



Dear Mr. Zhu,

Reference is made to your letter dated 4 April 2023, inviting inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General on Resolution 77/245 of the United Nations General Assembly entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,” to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, to be held from 5 to 19 September 2023.

Attached herewith is the contribution of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which provides information as part of the questionnaire on activities and issues relating to the above-mentioned resolution.

Yours sincerely,

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Attachment

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**Information on work and developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to the Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

Introduction

1. This submission includes information on work and developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relevant to the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The note provides relevant information on the (i) Sustainable Ocean Initiative, (ii) Bio-Bridge Initiative, (iii) CBD programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity, (iv) relevant guidance under the CBD, (v) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and (vi) relevant decisions of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 15).

Sustainable Ocean Initiative

2. The CBD Secretariat coordinates the [Sustainable Ocean Initiative](#) (SOI), a global capacity-building programme which was formed on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve global goals and targets for marine biodiversity. SOI, under its vision of living in harmony with nature, aims to promote a balance between sustainable use and conservation, and the use of flexible and diverse approaches, as well as create partnerships that can provide for targeted capacity-building, training, technical assistance and learning exchange. The main target beneficiaries of SOI are CBD developing country Parties, including small island developing States (SIDS).

3. Since its inception, SOI has delivered a variety of activities that have benefited SIDS across different regions, including regional and national capacity-building workshops. Past SOI regional capacity-building workshops have responded to specific capacity needs and focused on the challenges and priorities unique to each region, often targeted at practitioners and managers from different national sectors (e.g., environment, fisheries), and managers at regional/sub-regional levels. These have been convened for West Africa, East Africa, East, South and Southeast Asia, Pacific Islands, Wider Caribbean and Central America, South America, Coral Triangle, and North Africa and Mediterranean. Past SOI national capacity-building workshops have similarly focused on addressing specific capacity needs of developing countries, including SIDS, with the programme tailored to each country's context and priorities. These have been convened for a number of countries and islands over the years, including Samoa, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and Maldives. The recently published [SOI impact report](#) highlights the progress under SOI in building capacity and catalyzing partnerships since 2010.

4. With respect to planned activities, the CBD Secretariat is currently organizing, in collaboration with partners, the SOI national workshop for Jamaica on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the marine fishery sector, from 17 to 19 May 2023, in Kingston, Jamaica. This workshop aims to bring together relevant stakeholders in Jamaica to (i) enhance understanding of the OECM concept and approach among stakeholders in Jamaica, (ii) identify key opportunities, issues, and challenges for identifying, designating and managing OECMs in the marine fishery sector in Jamaica, and (iii) discuss existing tools and approaches in Jamaica that could be potential future candidates for OECMs.

5. Finally, the CBD Secretariat is planning to convene a SOI workshop on ocean-related capacity building needs for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), to be held virtually from 5 to 9 June 2023, inviting developing country Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations and initiatives to participate. The workshop aims to identify and discuss various capacity needs related to the implementation and monitoring of the GBF in marine and

coastal areas, with the expectation of producing a priority list of capacity needs that will be useful in guiding future capacity-building activities and more tailored strategies, including those under SOI.

#### Bio-Bridge Initiative

6. The [Bio-Bridge Initiative](#), coordinated by the CBD Secretariat, is a programme focused on catalyzing and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation among Parties to the CBD, including SIDS. The Initiative works on linking Parties that have specific technical and scientific needs with Parties or institutions that are able to provide the necessary technical support and resources to meet those needs through mutual partnerships, and on creating a space to share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned.

7. [Recently completed projects](#) under the Initiative include the project on Enabling Indigenous Technical and Scientific Cooperation for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Resilience among Traditional Leaders in Vanuatu, which was designed to support the indigenous peoples to access scientific knowledge and resources related to biodiversity conservation and climate resilience, as well as the project on Recognizing and Building on Customary Marine Management through Audio-Visual Approaches in Papua New Guinea, with the goal of assisting indigenous communities and national government agencies to develop appropriate protocols for the formal recognition of local Customary Marine Management Areas.

#### Programmes of work on island biodiversity, and marine and coastal biodiversity

8. Under the CBD, there are several thematic programmes corresponding to some of the major biomes on the planet. The programme of work on island biodiversity, adopted by CBD [COP decision 8/1](#) includes 7 focal areas, 11 goals, 21 targets, and more than 50 island-specific priority actions. It aims to achieve significant reduction of island biodiversity loss for the benefit of all forms of life on islands and, in particular, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the sustainable development of SIDS. The main focal areas of the programme of work include the protection of the components of biodiversity, sustainable use, addressing threats to biodiversity, maintaining goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being, traditional knowledge and practices, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, and provision of adequate resources.

