सत्यमेव जयते

THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY HANDBOOK

REFERENCE GUIDE AND INDIAN PERSPECTIVE



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change

National Biodiversity Authority

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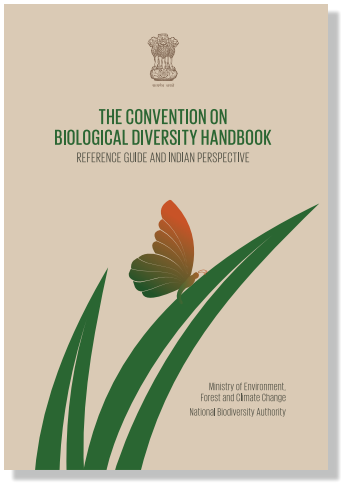

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CONTENTS

IV Acknowledgements

V Messages

X Glossary of Technical Terms

XII Abbreviations

01 Biodiversity: Why It Matters

07 Evolution of the Global Environmental Action: Stockholm to Rio and Beyond

21 From an Idea to Global Agreement: Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols

49 CBD Conference of the Parties (COP), Subsidiary Bodies and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

83 CBD COPs: A Journey Through Three Decades of Global Biodiversity Governance

105 Funding Biodiversity Conservation: The Financial Mechanism

113 Synergy between the Rio Conventions: Roles and Responsibilities of MEA Focal Points

125 India: Tryst with Biodiversity

144 Annexures

List of COP 1 - 16 Decisions

List of Administrative and Technical agenda items for COP 1 - 17

List of Administrative and Technical agenda items for SBSTTA 1 - 28

List of Administrative and Technical agenda items for SBI 1 - 7

List of Administrative and Technical agenda items for SB8j-1

Indian Focal Points – UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC and their key roles

220 References and Sources



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We hope that this Handbook will serve as a useful reference for policymakers, government officials, researchers, academicians, students, practitioners, and all stakeholders working towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources.

Tarun Kumar Kathula,
Scientist 'G'
National Focal Point to the Convention on
Biological Diversity (CBD NFP), India

Dr. B. Balaji, I.F.S.,
Member Secretary
National Biodiversity Authority

MESSAGE

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
भारत सरकार

सत्यमेव जयते

LiFE

Minister
Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

भूपेन्द्र यादव
Bhupender Yadav



Biodiversity is the foundation of life and an essential pillar of our ecological, economic and social well-being. India, with its extraordinary biological diversity and rich traditions of living in harmony with nature, has a deep-rooted commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of its natural heritage.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted in 1992, marked a historic milestone in global efforts to conserve biodiversity, promote its sustainable use and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources. Over the past three decades, the Convention has evolved into the cornerstone of global biodiversity governance.

India has been a committed and constructive Party to the CBD since its inception. We have consistently contributed to the global biodiversity discourse while pursuing a development pathway that places people and nature at the centre of sustainable development. The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has further strengthened our collective resolve to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and build a nature-positive future.

The Handbook on the Convention on Biological Diversity is a timely initiative to deepen understanding of the CBD and India's engagement with it. By bringing together the evolution of the Convention, its institutional and negotiating processes, major developments and India's perspectives, the Handbook seeks to make this important global process accessible to a wider audience.

This Handbook will serve as a valuable reference for students, researchers, academicians, policymakers, professionals and all those interested in biodiversity, while encouraging greater awareness, knowledge-sharing and meaningful participation in biodiversity conservation.

(Bhupender Yadav)

MESSAGE

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

सत्यमेव जयते

राज्य मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
विदेश मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
Minister of State
Environment, Forest and Climate Change
External Affairs
Government of India

कीर्तवर्धन सिंह
Kirti Vardhan Singh



India's biodiversity is a priceless natural asset that sustains our ecosystems, supports livelihoods and contributes to the well-being of present and future generations. Its conservation is closely linked with our pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development. India's long-standing traditions of respecting nature, together with its policy and institutional measures, reflect our continued commitment to safeguarding this rich heritage.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provides an important global framework for addressing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. India has played a constructive role in the Convention since its adoption and continues to contribute to international efforts towards achieving shared biodiversity objectives. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has provided renewed momentum to these efforts and offers a common framework for strengthening action against biodiversity loss.

The Handbook on the Convention on Biological Diversity is particularly significant, as it can facilitate a better understanding of the CBD process and its relevance to biodiversity governance.

This Handbook will be useful to policymakers, government officials, researchers, academicians, students and other stakeholders seeking to understand the Convention and India's role in advancing its objectives. It may also encourage informed dialogue, knowledge-sharing and wider participation in efforts towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

(Kirti Vardhan Singh)

MESSAGE

तन्मय कुमार आई.ए.एस
Tanmay Kumar, IAS

सचिव
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
Secretary
Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change
Government of India



It gives me immense pleasure to present this Handbook on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

As a Party to the Convention, India remains firmly committed to the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. Over the years, the country has undertaken significant policy, legislative, and institutional measures to translate these commitments into action while promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

This Handbook has been prepared as a ready reference for policymakers, practitioners, researchers, students, and other stakeholders. It provides a concise overview of the Convention, its Protocols, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, key decisions adopted under the CBD, and India's initiatives and contributions towards achieving global biodiversity goals.

I hope this publication will enhance understanding of the CBD process and support informed participation in biodiversity conservation and governance. I compliment all those who have contributed meaningfully to the preparation of this Handbook and hope it serves as a useful handbook to all the concerned stakeholders.

(Tanmay Kumar)

MESSAGE

आशुतोष अग्निहोत्री आई.ए.एस
Ashutosh Agnihotri, IAS

अपर सचिव
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Environment
Forest and Climate Change
Government of India



Biodiversity forms the foundation of ecological security, sustainable livelihoods, food systems, climate resilience, and human well-being. Conserving and sustainably managing our rich biological diversity is therefore central to India's vision of sustainable development and the achievement of national and global environmental commitments.

India has been an active participant in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since its inception and has consistently demonstrated its commitment through policies, strong legal and institutional frameworks, and community-led conservation initiatives. The country remains committed to implementing the objectives of the Convention and, advancing the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

I am pleased to present this Handbook on the Convention on Biological Diversity, which serves as a comprehensive yet accessible reference on the evolution of the Convention, its key processes, decisions, Protocols, and India's contributions to the global biodiversity agenda. I am confident that this publication will be a valuable resource for government officials, researchers, academicians, students, and all stakeholders engaged in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

I appreciate the dedicated efforts of the officers and experts involved in preparing this Handbook and hope that it will contribute to strengthening awareness, capacity, and informed engagement in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(Ashutosh Agnihotri)

MESSAGE

राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण
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National Biodiversity Authority
Government of India

वीरेन्द्र तिवारी, भा.व.से. (सेवानिवृत्त)
अध्यक्ष
Virendra Tiwari, IFS (Retd.)
Chairperson



The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, provides the principal international framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has further strengthened global commitment by setting an ambitious pathway to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieve the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

This message, designed for the publication of the Handbook on the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), highlights its unique perspective in global ecological governance and includes a separate chapter on India's critical role. As one of the world's megadiverse nations, India's relationship with nature is deeply rooted in our civilizational ethos, where conservation is not merely a policy, but a way of life. As the global community navigates the ambitions of the UNCBD, our domestic experience serves as a vital blueprint for the world.

India has consistently demonstrated leadership in implementing the objectives of the Convention. India's approach to the UNCBD is uniquely localized and inclusive. Through the Biological Diversity Act, the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, Union Territory Biodiversity Councils, Biodiversity Management Committees, and People's Biodiversity Registers, the country has established a strong institutional framework that integrates biodiversity conservation with sustainable development while safeguarding traditional knowledge and promoting equitable benefit-sharing and also as a commitment to the “Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society” approach. By empowering local and indigenous communities, we prove that biodiversity protection and socio-economic development can—and must—coexist.

This handbook offers a comprehensive practical reference for policymakers, administrators, researchers, students, and practitioners engaged in biodiversity conservation and international environmental governance. It provides a concise overview of the evolution of the Convention, its institutional framework, key decisions, protocols, financial mechanisms, and India's contributions to advancing global biodiversity commitments. It thoughtfully examines how global Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Targets can be harmonized with national realities, offering valuable insights for all users.

I congratulate the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and authors from the CBD Cell, NBA for bringing out this valuable publication to the forefront, and I hope it inspires readers worldwide to adopt a more balanced, inclusive, and actionable approach to securing our natural heritage. I am confident that this handbook will strengthen institutional understanding, support informed decision-making, and encourage broader participation in biodiversity conservation.

Let us renew our collective commitment to conserving biodiversity, promoting its sustainable use, and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of its benefits for the well-being of present and future generations.

Date: 9th October, 2026

(Virendra Tiwari)

GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS): A mechanism that ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets: A set of 20 global biodiversity targets adopted at CBD COP-10 (Nagoya, 2010) to guide biodiversity conservation efforts from 2011-2020.

Biodiversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources, including diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Biological Resources: Genetic resources, organisms, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential value.

Biotechnology: Any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof to make or modify products or processes.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: A supplementary agreement to the CBD that regulates the safe transfer, handling, and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).

CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity): An international treaty adopted in 1992 for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources.

CHM (Clearing-House Mechanism): The information-sharing platform established under the CBD to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation.

Conference of the Parties (COP): The governing body of the CBD responsible for reviewing implementation and adopting decisions to advance the Convention's objectives.

Digital Sequence Information (DSI): Digital genetic information derived from genetic resources, including DNA and RNA sequence data.

Ecosystem Approach: A strategy for the integrated management of land, water, and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

Ecosystem Services: Benefits that humans obtain from ecosystems, including provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting services.

Ecosystem: A dynamic complex of plant, animal, and microorganism communities interacting with their physical environment as a functional unit.

***Ex Situ* Conservation:** Conservation of biological diversity outside natural habitats, such as in zoos, botanical gardens, seed banks, and gene banks.

Fair and Equitable Benefit-Sharing: The third objective of the CBD, ensuring that benefits derived from genetic resources are shared fairly with provider countries and communities.

Genetic Resources: Genetic material of actual or potential value derived from plants, animals, microorganisms, or other biological sources.

