

*Critical Analysis of the Outcomes of **SBI 5**
and **COP 16** of the Convention on Biological
Diversity with Respect to Advancing Gender
and Human Rights*



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December 2024



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Introduction

The 16th Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16) was held in Cali, Colombia, from October 21 to November 2. The event brought together over 20,000 participants, including representatives from 196 countries, Indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society, women, and youth. Prior to COP 16, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) also had its fifth meeting where it considered progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) through reviewing progress made by Parties in revising and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in establishing national targets aligned with the Framework, and also piloted an open-ended forum for voluntary country review.

This COP was a significant milestone as it was the first held after the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) in December 2022. As part of their commitments, countries were required to submit their updated [National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans \(NBSAPs\) or their national targets](#). However, as of 12 October 2024, [only 26 Parties had submitted their revised NBSAP, and 83 their national targets](#)¹. By the end of the conference, the number had increased to a total of [44 countries that submitted their updated NBSAPs, and 119 their national targets](#) .

During COP 16, key topics were addressed, including the monitoring framework, resource mobilization and financial mechanisms, biodiversity and climate change, biodiversity and health, as well as ecologically and biologically significant marine areas, plant conservation, sustainable wildlife management, and digital sequence information (DSI). Discussions also covered the participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities, and the recognition of the role of Afro-descendants in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Some of these issues proved particularly challenging for reaching consensus, which slowed progress during the final plenary session on November 1. Due to accumulated delays, the meeting was extended to the morning of November 2, when it was ultimately suspended due to a lack of quorum. As a result, two critical issues for the effective implementation of the framework remained unresolved²: the decision on resource mobilization and financial mechanisms, as well as the monitoring framework and mechanisms for planning, tracking, reporting, and review. It is important to note that all the pending decisions are related by a common running thread since they are related or dependent on the discussions related to the mobilisation of resources and a dedicated financial mechanism, and the long-standing divide on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility as envisaged in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as invoked in [Article 20 of the CBD](#)³. This COP brought out this divide sharply and effects were seen during the negotiations.

Women4Biodiversity actively followed, lobbied and participated in the negotiations for certain agenda items of particular importance to gender and human rights and this report presents our critical analysis of the negotiations.

¹The Parties that had submitted national targets through the online reporting tool were from the following regions: Africa (33), Asia- Pacific (20), Eastern Europe (6), Latin America and the Caribbean (11) and Western Europe and other States (13).

² [The UN Biodiversity Conference, will reconvene from 25-27 February, 2025 in Rome, Italy, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\).](#)

³ (Faizi, 2024)

Outcomes of SBI 5 and Item 8. Progress on the preparation of targets and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by Parties in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

As per decision 15/6 adopted by the fifteenth meeting Conference of the Parties, Parties were required to align their updated strategies and plans with the Framework's goals and submit them by the sixteenth meeting or to communicate national targets reflecting the KM-GBF. This decision also highlighted that a global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the means of implementation, based on national reports and other sources was to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth and nineteenth meetings; and towards that end, the executive secretary of the CBD was to help the SBI to develop, test and pilot of a modus operandi of an open-ended forum for the voluntary country review.

At COP 16, information from the revised and updated NBSAPs and national targets was supposed to be placed before the 5th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation which was held prior to COP 16 from the 16th to the 18th of November 2024. Thus, SBI 5 considered progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through reviewing progress made by Parties in revising and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in establishing national targets aligned with the Framework, and also piloted an open-ended forum for voluntary country review.

Both these steps were undertaken in accordance with Article 23 of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the modus operandi of the SBI which calls for the review of the implementation of the convention and its strategic plans⁴.

The SBI 5 adopted:

- (a) [recommendation](#) on review of implementation: progress in national target setting and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and
- (b) a [recommendation](#) on the pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation held at the 5th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Both these recommendations were put before COP 16.

Analysis of revised and updated NBSAPs and National Targets vis-a-vis the KM-GBF:

Discussions at the fifth meeting of the SBI centered around reports from a series of regional and subregional dialogues on NBSAPs organised by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with relevant partners as per decision 15/6 and related decisions adopted by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Till date, 12 such dialogues have been organized covering South-East Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and the Caribbean⁵. The Secretariat also placed before the SBI, analyses of the revised and updated NBSAPs as well as national targets with the KM-GBF, submitted by Parties to the CBD portal.

⁴ As per decision [15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) COP adopted the KM-GBF as the strategic plan for 2022-2030.

⁵ [Summary of key findings from regional and subregional dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans](#)



Before the commencement of SBI, 26 updated NBSAPs were submitted and 83 of the countries had submitted their National Targets. By the end of COP16, these numbers increased by 44 countries submitting their NBSAPs whereas 119 countries submitting their National Targets. In the [Analysis of Targets established by Parties aligned with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) carried out by the Secretariat of 78 countries submitting their National Targets until 6th October 2024, it was important to note that Targets 2 on Restoration and Target 3 on Protected Areas received high priority with more than 90 percent of countries ensuring that at least one of their National Targets were in conjunction with the Global Target. However, fewer countries submitted national targets linked with Goals C and D and with Target 16, 17, 18, 21, 22 and 23 citing challenges like setting targets on cross cutting issues and integrations of the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols.

	Number of Countries that submitted their updated NBSAPs	Number of Countries that submitted their National Targets
Until 12th October 2024 (As per CBD/SBI/5/2/Rev.1)	26 ⁶	83
Until 18th October 2024 (As per CBD/SBI/REC/5/1)	33 ⁷	103
Until 31st October 2024 (As per COP DEC/16/1)	44	119

The Sub Regional Dialogues cited Parties sharing the issues with considering Section C into account in the development of the National Biodiversity and Action Plans including challenges in implementation of the whole-of-Government and whole-of-society approaches. As of 6th December 2024, the [Online Reporting Tool](#) shows that 84 countries have elements of Section C that have been considered while developing their NBSAPs with an average of 15 number of elements of Section C included.