9. Similarly, the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, adopted by CBD COP decision 4/5 and further elaborated by and outlined in annex I of [COP decision 7/5](#), aims to achieve significant reduction of the current rate of marine and coastal biodiversity loss. In particular, it focuses on the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management, marine and coastal protected areas and living resources, mariculture, and invasive alien species. The enabling activities of the programme of work include, for example, the provision of assistance to SIDS in developing policies and mechanisms for integrated management and in coordinating policies and programmes at the regional and subregional level aimed at the conservation and sustainable management of fishery resources, as well as strengthening capacity of SIDS to enable their effective participation in research on marine and coastal biodiversity.

10. The CBD [COP decision 15/24](#) requested the Executive Secretary to compile submissions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and to develop a strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on island biodiversity, and on marine and coastal biodiversity, in the context of supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on the basis of these submissions, and to prepare a draft update to the programmes of work on the basis of this strategic review and analysis, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the sixteenth meeting of the COP.

#### Relevant guidance under the CBD

11. At its twelfth meeting in October 2014, the CBD COP adopted the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems, as contained in the annex of [COP decision 12/23](#). The priority actions focus on, *inter alia*, helping to reduce the impacts of multiple stressors, enhancing the resilience of coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems through ecosystem-based

adaptation, maintaining sustainable livelihoods and food security in reef-dependent coastal communities, and increasing the capability of local and national managers to forecast and plan proactively for climate risks.

12. With respect to scientific and technical guidance, in 2019, the CBD Secretariat published [Technical Series No. 93](#): Voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and supplementary information. In 2016, the CBD Secretariat published [Technical Series No. 85](#): Synthesis report on experiences with ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

#### Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

13. At its fifteenth meeting in December 2022, the CBD COP adopted the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(decision 15/4\)](#). The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) 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 4 outcome-oriented goals to be achieved by 2050, 23 action-oriented targets to be achieved by 2030, and several sections providing guidance on the implementation of the framework. For example, Section D emphasizes the contribution of the GBF to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

14. Several goals and targets of the GBF are highly relevant to resiliency and development in SIDS. In particular, Goal D outlines the need to ensure equitable access to adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology, for all CBD Parties, in particular the least developed countries and SIDS, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year. Similarly, Target 19 aims to increase the level of financial resources from all sources, mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030, including by increasing biodiversity related financial resources from developed countries to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and SIDS. Furthermore, Target 20 focuses on strengthening capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promoting innovation and technical and scientific cooperation.

15. Other relevant targets for SIDS include Target 1 on spatial planning and effective management processes, Target 2 on ecosystem restoration, Target 3 on effectively conserving and managing at least 30% of global areas, Target 6 on minimizing or mitigating the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity, especially in priority sides such as islands, Target 8 on minimizing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and increasing its resilience, Target 10 on sustainable management of productive landscapes (incl. fisheries), and Target 11 on nature's contributions to people and protection from natural hazards and disasters.

#### Relevant COP 15 decisions

16. Furthermore, at its fifteenth meeting, the CBD COP adopted [decision 15/7](#) on resource mobilization, including a Strategy for Resource Mobilization for the GBF, which will be further reviewed at COP 16. COP 15 also decided to establish the GBF Fund, a special trust fund under the Global Environment Facility to support the implementation of the GBF.

17. The CBD COP also adopted [decision 15/8](#) on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation, including a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support Parties in their implementation of the GBF. The long-term strategic framework builds upon the short-term action plan for capacity building (2017-2020), adopted by [COP decision 13/23](#), which led to various capacity-building activities facilitated and/or supported by the Secretariat, including activities in SIDS, as outlined in the [final report](#) on the implementation of the plan. Decision 15/8 also requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the development of an island

biodiversity capacity-building and development action plan. COP 15 further established a mechanism on technical and scientific cooperation to enable Parties and relevant organizations to effectively utilize science, technology, and innovation in support of the GBF, and established an Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

18. Lastly, the CBD COP adopted [decision 15/27](#) on invasive alien species (IAS), which introduced several draft guidance, methods, tools and provisions with respect to the management of IAS, use of databases on IAS, identification and minimization of risks in various contexts, including risks arising from climate change and associated natural disasters and land use changes, as outlined in the annexes of the decision. The decision requested the Executive Secretary to organize a peer-review process to solicit advice on the annexes.

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