildlife, the unsustainable utilisation of natural resources accelerated by urbanisation, land-use change and extractive industries, increased travel and transportation, changes in food supply and climate change;*

#### Rationale:

The language acknowledging human-driven factors in zoonotic disease emergence, as outlined in UNEP's "Preventing the Next Pandemic" report, is essential to the action plan. Acknowledging these drivers ensures that the action plan addresses the root causes effectively.

We recommend keeping the following in the species section of the table:

*(a) acknowledging and addressing the potential for health risks from use practices, such as the transport, marketing and commercialisation of specimens of wild species.*

We recommend adding:

***(a) bis Acknowledging the importance of wild animal welfare in maintaining animal immunity and reducing pathogen load, thereby reducing zoonotic disease emergence and transmission;***

***(a) ter Closing or tightly regulating commercial wildlife markets, while improving biosecurity measures and sanitation in markets for animals and animal products that remain open and along the entire value chain;***

#### Rationale:

While we are pleased to see the emphasis on farm animal welfare under Target 10, and the intention to "promote improved standards of animal welfare for their health and well-being", it is crucial to extend this focus to wild animal welfare. Wild animal welfare also plays an important role in maintaining animal immunity and reducing pathogen transmission, thus protecting human health. The interlinkages could be further emphasised by acknowledging the importance of wild animal welfare in relation to Target 5.

## Align with the One Health approach

We recommend the addition of one of the two following text options, which draw on the synergies recognized in [UNEA Resolution 5/1](#)

Option 1 – To add to Annex I.I.7(e):

***Improved health, welfare and well-being of domestic and wild animals is a prerequisite and a necessary investment to reduce zoonotic disease risks in line with the One Health approach and as noted by UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/1.***

Option 2 – To add to the chapeau:

***Reaffirming that the health and welfare of animals, sustainable development and the environment are connected to human health and well-being, as noted by UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/1,***

## Rationale:

The Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health is pivotal to implementing the One Health approach, which recognises the connection between human, animal and environmental health. Recognising language from [UNEA resolution 5/1](#), reinforces these synergies, affirming that animal health and welfare, sustainable development, and environmental health are intrinsically linked to human well-being.

## Shift from a utilitarian to a precautionary approach to species use

We recommend revising the actions for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for Targets 4, 5 and 9 as follows:

2. Consider the role of species and genetic diversity in the production of nutritious food, food security, nutrition, medicine and other goods to ensure that the medicinal use of wild species, including in traditional medicine, is sustainable, safe and legal; ~~and, for threatened or protected species, encourage conservation actions, as well as alternative, sustainable sources for medicinal use, where possible.~~

## Rationale:

We note with concern the utilitarian approach to wildlife throughout the document, especially concerning traditional medicine. We recommend that the plan includes clear language detailing actions aiming to reduce the demand, use, and exploitation of wild animals, to advance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In particular, it is essential to clarify that the use of threatened or protected species is not encouraged or tolerated. The current language is too weak and does not emphasise the need to prevent the use of threatened or protected species.

## Support a National Focal Point and a National Youth Liaison Focal Point on Biodiversity and Health

We suggest maintaining the following two bracketed paragraphs:

*[(b) To designate a national focal point on biodiversity and health to enhance national coordination, knowledge exchange, implementation and the sharing of good practices and lessons 3 CBD/SBSTTA/26/4, annex I. 4 World Health Organization, "Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19: prescriptions and actionables for a healthy and green recovery", 2020. 5 Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21. 6 E/C.19/2023/5, para. 24. 7 Decision 15/4, annex. CBD/SBSTTA/REC/26/9 3/24 learned among biodiversity and health actors, including those working in human, animal and plant health, the environmental sector and traditional medicine systems, and to work comprehensively with health and health-related agencies and professionals at the national level;]*

*[(c) To designate a national youth focal point on biodiversity and public health, who will, inter alia, report on the contributions and needs of children and youth in relation to environmental stewardship, health and intergenerational equity;]*

### Rationale:

We support the establishment of both a national focal point on biodiversity and health, and a national youth liaison focal point on biodiversity and public health. We therefore recommend retaining this language.



A high-angle aerial photograph of two humpback whales in the ocean. The whale in the foreground is dark blue/black, and the whale behind it has white markings on its back. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color with small white caps on the waves.

