

WWF-Hong Kong
2023 Policy Address Recommendations



WWF-Hong Kong's Recommendations for 2023 Policy Address

September 2023

At the end of last year, the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework"), an agreement of historic significance. The Framework sets 23 targets to protect global biodiversity by 2030 (see Table 1 for details). It points out that the current average rate of species extinction is dozens to hundreds of times faster than during the past 10 million years, and about 1 million species are facing the threat of extinction. Protecting biodiversity is crucial to human well-being and even economic development, and is closely related to the food, water, medicine, oxygen etc. needed for human survival. However, threats such as massive development of land and oceans and environmental pollution continue to harm various species and their habitats. Moreover, the recent extreme weather events in Hong Kong illustrate that climate change is worsening. The risks to nature will surely be exacerbated without immediate intervention. Therefore, the Framework calls on countries to take strong action to tackle the challenge.

As the Chair of COP15, China played a crucial role in facilitating the adoption of the Framework, showing its determination to advocate global protection of nature. In fact, China has been actively promoting ecological and environmental protection in recent years, such as formulating the "ecological red line" system to prohibit the development of ecologically sensitive areas and implementing the Wetland Protection Law to formally protect wetlands. The National 14th Five-Year Plan stated that China should "advance green development and promote the harmonious coexistence between man and nature." As one of the most developed cities in China with rich natural assets, Hong Kong can contribute to the global targets of the Framework. To that end, WWF-Hong Kong (WWF) recommends the Chief Executive to adopt a number of measures as set out below:

Follow the Conservation Targets of the Framework

The Framework sets the targets of protecting 30% of the world's land and oceans and restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. We call on the government to take proactive action and set corresponding targets locally. The first is to implement territory-wide land and marine spatial planning as soon as possible, to identify and stop further reduction of ecologically sensitive areas.

Update the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The government should formulate a new Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan not later than the end of 2024 when the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) is convened, in order to align with China's national Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the Framework's global targets. When developing the new plan, the authorities must consult widely with stakeholders such as the local community, civic groups, business and government departments. Relevant

government bureaus and departments must set specific work goals and conduct review at least every five years to monitor the progress, effectiveness and impact of the plan. Bureaus and departments must have clear accountability for their respective work goals while collaborating with one another.

Implement Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

The United Nations Environment Assembly defines NbS as: “Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits”.¹ Taking afforestation as an example, it not only helps improve air quality and regulate climate, but also provides habitat for wildlife. NbS is one of the methods advocated by the Framework to mitigate the impact of climate change on biodiversity and has also been formally recognized by the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. WWF recommends the government to implement NbS in Hong Kong to enhance the well-being of citizens while protecting nature, ensuring the continuation of ecosystem service provision, and combating climate change. We also encourage the government to review public projects and divert funds from projects that are harmful to nature and instead invest in those that are sustainable and environmentally friendly.

EIA to Take Climate Change Crisis into Account

The extreme weather events occurring in Hong Kong this September are a clear signal of worsening climate change. We must ensure that infrastructure and other development projects can withstand the climate risks, and must also minimize carbon emissions generated during the construction and operation stages of the projects. WWF advocates that the government should include climate change factors in the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499), its subsidiary legislation and technical memorandum. This will ensure that every stage of the environmental impact assessment process including the environmental assessment study brief, assessment of impact, formulation of mitigation measures, and setting approval conditions for issuing environmental permits, take climate change risks into consideration. This is in line with the government's Hong Kong Climate Action Plan 2050, and will help Hong Kong achieve its goal of becoming carbon neutral by the middle of this century.

Reduce Ecological Footprint

Another target of the Framework is that the world must reduce the ecological footprint caused by consumption by 2030, including reducing food waste by half and significantly reducing overconsumption. According to the analysis published by WWF in 2021, the world would require 4.4 Earths if everyone were

¹ The 5th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, 2 March 2022, “Res.5: Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development”
<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39864/NATURE-BASED%20SOLUTIONS%20FOR%20SUPPORTING%20SUSTAINABLE%20DEVELOPMENT.%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

to adopt Hong Kong's current lifestyle. Although Hong Kong only accounts for about 0.1% of the global human population, Hong Kong's per capita ecological footprint is 14th-worst globally.² WWF believes that the government should lead the charge by helping the public to reduce its ecological footprint and ensuring the sustainability, safety and legality of capturing, trading and consuming wildlife to minimize potential ecological impacts and depletion of biodiversity. In addition, the government should empower citizens to make more sustainable consumption choices, such as by setting up a labeling system for packaged seafood products to inform consumers of the origin and production methods of the products.