As of 6 December 2024, in the Online Reporting Tool 44 countries have submitted their Revised and Updated NBSAPs.

Photo credit: Online Reporting Tool

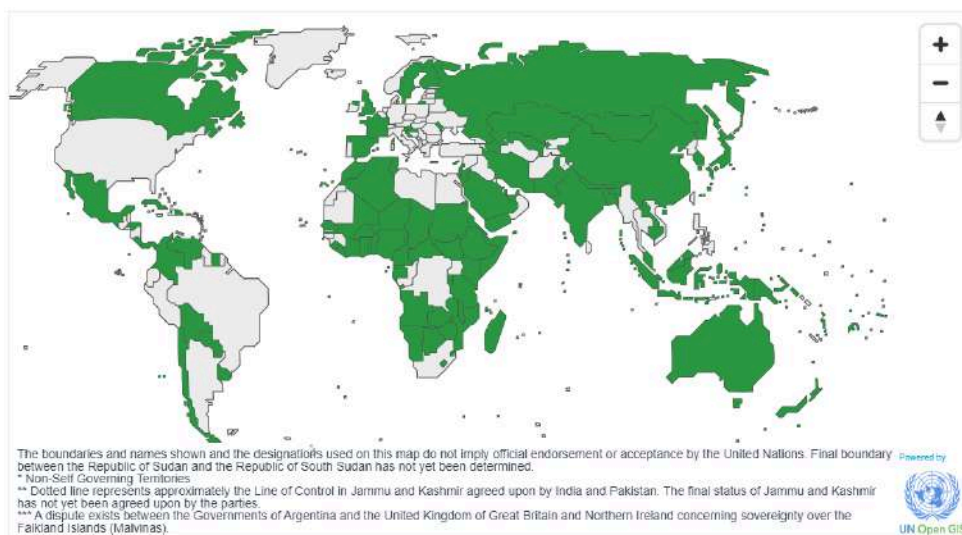
⁶ Of the 26 Submitted NBSAPs, two of them were submitted not in the official language

⁷ Submissions from Libya, Republic of Moldova, State of Palestine, Tunisia and Uganda



Inclusion of Gender Considerations in Updated and Revised NBSAPs

In the [analysis of revised and updated NBSAPs](#) carried out by the Secretariat of 19 NBSAPs submitted up until 10th September 2024, it was noted that more than half of the submitted NBSAPs mentioned “*intention to address gender issues across the development of NBSAPs*”. Within the analysis of National Targets ([SBI/5/2/Add.2/Rev.1](#)) prepared by the Secretariat, of the 78 Parties that submitted a total of 2047 National Targets, 128 National Targets were mapped to Target 23, where participation and gender responsive representation and leadership was included by most Parties, whereas, equal rights and access of Women and Girls to land and natural resources, were not considered by half of those Parties.



As of 6 December 2024, in the Online Reporting Tool 100 Countries have at least one National Target that aligns with Target 23 and 184 National Target mapped to Target 23. Photo Credit: Online Reporting Tool

Some key issues with the NBSAPs and national targets submitted included:

- (i) the absence of a resource mobilisation strategy or an indication of developing a strategy later in several NBSAPs
- (ii) the intention to address gender issues mentioned in several NBSAPs
- (iii) details related to how specific indicators would be used for monitoring the KM-GBF were not provided by most parties.
- (iv) the difficulties in taking Section C into account while developing their national targets since it was time-consuming to include stakeholders and non-state actors and only 1/3rd parties included information on how Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders were to be included.

Parties also noted the lack of timely access to funding by the Global Environmental Facility which was in fact one of the key reasons stated by Parties of being unable to submit their NBSAPs. Along with this, some countries also raised the issue of the continuing revision of the monitoring framework as another reason for the delay in preparing their revised NBSAPs. While most parties agreed with the need for the whole-of-society approach and the importance of the need to engage Indigenous Peoples and Local

communities, women and youth in consultations around NBSAPs, some countries raised the issue of the lack of capacity-building towards working on a whole-of-society approach to building their NBSAPs, while others pointed to the difficulty in reaching out to remote groups and in some cases the fatigue of being involved in several consultation process as the key reasons of being unable to fully integrate these groups. Some Parties also pointed out towards the difficulty of engaging with several sectoral ministries and the lack of political will to develop and implement the NBSAPs.

Impressions of the Pilot Open Ended Forum for Voluntary Country Review:

The Fifth meeting of SBI had on its second day, discussions on three thematic sessions as part of the Pilot Open Ended Forum for Voluntary Country Review. These included:

(i) Implementation of the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and the integration of the Protocols and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) into NBSAPs

Participants shared experiences on integrating whole-of-society, whole-of-government, and whole-of-convention approaches to strengthen the review and updating of NBSAPs. Key actions included ensuring representation and collaboration across diverse stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, women, and marginalized groups; creating spaces for democratic participation through citizen assemblies; and addressing the specific contexts, languages, and needs of IPs and LCs to enable their full and effective participation. Emphasis was placed on fostering inclusive and equitable engagement, leveraging civil society as a critical link between communities and governments, and prioritizing cross-sectoral coordination with ministries to enhance resource allocation, political accountability, and rights-based governance through mechanisms like stakeholder mapping and steering committees.

(ii) National Target Setting and Monitoring

Parties and Observers who were part of the panel emphasized the importance of inclusive and flexible approaches to setting and monitoring national biodiversity targets, ensuring alignment with global commitments while addressing national contexts. They highlighted the need for engaging diverse stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women, with a focus on gender equality and human rights. Key strategies included cross-sectoral collaboration, clear legal frameworks, resource mobilization, and participatory monitoring tools. Effective implementation relied on capacity building, interministerial coordination, integrating biodiversity into decision-making and budgets, and leveraging traditional knowledge. Participants stressed the importance of coherence between national and global goals to create realistic, ambitious, and equitable targets.

