

Cluster 2: Nature-based Solutions and biodiversity

Item 4: Proposal for a UNEA-5 resolution on “Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development”

Purpose of the paper:

Provide guidance and recommendations on the Draft resolution submitted by EU (with the support of Costa, Colombia, and Pakistan) on “Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development”.

Analysis of key messages:

Recognizing the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, as well as the interdependencies between biodiversity loss, climate change and human wellbeing, including health, the draft resolution emphasizes that “*a key area for cooperation and for strengthening actions for nature is the implementation of nature-based solutions*”. Nature-based solutions (NbS) are “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem resilience and biodiversity benefits”.

Paragraph – key messages	Alignment with Pacific region goals, initiatives and frameworks	Recommendation and comments
3. <i>Underlines</i> the need for enhancing the understanding and stepping up the implementation of nature-based solutions, on land as well as at sea	Well aligned with the main regional frameworks dealing with sustainable development, especially the Vemöore Declaration (item 10) and the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation, (Strategic Objective 2 - “Nature-based Solutions to sustain our social-ecological systems”)	Agree with the need of enhancing awareness and implementation of NbS as cost-efficient and sustainable approaches to face climate and environmental issues
4. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Director of UNEP, building on existing work, initiatives and platforms by collaborating closely with relevant organizations and institutions, to map best practices and lessons learned of nature-based solutions [...] and share innovative solutions; to address the role of gender equality and empowerment of women, youth and indigenous and local communities [...]; to provide guidance to Member States on possibilities to integrate nature-based solutions into sectoral policies at all levels [...]; to raise awareness of nature-based	Would support the goals and initiatives from PICTs to enhance implementation, mainstreaming and up-scaling of Nature-based Solutions, by providing further awareness and engagement at international level within different areas (knowledge production and exchange, tools, funding, monitoring and coordination Also aligns with the regional Kiwa Initiative* in which	Agree with the different suggestions made Underline specific needs in terms of coordination, capacity building for SIDS, and recognize the role of regional organizations working on such capacity-building and assistance programmes

<p>solutions by including innovative methods and building capacities for effective implementation; (v) to provide further evidence on the economic case for the scaling up of nature-based solutions; (vi) to develop recommendations for Member States for accelerating nature-based solutions' implementation, mainstreaming and interdisciplinary collaboration [...].</p>	<p>SPREP, SPC and IUCN-Oceania are supporting PICTs in developing local and regional rights-based and gender-sensitive projects on NbS, as well as delivering capacity-building to raise awareness and provide guidance in implementing, mainstreaming and up-scaling NbS approaches</p>	
<p>5. <i>Calls upon</i> the Member States and the Executive Director of UNEP, in collaboration with other relevant UN agencies, to support the uptake of relevant knowledge and methods of indigenous peoples and local communities that have proved effective in maintaining a balance between conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and human wellbeing, with free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities</p>	<p>Recognizes the key role of indigenous knowledge and know-how in sustainably managing and conserving biodiversity, along with social and environmental safeguards</p>	<p>Agree with reaffirming the role of indigenous knowledge and methods that can inspire the design and implementation of nature-base solutions on the ground, in respect of indigenous people's rights and free and prior consent</p>
<p>6. <i>Invites</i> Member States to invest in education, communication and awareness raising, research and development, and enhance regional cooperation for leveraging innovation in nature-based solutions, particularly with regard to multi-scalar planning for functional green and blue infrastructure, including replacing grey infrastructures with green and blue ones and integrating urban and rural planning and infrastructure management</p>	<p>Aligns with the partnership-based regional approach of the Kiwa Initiative, that aims to build resilience to climate change in the Pacific through Nature-based Solutions, as well as with other initiative such as the "Promoting Pacific Island Nature-based Solutions (PPIN)" from the New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)</p>	<p>Agree with the different suggestions made Underline specific needs in terms of coordination, capacity building for SIDS, and recognize the role of regional organizations that are working on such capacity-building and assistance programmes</p>
<p>7. <i>Invites</i> the Executive Director of UNEP to support Member States in accessing sustainable financing for nature-based solutions and propose criteria for supporting sustainable investments in nature-based solutions, and <i>calls upon</i> the Executive Director of UNEP to map possible economic and financial instruments [...] including in collaboration with financial mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility</p>	<p>Alignment with item 21 of the Vemööre Declaration: "Strengthening financing of nature conservation and nature-based solutions in the Pacific" Simplified access to climate change adaptation and NbS funding (and co-funding) is</p>	<p>Agree with the need of ensuring access to sustainable financing for NbS also in alignment with global funds (GEF, GCF, AF) Possibly add the following "<i>and calling to secure/increase these funding opportunities for SIDS</i>"</p>