Global Environment Facility (GEF): The financial mechanism of the CBD that provides funding to developing countries for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

***In Situ* Conservation:** Conservation of ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity within their natural habitats.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs): Communities possessing traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): An independent intergovernmental body that provides scientific assessments and policy support on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS): Species introduced outside their natural range that threaten biodiversity, ecosystem services, or human well-being.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF): The global biodiversity strategy adopted at COP-15 in 2022, containing four goals for 2050 and twenty-three targets for 2030.

Living Modified Organism (LMO): Any living organism possessing a novel combination of genetic material obtained through modern biotechnology.

Marine Protected Area (MPA): A marine area designated for the conservation of biodiversity.

Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT): Contractual agreements governing access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits arising from their use.

Nagoya Protocol: A supplementary agreement to the CBD that provides a legal framework for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP): A country's principal policy instrument for implementing the CBD at the national level.

Prior Informed Consent (PIC): Permission granted by a provider country or community before access to genetic resources is allowed.

Protected Area: A geographically defined area designated and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature.

Rio Conventions: The three major environmental treaties adopted following the 1992 Rio Earth Summit: CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD.

Sovereign Rights over Natural Resources: The principle that states have authority to regulate access to and use of biological resources within their jurisdiction.

Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI): A subsidiary body of the CBD that reviews progress in implementation and provides recommendations to the COP.

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA): The scientific advisory body of the CBD that provides technical guidance to the COP.

Sustainable Use: The use of biological resources in a manner and at a rate that does not lead to long-term decline of biodiversity.

Target 30×30: A global commitment under the KMGBF to conserve at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, coastal, and marine areas by 2030.

Traditional Knowledge (TK): Knowledge, innovations, and practices developed by indigenous peoples and local communities through generations of interaction with nature.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED): The 1992 Rio Earth Summit that led to the adoption of the CBD and other major environmental agreements.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): One of the three Rio Conventions, focused on combating desertification and land degradation.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): The leading global environmental authority that played a central role in developing the CBD.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): One of the three Rio Conventions, focused on addressing climate change.

ABBREVIATIONS

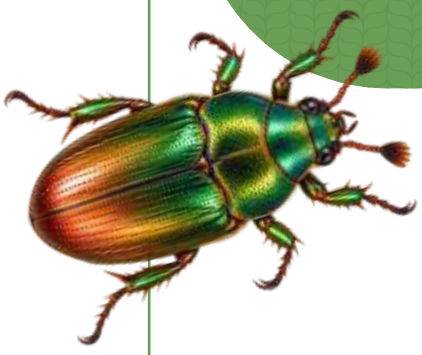
Abbreviations	Full Form
ABS	Access and Benefit-Sharing
AHTEG	Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHM	Clearing-House Mechanism
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPB	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
DSI	Digital Sequence Information
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GBO	Global Biodiversity Outlook
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GTI	Global Taxonomy Initiative
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LMMCs	Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries
LMOs	Living Modified Organisms
MAT	Mutually Agreed Terms
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MOP	Meeting of the Parties
NBF	National Biodiversity Framework
NBA	National Biodiversity Authority
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
NBT	National Biodiversity Target
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	Nagoya Protocol
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
P-SIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TK	Traditional Knowledge
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WTO	World Trade Organization



Indian Gray Wolf
(*Canis lupus pallipes*)

Kingsley David

BIODIVERSITY: WHY IT MATTERS



Imagine strolling through a rainforest where each tree, bird, insect, and microbe has a particular function to ensure the entire ecosystem remains healthy and well-maintained. This web of life that scientists refer to as biodiversity is one of the most valuable assets of our planet. The Convention on Biological Diversity, also referred to as the CBD, is the most extensive effort by humankind to conserve this phenomenal diversity of life on this planet.

What is Biodiversity?

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines biodiversity as the *variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems*. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) defined biodiversity in 2019 as *"the variability that exists among living organisms (both within and between species) and the ecosystems of which they are part."* To be precise, this is the variety and variability that exists in all the living beings we see around us.

01

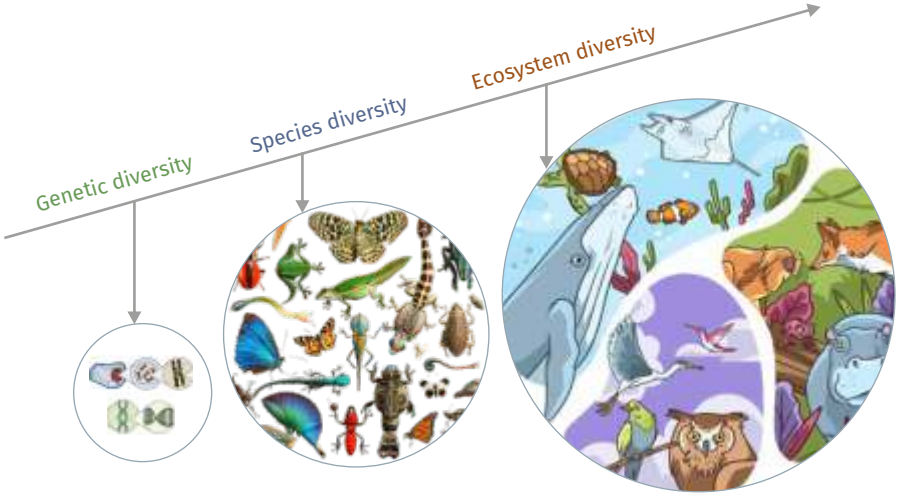


Green-tailed Sunbird
(*Aethopyga nipalensis*)

Kingsley David

In addition, biodiversity can be understood at three distinct levels. The first level is *genetic diversity*, which denotes the variety of genes within a single species. For instance, we can consider how all the breeds of dogs are members of the same species, yet have quite dissimilar features because of genetic variety. The second level is the *species diversity*, which denotes various types of plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms in a given area or on the Earth as a whole. Lastly, *ecosystem diversity* refers to the diversity of habitats, biological communities, and ecological processes that occur across landscapes (Figure-1.1).

Figure-1.1
Biological Diversity Levels



Why should we care to conserve biodiversity?

The significance of biodiversity goes far beyond curiosity of an academic or aesthetic nature. Resilient ecosystems render indispensable services that human society relies on for its well-being and survival. It is to be noted that biodiversity forms the very basis of human existence itself and well-being. They provide food, fodder, fibre, timber, clean air and water, productive soil for agriculture, pollination of crops, regulate climate, and defend us against natural disasters like floods and storms. These multiple benefits derived from nature are termed *ecosystem services* and come free of cost to us.



Anamalai Flying frog
(*Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus*)

Siva Kumar Murugan

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines ecosystem services as the **benefits people obtain from ecosystems**. They are the direct and indirect contributions ecosystems make to human well-being and economic activities. The CBD categorizes these services into four main types:

- **Provisioning Services**: Products obtained directly from ecosystems, such as food, freshwater, timber, fibre, and genetic resources.
- **Regulating Services**: Benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes, including climate regulation, carbon storage, flood and disease control, and water purification.
- **Cultural Services:** Non-material benefits such as spiritual enrichment, recreation, aesthetic experiences, and educational or scientific value.
- **Supporting Services:** Fundamental functions necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. Examples include soil formation, nutrient cycling, and photosynthesis

A humble honeybee is an example. Small in number and individually inconsequential, yet bees together pollinate about a third of what we consume. Without sufficient bee populations and other pollinators, our food economies would collapse, with famine and economic devastation resulting for many. This illustrates how the loss of even such apparently minor species can have ripple effects within the human society (Table-1.1).

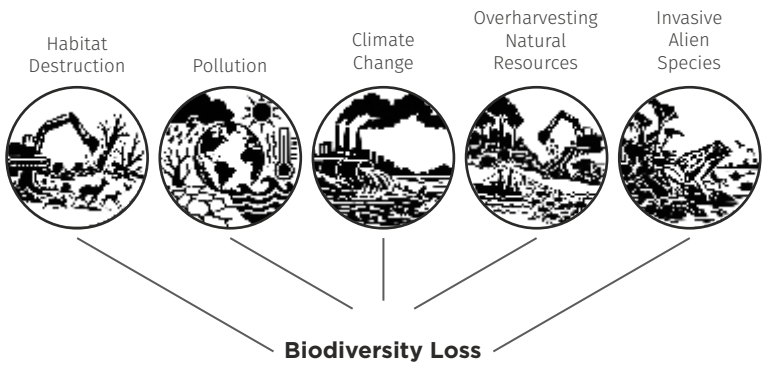
Table-1.1: Examples showcasing the significant role of biodiversity

Sl.no.	Ecosystem Service	Description	Example	Human Impact
1	Clean Air and Water	Filtration and Purification processes	Forest air purification wetland water filtration	Essential for human health
2	Food production	Pollination and Soil fertility	Trees/ Crops pollination by bees / birds/ animals	One third of the world's food production depends on pollinators
3	Climate regulation	Carbon storage and weather patterns	Forest carbon sequestration	Mitigates climate change impact
4	Natural Disaster protection	Coastal and Flood protection	Natural barriers and cyclone shelters	Reduces risks of storm surges and floods

The Global Biodiversity Crisis

Unfortunately, we are seeing what most scientists refer to as the **sixth mass extinction period** in the history of our planet. In contrast to extinction periods that have been previously linked to natural events like asteroid impacts or volcanoes, this ongoing crisis is largely human-caused (Figure-1.2) and is leading to species loss at hundreds or thousands of times the rates of natural extinction.

Figure-1.2
Drivers of biodiversity loss



In response to this biodiversity crisis and acknowledging the need for a united international effort to address this, the international community gathered to establish the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*. This global treaty, adopted in 1992, is the world's pledge to preserve biological diversity, utilize biological resources in a sustainable manner, and equitably and fairly share benefits arising from the biological resources.

The CBD is based on the argument that conservation of biodiversity is not merely an environmental problem but a problem of development and human welfare. By unifying 196 nations (referred to as Parties to the Convention), the CBD provides a mechanism for countries to collaborate towards shared biodiversity objectives in a manner that exercises respect for national sovereignty and the different cultural practices for conservation.