(iii) Means of Implementation, including National Biodiversity Finance Planning and Capacity-Development Planning

The session on means of implementation emphasized the critical role of biodiversity finance planning, capacity development, and inclusive participation to fully realize the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Parties shared examples of various funding mechanisms such as green bonds, ecosystem service payments, and debt-for-nature swaps, alongside integrating biodiversity into national budgets and engaging ministries of finance as key implementers. Capacity-building efforts focused on identifying gaps

through stakeholder engagement, education, and targeted training, with a strong emphasis on empowering youth, women, and marginalized groups. The discussions underscored the need for sustainable financial models, synergy between climate and biodiversity agendas, and strengthening institutional and technical capacity to implement national biodiversity strategies effectively

Outcome

COP 16 adopted the [CBD/COP/16/L.25](#) on the 1st of November addressing National Target Setting and Updating of NBSAPs. It noted that while the GEF provided many Parties with support for facilitating the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, it was concerned that not all eligible Parties were provided with timely support and requested the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to provide timely support to all eligible Parties, to enable them to revise or update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

It also encouraged Parties to enable the full and effective participation and engagement of women, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, all levels of government and stakeholders from all other relevant sectors in all levels of the revision or updating of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans through inclusive and transparent modalities and urged all Parties to implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans taking the considerations for the implementation, as set out in section C of the Framework, into account. However, a key element of this inclusion is the inclusion of the gender plan of action into NBSAPs and the inclusion of gender specific indicators in the development of national indicators⁸, which was not specifically mentioned in the decision.

The meeting of the SBI 5 was crucial for a global analysis of revised NBSAPs and national targets as well as the voluntary peer reviewed country review, since following this Parties will have to submit their national reports on implementation in February 2026 and June 2029, allowing for the first and second global reviews during COP 17 and COP 19, respectively. The recommendation of the SBI 5 on the pilot-open ended country review was supposed to be considered as a part of the decision on the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review. This decision as well as the decision on the monitoring framework was not adopted due to suspension of the COP.

Item 10. Monitoring Framework and Mechanisms for Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review.

Discussions on Agenda Item 10 focused aimed to establish a robust framework to track and evaluate the progress of the KMGBF. However, since COP was suspended before all agenda items could be finalized, the discussions on Agenda Item 10 were not concluded, and the finalization of the monitoring framework was postponed to a resumed meeting.

On Monday, 21 October, Working Group I (WG I) addressed the item on the GBF monitoring framework and mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review (PMRR), establishing a contact group co-chaired by Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) and Carolina Caceres (Canada). The contact group, which met multiple times between 24-30 October, focused on procedures for the global review and guidance on

⁸ [Policy recommendation for SBI-5 – Women4Biodiversity](#)

indicators. Most elements of the monitoring framework were finalised in the plenary with minor amendments and a request to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to provide financial resources for national biodiversity monitoring systems and community-based monitoring. Remaining brackets on controversial indicators (pesticide concentration⁹ and ecological footprint¹⁰) were noted.

Of crucial importance to advance gender equality was the acknowledgement of the development of the indicator on the national implementation of the gender plan of action¹¹ and the adoption of the list of binary indicators. COP also asked the SBSTTA to review updated metadata for all indicators that have met the criteria for inclusion, for use by Parties in their eighth national reports. Towards this, Parties have requested the executive secretary to compile submissions from Parties, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, relevant academia and research institutions and other relevant organizations, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth for the inclusion of additional headline, component and complementary indicators that meet the criteria for inclusion in the monitoring framework in order to help to address the gaps in the monitoring framework. Parties also endorsed the traditional knowledge indicator on land as a headline indicator for Target 22, recognising Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' contributions to sustainable land management.

The discussions around the Mechanisms for Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review were more convoluted with Parties considering the procedures for global review of collective progress in implementing the GBF, and the content and sources of information for both the global review and report. Parties stressed that review processes could place excessive burden on the convention's subsidiary bodies. They also could not agree on paragraphs addressing the communication of commitments by non-state actors. At the last contact group, there was not consensus on the discussion around this item and therefore, the chairs referred it to the ministerial level. The [president's text](#) was tabled in the plenary.

The decision on [Monitoring Framework](#) was bracketed as a whole due to the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) intervention, emphasizing that PMRR, resource mobilization, and financial mechanism decisions should be adopted together since they are a 'package' and without the resources to implement the Monitoring Framework it would be difficult to conclude¹². Similarly, the President's text on PMRR was also not adopted due to the suspension of the session.

Item 11. Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

The discussions around this item were highly contentious, with fissions between developed countries and developing countries laid bare once again post COP 15. Developing countries have been calling for greater share of biodiversity conservation funding to be made available by developed country parties invoking Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which is enshrined in Article

⁹ Indicator 7.2

¹⁰ Component indicators under Target 16

¹¹ [Indicator Methodology for Target 23 – Women4Biodiversity](#)

¹² This is interesting since at the 15th meeting of the COP, the KM-GBF and related decisions on monitoring, capacity-building, resource mobilisation, digital sequence information were adopted as a 'package' without recording views of the DRC, Cameroon and Uganda. This has been recorded in [Letter to UN Sec Gen regarding breach of procedure while adopting the biodiversity framework at COP15 Montreal, Dec 2022 | S Faizi - South Asia Citizens Web](#)

20 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which asks for Developed country Parties to provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the full incremental costs of implementing measures that fulfill the obligations of the Convention. Crucial to this is also Article 21 related to the relevant financial mechanism which shall be under the authority and guidance of and be accountable to COP. At COP 15, developing countries recalled Article 20 and 21 and called for a dedicated global biodiversity fund under the authority of the COP but due to the opposition of the developed country parties a compromise was adopted towards the establishment of the GBFF under the Global Environmental Facility which is dominated by the World Bank.