In addition, WWF makes recommendations on five pressing environmental issues as follows.

1. Wetland Conservation

At the Ramsar Convention held in Wuhan last year, President Xi Jinping promised that "China will build a modern society in which man and nature coexist harmoniously and promote the high-quality development of wetland protection". Attaching great importance to Deep Bay Wetland, which is an important stopover for migratory birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, China plans to establish an International Mangrove Center in Futian, Shenzhen by the end of this year. This not only promotes international exchange and cooperation on the protection of mangrove wetlands, but also benefits the overall protection of Shenzhen Bay and Deep Bay wetlands. However, the planned Northern Metropolis is located on the edge of the Deep Bay wetlands, and steps will need to be taken to ensure the protection of this globally significant site. The Ramsar Convention has certified 63 "Wetland Cities" worldwide, commending them as models of urban wetland conservation. A total of 13 Chinese cities have received this honor, making China the country with the largest number of accredited wetland cities. WWF believes that the government should **position the Northern Metropolis as an International Wetland City** where green infrastructure and gray infrastructure complement each other, creating an environment where urban development and nature co-exist. This will inspire more cities in the Greater Bay Area to follow and enhance ecological resilience of the region.

The government should also **expand the Ramsar Site to cover all ecologically important wetland systems in the Deep Bay Area**. This will facilitate the formulation and implementation of a more comprehensive Deep Bay wetland management plan and will also demonstrate Hong Kong's commitment to wetland conservation to the international community and the Central People's Government. We also recommend **using more NbS to manage Deep Bay wetlands**, making full use of the natural conditions of Deep Bay to address different social, economic and environmental challenges.

The Shenzhen Futian mangrove forest has been designated as a Ramsar Site. WWF asks the government to **strengthen cooperation with the Shenzhen authorities to formulate a cross-border management plan covering the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay and the Shenzhen Ramsar Wetland** in order to protect the wetland landscape holistically.

² WWF, 16 March 2021, "Food Consumption and Production Fuels Growth in City's Ecological Footprint" <https://www.wwf.org.hk/en/news/?24543/Press-Release--Food-Consumption-and-Production--Fuels-Growth-in-Citys-Ecological-Footprint>

2. Marine Ecology

Although Hong Kong's coastline only accounts for 0.03% of China's, nearly 6,000 marine species have been recorded locally, accounting for more than a quarter of the country's total. This shows that Hong Kong's marine ecology is very rich. However, Hong Kong's oceans are facing many threats. For example, the coral colony in Tolo Harbor disappeared due to new town development in the last century and has not recovered so far. In July this year, a Bryde's whale died in the coastal waters of Sai Kung. In addition to raising public awareness of wild animal protection and fixing the loopholes in laws and regulations, the whale incident also caused people to reflect on how Hong Kong can provide thriving and safe habitats for marine life.

We believe that increasing and more effectively managing the marine protected area network is key. Unfortunately, only 5% of Hong Kong's waters are designated or proposed to be marine protected areas, which is far less than the 40% of country parks on land. WWF urges the government to **formulate a specific and timebound roadmap for expanding marine protected areas and prioritize the designation of Shui Hau Bay on Lantau Island by 2025**. Furthermore, we hope that the government will **speed up the designation of fisheries protected areas to conserve fisheries resources**, which is beneficial for both marine ecology and fishermen livelihoods.

WWF also requests the government to **withdraw the Central Waters reclamation plan as part of the development of the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands**. The government should not carry out large-scale reclamation projects and related developments without conducting comprehensive marine spatial planning.

3. Wildlife Trade

The United Nations General Assembly has recently adopted Resolution A/77/L.99 (Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife) which outlines actions for countries and territories to counter the illegal wildlife trading (IWT). Estimates show that as much as 90% of wildlife products are transported by sea. Being the 9th-largest container port in the world as well as an associate member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1967, Hong Kong is a crucial player in the global shipping industry and can provide leadership in the fight against IWT.