Crimson Marsh Glider
(*Trithemis aurora*)
Dr K Sasikumar, IFS



EVOLUTION OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION: STOCKHOLM TO RIO AND BEYOND



Red-billed Leiothrix
Leiothrix lutea
Kingsley David

The Seed: Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (1972)

The global discussion on environment and development evolved gradually through important international efforts. In 1968, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment from 5-16 June 1972, based on a proposal submitted by the Government of Sweden to the United Nations. The meeting was the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. The Conference was held in Stockholm, Sweden, and was attended by approximately 1,200 delegates from different nations. It is commonly known as the Stockholm Conference. This conference was the first global summit dedicated exclusively to environmental issues, while earlier international meetings had addressed only specific environmental concerns. It created worldwide awareness about environmental protection and led to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and environmental ministries in many countries. Further, it established the link between economic growth, environmental degradation, and human well-being, paving the way for modern global environmental policies and the evolution of the concept of sustainable development.

The Conference resulted in an Action Plan containing 109 recommendations focused on global environmental assessment, environmental management, and international support measures. Furthermore, the Conference directly contributed to the creation of the UNEP, headquartered in Nairobi, which continues to coordinate global environmental efforts today.

02



Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987)

In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) released the landmark report *Our Common Future*, also known as the *Brundtland Report*. This was a landmark United Nations document that paved the way for the modern concept of sustainable development. The report proposed long-term environmental strategies extending to the year 2000 and beyond, based on the principles of equity and common interest. It addressed key issues such as food security, the conservation of species and ecosystems, energy, industry, urban challenges, the management of global commons, peace, security, and development. The report essentially served as a global agenda for change and provided a framework for integrating environmental protection with economic and social development. The ideas and principles of the Brundtland Report became the foundation for future international environmental negotiations.

Farmers' Rights and Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) in the Keystone Dialogues (1988, 1990, and 1991)

Amid the controversies surrounding the control of genetic resources during the 1980s, significant conflicts emerged among various stakeholders. William Brown, then Chair of the U.S. National Board for Plant Genetic Resources, initiated contact with the Keystone Centre in Colorado and requested that it facilitate a dialogue on plant genetic resources among international stakeholders. According to Cary Fowler (1994), the Keystone Approach involved inviting stakeholders to participate as individuals rather than as institutional representatives, thereby reducing conflict and encouraging constructive dialogue. Discussions were conducted off the record, and reports were prepared only on the basis of consensus. The Keystone Dialogues were held in 1988 at Keystone, Colorado; 1990, at Madras (now Chennai), India; and 1991 at Oslo, Norway.

A total of 92 stakeholders from 30 countries participated in the three sessions. The dialogues shaped international discussions on issues such as Farmers' Rights, the common heritage of humankind, international funding mechanisms, and, to some extent, intellectual property rights. The 1990 session in Madras provided the most comprehensive statement of the participants' recommendations concerning Farmers' Rights. These recommendations were built upon the discussions initiated during the 1988 Keystone dialogue and documented in the Final Consensus Report of the Keystone International Dialogue Series on Plant Genetic Resources.

The Growing Tree: The Earth Summit

20 years after the Stockholm Conference, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992. Popularly known as the Earth Summit or the Rio Summit, it was one of the largest international conferences on environment and development. The conference emphasized the need for sustainable development and resulted in major international agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Earth Summit marked a major turning point in global environmental awareness and laid the foundation for the international movement towards sustainable development. The



United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali opened the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) – or Earth Summit – on 3 June 1992, and Fernando Collor de Mello, President of Brazil, was elected as President of the Conference.

conference brought together political leaders, diplomats, scientists, media representatives, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from 179 countries.

The summit highlighted that environmental, social, and economic issues are closely connected and cannot be addressed separately. It emphasized that long-term development is possible only when environmental protection, economic growth, and social well-being are balanced together. One of the main goals of the summit was to develop a common **global agenda** and a practical framework for international cooperation on environment and development in the 21st century. It strongly promoted the idea of sustainable development as an achievable goal for all countries and communities. It also encouraged governments and people to rethink the way resources are used, goods are produced and consumed, and decisions are made, in order to ensure a sustainable future for coming generations.

The Fruits
Outcomes of the Earth Summit

All the key outcomes and follow-up processes of the summit are summarised below. Figure-2.1. summarizes the objectives and instruments of the Rio Conventions.

Agenda 21

Agenda 21 became the first comprehensive global action plan for sustainable development. It introduced the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social, and economic dimensions. For the first time, environmental protection was given equal importance alongside economic and social development. Agenda 21 placed the main responsibility for implementation on national governments through policies, strategies, and action plans. It also recognized the important role of non-state actors and encouraged the participation of major groups in sustainable development processes.

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The Rio Declaration consists of *27 principles* that guide global efforts toward sustainable development. It recognised that human beings are at the centre of sustainable development and affirmed the right of present and future generations to a healthy and productive life. The declaration also highlighted the importance of poverty eradication, support for developing countries, and the participation of women, youth, and indigenous peoples in environmental decision-making. In addition, it promoted the precautionary principle to prevent environmental damage even when scientific certainty is incomplete.

UNFCCC

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit as an international framework for cooperation to address climate change. The Convention aims to limit global temperature rise, reduce human-induced impacts on the climate system, and help countries cope with the effects of climate change. It entered into force on 21 March 1994 after receiving the required number of ratifications. Today, the UNFCCC has near-universal membership, with 198 Parties, including 197 States and one regional economic integration organization. The ultimate objective of the Convention is to prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

UNCBD

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) was one of the major outcomes of the 1992 Earth Summit. The Convention was developed in response to growing global concern over the rapid loss of biodiversity and the increasing recognition of biological resources as essential for economic and social development. It was opened for signature during the Earth Summit on 5 June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993. The CBD represents a landmark international agreement dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

UNCCD

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) emerged as an important and direct outcome of the 1992 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro. The Earth Summit recognized desertification and land degradation as major environmental and developmental challenges affecting many countries, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions. In response, the United Nations General Assembly established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international convention to address the issue. The UNCCD was officially adopted in 1994 and today has near-universal participation, with 197 countries and the European Union as Parties to the Convention. The Convention aims to combat desertification, reduce land degradation, restore degraded land, and improve the livelihoods of vulnerable populations through sustainable land management and global cooperation. The UNCCD also promotes the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) to ensure the long-term health and productivity of land resources.

Figure-2.1: Objectives and Instruments of the Rio Conventions

The **three Rio Conventions** - UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD - emerged from the 1992 Earth Summit to address interconnected global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. Together, they promote sustainable development through coordinated global environmental action.

RIO CONVENTIONS	UNFCCC	CBD	UNCCD
RELATED INSTRUMENTS	Paris Agreement	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)	2018-2030 Strategic Framework
OBJECTIVE	Limiting warming to well below 2 °C, aiming for 1.5 °C	Aims to conserve biological diversity, ensure the sustainable use of its components, and promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.	Half and reverse land degradation
SYNERGIES BETWEEN RIO CONVENTIONS	Limiting warming allows ecosystems to adapt and prevent loss of biodiversity to climate impacts	Protecting and restoring ecosystems improves ecosystem structures, processes and stability, minimising the risk of carbon loss	Halving and reversing land degradation restores ecosystem condition and services such as watershed function and soil carbon

Forest Principles

The Forest Principles, officially known as the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, were adopted as an important outcome of the 1992 Earth Summit. The principles apply to all types of forests and emphasize the need to address forest issues within the broader context of environment and development. They encourage countries to promote sustainable forest management, increase forest cover, and conserve forest resources in ecologically and economically sound ways. The principles also recognize the sovereign right of States to manage and utilize their forest resources according to their development needs while ensuring sustainability. In addition, they highlight the

importance of public participation, support for indigenous peoples and forest dwellers, international cooperation, and equitable sharing of responsibilities and costs related to forest conservation and sustainable development.

Commission on Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established as a major institutional outcome of the 1992 Earth Summit to monitor and coordinate the implementation of Agenda 21. The Commission was created to strengthen international cooperation and review progress on sustainable development at the local, national, regional, and global levels. The CSD held its first session in 1993 and served as the main United Nations forum for sustainable development discussions for two decades. In 2013, it was replaced by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which continues to guide global sustainable development efforts within the United Nations system.

Fish Stocks Agreement

The Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks emerged as an important outcome of the 1992 Earth Summit and was formally adopted in 1995 under the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Agreement was developed in response to growing concerns over the decline of fish species that migrate across national boundaries and international waters, such as tuna, swordfish, and cod. It promotes international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable management of shared marine fish resources using scientific evidence and the precautionary approach. The Agreement also aims to prevent overfishing, protect marine biodiversity, and strengthen monitoring and enforcement measures in the high seas to ensure the long-term sustainability of global fisheries resources.

SIDS

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were recognized as a distinct group of countries facing unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities during the 1992 Earth Summit. Agenda 21 highlighted the need to support the sustainable development of these island nations, particularly in managing marine and coastal resources and addressing environmental challenges such as climate change and sea-level rise. As a follow-up to the Earth Summit, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held in Barbados in 1994, which led to the adoption of the **Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)**. The programme identified priority areas such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, freshwater resources, disaster management, energy, tourism, and capacity-building to support the sustainable development of SIDS.

Subsequent developments related to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were the development and signing of two specialised international legally binding instruments - the Cartagena Protocol adopted in 2000 and entered into force in 2003, that deal with (1) governing safe handling, transport, and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology, as well as (2) providing a transparent legal framework for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and the Nagoya Protocol adopted in 2010 and entered into force in 2014 for **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)** arising out of the use of biodiversity.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the scope and complexity of international environmental obligations have expanded considerably. This expansion has occurred not only through the adoption of new protocols and related instruments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), but also through the evolving interpretation and implementation of their objectives. Over time, these developments have strengthened global commitments to address environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and sustainable development, while broadening the responsibilities of governments and other stakeholders.

Over the years, both before and after the Earth Summit, nations signed several conventions and agreements related to nature, biodiversity and the environment, which shaped national policies. The CBD provides an overarching framework for MEAs, which are legally binding international instruments through which countries commit to achieving shared environmental goals.

Several environmental challenges, such as biodiversity loss, climate change, etc., require international cooperation, which can be facilitated by the MEAs. They allow for the convergence of actions and the sharing of experiences needed to establish and successfully maintain protected areas. MEAs regulate human activities and implement various incentive schemes, while maintaining the concept of permanent sovereignty over natural resources. Some of the important MEAs are provided in Tables-2.1 and 2.2. Figure-2.2 summarizes the global environmental commitments of India, and Figure-2.3 captures the seeds of the Earth Summit and post-Rio Developments.