It was expected that at COP 16, parties could reach crucial decisions:

- (i) adoption of the strategy for resource mobilisation for 2025-2030
- (ii) decide whether to establish a new global instrument for biodiversity finance under the COP or to continue with the GEF as the interim host of the GBFF or to continue with the GBFF as the new Global Biodiversity Fund.
- (iii) reviewing the effectiveness of the financial mechanism under GEF

At COP 15, Parties adopted Target 19 of the KM-GBF which aims to mobilize \$200 billion annually by 2030 for biodiversity from *all*¹³ sources, including through increasing international financial resources; significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization; leveraging private finance and promoting blended finance; stimulating innovative financing schemes; optimizing co-benefits and synergies; enhancing the role of collective actions by indigenous peoples, local communities, and civil society, and improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of resource provision and use. It also adopted [Decision 15/7](#) on resource mobilisation which:

- (i) adopted a 'strategy for resource mobilisation' (henceforth 'strategy') for the KM-GBF to guide the implementation of the targets that address resource mobilisation and decided to review the strategy at COP 16 and undertake a global stocktake at the 17th meeting of the COP to allow for adjustments that ensure timely resource mobilization for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by 2030.
- (iii) established an advisory committee to support the strengthening of the strategy and to report to the SBI and the sixteenth meeting of the COP
- (iv) requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to establish a technical expert group on the financial reporting elements in the monitoring framework
- (iv) set up the special trust fund called the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund under the Global Environment Facility unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- (v) decided to explore proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance to mobilize resources

Earlier this year, the 4th meeting of the SBI considered a draft recommendation on resource mobilization prepared by the advisory committee and the reports of the technical expert group and came up with a [heavily bracketed text recommendation](#) on resource mobilisation.

¹³ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) began emphasizing funding from all sources, including public and private sectors, with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This plan included Aichi Biodiversity Target 20, which sought to increase financial resources for its implementation. The shift toward mobilizing funding, especially from private finance, was more clearly recognized during the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework negotiations in 2022.

Negotiations

The contact groups on resource mobilisation met 9 times while the one on financial mechanism met thrice. The chairs adopted an innovative engagement process to ease Parties into the contentious decision. They addressed different parts of the text in each contact group, beginning with the relationship between the strategy for resource mobilisation and the non-exhaustive list of actions and ending with focusing on the objectives of the resource mobilisation strategy. The discussions on the need for a dedicated global fund under the COP were as expected, contentious with several developing country Parties stressing on it. The Parties reached a consensus of sorts with the strategy for resource mobilisation. Chairs put forth three clusters on mobilising resources from all sources and instruments, the effectiveness of the chosen financial mechanism and criteria for design of the dedicated instrument. These included critical references to gender and human rights based approaches.

Within the text, it was important to consider elements that highlighted that resource mobilisation from all sources would be carried out with a gender-responsive and a human-rights based approach. However, the Chairs pointed out that a preambular paragraph mentioning the adherence to Section C of the KM-GBF would be appropriate rather than explicit mentions after some specific paragraphs. At the same time, a suggestion to include the recognition of living in harmony with nature and mother earth to achieve a healthy planet, human well-being and economic prosperity as well as facilitation of the provisions of financial resources for the implementation of Mother Earth Centric Actions and rights-based approach was also contested by many Parties. Parties also did not consider additions to the text for direct access to funding for indigenous peoples' and local communities, women and youth.

It was also important to note that key references for social and environmental safeguards and legally binding regulations and a human rights-based approach being applicable to reform and scale up financial instruments to enable direct access to finance for right-holders were not discussed. There was not much discussion on the negative impacts of biodiversity offsets and credits and other corporate instruments despite demonstrations¹⁴, petitions¹⁵ and side-events¹⁶ being organised against such innovative solutions by indigenous peoples' and local communities, women, youth and several other organisations at COP 16. In fact, an international biodiversity panel on biodiversity credits organised by the government of France was held on the 28th of October which released a report on a framework for high integrity biodiversity credit markets¹⁷.

The contact group for this topic were fraught with tense discussions between parties. It was difficult to get any textual references included in the non-papers. At the end, the contact group on resource mobilisation was not successful in creating a CRP due to the contentious nature of the topic and the text was referred to the President for high-level negotiations.

Outcome

The [President's text](#) will now be the basis for the continued session of COP 16. Despite this, there were significant agreements on other important issues, such as the operationalization of a new global mechanism to share benefits from the use of digital genetic information or the "Cali Fund" where all users

¹⁴ [Highlights and images for 28 October 2024](#)

¹⁵ biodmarketwatch.info

¹⁶ [Global Forest Coalition COP16 Side Event - Biodiversity Offsets and Credits: examining risks and challenges - Global Forest Coalition](#)

¹⁷ [FRAMEWORK](#)

benefiting from digitized genetic information (DSI) from species can contribute a portion of profit to be shared with stewards of nature.

While reviewing the Financial mechanism, developing parties highlighted the importance of the biodiversity obligations of developed parties to contribute to GEF. They also considered the importance of integrating Mother Earth centric actions in the GEF programmes and to explore ways to further improve, facilitate access to and increase direct funding for indigenous peoples and local communities, [people of African descent,] women and youth ensuring that these resources support their rights and knowledge systems. This [text](#) was also not adopted due to the suspension of the meeting and shall be considered in the continued session.

Item 14. Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions

One of the pivotal moments emerging from this COP was the establishment of a permanent Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and related provisions for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the work undertaken under the Conventions. A new Programme of Work(PoW) was also adopted, which now, with the New Subsidiary Body, would be instrumental in ensuring that traditional knowledge, practices, innovations and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are recognised, respected and included in the implementation through their full and effective participation subjected to the free prior informed consent(FPIC).

