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**Food and Agriculture
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**International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture**

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT
GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

5 – 6 JULY 2023

**ASPECTS OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF
THE AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION
AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ninth Session of the Governing Body decided that at its Tenth Session, it will consider the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted, and also consider follow-up actions to support the implementation of the framework and integrate those into its Multi-Year Programme of Work, as appropriate.¹
2. At its seventh meeting, the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU or the Committee) invited the Secretariat to prepare a document highlighting aspects of the recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework² that are relevant to the work of the Committee, with a view to making any relevant observations and recommendations for the consideration of the Governing Body.
3. This document summarizes the main goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) relevant to the work of the Committee.

II. THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

4. The recently adopted GBF³ provides new opportunities for collaboration in various areas of work of the International Treaty, including conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. The GBF's

¹ Resolution 13/2022, available at: www.fao.org/3/nk249en/nk249en.pdf

² CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, available at: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf

³ The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF): adopted at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2022. The GBF replaces the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. It includes four long-term goals for 2050

vision is a world living in harmony by nature where: “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”. The GBF includes four long-term goals for 2050 and 23 action-oriented global targets to be achieved by 2030.

5. The GBF recognizes that its Vision, Mission, Goals and Targets are to be understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated in accordance with relevant international obligations. The GBF clearly stipulates that it should not be interpreted as agreement to modify the rights and obligations of a Party under the Convention or any other international agreement.

6. Actions to reach the targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other *relevant international obligations*, taking into account national circumstances, priorities and socioeconomic conditions.

7. The mission of the GBF for the period up to 2030, towards the 2050 vision is “to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity [...]”⁴.

8. The goals and targets of the GBF that are the most relevant to the work of the Committee are listed in the *Appendix* to this document for consideration and reference.

III. THE GOALS AND TARGETS OF THE GBF RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

9. The GBF places biodiversity at the heart of the sustainable development agenda, fostering its contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The following goals and targets are those most directly relevant to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA under the International Treaty.

Goal A “The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential”; and

Goal B “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”⁵.

10. In addition, the Committee can also consider Goals C and D:

Goal C “The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and

related to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (“Living in Harmony with Nature”) and 23 targets to be achieved by 2030. Together with the GBF, the Conference of the Parties adopted the monitoring framework for the GBF, which is composed

⁴ CBD/COP/DEC/15/14, Paragraph 11, Section F, available at: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf

⁵ CBD/COP/DEC/15/14, Paragraph 12, Section G, available at: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf

substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments”; and

Goal D “Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of 700 billion dollars per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity”.

11. The targets of the GBF are classified as follows:

- Reducing threats to biodiversity (targets 1-8);
- Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing (targets 9-13); and
- Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming (targets 14-23).

12. The most relevant targets for the work of the Committee are Targets 4 and 10:

- **Target 4:** Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.
- **Target 10:** 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.⁶

13. The *Appendix* to this document lists these and other targets which are of direct or potential relevance to the work of the Committee, as well as the potential contribution of the proposed Joint Programme and Future Strategies on Conservation and Sustainable use of PGRFA,⁷ to facilitate the discussions of the Committee.

14. For instance, the “Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”⁸ (Joint Programme) can contribute to the implementation of the GBF, especially towards Targets 4, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 22, which aim

⁶ CBD/COP/DEC/15/14, Paragraph 13, Section H, available at: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf

⁷ IT/GB-10/ACSU-8/23/2; IT/GB-10/ACSU-8/23/3

⁸ IT/GB-10/ACSU-8/23/2

at reducing threats to biodiversity; meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing; increasing awareness; and adopting tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming.

15. The GBF also highlights that its success requires political will and recognition at the highest level of government, and relies on action and cooperation by all levels of government and by all actors of society.

16. The Convention will develop a set of indicators to monitor the state of implementation of the Framework. The Secretariat of the International Treaty is currently in discussions with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on how to further strengthen their ongoing collaboration in the context of the GBF and its targets.

17. The Committee could consider these indicators as a basis to develop monitoring processes under the International Treaty.⁹

18. In adopting the GBF, the CBD COP invited the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to formally endorse the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through their own governance processes, as appropriate, in order to support its operationalization and contribute to the transparency and monitoring of progress in its implementation.¹⁰

19. The Committee could consider the information contained in this document, including the comprehensive overview in its *Appendix*, and discuss the potential relevance of the GBF to its future work, and to make any relevant recommendations to the Governing Body.

⁹ CBD/COP/DEC/15/5, Annex 1, Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework available at: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf

¹⁰ CBD/COP/DEC/15/13, Paragraph 3 of Decision 15/13, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-13-en.pdf>

*Appendix 1***Summary of the GBF targets relevant to the work of the ACSU**

TARGET	DESCRIPTION	POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME AND FUTURE STRATEGIES TO THE TARGETS
4	Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.	<p>The Joint Programme seeks to achieve “increased public awareness of the importance of conserving and using plant genetic diversity including the role of varieties and cultivars of plants, as well as wild, neglected and underutilized species to build sustainable seed, food and nutrition systems and adapt agriculture to the effects of climate change”; and “strengthened capacities to develop actions for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and to implement sound, enabling and mutually-supportive policy frameworks that support the integration of plant genetic diversity in sustainable seed, food and nutrition systems for diverse, healthier and more sustainable consumption patterns”.</p> <p>The Future Strategies propose an in-country level assessment and voluntary guidelines to identified multi-levels actions to address the bottlenecks raised in the Background Study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty¹¹.</p>
10	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.	<p>The Joint Programme seeks to achieve “increased public awareness of the importance of conserving and using plant genetic diversity including the role of varieties and cultivars of plants, as well as wild, neglected and underutilized species to build sustainable seed, food and nutrition systems and adapt agriculture to the effects of climate change”; and “strengthened capacities to develop actions for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and to implement sound, enabling and mutually-supportive policy frameworks that support the integration of plant genetic diversity in sustainable seed, food and nutrition systems for diverse, healthier and more sustainable consumption patterns”.</p> <p>The Future Strategies propose an in-country level assessment and voluntary guidelines to identified multi-levels actions to address the bottlenecks raised in the Background Study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty.</p>