# F.

---

## BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (ITEM 25)

### Priorities CBD COP16 outcome

- The contribution of restoring and protecting biodiversity, and in particular wild animals, to climate change mitigation is explicitly acknowledged.
- The contribution of food systems to climate change is acknowledged alongside the contribution of fossil fuels

## Agenda item 25. Biodiversity and Climate

### On draft decision in SBSTTA 25/8.

We recommend the following text additions in bold to strengthen acknowledgement of the role of wild animals in climate change mitigation:

To preambular paragraph 8:

*...Emphasising that biodiversity plays a critical role in combating climate change and that conserving and restoring ecosystems, **inclusive of animal populations**, are feasible, effective and low-cost options for effective mitigation and adaptation,*

To preambular paragraph 13:

*...Deeply concerned that biodiversity loss undermines the capacity of **ecosystems and wild animals** to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts,*

To operative paragraph 10:

*10. Also requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, avoiding the duplication of efforts and enhancing synergies, in collaboration with relevant organisations and processes, (...) to facilitate capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, and to increase awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, **and the role of biodiversity and wild animals in climate change mitigation and adaptation**, including through the implementation of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, as a complement to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development;*

### Rationale

Wild animals are vital to ecosystem health, supporting essential processes such as pollination and carbon storage that help mitigate climate change. Improving animal welfare is a valuable investment in simultaneously protecting nature, biodiversity and global health. Improving biodiversity helps mitigate climate change by strengthening ecosystems, improving genetic diversity which improves resilience, and acting as “carbon sinks” to absorb greenhouse gas emissions. Wildlife protection is therefore not just a biodiversity goal; it is a climate imperative. However, this potential is undermined by threats such as industrial animal agriculture, habitat loss, and unsustainable wildlife trade, which drive biodiversity loss and climate disruption.

To unlock the full potential of wild animals in mitigating climate change, it is essential to implement targeted policy actions that protect them and restore ecosystems while transforming food systems. Measures such as strengthening anti-poaching laws, expanding and strengthening the management of protected areas, and establishing wildlife corridors, help leverage animals' contributions to the carbon cycle.

## Acknowledge the role of food systems in contributing to climate change

We make the following suggestion to ensure that food systems' contribution to climate change is acknowledged.

In preambular paragraph 15:

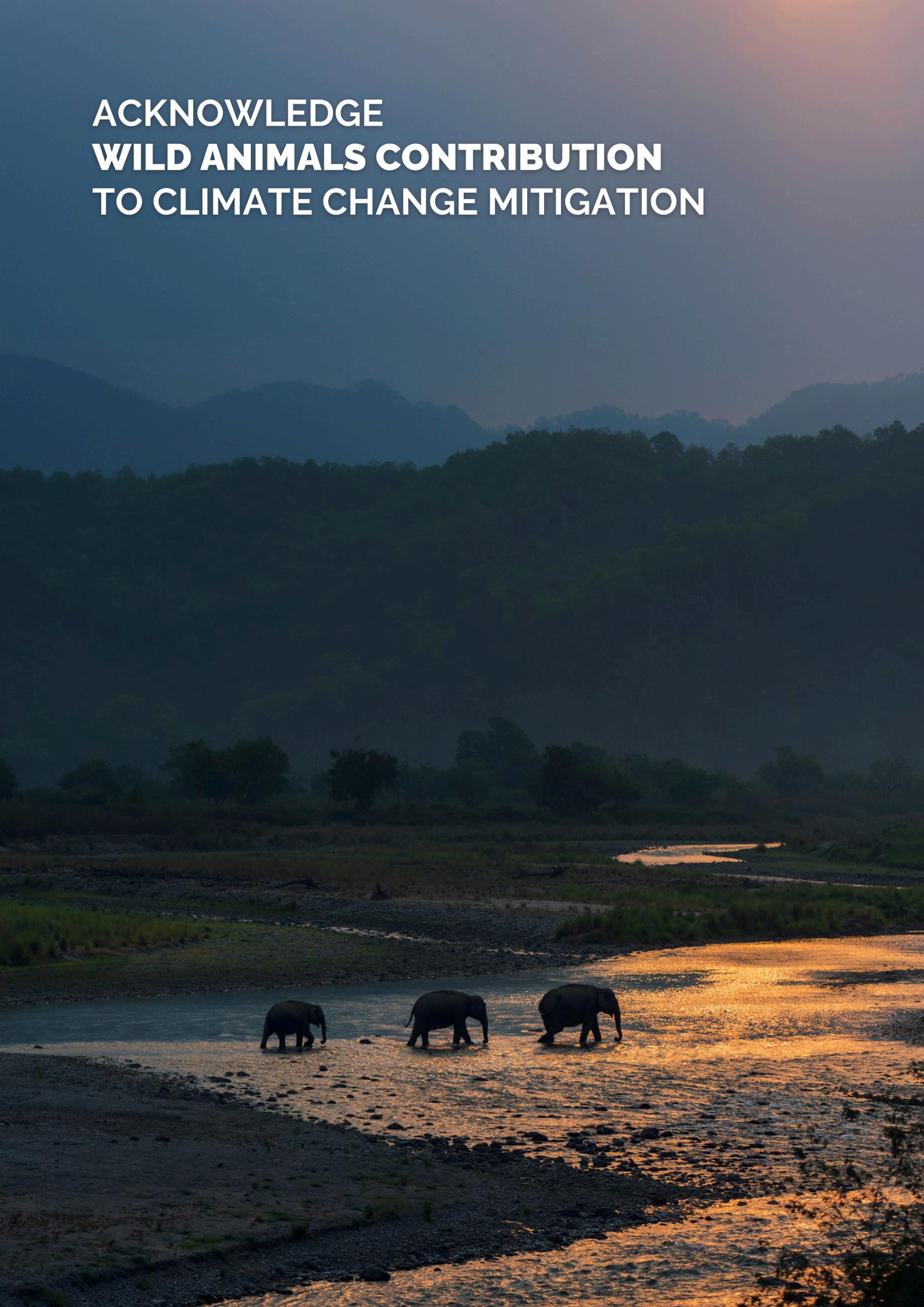
*Stressing also that the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is not possible without urgent and effective action on climate change in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and vice versa, in particular through the urgent and sustained reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels **and food systems**, and that increasing warming levels pose risks of irreversible loss of biodiversity,*