Within COP16, agenda Item 14 began with four recommendations emerging from [WG8j-12](#)¹⁸, which were on the development of a new Programme of Work and Institutional Arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the convention, In-depth Dialogue on the role of languages in the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and the Recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues pertaining to Convention on Biological Diversity.

Through multiple Contact Groups spread out over the two weeks, negotiations spanned over prioritising the various activities underlined in the New PoW, institutional arrangements and a new text proposal proposed by Colombia and Brazil backed by the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), which asked for the recognition of people from African Descent with traditional lifestyles in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the implementation of Article 8(j) as well as of the GBF through NBSAPs.

The new Programme of Work has nine guiding principles and eight Elements which will enable the realisation of Article 8(j) implementation. The PoW has a strong gender-responsive and human rights-based language, including the recognition of the Gender Plan of Action, which needs to be considered as a guideline during the PoW's implementation. Every element has various tasks unlined under it that Parties will implement and will be subject to revision and updating after 2030. These eight elements are:

¹⁸ In 2023, the twelfth Working Group(WG8j-12) in Geneva developed five recommendations, some of which were the key focus for deliberations within COP16 under Agenda Item 14 on Implementation of Article 8(j). These included the development of a new Programme of Work and Institutional Arrangement, in-depth dialogue on the role of languages in the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, updated knowledge management component of Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, review and update of the four adopted traditional knowledge indicators and the recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues pertaining to Convention on Biological Diversity.

1. Conservation and restoration
2. Sustainable use of biological diversity
3. Sharing of benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources
4. Knowledge and culture
5. Strengthening implementation and monitoring progress
6. Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities
7. Human rights-based approach
8. Access, including direct access, to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity

Within the Institutional arrangements, which proposed the establishment of a Permanent Subsidiary Body (SB8j), the discussion was informed by budget estimates¹⁹ for possible scenarios concerning the institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and related provisions carried out by the Secretariat of CBD, based on Decision 14/17²⁰. These estimates show that establishing a new Subsidiary Body would, in principle, have the same cost implications as the existing WG8j. When it was finally adopted in the Plenary on the late night of 1st November, the final text established the SB8j with a mandate to advise the COP, other Subsidiary Bodies (including the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice [SBSTTA] and Subsidiary Body on Implementation [SBI]) and COP/MOP to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their utilisation. It also mandated the SB8j to finalize the Modus operandi, which would be considered during COP17. Until then, the modus operandi of SBSTTA and the established procedures and practices applied under WG8j will prevail.

In the final plenary of COP16, five decisions under this agenda item were finalised, which included the adoption of the new Programme of Work²¹, the Establishment of the New Subsidiary Body through Institutional Arrangements for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity²², the Role of languages in the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge²³, the Role of people of African Descent comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁴ and the Recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues pertaining to the Convention on Biological Diversity²⁵.

Item 20. Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity

During SBSTTA 26, significant progress was made on Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas [EBSAs](#). The outcomes of expert workshops were welcomed, and the extension of the advisory group's mandate received strong support. In its final recommendation, SBSTTA emphasized the importance of ensuring inclusive participation in these workshops by involving experts from IPLCs,

¹⁹ Budget Estimates: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/ced9/1504/c2717fcaabbc6e18396758ff/cop-16-inf-36-en.pdf>

²⁰ Decision 14/17 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-17-en.pdf>

²¹ Decision 16/4: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-04-en.pdf>

²² Decision 16/5 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-04-en.pdf>

²³ Decision 16/7: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-07-en.pdf>

²⁴ Decision 16/6 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-06-en.pdf>

²⁵ Decision 16/8 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-08-en.pdf>

women's organizations, and youth groups, while also integrating traditional knowledge²⁶. Regarding the [conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, and of island biodiversity](#), SBSTTA's recommendations to COP included promoting inclusive participation in workshops by engaging IPLCs, women's organizations, and youth groups, and incorporating traditional knowledge. Furthermore, SBSTTA called for continued facilitation of capacity-building and partnership initiatives—such as those under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative—with the active involvement of IPLCs, women, and youth to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework²⁷.

Negotiations under Item 20 at COP16 also focused on these two interrelated areas: further work on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and the Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal, and island biodiversity. Delegates in the negotiations under this item in COP16 reviewed a non-paper featuring a streamlined annex to the draft decision on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. This document focused on identifying areas requiring additional attention to support the implementation of the GBF. Consensus was reached, on specifying that further work should align with “national priorities and circumstances”. Prolonged discussions centered on bracketed text within the annex, particularly concerning gaps and areas needing increased focus. The topic of marine geoengineering²⁸ highlighted the necessity of precautionary approaches, resulting in a decision to enhance understanding of geoengineering's impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity, recalling decision X/33 and in line with the precautionary approach. Debate persisted regarding benefit-sharing from marine genetic resources and digital sequence information (DSI), as well as the reform of harmful subsidies. They emphasized the need to “take effective measures at all levels, as appropriate” to ensure equitable benefit-sharing from marine genetic resources and DSI.

The outcomes of COP16 on [Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas \(EBSAs\) \(CBD/COP/DEC/16/16\)](#) represents incremental but significant progress toward achieving the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Including mechanisms to enhance understanding and management of EBSAs, revitalizing a process that had long been stagnant. The agreement to establish new mechanisms for identifying and updating EBSAs marks a crucial advancement, aligning with efforts to achieve GBF Target 3—the conservation of 30% of marine, coastal, and terrestrial areas by 2030. Furthermore, the decision underscores the importance of cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the recently adopted [Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction \(BBNJ Agreement\)](#), albeit with compromises regarding its explicit integration.