Table-2.1: Treaties signed before the Rio Conventions

Year and Name of the Treaty/ Agreement		Purpose
1971	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)	To halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and to ensure their "wise use" and conservation. It is an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for national action and international cooperation to protect ecologically vital wetland habitats and their resources.
1972	World Heritage Convention	Adopted by UNESCO in 1972, the international treaty unites 196 countries in a shared responsibility to safeguard humanity's irreplaceable heritage for future generations. It aims to identify, protect, and preserve cultural and natural sites of "Outstanding Universal Value".
1973	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	An international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Year and Name of the Treaty/ Agreement		Purpose
1979	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	An environmental treaty of the UN, providing a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. It brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.
1987	Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	To protect the Earth's stratospheric ozone layer by globally phasing out the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made chemicals that deplete it [e.g., chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)]
1989	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal	It is an international treaty designed to regulate and minimize the movement of toxic waste across international borders. The primary purpose is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous and other wastes.

Table-2.2: Treaties signed Post Rio Conventions

Year and Name of the Treaty/ Agreement		Purpose
1997	The Kyoto Protocol	Operationalizes the UNFCCC by committing industrialized countries and economies in transition to limit and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets.
1998	Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (Protocol to the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP))	Control, reduce, or eliminate discharges, emissions, and losses of POPs.
1998	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	Protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals by promoting shared responsibility, information exchange, and informed decision-making in international trade.
2000	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	Ensure the safe handling, transport, and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) that may adversely affect biodiversity and human health.

Year and Name of the Treaty/ Agreement		Purpose
2001	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.
2001	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	Conservation and sustainable use of all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the CBD, for sustainable agriculture and food security.
2002	World Summit on Sustainable Development / Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	Promote and strengthen the mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development—economic development, social development, and environmental protection—at all levels.
2007	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
2010	Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.
2013	Minamata Convention on Mercury	Protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury
2015	The Paris Agreement	Hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.



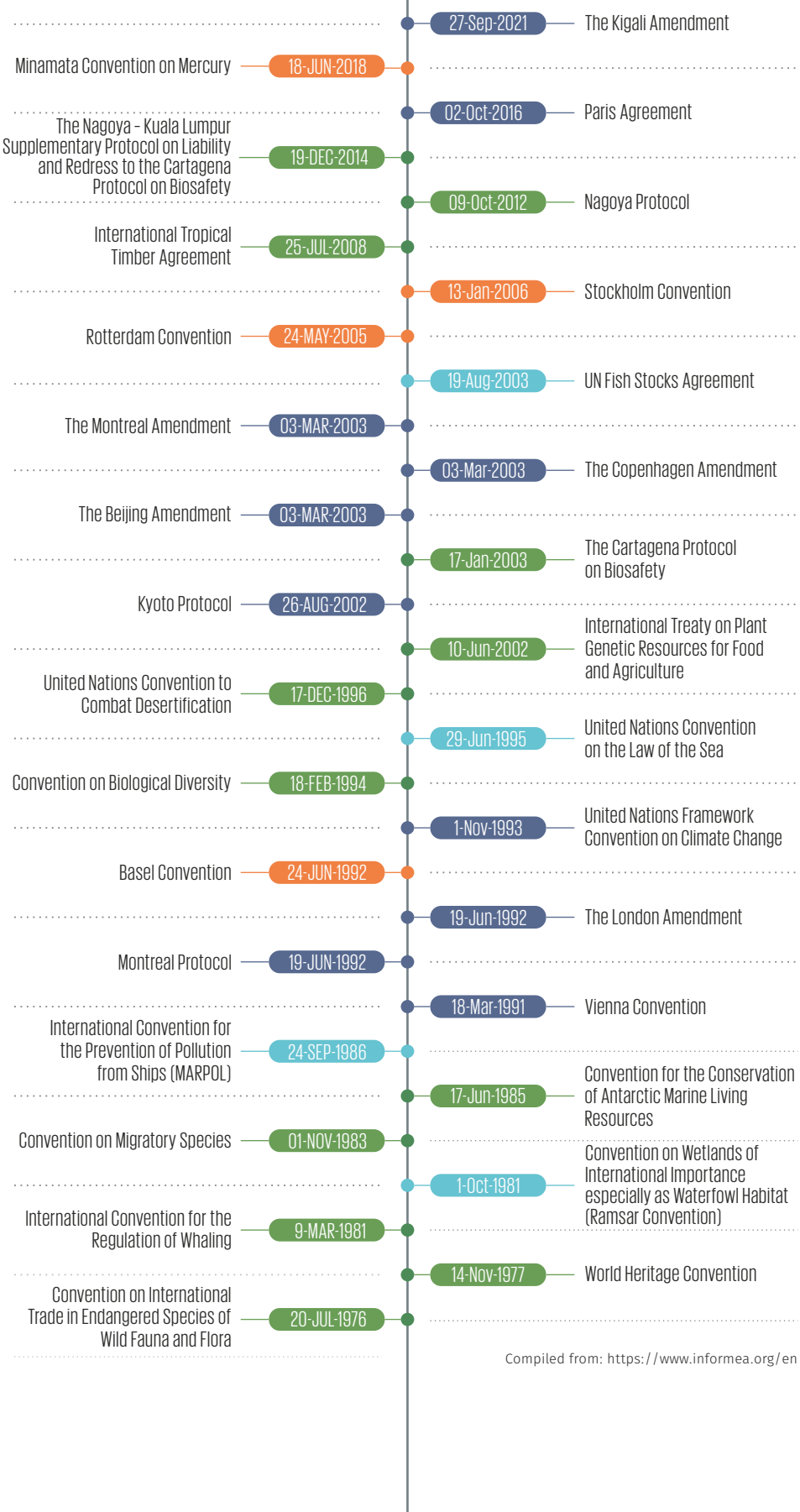
Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)
Siva Kumar Murugan

CBD's links to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

The implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) calls for enhanced collaboration among various multilateral environmental agreements at global, regional and national levels. Synergies with MEAs will accelerate progress related to biodiversity. Cooperation on the development and use of indicators across conventions is required to increase consistency and efficiency.

The Bern III Conference held in Switzerland during January 2024 exclusively discussed the modalities required for cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It cross-mapped the KMGBF Targets across 16 MEAs as the basis for identifying potential opportunities for increased cooperation in supporting its implementation. Emphasis was also laid on increasing alignment in the use of indicators for further exploring opportunities for harmonising reporting, enhanced sharing of data and information.

The Bogis Bossey Expert Workshop held in 2025 emphasised the need to communicate and strengthen the use of tools and guidance for synergistic implementation of MEAs, as well as of identified indicators used synergistically at the national level. Another important dimension discussed in the workshop was the interpretation of data and information relevant to biodiversity impacts and using it in a meaningful manner for achieving biodiversity targets and goals. There was also a call for policy coherence at the national level with regard to global mechanisms.



Compiled from: https://www.informea.org/en

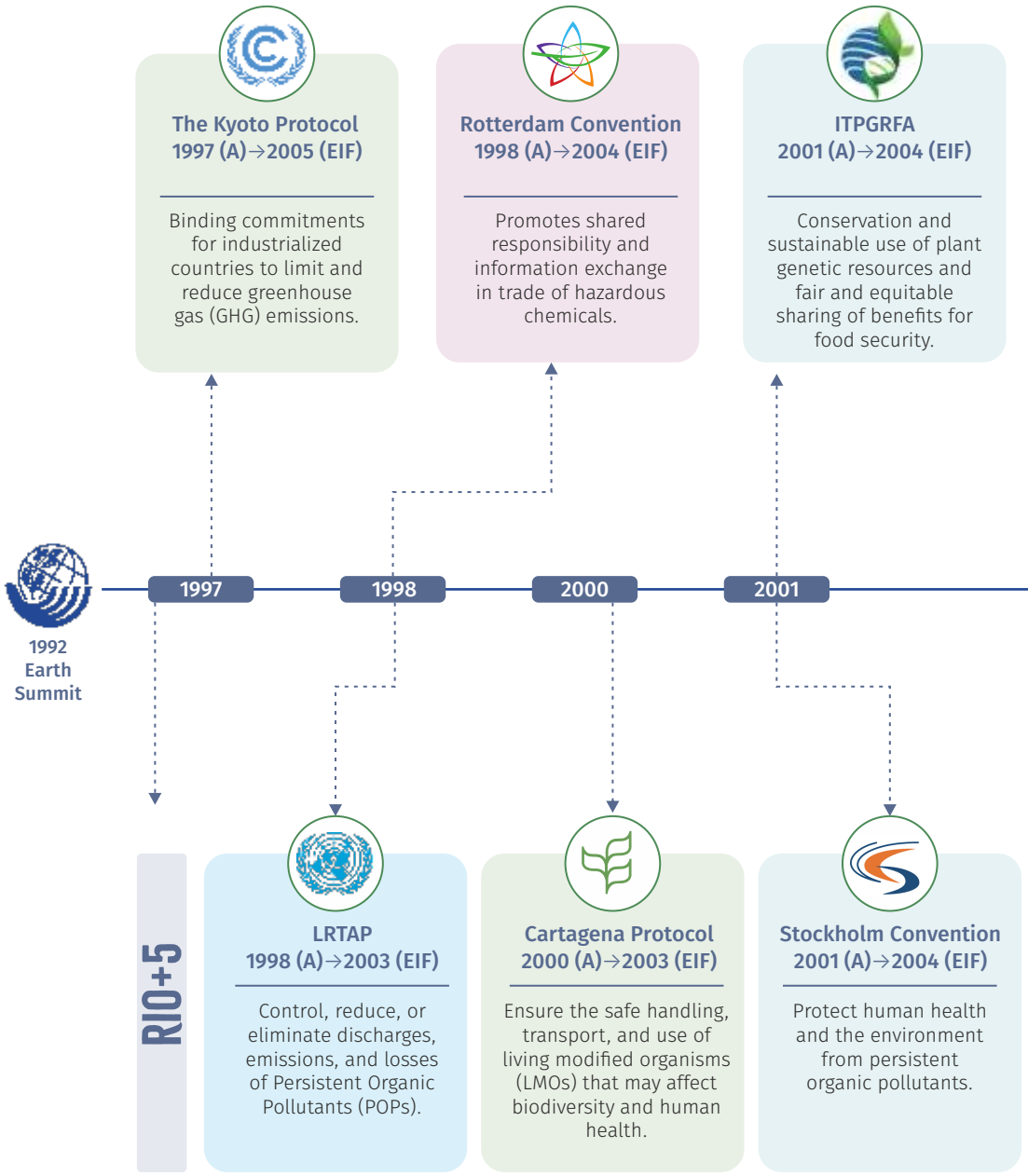
Figure-2.2
India and Global Environmental Commitments

Timeline of International Treaties/ MEAs/Conventions Binding to India

Convention Category

- Biodiversity
- Chemicals
- Climate
- Waters

Figure-2.3
Seeds of the Earth Summit:
Post-Rio Developments



A = Adopted
EIF = Entered into Force

RIO+10

Johannesburg Declaration 2002 (A)

Promotes and strengthens the economic, social, and environmental pillars of sustainable development at all levels.