### Rationale:

A 2021 Chatham House report, supported by the UN Environment Programme and Compassion in World Farming, identified food systems as a leading driver of biodiversity loss. [According](#) to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), between 21–37% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are attributable to the food system. Given the contribution of food systems to both of these crises, it is crucial to explicitly acknowledge the role of food systems in this decision.



# ACKNOWLEDGE WILD ANIMALS CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION



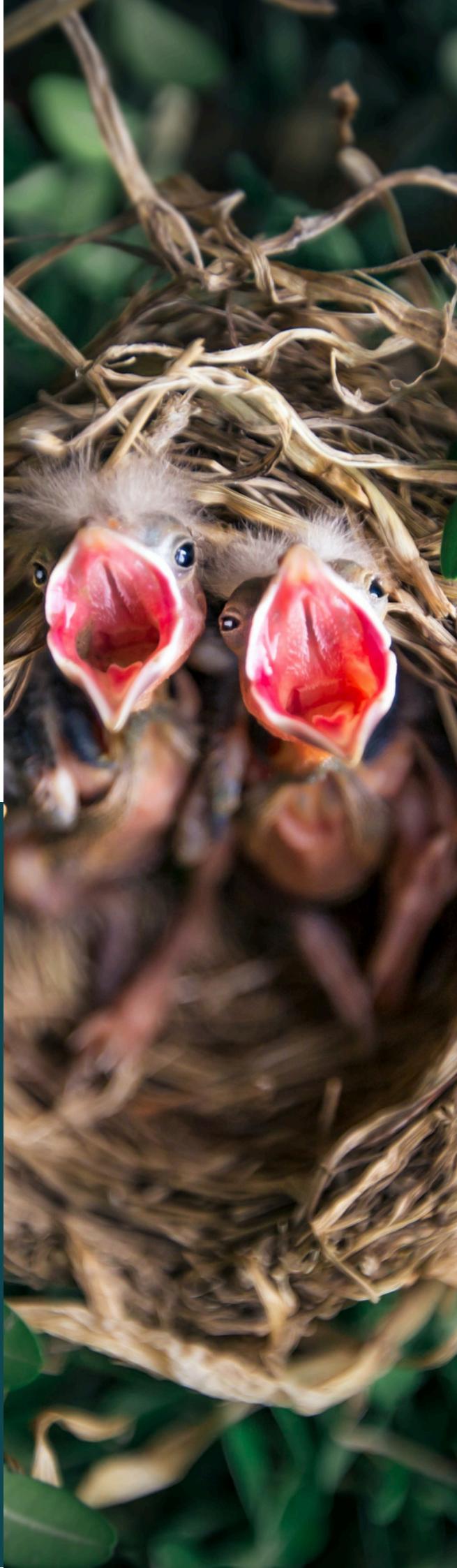
## G.

---

### COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND BODIES (ITEM 13)

#### Priority CBD COP16 outcomes

Strengthen CBD cooperation with other Conventions and international organisations to optimise synergies and complementarities.



## Agenda item 13. Biodiversity and Cooperation.

Strengthening CBD cooperation with other Conventions and international organisations to optimise synergies and complementarities will support the achievement of the KMGBF by harmonising actions across sectors like environmental protection, human health, and animal welfare, particularly through the adoption of a multisectoral One Health approach.

Collaboration across conventions such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and other relevant agreements is crucial to ensure the success of the Framework.