Regarding [Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal, and of island biodiversity \(CBD/COP/DEC/16/17\)](#) key elements of the decision include commitments to strengthen efforts to combat overfishing and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; enhance understanding of ocean acidification and warming impacts, particularly in the context of coral reef restoration, and to address

²⁶ CBD/SBSTTA/REC/26/8 Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

²⁷ CBD/SBSTTA/REC/26/7 Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity

²⁸ Geoengineering describes the large-scale manipulation of the atmosphere, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, aiming to address some symptoms of climate change. This technology could significantly infringe on human rights for millions or perhaps billions of people. In 2010 (COP 10, Decision X/33 para 8(w)), CBD agreed to do a *de facto* moratorium on geoengineering, but ongoing negotiations under UNFCCC and UNEA6 risks undermining CBD moratorium ([Hands Off Mother Earth! Alliance, 2024](#)).

capacity gaps, especially in the management of mesopelagic and deep-sea ecosystems. The decision also recognizes the critical need for capacity-building and the active inclusion of IPLCs, women, and youth in these initiatives. Platforms like the Sustainable Ocean Initiative are identified as key mechanisms for fostering partnerships and enhancing capacity.

However, several challenges remain unresolved. The approach taken to address geoengineering, while referencing the precautionary approach, does not establish binding restrictions or prohibitions on geoengineering activities. This lack of enforceable measures leaves room for interpretation and flexibility, enabling countries to justify continued experimentation or deployment. Additionally, the emphasis on understanding impacts may result in a predominantly research-oriented approach, delaying concrete regulatory actions. About the comprehensive integration of gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches. It is also urgent to ensure that businesses, including large and transnational companies and financial institutions reliant on marine, coastal, and inland biodiversity, minimize their negative impacts on biodiversity. This includes conducting thorough environmental and social impact assessments, transparently disclosing risks, dependencies, and impacts across their operations, supply chains, value chains, and portfolios²⁹. Looking ahead, the CBD and its Parties must ensure that the marine and coastal biodiversity agenda is not only ambitious but also inclusive and equitable, addressing the intertwined crises of biodiversity loss and social injustice.

Item 22. Biodiversity and health

Regarding biodiversity and health, SBSTTA ([CBD/SBSTTA/REC/26/9](#)) recommended encouraging Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities and on a voluntary basis, to recognize the urgent need to address the drivers of biodiversity loss to mitigate health risks, and to integrate biodiversity and health interlinkages into biodiversity-related policies, programs, or accounts and, where appropriate, into their NBSAPs. And the whole Annex I, which contains the Draft Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, which was bracketed.

Starting the contact group under this item, negotiations focused on finalizing the Global Action Plan to resolve outstanding issues. Delegates ultimately agreed to include a reference to Article 20 in a paragraph encouraging Parties and other stakeholders to provide support for capacity-building and development for implementing biodiversity and health interlinkages, as well as the Global Action Plan. On the request for the Secretariat to develop integrated, science-based indicators, metrics, and tools for measuring progress on biodiversity and health, delegates agreed to delete a proposal for the preparation of an additional note outlining the use of such indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Global Action Plan. Discussions regarding the inclusion of "derivatives" of genetic resources under Target 13 of the KM- GBF revealed significant divisions. Some Parties opposed the inclusion, citing inconsistencies with the KM-GBF, while others supported it, emphasizing its importance for health-related benefit-sharing mechanisms. The term "derivatives" was excluded, reflecting enduring disagreements over access and benefit-sharing (ABS) mechanisms and their implications for health and biodiversity.

The adoption of [Decision 16/19 the Biodiversity and health](#) and the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health represents a significant milestone in acknowledging the interlinkages between biodiversity and human health. It adopts a holistic "One Health" approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of ecosystem, animal, and human health, aiming to reduce zoonotic spillovers, promote sustainable use of

²⁹ [Policy Recommendation for SBSTTA 26. Women4Biodiversity. 2024](#)

biodiversity, and address non-communicable diseases linked to environmental degradation. The plan highlights the need to address shared drivers of biodiversity loss and health risks—such as deforestation, pollution, habitat fragmentation, and climate change—to improve ecological and human health outcome³⁰s. However, its voluntary nature and unresolved issues, such as ABS-related benefits, highlight the need for continued negotiation and capacity building. As parties implement the Plan, fostering collaboration with the World Health Organization and other international bodies will be essential to develop metrics, build capacity, and drive transformative action toward sustainable ecosystems and healthier societies. Additionally, the COP encouraged Parties and invited other stakeholders to provide financial and technical support to enhance capacity-building and development for implementing biodiversity and health interlinkages, as well as the Global Action Plan itself.

Regarding gender outcomes, the decision highlights the importance of including women, youth, and marginalized groups in biodiversity and health-related actions. It acknowledges women as critical knowledge holders, particularly within IPLCs, who play a vital role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Additionally, the explicit mention of sexual and reproductive health³¹ as a fundamental dimension of well-being is noteworthy, reflecting a broader recognition of health determinants. However, the decision falls short in addressing gender-specific barriers to accessing health services and resources. While it suggests empowering women through capacity-building and leadership opportunities, it lacks concrete mechanisms to ensure equitable access or to tackle systemic challenges effectively. Additionally, these actions require adequate funding for implementation, as well as robust indicators to monitor progress through an intersectional lens. Such indicators should explore the differentiated impacts of biodiversity and health policies on various groups to ensure truly inclusive and equitable outcomes.