Nagoya Protocol 2010 (A)→2014 (EIF)

Sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.

Minamata Convention 2013 (A)→2017 (EIF)

Protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.

2002 | 2007 | 2010 | 2012 | 2013 | 2015

REDD+ 2007 (A)

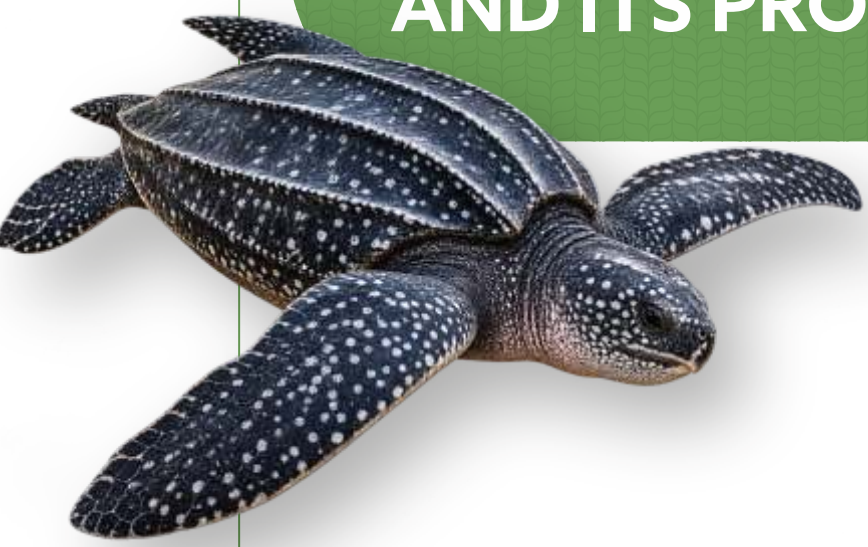
Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the enhances forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

RIO+20

Paris Agreement 2015 (A)→2016 (EIF)

Holds the increase in global temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

FROM AN IDEA TO GLOBAL AGREEMENT: CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ITS PROTOCOLS



Understanding the history and origins of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is essential to recognising and appreciating its significance. Its creation stemmed from a combination of scientific awareness, tough and committed diplomatic negotiations, and global cooperation to tackle an unprecedented environmental crisis.

Seeds of International Environmental Cooperation

The origin of the CBD lies in the 1980s when the global community became aware that environmental issues cross national frontiers and must be addressed through concerted global action. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer of 1987 proved that states could collectively effectively address global environmental risks.

By passing resolution 14/26 in 1987, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council made history by requesting that UNEP form an Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity in order to harmonize current biological diversity conventions. The world's most comprehensive biodiversity accord was the outcome of this highly technical conclusion (Box-3.1).

03



Variable Bush Frog
(*Raorchestes akroparallagi*)

Siva Kumar Murugan

Negotiation Process: Building Consensus

At its initial meeting, the Expert Working Group explicitly expressed that current international instruments were inadequate to meet the global biodiversity crisis. The experts concluded that there was a need for an overarching, legally binding international instrument exclusively dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

In May 1989, realizing the urgency and complexity of the work to be undertaken, UNEP convened a further Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity with a more focused mandate: to develop an international legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Notably, this mandate specifically acknowledged the need to address issues of equity in sharing costs and benefits among the developed and developing countries and facilitating innovation by local communities.

From Working Group to Intergovernmental Negotiations

The process of conversion from technical discussions at the expert level to official governmental negotiations was accomplished in February 1991 with the conversion of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)**. This transformation acknowledged the move from technical- level discussions by scientists and experts to political-level negotiations among government officials empowered to bind their countries to legally binding international commitments. The INC conducted seven intense working sessions, five of which were official negotiating sessions. The negotiations were intricate and often contentious, balancing between the interests of developed nations (which owned most of the technology and funding for conservation) and developing nations (which housed most of the world's biodiversity but did not have the means to protect it).

Key Negotiating Challenges

A number of key issues have overwhelmed the negotiations and continue to affect CBD implementation to this day. Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) were especially contentious, with developing countries seeking to ensure they would benefit from any research products derived from their genetic resources (Table-3.1).

Table-3.1: Key Negotiating Challenges

Challenge	Developed Country Position	Developing Country Position	Resolution Approach
Intellectual Property Rights	Protect existing IP regimes	Ensure benefits from genetic resources	Fair and Equitable benefit sharing provisions
Financial Mechanisms	Limited financial commitments	Adequate funding for conservation	Incremental cost principle and GEF
Technology Transfer	Market based technology access	Facilitated technology transfer	Balanced technology transfer provisions
National Sovereignty	Access to genetic resources	Control over national resources	Prior Informed Consent (PIC) requirements

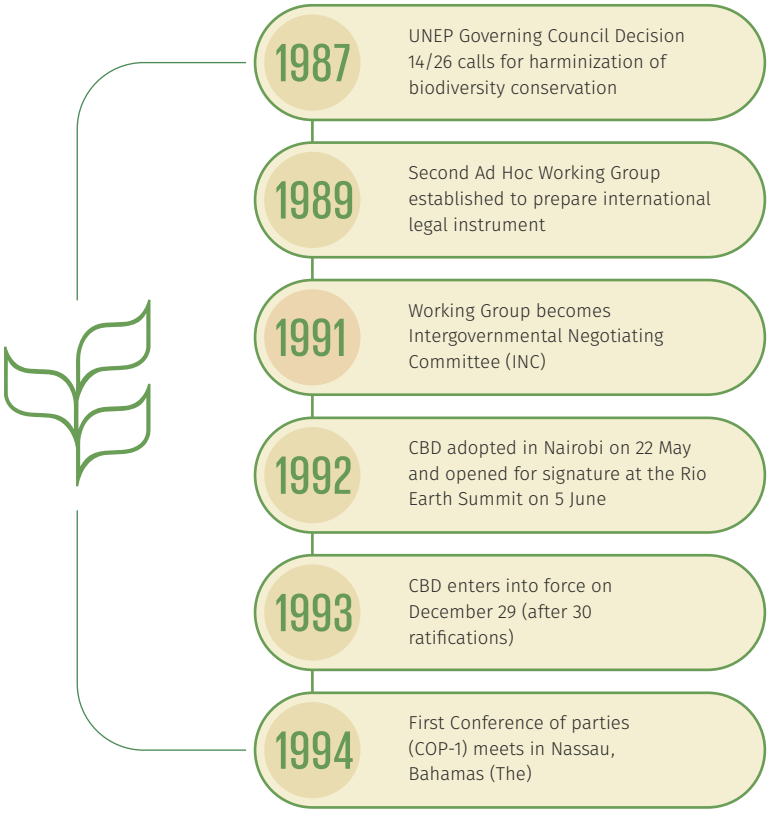
Developed nations, on the other hand, were interested in safeguarding current intellectual property systems and guaranteeing access to genetic resources for research and development. Financial mechanisms presented another major challenge. Developing countries argued that they could not be expected to bear the costs of conserving biodiversity that benefits the entire world without adequate financial and technological support from developed nations. This led to complex negotiations about financial commitments, technology transfer, and the establishment of funding mechanisms.

Entry into Force and Early Implementation

A minimum number of country parties of the United Nations is required to ratify an international treaty and its subsequent domestic implementation processes. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) required 30 ratifications to enter into force, a threshold that was reached remarkably quickly. The Convention entered into force on December 29, 1993, just 18 months after it was opened for signature.

Today, the CBD has achieved an overwhelming participation with 196 Parties, which include 195 sovereign states and the European Union, making it one of the most widely ratified international agreements in history. This broad participation reflects the global recognition that biodiversity conservation is essential for sustainable development and human welfare. Timelines and important milestones of the evolution of CBD are shown in Figure-3.1.

Figure-3.1
CBD Developments Timeline



Box-3.1 CBD and its Principles

What is CBD?

CBD stands for the Convention on Biological Diversity. CBD is a landmark international law on environment adopted in 1992, as, for the first time it recognized that the conservation of biological diversity is "a common concern of humankind" and is an integral part of the development process. It covers all ecosystems, species, and genetic resources and is signed by 196 country parties and India is a party to it too. The CBD is a global agreement to conserve the rich diversity of life on Earth across all levels, i.e. genetic, species, population, habitat, and ecosystem. The goal of the CBD is to protect the essential life support systems of the biosphere as a whole.

Principles of CBD

CBD establishes the principle of national sovereignty over natural resources. It recognizes for the first time that the conservation of biological diversity is a common concern of humankind and an integral part of the development process. This principle ensures equity by recognizing that developed nations must take the lead in global conservation efforts and provide financial and technological resources to developing nations.

The Three Pillars of the CBD

The Convention on Biological Diversity rests upon three fundamental objectives that work together like the legs of a tripod, which can be called the three pillars. Each pillar is essential, and the Convention's effectiveness depends on balanced progress across all three areas. Understanding these pillars helps explain why the CBD takes a comprehensive approach that goes beyond traditional nature conservation (Figure-3.2.)

Figure-3.2
Three pillars of CBD





Indian Grey Mongoose (*Urva edwardsii*)
Siva Kumar Murugan

Pillar One: Conservation of Biological Diversity

The first pillar focuses on protecting biodiversity at all levels - genes, species, and ecosystems. However, the CBD's approach to conservation is notably comprehensive and flexible, recognizing that different situations may require different conservation strategies.

In Situ Conservation: Protecting Life in Its Natural Habitat

In situ conservation means protecting species and ecosystems in their natural habitats. It recognizes that species have evolved complex relationships with their environments and with other species. Such relationships cannot be fully replicated in artificial settings. National parks, wildlife reserves, marine protected areas, and indigenous territories serve as examples of *in situ* conservation areas.