We emphasise the importance of policy coherence across multilateral environmental agreements, encouraging Parties to endorse the enhanced updates as outlined in document CBD/COP/16/10, which highlights the recognition of the KMGBF across various international bodies. We further urge the adoption of integrated approaches that include animal welfare considerations to support biodiversity, climate, and land restoration efforts in conjunction with other Conventions.

### **1. Strengthen capacity building, and align national strategies across conventions**

Building upon the joint capacity-building programs initiated in June 2024, including the pilot training sessions for national focal points, Parties should formalise these

sessions into a more structured framework and extend them to all regions. We urge Parties to align their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the UNFCCC. Agricultural practices that work in harmony with nature, such as agroecological systems, would support the targets of the KMGBF, the NDCs and NAPs, as well as the Land Degradation Neutrality targets under the UNCCD. Additionally, Parties should receive support to implement well-designed and effective sustainable land management practices.

### **Rationale:**

Formalising and expanding joint training sessions across all regions will equip national stakeholders with the tools and knowledge needed to address interconnected issues such as biodiversity loss, climate adaptation, and animal welfare. Promoting agroecological systems and sustainable land management will optimise resources, reduce land degradation, and help meet biodiversity targets. Aligning the NBSAPs with the NDCs and NAPs ensures consistency, avoids duplication, and enables countries to optimise their resources across multiple international frameworks.

## 2. Strengthen national focal points' role

As of March 2024, 153 of 198 Parties had National Focal Points (NFPs) for two or all three Rio Conventions within the same ministry, while 53 Parties have a single individual representing NFPs for multiple conventions. To enhance cross-convention cooperation, we recommend that Parties establish effective national, regional, and subregional coordination processes to foster close collaboration among NFPs of the CBD and other relevant conventions.

### Rationale:

Since many Parties already have NFPs covering multiple conventions, formalising and enhancing collaboration among them will lead to more cohesive national strategies. Close coordination ensures that actions taken under one convention do not conflict with those of another, promoting synergies that support biodiversity, climate, and land management efforts.

## 3. Expand Joint Work Program

The sixth joint work plan (2024–2030) between the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance provides a model for improving cooperation and synergies between conventions. We recommend expanding this approach to include other conventions, such as the UNFCCC and UNCCD, to formalise cross-convention collaboration through a comprehensive joint work program. This expanded framework should foster ongoing dialogue, coordinated reporting, and joint sessions among subsidiary bodies of the conventions.

### Rationale:

Coordinating reporting mechanisms and organising joint sessions will help Parties

reduce duplication of efforts and ensure that actions under one convention support the objectives of others. This approach is particularly valuable for addressing cross-cutting issues such as animal welfare, biodiversity, and land management, all of which benefit from coordinated action.

## 4. Strengthen JLG for Rio Conventions

The Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio Conventions plays a crucial role in promoting collaboration on biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation. Recent actions, such as the 2024 joint capacity-building programmes and the planned high-level dialogues at upcoming Conferences of the Parties, demonstrate progress in fostering synergies. We recommend further strengthening the JLG to formalise regular communication and joint planning.

### Rationale:

Strengthening the JLG would enhance coherence among national strategies, maximise synergies, and ensure that actions under one convention support the objectives of others. This approach would lead to more efficient resource use and amplify the collective impact on global environmental challenges.

## 5. Operationalising the Bern III Outcomes

The Bern III Conference in January 2024 identified key opportunities to enhance cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions, particularly in implementing the KMGBF. As demonstrated by the national workshop on synergies between multilateral environmental agreements, held in Mexico City in August 2024, concrete actions to operationalise these outcomes are already underway at the national level.

To continue this progress, we urge Parties to actively support the efforts of the Executive Secretary, who has engaged in the Bern process, facilitated by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). This engagement exemplifies how collaboration between conventions can be enhanced both nationally and internationally.

We recommend that Parties use the Mexico City workshop as a model for fostering synergies among multilateral environmental agreements and encourage further national-level initiatives that align with the outcomes of the Bern III Conference.

**Rationale:**

Building on the Bern III Conference outcomes enables Parties to operationalize synergies at both national and international levels, embedding biodiversity objectives into broader environmental strategies.

**Promote Coherent Biodiversity Financing Mechanisms**

We recommend that Parties promote the alignment of biodiversity financing mechanisms with national and international biodiversity goals. This includes redirecting public and private financial flows to ensure investments do not harm biodiversity. Additionally, we encourage Parties to explore innovative financial instruments, such as biodiversity credits and payments for ecosystem services while ensuring that such mechanisms are not used to offset damaging activities or 'greenwash'.

**Rationale:**

The effective implementation of the KMGBF relies on sustained financial support. Innovative financial instruments, such as biodiversity credits and ecosystem services payments, can play a role in mobilising funds for biodiversity and animal welfare initiatives, especially in the context of climate action and land restoration efforts.



# NOTES