Item 23. Plant conservation

In line with decisions [15/5](#) and [15/13](#), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation prepared document [CBD/SBSTTA/25/5](#). This document outlined a set of complementary actions to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

During the COP16 negotiations on plant conservation, discussions centered on aligning these complementary actions with the KMGBF. Key points of debate included the development of indicators for monitoring these actions, with some Parties emphasizing the need for consistency with indicators from other multilateral agreements. Financial mechanisms emerged as a contentious issue, with some delegates advocating for explicit references to CBD Articles 20 (Financial Resources) and 21 (Financial Mechanism)³². However, this faced resistance from other Parties, leaving critical paragraphs with unresolved bracketed text. Parties did agree to delete bracketed text referencing the need for compliance with COP decisions in a footnote of the annex on voluntary complementary actions related to plant conservation, specifically concerning monitoring invasive species linked to GBF Target 6 (invasive alien species). However, significant debate arose around alternate wording for actions related to GBF Target 17

³⁰[Biodiversity COP16: Important agreements reached towards making peace with nature.](#)

³¹ [Policy Recommendation for SBSTTA 26, Women4Biodiversity, 2024](#)

³² Currently, [CBD/COP/16/L.3](#) Plant Conservation, para 9, which refers to Article 20 and 21 of the Convention is under brackets.

(biosafety). Key disagreements revolved around the phrasing “enhancing the benefits arising from the use of safe biotechnologies” versus “the safe use of biotechnologies,” as well as a reference to access to biotechnologies “on mutually agreed terms.” Due to the lack of consensus, no final agreement was reached, and the decision was deferred for further consideration ([CBD/COP/16/L.3](#)).

Despite unresolved issues, COP16 achieved notable progress in aligning plant conservation efforts with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework monitoring framework. Parties agreed to update the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation with specific indicators and a standardized reporting template, ensuring that progress is both measurable and compatible with global biodiversity targets. This alignment represents a significant step toward promoting transparency and accountability in plant conservation efforts. Additionally, the inclusion of language emphasizing support for developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing states, acknowledges the capacity disparities in implementing conservation measures.

Although gender equality and women's empowerment were not explicitly addressed under this discussion, it is essential to consider how gender intersects with these efforts. To ensure plant conservation initiatives are equitable and effective, it is crucial to implement the complementary actions related to Target 23. These actions should support women's participation in decision-making processes, provide opportunities for leadership and training, and acknowledge and integrate their indigenous and local knowledge into conservation and management practices.

Item 25. Biodiversity and climate change

At a Decision³³ adopted at its 15th meeting, the Conference of Parties had requested Parties, other governments and international organisations to submit their views and information on biodiversity and climate change and had tasked the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review these as well as relevant scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change in its 25th meeting. At SBSTAA 25, a synthesis of the views and information received from 8 Parties and 18 international organisations was prepared by the Secretariat based on which a recommendation³⁴ was placed before the Parties at COP 16. The recommendation, although bracketed due to the failure of parties due to disagreement on considered by a contact group chaired by Clarisse Kehler (Sweden) and Xiang Gao (China) which met 4 times. A final CRP was placed before the COP on 1st November and adopted with some changes as decision [CBD/COP/DEC/16/22](#).

It is important to note that the CBD adopted biodiversity and climate change as a cross-cutting issue and included it in its work through decision [UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/VII/15](#). Through various decisions since, it has noted the critical role biodiversity plays in climate adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction and has also emphasised that climate change policy and solutions can have an adverse effect on biodiversity and people (especially the vulnerable populations like rural women, youth, Indigenous people and local communities) and therefore special safeguards need to be put in place by the CBD to avoid such adverse effects and impacts. Some of the important decisions of the CBD in this regard include:

(i) advice on relevant safeguards to biodiversity³⁵ from REDD and conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks in developing countries

³³ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-30-en.pdf>

³⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/726e/12e1/c66dabd7c2b1cba5e8b09e1a/sbstta-25-inf-02-en.pdf>

³⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-19-en.pdf>

- (ii) acknowledging the risks of climate-related geoengineering³⁶
- (iii) integrating biodiversity considerations into climate-change related activities³⁷
- (iv) creation of voluntary guidelines on the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction to avoid the disproportionate impacts of climate change and disaster risk on ecosystems as well as vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls.
- (v) recognition that gender-responsive approaches and engagement of the youth are critical to ensure the success and sustainability of climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction policies, programmes and projects³⁸
- (vi) acknowledging that failure to hold global average temperature to well below 2°C would place species, ecosystems and people that depend on their functions especially indigenous peoples and local communities and rural women, under very high risk³⁹.

Considering that the focus in this conference of Parties was to consider ways of strengthening cooperation and synergies in tackling the interlinked crises of biodiversity loss and climate change and to provide a framework for enhancing co-ordination and synergies between international and national efforts to address these interlinked crisis'; it was important that COP 16 would build on these decisions and also tackle emerging issues as it carries out work on this cross-cutting agenda.

Negotiations

The agenda was not addressed in the plenary but was assigned to a contact group hence observations by observer groups would be restricted to specific textual recommendations, at the behest of the Chairs.

Some recommendations from SBSTTA 25 which were of particular importance for the overall agenda of human rights and gender were the acknowledgement that large-scale intensive bioenergy and monoculture plantations have a negative impact on biodiversity since they replace natural forests and subsistence farmlands, thereby threatening food and water security, local livelihoods, and intensify social conflicts. There are several examples all over the world of intensive monoculture plantations, credits and offsets and sectoral changes made as a response to meet Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC affecting rights of indigenous communities and local people and especially women⁴⁰, as well as harming critically endangered species and biodiverse habitats.

Secondly, the SBSTAA 25 recommended the implementation of strong social and environmental safeguards including ensuring a human-rights based approach and the full and effective participation of women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities, while meeting obligations under Target 8 and 11 and the need to access, manage and avoid the potential adverse impacts on biodiversity due to economic and sectoral transitions in land use, energy, infrastructure and industrial systems undertaken in response to climate change. Take the example of India, where large-scale solar energy plants and related

³⁶ [Microsoft Word - COP 10 Decision X](#) and <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-20-en.pdf>

³⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-21-en.pdf>

³⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-04-en.pdf>

³⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-05-en.pdf>

⁴⁰ https://globalforestcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/EN_Biodiversity-Offsetting-Briefer.pdf. ; [The Systematic Dismantling of India's Forest Rights Act Through the Amendments to the Forest Conservation Act](#); <https://www.newindianexpress.com/xplore/2024/Jan/27/dilemma-over-energy-transition-vs-bird-conservation>

infrastructure (which are exempt from environmental impact assessments) are critically impacting the habitat of the endangered Great Indian Bustard⁴¹.