The CBD places particular emphasis on establishing comprehensive systems of protected areas. However, it also recognizes that effective conservation must extend beyond the boundaries of formal protected areas. The Convention encourages Parties to integrate biodiversity considerations into broader land-use planning and sectoral policies such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

Ex Situ Conservation: Conservation outside Natural Habitats

Ex situ conservation involves maintaining species outside their natural habitats, typically in facilities such as zoos, botanical gardens, seed banks or gene banks. While *in situ* conservation remains the preferred approach, *ex situ* methods serve crucial complementary functions, particularly for species that are critically endangered or whose habitats have been severely degraded (Table-3.2).

Modern *ex situ* conservation has evolved far beyond traditional zoos and botanical gardens. Today's facilities focus on breeding programs for endangered species, maintaining genetic diversity through careful management of captive populations, and developing techniques for reintroducing species to restored habitats. Gene banks preserve the genetic diversity of crop varieties and wild plant species, serving as insurance policies against future losses.

Table-3.2: Comparison of Conservation Approaches

Approach	Definition	Methods	Advantages	Limitations
In situ conservation	Protection in natural habitats	Protected areas, reserves, and indigenous territories	Maintains natural relationships and evolutionary processes	Vulnerable to habitat destruction and climate change
Ex situ conservation	Conservation outside natural habitats	Zoos, botanical gardens, seed banks, gene banks	Protects against habitat loss, enables research	Cannot maintain all natural interactions

Ecosystem Restoration and Rehabilitation

The CBD recognizes that conservation alone is not sufficient in a world where many ecosystems have already been degraded or destroyed. The Convention calls upon Parties to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species. This forward-looking approach acknowledges that human activities have already caused significant damage and that active intervention is necessary to heal the wounded landscapes.

Restoration projects range from rebuilding forest ecosystems to wetland restoration that revives crucial water filtration and flood control services. These projects often provide multiple benefits, creating livelihoods, improving local environmental conditions, and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Pillar Two: Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity

The second pillar addresses one of the fundamental tensions in biodiversity conservation: how to meet human needs and aspirations while maintaining the natural systems upon which we depend. Sustainable use means using biological resources in ways and at rates that do not lead to long-term decline in biodiversity and maintain the potential of biodiversity to meet present and future generations' needs and aspirations.

Pillar Three: Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits

The third pillar addresses questions of equity and justice that are central to effective biodiversity conservation. This pillar recognizes that biodiversity is not evenly distributed around the world. Many biodiversity-rich countries are economically poor, while many economically wealthy countries have relatively low biodiversity. The benefits arising from genetic resources, however, have historically flowed primarily to wealthy countries.

The Genetic Resources Challenge

Genetic resources - the genes, species, and ecosystems that provide the raw materials for biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and other industries - represent enormous economic value. Many life-saving medicines are derived from natural compounds, and modern agriculture depends on genetic diversity for crop improvement and disease resistance.

Historically, companies and researchers from developed countries could access genetic resources from developing countries freely, develop profitable products based on

these resources, and sell these products back to developing countries without sharing any benefits with the countries or communities that provided the original resources. This situation created what critics termed “biopiracy."

Access and Benefit-Sharing Frameworks

The CBD established the principle that countries have sovereign rights over their genetic resources and that access to these resources should be subject to national legislation and international agreements that ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing. This principle requires that when genetic resources are accessed for research or commercial development, the benefits arising from their use should be shared with the providing country and, where appropriate, with local and indigenous communities.

Benefit-sharing can take various forms, including monetary payments, technology transfer, capacity building, participation in research and development, and support for conservation efforts. The specific terms of access and benefit-sharing are typically negotiated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the nature of the resources, their intended use, and the interests of all parties involved.

Protocols and Supplementary Protocols

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted in 2000. It is the first protocol of the convention and is designed to protect biodiversity and human health from potential risks posed by Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) created through modern biotechnology.

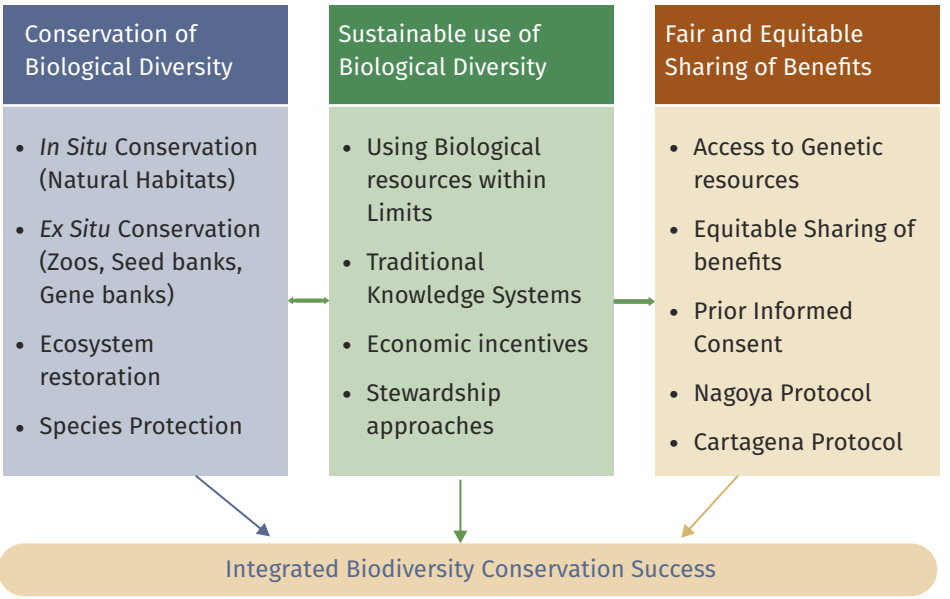
In 2010, Parties to the CBD adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. This Protocol provides a more detailed legal framework for implementing the third pillar of the CBD, establishing clear obligations for both provider and user countries and creating mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement.

The Interconnection of the Three Pillars

Understanding the three pillars individually is important, but appreciating how they work together is crucial for understanding the CBD's integrated approach to biodiversity conservation. Conservation efforts are more likely to succeed when local communities benefit economically from maintaining biodiversity rather than destroying it. Sustainable use practices help ensure that conservation efforts are economically viable over the long term. Fair benefit-sharing creates incentives for countries and communities to maintain genetic resources and traditional knowledge systems (Figure-3.3).

This integrated approach reflects CBD's recognition that biodiversity conservation is not just an environmental issue but a development issue that affects economic opportunities, social equity, and cultural preservation. By addressing all three pillars simultaneously, the CBD provides a framework for achieving biodiversity conservation in ways that support human welfare and social justice.

Figure-3.3: Connection between the three CBD pillars



Key Articles of the Convention: Breaking Down the Legal Framework

The Convention on Biological Diversity contains 42 articles that establish the legal framework for international biodiversity conservation.

While some articles deal with procedural matters such as meetings and dispute resolution, others contain the substantive obligations that guide Parties' conservation efforts. Understanding these key articles helps explain how the CBD translates its broad objectives into specific commitments and actions. The text of the article may be accessed at Text of the Convention through the given link - https://www.cbd.int/convention/text

Red-crested Pochard *(Netta rufina)*
Kingsley David



Foundational Articles: Establishing Principles and Scope Article

Article 1: Objectives

The Three Pillars

This article legally enunciates the Convention's three pillars: conservation of biological diversity, sustainable utilization of its components, and equitable and fair sharing of genetic resource benefits arising therefrom. These aims provide the interpretive context for all other provisions of the Convention.

Article 2: Use of Terms

Key Definitions

Like any legal document, the CBD defines key terms to ensure consistent interpretation. Important definitions include "biological diversity" (variability among living organisms from all sources), "biological resources" (genetic resources, organisms, or parts thereof that have actual or potential use or value), and "biotechnology" (any technological application that uses biological systems or living organisms to make or modify products).

Article 3: Principle

Sovereignty & Responsibility

This article lays down a basic principle of international environmental law: states enjoy the sovereign right to use their own resources according to their own environmental policies, but are also bound to make sure that activities under their jurisdiction do not cause harm to the environment of other states. This principle reconciles national sovereignty with international environmental accountability.

Article 4: Jurisdictional Scope

This Article is subject to the rights of other States, and except as otherwise expressly provided in this Convention, the provisions of this Convention apply, in relation to each Contracting Party: (a) In the case of components of biological diversity, in areas within the limits of its national jurisdiction; and (b) In the case of processes and activities, regardless of where their effects occur, carried out under its jurisdiction or control, within the area of its national jurisdiction or beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Article 5: Cooperation

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, cooperate with other Contracting Parties, directly or, where appropriate, through competent international organizations, in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction and on other matters of mutual interest, for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Obligations of Conservation: Safeguarding Biodiversity

Article 6: General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use

This article calls for all Parties to formulate national strategies, plans, or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the main policy tools for executing the

Convention at the national level. The article further calls upon Parties to incorporate considerations of biodiversity into appropriate sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programs, and policies.

The need for integration is especially critical because it acknowledges that biodiversity conservation cannot be brought about through environmental measures only. Activities like agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining, tourism, and urban planning all affect biodiversity and have to integrate biodiversity concerns in their planning and operations.

Article 7: Identification and Monitoring

Knowledge is the basis of effective conservation action. Parties are required in this article to identify elements of biological diversity that are of importance for conservation and sustainable use, to monitor these elements, and to identify processes and activities that have or are likely to have significant effects on biodiversity.

The article acknowledges that there is variation in the priorities and capacities for monitoring across countries so that Parties can accord priority attention to the categories of components listed in Annex I of the Convention. These include ecosystems and habitats of high diversity or large numbers of endemic or threatened species, species and communities that are threatened, and genetic resources of actual or potential significance.

Article 8: *In-Situ* Conservation

This detailed article provides the parties' duties for preserving biodiversity in natural environments. Important obligations are creating systems of protected areas, preparing guidelines for the selection and management of protected areas, managing or regulating biological resources to conserve and use them sustainably, and encouraging environmentally friendly development around protected areas.