<p>(GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF), as well as with the private and the finance sector, and stresses the importance of mobilising and increasing the quality, accessibility, and quantity of financial resources from all sources, including public and private, to deliver benefits to nature such as through nature-based solutions</p>	<p>one the goals of the Kiwa Initiative</p>	<p><i>and other most vulnerable countries”</i></p>
<p>9. Stresses the importance of improving the monitoring of nature-based solutions, including applying cost-effectiveness and other relevant assessments that fully capture environmental, societal and economic benefits, in synergies with existing environmental and climate change monitoring systems, and invites UNEP, all relevant UN agencies, scientific institutions and Member States to enhance coordination on this matter by cooperating on innovative social, technological and digital solutions, including using data and spatial analysis in an integrated manner</p>	<p>Aligns with above goals and frameworks to develop NbS approaches in the region: NbS are not new to the Pacific region but have mostly been deployed as pilots, highlighting the need to upscale and monitor the long-term benefits of NbS with support of different tools and analyses in a cooperative manner</p>	<p>Agree with the importance of monitoring and providing further evidence of long-term efficiency of nature-based solutions to face climate change mitigation and adaptation</p>
<p>10. Calls for the development of green, inclusive, sustainable and resilient post-COVID-19 societies, taking into account the necessity to prevent further increase in risks and conflicts connected to climate change, [...] and the need for integrated and sustainable ocean and land management that promotes resource efficiency, biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, by including use of nature-based solutions</p>	<p>Aligns with the different environmental policy frameworks in the region, specifically the Blue Pacific vision, the Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, the Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework, etc.</p>	<p>Agree with the need and recognition of nature-based solutions to develop and sustain green, inclusive, sustainable and resilience post-COVID 10 societies</p>

* *The Kiwa Initiative – Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Resilience aims to strengthen the climate change resilience of Pacific Islands ecosystems, communities and economies through Nature-based Solutions (NbS), by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring biodiversity. The Initiative is funded by the European Union, Agence Française de Développement, Global Affairs Canada, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). The Kiwa Initiative has established partnerships with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the regional office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). For more information about the Kiwa Initiative, please visit the Initiative website: <https://kiwainitiative.org/en/>.*

Cluster 2: Nature-based Solutions and biodiversity

Item 5: Proposal for a UNEA-5 resolution on “Animal Welfare-Environment- Sustainable Development Nexus”

Purpose of paper:

To provide information and guidance on the draft resolution submitted by Ghana with support from Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Senegal, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Democratic Republic of Congo

Key messages within the draft resolution:

The overarching key message within this draft resolution is that there is a strong link between animal welfare, protection of biodiversity, sustainable development and human wellbeing. The resolution asks the Executive Director to prepare a report on this relationship.

There are no binding requirements on Members within this resolution.

Preamble

Paragraph	Alignment with Pacific region goals, initiatives and frameworks	Recommendation and comments
<p>Recalling UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the international community envisaged a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected,</p>	<p>Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sustainable development goals supported by Pacific countries and central to the Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025 and other regional frameworks.</p>	<p>Can support</p>
<p>Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development “the Future We Want” in particular paragraph 88 (d) calling for UNEP to “Promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks as one of the processes aimed at bringing</p>	<p>https://undocs.org/A/RES/66/288</p>	<p>Not controversial, Could support</p>