Of crucial importance was also the recommendation that the Executive Secretary of the CBD issue an open call and compile submissions by Parties, observers and other organisations on existing information on carbon and biodiversity credits and offsets and other market-based approaches and their effects on biodiversity, and to make the compilation available to the SBSTTA at a meeting before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The call for the Executive Secretary to compile available information on the effects of carbon and biodiversity credits and offsets would have been crucial to integrate into the CBD process since it has historically compiled various studies and submissions on pertinent and relevant issues of importance with respect to biodiversity and climate change. Several academics and civil society are of the view that Offsets and credits transform biodiversity replete with cultural and spiritual connections for indigenous peoples' and local communities into transaction units of pure monetary value and do not necessarily account for actual protection of biodiversity while also opening the door for loss of access to land⁴², evictions, gender-based violence⁴³ and livelihood insecurity. It would be crucial to have an independent analysis spearheaded by the CBD to compile these evidences and to make them available to Parties of the CBD.

During the contact groups, Parties also introduced new text recalling previous decisions including reference to the effects of ocean fertilisation, solar and marine climate geoengineering (reminding the COP of its previous decisions on the moratorium on all geo-engineering activities) which was highlighted by Palau on behalf of the Pacific and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as the development of supplementary guidelines for providing guidance of good practices for the design and effective implementation, of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, consistent with United Nations Environment Assembly [resolution 5/5](#), and Mother Earth centric actions as applicable, to climate change mitigation and adaptation⁴⁴. Parties also spent considerable time on addressing 'nature-based solutions' and acknowledged that while the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly launched the process for the development of criteria, norms, standards, and guidelines for the implementation of nature-based solutions, this development was not concluded.

The GYBN recommended a text to ensure that any biodiversity and climate change actions that have a direct or indirect impact on land rights or human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities need to be undertaken only with their free, prior and informed consent⁴⁵.

Outcome

The final decision text stands considerably diluted on these major considerations. It has deleted the paragraph highlighting the effects of intensive, monoculture plantations on biodiversity, local livelihoods and social conflict. Apart from this, it has also deleted the call made to the executive secretary for an open call to collate existing information about the effects of carbon and biodiversity credits and offsets and market-based approaches on biodiversity. It has diluted the language which mentions specific

⁴¹ [Green Vs Green: The Great Indian Bustard's Continued Struggle For Survival](#)

⁴² [Kenyan Pastoralists vs. Northern Rangelands Trust](#)

⁴³ [Global Forest Coalition The False Promise of Biodiversity Offsets: Launch of a New Analysis by GFC - Global Forest Coalition](#)

⁴⁴ [Biodiversity and climate change](#)

⁴⁵ [CG GYBN 25 Climate change and biodiversity text proposals.docx - Google Docs](#)



sectoral transitions including land-use change, energy and infrastructure and industrial systems to assess their impacts on biodiversity; and has replaced the strong and specific text calling for 'the need for a human-rights based approach and full and effective participation of women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities' to be considered during implementation of Target 8 and 11 with the often used and heavily diluted phrase "to be consistent with Section C and Target 22 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework'.

While these crucial paragraphs have been deleted or diluted, the document has cautioned Parties on adopting nature-based solutions by taking note of the fact that the United Nations Environment Assembly has recognised that NbS might contribute to climate action but the need to analyse their effects and acknowledging that they do not replace the need for deep reduction in GHG emissions. It has also asked the SCBD to develop a supplementary voluntary guideline to provide guidance and tools for nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

It has also urged Parties to take into account the diversity of values, worldviews and knowledge systems, including the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the intersectional approaches to ensure contextually relevant actions for respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights and enhancing empowerment, agency and intergenerational equity.

The adopted decision reiterates the CBD's previous decisions on climate geoengineering. It invites Parties, other governments, observers, and relevant organizations to provide information on measures undertaken at the national or other levels concerning paragraph 8 (w) of decision X/33 or decision IX/16 C. Additionally, it requests the Executive Secretary to compile the submitted information and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism. However, a preambular paragraph proposed by Palau, which cautioned against the effects of climate, marine, and solar geoengineering, as well as the proliferation of uncontrolled field experiments potentially leading to serious and irreversible impacts on biodiversity and the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, was not included in the final document.



Conclusion

Biodiversity is vital for human well-being, a healthy planet, and economic prosperity. Despite recognition of its importance in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), biodiversity loss persists. The 2024 UN Biodiversity Conference presented a key opportunity to focus on implementing the GBF, celebrating significant submissions of national targets and action plans. While key achievements have been achieved in the establishment of a permanent body for Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and recognizing the role of people of African descent, the adoption of marine conservation modalities and enhanced coordination between biodiversity and climate efforts, towards finalising the monitoring framework and establishment of the Cali fund for the operationalisation of benefits from Digital Sequence Information; the global divide on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility were on full display which lead to crucial decisions on resource mobilization, monitoring framework and mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, financial mechanism and even the budget. While Parties are meeting to discuss the budget as this report goes to print, a resumed COP meeting (organised in February at Rome, Italy) is expected to address these issues and ensure continued progress⁴⁶.

⁴⁶ [COP-16-R2 - Documents](#)



Women4Biodiversity

About Women4Biodiversity

Women4Biodiversity advocates for gender equity in biodiversity conservation. We believe "Living in Harmony" with nature requires recognizing women's and girls's roles and rights with holistic solutions. We champion these principles through collaboration across the three Rio Conventions (UNCBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC) for a more inclusive future.

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