CBD Notification 2025-135: Submission of views and information relating to the strategic review and analysis of the current Programme of work on protected areas (PowPA) in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

UK submission

General comments

We thank the Secretariat for the opportunity to submit views on the strategic review and analysis of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PowPA), in the context of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

As the current Programme of Work has not been updated since it was adopted in 2004 and given heavy agendas at upcoming intersessional meetings, we suggest that the Secretariat prepares an updated streamlined document for Parties consideration which takes into account the following points.

- Following the agreement of the GBF, it is no longer necessary for the PowPA to contain targets as the PowPA will support implementation of the GBF and its goals and targets.
- Furthermore, the dates in the current PowPA have been superseded and should be removed. As the GBF sets the timelines for its goals and targets, there is no need to include specific dates within the PowPA. This can also help future-proof the PowPA and help avoid it becoming out of date quickly.
- The PowPA should avoid duplication with other programmes of work and processes under the CBD (e.g. capacity building) and instead should make links as needed to help keep the PowPA as streamlined as possible.
- References to other decisions, resolutions, instruments, initiatives and organisations may be out of date and should be checked throughout the PowPA.
- There is an opportunity for greater recognition of the challenge and opportunities for protected areas in the management of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). This review could draw on the outcomes of the CBD expert workshop on marine ABNJ held in December 2025.
- The four over-arching programme elements could be updated to more accurately reflect the key elements required to support implementation of the GBF:
    - **Programme Element 1:** Best practice in establishing ecologically effective and well-managed protected areas and protected area networks
    - **Programme Element 2:** Ensuring equitable governance of protected areas for both nature and people.

    - **Programme Element 3:** The socio-economic dimension of protected areas and sustainable financing
    - **Programme Element 4:** Best practice in the monitoring and assessment of protected areas at a range of geo-political scales

The Target 3 Global Partnership Development meeting, which took place in June 2023**,** identified priorities and opportunities to facilitate and accelerate implementation of Target 3. As such outputs from this meeting and subsequent discussions are very relevant and should be considered as part of this review.

The following is a gap which has been identified in the current PowPA:

- Reference to Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs): Since the current PowPA was agreed, work on OECMs has advanced substantially and OECMs are key element of Target 3. Many of the activities which are relevant to Protected Areas are also relevant to OECMs, therefore OECMs should be considered and included within the goals and activities of the PowPA where appropriate.