"While WWF welcomes the government's efforts to create the SmartPort and Trade Single Window platforms, we encourage **full integration of the new IMO Guidelines for the Prevention and Suppression of the Smuggling of Wildlife on Ships Engaged in International Maritime Traffic, and prompt implementation of e-CITES and electronic import and export declaration**. We also encourage the SmartPort system to facilitate exchange of non-commercial data that would help create a database of illegal activities and networks. These enhanced platforms and e-solutions, coupled with risk mitigation measures would not only streamline processes and improve Hong Kong's economic position but also reduce illicit trade of wildlife in the supply chain.

The 2022 Hong Kong Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment Report recognizes the role of Hong Kong's financial regulatory bodies in combatting environmental crimes and IWT. The report assessed the money laundering threat level for environmental crimes in Hong Kong as low. With the increasing global concern and recent high-volume seizures of smuggled wildlife trade products, these activities would be closely monitored and evaluated. As such, WWF **encourages reporting entities including financial institutions and Designated Non-Financial Business Professions³ to increase reporting of wildlife crimes.** We also urge the government to **utilize the enhanced investigative and punitive powers of the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO) (Cap.455)** as amended in 2021 to include offenses under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap 586).

The definition of "authorized officer" in OSCO includes any police officer and any member of the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) but does not include members of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). WWF recommends **a specialized team led by the Hong Kong Police Force and C&ED to be set up under the Inter-departmental Task Force on Wildlife Crime.** The team should initiate investigations in accordance with OSCO to make full use of its powers to identify kingpins and illicit financial flows associated with wildlife crime.

In addition, we recommend the government to appoint local institutions, such as Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong and the Conservation Forensics Laboratory at the University of Hong Kong as **the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Scientific Authority.** Although the AFCD currently consults the Endangered Species Advisory Committee on issues related to wildlife trade regulated by the Convention, it plays a limited role in assisting the AFCD in handling the heavy wildlife trade regulatory work. A local CITES Scientific Authority would be able to regularly provide independent professional advice and support to AFCD in fulfilling CITES responsibilities more effectively. A CITES Scientific Authority could also serve as a bridge to facilitate international knowledge exchange on research and species identification to promote sustainable wildlife trade.

Statistics indicate that millions of exotic birds and animals have been imported into Hong Kong in the last few years, and nearly half of them are at risk of extinction⁴. WWF urges the authorities to **strengthen regulation over the physical and online trading of exotic pets, establish a list of exotic pets that are allowed to be imported, sold or owned in Hong Kong, and strengthen traceability mechanisms.** These measures can help protect biodiversity, reduce the chances of introducing invasive alien species and the outbreak of zoonotic diseases.

4. Circular Economy

³ As defined under the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance (Cap. 615)

⁴ CITES Trade Database, <https://trade.cites.org/>

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that, in 2016, the world generated 350 million metric tons of plastic waste, which will increase to 1 billion metric tons by 2060⁵. In Hong Kong, 2,331 metric tons of waste plastics was landfilled every day in 2021⁶, an increase of nearly 10% compared to 2016⁷. WWF advocates the global vision of "No Plastic in Nature", calling on all stakeholders to work together to curb the environmental harm caused by plastic waste.

While development of a circular economy is key to reducing environmental pollution, reducing consumption and reusing resources is the first step in establishing a circular economy. The Legislative Council is considering the Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2023. If the bill is passed, the sale or distribution of expanded polystyrene tableware, disposable plastic straws, knives, forks, spoons, etc. will be prohibited in the first phase of regulation. However, restaurants can still provide disposable plastic cups and containers to takeaway customers. The government claims the timing of the second phase regulation to ban all disposable plastic tableware will “depend on the availability and affordability of the non-plastic or reusable alternatives.” WWF urges the government to **formulate a clear and rigorous timetable for the second phase and clarify what criteria a product should meet in order to become an acceptable alternative to disposable plastic tableware**, including carbon emissions caused by the production process, method of disposal, etc. We believe that disposable alternatives, whether plastic or not, are not sustainable options. The government should **invest more resources to develop a reusable tableware rental system** to show its commitment to build a circular economy.

