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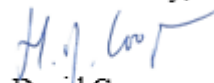
Dear Mr. Jareš,

Reference is made to the letter from Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, dated 18 December 2023, inviting the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to provide input to the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 78/69 on developments and issues relating to Oceans and the Law of the Sea, specifically on the theme “The ocean as a source of sustainable food”, which will be the focus of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea at its twenty-fourth meeting.

Appended herewith is the contribution of the CBD Secretariat regarding our activities relevant to the above-mentioned theme.

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea is invited to post the full text of this contribution on its website.

Yours sincerely,



David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary

Attachment

Mr. Vladimír Jareš
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Annex

Information on work under the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to the ocean as a source of sustainable food

INTRODUCTION

This note consists of brief descriptions of the work carried out under the CBD in the following areas related to the above-mentioned theme, including content on:

- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, specifically Goal B and targets 5, 9, 10 and 11
- One Health approach
- Sustainable fisheries and biodiversity
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into productive sectors

KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

1. In December 2022, through its decision 15/4, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), containing a new set of global goals and targets for biodiversity. The framework sets out a pathway to achieve its 2030 Mission, to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on the path of recovery, while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, and providing means of implementation, in order to achieve the 2050 Vision whereby people live in harmony with nature. It includes four outcome-oriented goals to be achieved by 2050, 23 action-oriented targets to be achieved by 2030, a monitoring framework for tracking progress towards the goals and targets and several sections providing guidance on the implementation of the framework (e.g., section C noting the implementation of the GBF in accordance with relevant international obligations, and enhanced collaboration between the CBD and other relevant international processes).

2. The goals and targets of the KMGBF are crafted to be generic and applicable to all biomes. As such, nearly all of them are highly relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity in general. With respect to sustainable sources of food production from the ocean, there are some specific portions of the KMGBF that are especially relevant, namely B and targets 1, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 18, noted below:

- **Goal B: Prosper with Nature**
Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.
- **Target 1: Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss**
Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- **Target 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species**
Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.
- **Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People**
Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities,

products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

- **Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry**

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

- **Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People**

Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

- **Target 18: Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity**

Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND BIODIVERSITY

3. In view of the sustainable use of biodiversity as one of the three goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the issue of sustainable fisheries has been an important area of discussion and technical work under the CBD. This work taken numerous forms and, as such, this topic has been addressed in various decisions of the Conference of the Parties and led to the synthesis of various types of guidance, including [*CBD Technical Series No. 87: Assessing Progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on Sustainable Marine Fisheries*](#). This work has been conducted in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-FEG) and other key partners.

4. Work under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (a capacity-building platform coordinated by the CBD Secretariat) has also focused directly on the issue of sustainable fisheries, with this topic being addressed through regional and national workshops for developing countries.

5. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies also addresses the issue of sustainable fisheries in the context of regional cross-sectoral collaboration towards achieving global goals for the ocean. This process, which is coordinated by the CBD Secretariat, UNEP and FAO, has held three formal meetings since 2016, along with intersessional work held between these meetings. The fourth meeting of this process will take place in 2024.

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY IN PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

6. Building on the history of work under the CBD on issues such as sustainable fisheries, the topic of biodiversity mainstreaming has also become a prominent area of focus under the CBD. At its thirteenth meeting, in decision XIII/3, *Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors*, the COP recognized that fisheries and aquaculture, among other sectors, depends heavily on biodiversity and its components, as well

as on the ecosystem functions and services that they underpin, that it also impacts biodiversity through direct and indirect drivers, and that the loss of biodiversity can impact it negatively, potentially threatening food security and nutrition, as well as the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

7. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties recognized that healthy marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems and biodiversity, and the traditional practices of sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities, are essential to achieving sustainable increases and improved resilience in the provision of food and livelihoods, and they outlined a number of specific actions and approaches to be taken by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to support mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture.

8. Through the [Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being](#), ministers and other heads of delegation that met on the occasion of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Cancun in December 2016, committed to undertake specific actions in various sectors, due to their dependence on biodiversity and its components as well as the impact of these sectors on biodiversity. They noted that marine, coastal and inland ecosystems host a variety of aquatic biological diversity that greatly contribute to the economic, social and cultural aspects of communities around the world. They play a significant role in ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting health and reducing poverty, and are a source of employment and income and offer opportunities for sustainable development. Fisheries and aquaculture depend on the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems to maintain economic, social and ecological benefits in the long term. Biodiversity is the source of wild fisheries, and mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries policies, programmes and plans is key to sustain the habitats which serve as feeding, spawning and nursery sites which are essential for wild fish populations. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are key components of sustainable development. To ensure their sustainability, a series of actions that are needed were identified, as follows:

(a) Integrate the ecosystem approach into fisheries policies, programmes and plans in order to enhance sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security and nutrition;

(b) Take actions for the conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources which contribute to the ongoing sustainability of stocks, to the reduction of impacts on threatened species and aquatic ecosystems and that ensure the long-term viability of this major sector;

(c) Safeguard livelihoods, income and employment of fishing communities;

(d) Conserve marine, coastal, and inland water ecosystems, recognizing their role as carbon stocks and sinks;

(e) Enhance actions to reduce pollution, including noise and plastic materials that can damage marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems;

(f) Increase efforts to develop and utilize technological innovations for monitoring, traceability and sustainably managing fisheries and aquaculture to reduce bycatch, discards and waste, and to improve methods in such a way as to guarantee long-term viability;

(g) Promote and encourage sustainable aquaculture;

(h) Adequately prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species;

(i) Develop strategies to reduce illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing; and

(j) Strengthen the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

ONE HEALTH APPROACH

9. The crucial linkages between biodiversity and human health have gained significant prominence in discussions under the CBD in recent years, including in the context of the One Health approach. The Conference of the Parties stressed the importance of this issue in the KMGBF, as follows:

“The Framework acknowledges the interlinkages between biodiversity and health and the three objectives of the Convention. The Framework is to be implemented with consideration of the One Health Approach, among other holistic approaches that are based on science, mobilize multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to work together, and aim to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems, recognizing the need for equitable access to tools and technologies including medicines, vaccines and other health products related to biodiversity, while highlighting the urgent need to reduce pressures on biodiversity and decrease environmental degradation to reduce risks to health, and, as appropriate, develop practical access and benefit-sharing arrangements.” (Section C, paragraph r).

10. In decision 15/29, the Conference of the Parties recognized the relevance of sustainable consumption and production patterns on the interlinkages between biodiversity and health, and that the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, could contribute to health and well-being for all.

11. The Convention on Biological Diversity has advanced work on the development of a Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, which will be considered by the Parties at the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in May 2024. The draft global action plan on biodiversity and health provides a set of voluntary actions intended to complement other national, regional and global efforts to address the interlinkages between biodiversity and health. It also aims to enable relevant government authorities and stakeholders to collaborate closely and coordinate their work on these interlinkages. It acknowledges that implementation of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework can contribute to human health as well as to healthy ecosystems and includes voluntary actions to facilitate such contributions.