The article also provides for a number of specific conservation issues, such as the management of alien species that are invasive in ecosystems, the rehabilitation of disturbed ecosystems, and the safeguarding of indigenous and local communities' traditional knowledge and practices. This last provision, in Article 8(j), has become one of the key and controversial features of the CBD, which resulted in lengthy negotiations regarding the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Article 9: *Ex-Situ* Conservation

With an insistence that in situ conservation must be the first resort, this article acknowledges the significant complementary role of ex situ conservation. Parties must adopt ex situ conservation measures, ideally within the country of origin of the genetic resources, and provide and maintain infrastructure facilities for ex situ conservation and research.

The article pays particular attention to the ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources relevant to food and agriculture, considering the key contribution of agricultural biodiversity to food security. The article also highlights international collaboration in providing assistance to ex situ conservation activities, especially in developing nations.



Indian Gaur (*Bos gaurus*)
Kingsley David

Sustainable Use Provisions

Article 10: Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity

This article obliges Parties to incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into national decision-making and to introduce measures concerning the utilisation of biological resources in a way that will prevent or reduce harmful impacts on biodiversity. The article stresses the necessity of protecting and promoting the traditional use of biological resources as per traditional cultural practices compatible with conservation needs.

The provision for sustainable use acknowledges that the prohibition of the use of resources is not only impossible but also undesirable in most situations. Rather, emphasis is on how to design management strategies that enable ongoing use without compromising the long-term sustainability of biological systems.

Article 11: Incentive Measures

Economic incentives are important in influencing how individuals and organizations engage with biodiversity. In this article, Parties are called upon to implement economically and socially justifiable actions that serve as incentives for conserving and sustainably using biodiversity. Such measures can be positive incentives rewarding conservation action and reforms to eliminate or reduce perverse incentives promoting biodiversity loss.

Examples of good incentives include payments for ecosystem services, conservation easements, and eco-labelling programs. Perverse incentives that would need reform include subsidies for activities that impair biodiversity, including some agricultural or fishery subsidies that promote overproduction or overfishing.

Access and Benefit-Sharing Framework

Article 15: Access to Genetic Resources

This article sets out basic principles of access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. It confirms that states have sovereign rights over their natural resources and that access to genetic resources is within national law. Access, when granted, must be on Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and subject to Prior Informed Consent (PIC) of the Party making the provision. The article also demands that Parties ensure that measures are taken to share the benefits from genetic resource use with the supplying Party. Such benefits should be shared in a fair and equitable manner, including the provision of finances, technology transfer, and access to research activities.

Article 16: Access to and Transfer of Technology

Technology transfer is directly associated with benefit-sharing, as the use of environmentally friendly technologies can bring important advantages to developing nations. This article mandates Parties to give or facilitate the availability of technologies of interest for biodiversity conservation, especially to developing nations.

The article acknowledges the significance of intellectual property rights but demands that technology transfer and cooperation must be made available on terms that acknowledge and are compatible with the sufficient and efficient protection of intellectual property rights. This establishes a balance between innovation, incentive protection, and the provision of access to necessary technologies for developing countries.

Supporting Mechanisms

Article 17: Exchange of Information

Successful conservation of biodiversity involves vast information exchange between countries, institutions, and communities. Parties have an obligation under this article to facilitate the flow of information pertinent to biodiversity conservation, such as technical, scientific, and socio-economic results of research, and information on surveillance and training programs.

Information exchange entails the repatriation of information to providing countries with genetic resources in a way that provides these countries access to resulting research findings from their resources.

Article 18: Technical and Scientific Cooperation

Global cooperation in research and development is imperative to respond to biodiversity challenges at the global level. This article obliges Parties to encourage international technical and scientific cooperation for biodiversity conservation, focusing especially on the special needs of developing countries. Further, it advocates for the creation of a Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) to encourage and facilitate technical and scientific collaboration. This mechanism is a central point for the exchange of information and the facilitation of cooperation (Box-3.2, Figure-3.4 and Table-3.3).

Box-3.2: Knowledge Sharing-The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)

Vision Behind CHM: With the current information, the availability of knowledge often determines the success or failure of conservation efforts. A manager of protected areas in Costa Rica may greatly benefit from knowing efficient methods developed in Kenya, but traditional approaches to academic publication and conference formats often do not facilitate such practical transfers of knowledge. The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) was developed to overcome these informational shortcomings and promote global cooperation in the preservation of biodiversity.

Information Barriers to Conservation: Paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the CBD anticipated the establishment of a clearing- house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation. This seemingly simple provision reflected a sophisticated understanding of how information barriers limit conservation effectiveness.

Most of the conservation issues aren't confined to one region or country. Methods of invasive species control, strategies for involving local communities in the use of protected areas, and ways of mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture frequently have universal use in a variety of cases. Conservation practitioners, though, might work in a vacuum of familiarity with pertinent experience and breakthroughs from other parts of the world.

CHM was conceptualized as a distributed worldwide network to converge conservation practitioners, scientists, policymakers, and communities and foster communication of information, experience, and technical knowledge. Shattering information silos, the CHM can expedite generation and implementation of effective conservation approaches.

Beyond Traditional Information Systems

CHM concept embodied a novel mode of international collaboration in scientific and technical spheres in a manner to move beyond customary paradigms of dissemination of information. Instead of presenting yet another database or series of publications, the CHM was visualised in the form of a dynamic network seeking to bring efficient cooperation among diverse stakeholders.

This approach recognizes that effective dissemination of knowledge involves something more than the availability of information. It requires understanding the needs of users, presenting information in a user-readable format, building interpersonal connections among practitioners, and facilitating collaborative workflows that generate new knowledge and innovative problem-solving.

CHM was made decentralised and participatory in nature, too, such that national focal points in every country provide input in the form of information as well as open up access in accordance with local requirements and priorities. It makes sure the mechanism is representative of varied views and sustains locally applicable use of common knowledge.

Figure 3.4: Chm Knowledge Flow Process

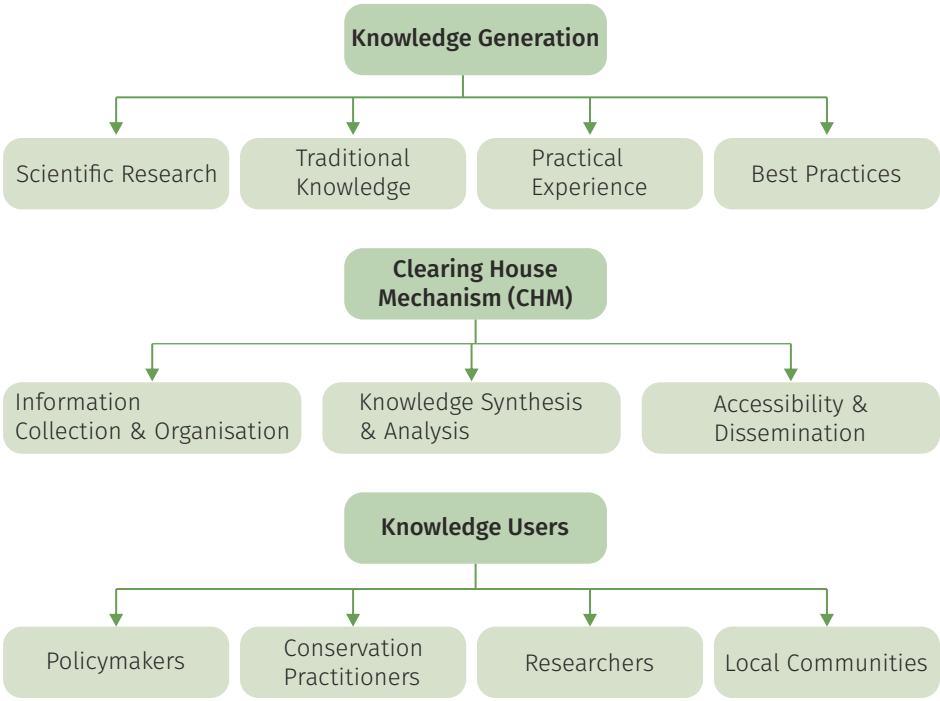


Table-3.3: Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) Components and Functions

Components	Primary Function	Key Services	Target users
Central CHM	Global Information Hub	Document repository, search facilities, expert directors	All stakeholders and practitioners
National CHM Nodes	Country-specific Information	National strategies, reports, case studies, contacts	National policymakers and practitioners
Thematic Networks	Specialised Knowledge Sharing	Ecosystem-specific Information, technical guidance	Specialized practitioners and experts
Partnership Facilitation	Cooperation Promotion	Project matching, partnership building, collaboration tools	Project developers and funders

Implementation and Compliance Articles

Article 19: Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of its Benefits

Article 19 seeks to ensure that biotechnology based on genetic resources promotes research participation and fair benefit-sharing, while establishing information-sharing and biosafety considerations for the safe transfer and use of living modified organisms.

Article 20: Financial Resources

It is acknowledged that most developing countries do not have financial resources at their disposal to promote effective biodiversity conservation. Funding commitments and mechanisms are the subject of this article. Developed country Parties commit themselves to mobilizing new and additional financial resources to enable developing countries to cover the agreed full incremental costs of implementing their Convention obligations.

The article sets the principle of "incremental costs," in that developing countries should fund the added costs that developing nations suffer when they opt for more costly, biodiversity-friendly alternatives rather than less expensive options that destroy biodiversity (Table-3.4).

Table-3.4: Key Articles Summary

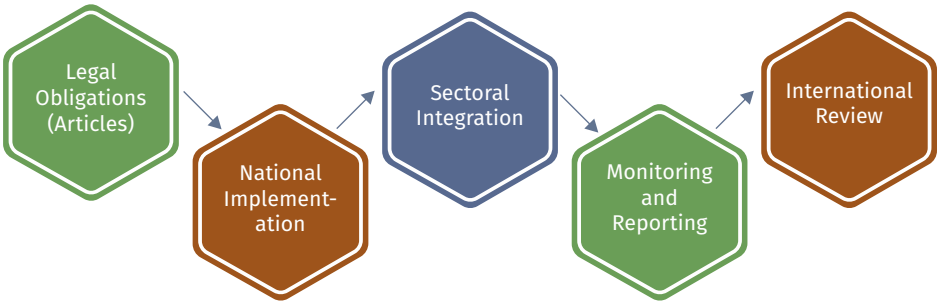
Article Topic	Key Requirement
General Measures	Develop national biodiversity strategies and integrate biodiversity into sectoral policies
Identification and Monitoring	Identify important biodiversity components and monitor their status
In situ Conservation	Establish protected areas and manage biological resources sustainably
Ex situ Conservation	Establish conservation facilities and maintain genetic resource collections
Sustainable Use	Integrate biodiversity into decision-making and adopt sustainable use measures
Incentive Measures	Adopt economic incentives for conservation and remove perverse incentives
Access to Genetic Resources	Ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing from genetic resource use
Technology Transfer	Facilitate access to and transfer of relevant technologies
Scientific Cooperation	Promote international cooperation and establish a CHM
Financial Resources	Provide funding for the developing country implementation

Article 21. Financial Mechanism

The Convention establishes a financial mechanism to provide grants or concessional funding to developing countries for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. It operates under the COP's authority and guidance, which sets policies, priorities, eligibility, and access rules. Funding should be adequate, predictable, timely, and fairly shared, with voluntary contributions also encouraged. The mechanism must ensure transparent governance, monitoring, evaluation, and periodic review, while Parties are encouraged to strengthen existing financial institutions supporting biodiversity.