¹¹ Background Study on Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.2, available at: www.fao.org/3/cc2057en/cc2057en.pdf

OTHER GBF TARGETS RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE		
TARGET	DESCRIPTION	POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME AND FUTURE STRATEGIES TO THE TARGETS
5	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 spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	<p>The Joint Programme and the Future Strategies contribute, even partially, to this target.</p> <p>The Joint Programme provides specific actions on “developing capacity for providing/improving market opportunities for local varieties with appropriate nutrient profiles”; and “developing publicly available operational information systems and databases on local varieties held in community seed banks that will contribute to building sustainable seed, food and nutrition systems”.</p> <p>The Future Strategies propose an in-country level assessment and voluntary guidelines to identified multi-levels actions to address the bottlenecks raised in the Background Study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty such as the lack of adequate marketing opportunities for landraces/farmers' varieties.</p>
8	Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.	<p>The objective of the Joint Programme is to “mainstream plant genetic diversity into seed, food and nutrition systems while strengthening agricultural systems, resistance and resilience to climate change and other emerging challenges”.</p> <p>The Future Strategies seek to address the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, thereby contributing to fighting climate change and ensuring food production.</p>
9	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.	<p>The Joint Programme seeks to achieve “higher uptake and improved distribution and rationalization of funds available, including funding for agriculture and rural development, food security, nutrition, biodiversity, regional policy and climate change to implement the proposed Joint Programme”; “strengthened capacities to develop actions for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA”; and “enhanced knowledge at all levels and across all relevant sectors on the value of plant genetic diversity to nutrition, food security and climate change mitigation and adaptation, in order to inform and support policymaking based on up-to-date data and information to promote healthy diets and build sustainable seed, food and nutrition systems”.</p> <p>The Future Strategies propose an in-country level assessment and voluntary guidelines to identified multi-levels actions to address the bottlenecks raised in the Background Study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, including the prevalence of commercial varieties, resulting in the disappearance of traditional varieties; the lack of</p>

		adequate marketing opportunities for landraces/farmers' varieties; the lack of negotiation skills of farmers and producers; and the lack of scientific interest in specific types of crops and varieties.
13	Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.	<p>The Joint Programme seeks to achieve “strengthened capacities to develop actions for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and to implement sound, enabling and mutually-supportive policy frameworks that support the integration of plant genetic diversity in sustainable seed, food and nutrition systems for diverse, healthier and more sustainable consumption patterns” with a specific area of action on “supporting the implementation of enabling policies and legal measures according to national contexts, priorities and specificities”.</p> <p>The Future Strategies propose an in-country level assessment and voluntary guidelines to identified multi-levels actions to address the bottlenecks raised in the Background Study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty.</p>
14	Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.	<p>The Joint Programme seeks to achieve “strengthened capacities to develop actions for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and to implement sound, enabling and mutually-supportive policy frameworks that support the integration of plant genetic diversity in sustainable seed, food and nutrition systems for diverse, healthier and more sustainable consumption patterns” with 2 specific areas of action on “supporting the implementation of enabling policies and legal measures according to national contexts, priorities and specificities” and “strengthening multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder cooperation for the development of projects, actions and activities related to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty”. The Joint Programme will also involve a wide range of stakeholders across all sectors.</p> <p>The Future Strategies propose an in-country level assessment and voluntary guidelines to identified multi-levels actions to address the bottlenecks raised in the Background Study on the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty with the aim of strengthening the link with the Contracting Parties’ national focal points.</p>
20	Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening	The Joint Programme provides an area of action on “building capacities for developing actions directly related to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty” and a specific action on “promoting and strengthening new and ongoing North-South, South-South and triangular networks, alliances and partnerships on agrobiodiversity, food and nutrition systems”. The Joint Programme also provides a specific action on “producing and disseminating technical, academic and scientific publications and policy briefs documenting the importance of plant biodiversity to building sustainable breeding, seed, food and nutrition systems using traditional, digital and social media platforms”.

	scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.	The Future Strategies include the conduct of a global symposium, regional consultations and a call for regional expert groups by thematic area which will gather a wide range of stakeholders to increase capacities.
21	Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.	<p>The Joint Programme provides an area of action on “supporting knowledge and information exchange on actions directly related to Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty” with a specific action on “collecting and compiling data and information originating from different sectors to evaluate the importance of scientific and traditional knowledge on varietal diversity that contributes to building sustainable seed, food and nutrition systems”. The Joint Programme also provides a specific action on “organizing conferences, workshops, and stakeholder meetings at all levels to increase awareness of the public sector and decision-makers of the importance of plant biodiversity to building sustainable breeding, seed, food and nutrition systems”.</p> <p>The Future Strategies propose the development of voluntary guidelines to identified multi-levels actions to address the bottlenecks raised in the Background Study which could be a basis for all stakeholders to develop context-specific actions.</p>
22	Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.	<p>The Rationale of the Joint Programme specifies: “The Joint Programme is a cooperation between and among relevant international organizations, governments and all interested stakeholders committed to working together [...] in a sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive manner”.</p> <p>The Future Strategies should include the “elaboration of an inclusive process to develop voluntary guidelines or options during the next biennium, possibly including a global symposium and expert input or small groups to address each type of bottleneck”.</p>
23	Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.	