<p>together information and assessment to support informed decision-making”,</p>		
<p>Keeping in mind that animals are an essential part of our ecosystems and that ecosystems are balanced by nature if allowed to self-regulate, but detrimental impacts on animals or their habitats can harm nature and our natural environment in various ways,</p>	<p>Embodied in Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025, and The Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026, Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021 - 2030</p>	<p>Can support</p>
<p>Recalling/Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the inextricable link between ecological integrity and human and animal health and welfare, and highlighted the need for inter-agency cooperation,</p>	<p>Note: UNEP report Preventing the next pandemic, zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission, and The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) produced a report in 2020 on Biodiversity and pandemics. This report introduced the idea of ‘One Health’ as a system of tackling key health issues such as the emergence of pandemics by recognising that health of people, animals and the environment are often inextricably linked.</p>	<p>Members may want the Resolution to draw attention to these important documents and in particular to the idea of ‘One health’ system of managing key health risks across animals, humans and the environment.</p> <p>Could support</p>
<p>Bearing in mind that animal welfare, biodiversity and the environment are connected to human wellbeing and acknowledging that there is a strong body of science supporting animal sentience, and this is already recognised in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the African Union Animal Welfare Strategy for</p>	<p>Many species are important cultural icons for Pacific peoples. These values are embodied in traditional knowledge as well as in the Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025, Pacific 2030 Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework, Regional Marine Species Programme and Action Plans 2022-2026 and the MOU on Pacific Cetaceans,</p>	<p>Pacific peoples’ livelihoods and futures are dependent on the environment including animals. Traditional lifestyles are increasingly giving way to urbanization and new world views.</p> <p>Members should consider how they see their relationship with animals evolving and whether they</p>



<p>Africa, and aware, in this regard, of the ongoing effort by Member States to seek the adoption of a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare,</p>	<p>Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021 - 2030 amongst others. Pacific Members are also Parties to MEAs which overlap with these issues CBD, CITES and CMS.</p> <p>However, sentience is not specifically recognised currently in most Pacific members legislation except where this might result through being territories of France the UK and USA. Australia and NZ have legislation that both protects wildlife in interactions with people (animal welfare) and where animals are farmed or are pets. Legislation is intended to prevent cruelty and protect wild populations of animals.</p> <p>A UDAW would be like the Universal Declaration of Human rights and would likely be a non-binding set of principles acknowledging the importance of sentience of animals (primarily their ability to suffer). There is a raft of reasons why this makes sense including as suggested in this resolution around the nexus with biodiversity loss, sustainable development and human welfare.</p>	<p>could support the need for a UDAW, noting that this resolution doesn't call for one, but is indicating that it may be a recommendation coming from the ED report being requested.</p>
<p>Recognising, in this regard, the report of the UN Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature (A/75/266),</p>		<p>https://undocs.org/en/A/75/266 This report intended to demonstrate a shift from human-centred to an earth-centred society in the implementation of the</p>

		2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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Resolution asks:		
Paragraph	Alignment with Pacific region goals, initiatives and frameworks	Recommendation and comments
1.Calls on member states to protect animals, their habitats and meeting their animal welfare requirements, in the context of halting biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems, mitigating climate change, preventing pollution, reducing the risk of new emerging infectious zoonotic diseases, moving to sustainable and agroecological food systems and achieving sustainable development	<p>Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025</p> <p>Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026</p> <p>Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021 – 2030</p> <p>Pacific Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter 2018-2025</p> <p>Pacific Regional Declaration on the Prevention of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and Its Impacts</p> <p>Members are to varying extents Parties to CBD, CITES, CMS and the Paris Accord on Climate Change and other agreements such as BRS, Minamata, Waigani and Noumea.</p>	<p>Members are already working towards achieving these goals through various mechanisms. This call suggests Members could bring consideration of animal welfare more into focus while doing that work. This might suggest a need to review or update wildlife legislation to recognise animal welfare issues in management of wildlife species including through trade, harvest and tourism. Wherever animals are held in captivity for whatever reason e.g. trade or tourism, poor conditions can result in lowered immunity and risk of disease including potential zoonotic disease proliferation. Animal welfare is inextricably linked with health for both animals and people.</p> <p>Harvesting of wild animals also has the potential to result in animal welfare issues such as from the loss of close family members in species with</p>



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		high levels of social organization e.g. dolphins.
2.Requests the ED to prepare a report on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development	As noted above there are already at least a couple of reports which have been written which could help inform this new report, which were produced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	Could support
3.Requests the ED to continuously engage the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a regular basis with the view to consolidating inputs and validating the progress of preparation and outcome of the report		Could support
4.Requests the ED to assure the promotion of animal welfare within the UNEP by fostering collaboration with Member States, business, experts, the secretariats of MEAS, UN agencies, funds and programmes, scientific panels, major groups and other key stakeholders and partners		Could support
5.Requests the ED to report to UNEA 6 on implementation of the resolution		Could support