To make a substantial impact on sustainability, it is crucial to concurrently prioritize reducing, reusing, and recycling, ensuring actions are taken on all three fronts. The government should **extend the Producer Responsibility Scheme for beverage plastic bottles by 2024 and to achieve 100% bottle-to-bottle recycling by 2030**. At the same time, it should **develop a plastic labeling system to help improve the efficiency of plastic waste sorting and recycling**. In addition, the government should **extend the Plastic Recycling Pilot Scheme to all districts** and release the most up-to-date recycling rates of plastics on a monthly or quarterly basis.

5. Sustainable Finance

Climate change and biodiversity loss are the most critical issues for all nations today. It is vital for governments and the financial sector to understand how the two are linked to the economy: natural capital is the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, e.g., plants, animals, air, minerals, which combine to yield a flow of services to people. In turn these flows provide value to business and society. Given the strong dependency of the Asia Pacific economy on natural capital, up to 63% of the region's GDP is considered as being at risk from nature loss. Therefore, the government should **fully integrate and mandate inclusion of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as the potential impacts of climate change in policies, regulations, planning and development processes**.

⁵ OECD (2022), Global Plastics Outlook: Policy Scenarios to 2060

<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/aa1edf33-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/aa1edf33-en>

⁶ Environmental Protection Department (2021), Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong 2021

https://www.wastereduction.gov.hk/sites/default/files/resources_centre/waste_statistics/msw2021_eng.pdf

⁷ Environmental Protection Department (2016), Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong 2016

https://www.wastereduction.gov.hk/sites/default/files/resources_centre/waste_statistics/msw2016_eng.pdf

Moreover, the government must position Hong Kong as the Asian market leader regarding all sustainable and green issuance, showing the world that it will not allow greenwashing. To attract the vast waves of international money in a well-regulated, professional and sustainable financial market, the government should **design a strong taxonomy framework to ensure that financial products will make real positive impact on nature and biodiversity**. The government should **require the private sector to comply with reporting requirements developed by the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures Framework⁸**, showing a new focus on accountability and increasing transparency within the investment community.

As stated, we recommend the government to implement NbS in Hong Kong. One possible way is **offering blended finance to build Bankable Nature Solutions (BNS)**. The government can provide funding to support the development phase of BNS projects, in which the technical and financial feasibility of the projects will be studied. When it is assessed that a project is likely to be scaled and profitable, the private sector will be attracted to take over and invest in it as a business opportunity. The project can then become financially self-sustaining. The government's support in the early stage will help de-risk such projects and attract the private sector to participate. WWF can work alongside the government and the private sector, advising on and enhancing socio-environmental impacts of the projects.

Table 1: 2030 Targets of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

1. Reducing threats to biodiversity
<p>TARGET 1 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.</p>
<p>TARGET 2 Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.</p>
<p>TARGET 3 Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.</p>

⁸ The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures Framework, <https://tnfd.global/>

<p>TARGET 4</p> <p>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>
<p>TARGET 5</p> <p>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>
<p>TARGET 6</p> <p>Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.</p>
<p>TARGET 7</p> <p>Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.
<p>TARGET 8</p> <p>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>
<p>2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</p>
<p>TARGET 9</p> <p>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>

<p>TARGET 10</p> <p>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>
<p>TARGET 11</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>TARGET 12</p> <p>Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.</p>
<p>TARGET 13</p> <p>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>
<p>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</p>
<p>TARGET 14</p> <p>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>
<p>TARGET 15</p> <p>Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:</p> <p>(a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios;</p> <p>(b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;</p>

(c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

TARGET 16

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices, including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

TARGET 17

Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.

TARGET 18

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.

TARGET 19

Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030, including by:

- (a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least \$30 billion per year by 2030;
- (b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;
- (c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;
- (d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;
- (e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises;
- (f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity;
- (g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use;

<p>TARGET 20</p> <p>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 scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.</p>
<p>TARGET 21</p> <p>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>
<p>TARGET 22</p> <p>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>
<p>TARGET 23</p> <p>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.</p>