



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
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Agenda item 25

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

XII/20. Biodiversity and climate change and disaster risk reduction

The Conference of the Parties,

Acknowledging that, while biodiversity and ecosystems are vulnerable to climate change, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems can play a significant role in climate-change mitigation and adaptation, combating desertification and disaster risk reduction,

Recalling the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, contained in the annex to decision VI/22, and in particular Programme Element 1, Goal 2, Objective 3, to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity,

Welcoming the progress report of the Executive Secretary on information relevant to the application of safeguards for biodiversity in the context of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries,^{1,2}

Recognizing that indigenous, local and traditional knowledge systems and practices are a major resource for adapting to climate change, and that integrating such forms of knowledge into existing practices can increase the effectiveness of adaptation actions,

Recalling the findings and conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Fifth Assessment Report³ that transformational change, including the consideration of climate resilience and sustainable development, is necessary in order to address climate change, and *noting* that transformational change is most effective when it reflects national and local visions and approaches to sustainable development,

Recalling decisions IX/16, X/33, XI/19, XI/20 and XI/21,

1. *Takes note* of Resolution LP.4(8) on the amendment to the London Protocol (1996) to regulate the placement of matter for ocean fertilization and other marine geoengineering activities, adopted in October 2013, and invites Parties to the London Protocol to ratify this amendment and other Governments to apply measures in line with this, as appropriate;

¹ Activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

² UNEP/CBD/COP/12/21.

³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report: *Climate Change 2014* (available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5>).

2. *Also takes note* of resolution UNEP/EA.1/8 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on ecosystem-based adaptation;

3. *Notes with the concern* the findings and conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Fifth Assessment Report, and *urges* Parties and encourages other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders to take steps to address all biodiversity-related impacts of climate change highlighted in the report and to further strengthen synergies with relevant work under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

4. *Welcomes* the Warsaw Framework for REDD+,⁴ and the guidance on the implementation of REDD+ activities that it provides, while also noting existing alternative policy approaches such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests,⁵ in accordance with decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

5. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments and relevant organizations to promote and implement ecosystem-based approaches to climate change related activities and disaster risk reduction, in both terrestrial and marine environments, and to integrate these into their policies and programmes, as appropriate, in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015,⁶ endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 60/195, and the revised Framework to be adopted at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction;

6. *Encourages* Parties to make use of information generated in the context of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, and alternative policy approaches for results-based finance, to enhance progress in the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

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

(a) To promote ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, taking advantage of opportunities presented by relevant processes and forums, in cooperation with relevant organizations, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(b) To compile and analyse, in cooperation with relevant organizations, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature information on ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction;

(c) To compile experiences with ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and to share them through the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) To develop, further to paragraph 8 (u) of decision X/33, guidance on enhancing the positive and minimizing the negative impacts on biodiversity of climate-change adaptation activities in cooperation with the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions;

(e) To compile information on experiences, lessons learned and best practices on the contribution of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change towards achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and to share this information with Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant processes and organizations;

(f) To submit a progress report on these activities to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁴ UNFCCC decisions 9/CP.19, 10/CP.19, 11/CP.19, 12/CP.19, 13/CP.19, 14/CP.19 and 15/CP.19. For more information, see FCCC/CP/2013/10, para. 44.

⁵ Paragraph 8 of UNFCCC decision 9/CP.19. For more information, see FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1.

⁶ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.