Understanding these key articles provides a foundation for appreciating how the CBD creates a comprehensive framework for biodiversity conservation that not only addresses environmental protection but also the issues of equity, development, and international cooperation. They work together creating a system that recognizes the global biodiversity challenges while respecting national sovereignty and diverse approaches to conservation (Figure-3.5).

Figure 3.5
Flow of Article Implementation



Conventions and Their Protocols

The UNCBD has two active, legally binding protocols: the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** (to manage living modified organisms) and the **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing** (for genetic resources), with its *Kuala Lumpur* supplementary protocol.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Modern biotechnology represents both tremendous promise and potential peril for biodiversity conservation. The ability to modify living organisms at the genetic level could provide powerful tools for conservation, agriculture, and medicine, but it also raises concerns about unintended consequences for natural ecosystems and human health. In this context, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted under the CBD to establish an international regulatory framework for the transboundary movement, handling, and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs). The Protocol is guided by the precautionary approach and seeks to ensure that countries have access to adequate information for informed decision-making regarding the import and management of LMOs. It also promotes international cooperation, transparency, and capacity-building in biosafety governance.

Introduction to Biosafety

Biosafety refers to the safe handling, transfer, and use of LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology, with the objective of minimizing potential risks to biological diversity and human health. Rapid advances in biotechnology have created significant opportunities in agriculture, medicine, and industry, while also raising concerns about possible adverse environmental impacts.

The Biosafety Challenge-Promise and Peril of Biotechnology Revolutionary Potential of Genetic Modification

The development of techniques for directly modifying the genetic material of living organisms represents one of the most significant technological advances in human history. Unlike traditional breeding, which relies on natural genetic variation and sexual reproduction, genetic engineering allows scientists to introduce genes from any organism into any other organism, transcending the barriers that normally limit

genetic exchange. This revolutionary capability opens enormous possibilities for addressing global challenges. Genetically modified (GM) crops could be developed that require fewer pesticides, tolerate drought conditions, or provide enhanced nutrition for malnourished populations. GM organisms could be designed to clean up environmental contamination, produce valuable pharmaceuticals, or serve as tools for conserving endangered species. In medicine, genetic modification techniques offer the potential to develop new treatments for previously incurable diseases, create personalized therapies tailored to individual genetic profiles, and produce vaccines and medicines more efficiently than traditional methods. These applications could dramatically improve human health and quality of life worldwide.

Potential Risks and Unintended Consequences

However, the same power that makes genetic modification so promising also makes it potentially dangerous. LMOs are essentially novel life forms that have never existed in nature, and their interactions with natural ecosystems are inherently unpredictable. Once released into the environment, these organisms could have irreversible impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. For instance, potential environmental risks include the possibility that genetically modified crops could crossbreed with wild relatives, creating "superweeds" that are resistant to herbicides or have other problematic characteristics. Genetically modified organisms could also have unexpected impacts on non-target species, such as beneficial insects or soil microorganisms that play important roles in ecosystem functioning.



The rapid evolution of resistance represents another significant concern. If genetically modified crops are designed to produce their own pesticides, target pest species may quickly evolve resistance, potentially rendering the technology ineffective while creating new problems for pest management. Similar resistance evolution could occur with genetically modified organisms designed for other purposes.

Economic and social risks accompany environmental risks, particularly for developing countries that may lack the technical capacity to adequately assess and

manage biotechnology applications. The concentration of biotechnology development in wealthy countries and multinational corporations raises concerns about dependency, technology transfer, and equitable access to benefits.

The Need for International Regulation

The global nature of biotechnology development and trade means that LMOs developed in one country may be used in other countries, potentially affecting biodiversity and ecosystems worldwide. National regulatory systems alone cannot adequately address these transboundary dimensions of biotechnology risk.

Furthermore, countries have widely varying capacities for biotechnology risk assessment and management. Developing countries often lack the scientific infrastructure, regulatory expertise, and financial resources needed to thoroughly evaluate biotechnology applications before approving their use. This creates potential for inadequately assessed technologies to be deployed in countries unable to properly evaluate their risks. International cooperation is also needed to address the trade dimensions of biotechnology regulation. LMOs and products derived from them are increasingly traded internationally, creating a need for common standards, mutual recognition of regulatory decisions, and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Development of the Cartagena Protocol Article 19 (3) and the Biosafety Mandate

The CBD provided the foundation for international biotechnology regulation through Article 19 (3), which required the COP to consider the need for and modalities of a protocol setting out appropriate procedures for the safe transfer, handling, and use of living modified organisms that may have adverse effects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

This provision reflected the framers' recognition that biotechnology would become increasingly important after the CBD's adoption and that international cooperation would be needed to address its implications for biodiversity. However, the provision was deliberately general, leaving specific decisions about the scope and content of biosafety measures to be determined through subsequent negotiations.

COP 2 decided to establish an Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety to develop a draft protocol on biosafety. This decision launched what would become one of the most complex and contentious negotiations in international environmental law, involving not only environmental concerns but also significant trade, economic, and development issues.

The Negotiation Process: Balancing Diverse Interests

The biosafety negotiations involved numerous stakeholder groups with very different interests and perspectives. Environmental organizations generally favoured strong precautionary measures that would err on the side of protecting biodiversity even in the face of scientific uncertainty. Agricultural biotechnology companies and their government supporters preferred approaches that would facilitate technological innovation and international trade while maintaining adequate safety measures.

Developing countries faced particularly complex choices, as they were often potential users of biotechnology applications but lacked adequate capacity for independent risk assessment. Many developing countries wanted access to beneficial biotechnology applications while ensuring that they would not become dumping grounds for inadequately tested products.

The negotiations were further complicated by the intersection with international trade rules, particularly those of the World Trade Organization. Biotechnology exporters wanted to ensure that biosafety measures would not become disguised barriers to trade, while many countries insisted that environmental protection should take precedence over trade considerations.

After six intensive negotiating sessions between 1996 and 1999, the Working Group submitted a draft protocol to an extraordinary meeting of the COP in Cartagena, Colombia, in February 1999. However, deep disagreements among negotiating groups prevented the adoption of the protocol at that meeting, leading to the suspension of the conference.

The Montreal Breakthrough

Following extensive informal consultations, the extraordinary COP meeting resumed in Montreal in January 2000, where negotiators finally reached agreement on the protocol text. The successful conclusion of negotiations required compromises from all parties, resulting in a protocol that balanced environmental protection with trade facilitation and technological innovation.

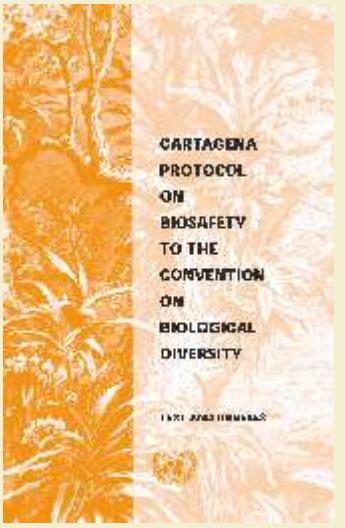
Key compromises included agreeing to focus the protocol on transboundary movement of living modified organisms rather than all biotechnology applications, establishing different procedures for different types of living modified organisms, and creating various exceptions and flexibilities that addressed the concerns of different negotiating groups.

The protocol was opened for signature in Nairobi in May 2000 and attracted 103 signatures during the one-year signing period, demonstrating broad international support for the agreement. The protocol entered into force on September 11, 2003, after receiving the required 50 ratifications.

Cartagena Protocol: Regulating Biotechnology Safely

Background

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted on 29 January 2000 as a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in response to growing global concerns over the potential risks posed by living modified organisms (LMOs) produced through modern biotechnology. During the 1990s, rapid advances in genetic engineering increased the international movement and commercial use of LMOs, particularly in agriculture, raising questions about their possible impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and human health. Recognizing



the need for an international framework to regulate these movements, Parties to the CBD initiated negotiations in 1995 to develop a legally binding biosafety protocol.

The Protocol establishes rules and procedures for the safe transboundary movement, handling, and use of LMOs, with particular emphasis on those intended for intentional introduction into the environment. It is guided by the precautionary approach and seeks to ensure that countries can make informed decisions regarding the import of LMOs through mechanisms such as Advance Informed Agreement (AIA), risk assessment, information-sharing, and capacity-building. The Protocol entered into force on 11 September 2003 and remains the principal international framework governing biosafety.

Objectives and Scope

The primary objective of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is to ensure an adequate level of protection in the safe transfer, handling, and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, while also taking into account risks to human health. The Protocol is guided by the precautionary approach contained in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

The scope of the Protocol covers the transboundary movement, transit, handling, and use of all LMOs that may negatively affect biodiversity and human health. Particular emphasis is placed on LMOs intended for intentional introduction into the environment, such as genetically modified seeds and crops. The Protocol establishes procedures for AIA, risk assessment, risk management, information-sharing through the Biosafety Clearing-House, and capacity-building to assist Parties in implementing biosafety measures effectively.

Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a Living Modified Organism (LMO) is defined as "any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology."

The Protocol further explains that a "living organism" includes any biological entity capable of transferring or replicating genetic material, including sterile organisms, viruses, and viroids. "Modern biotechnology" refers to the application of:

- *in vitro* nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant DNA and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles; or
- fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family, which overcomes natural physiological reproductive or recombination barriers and are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection.

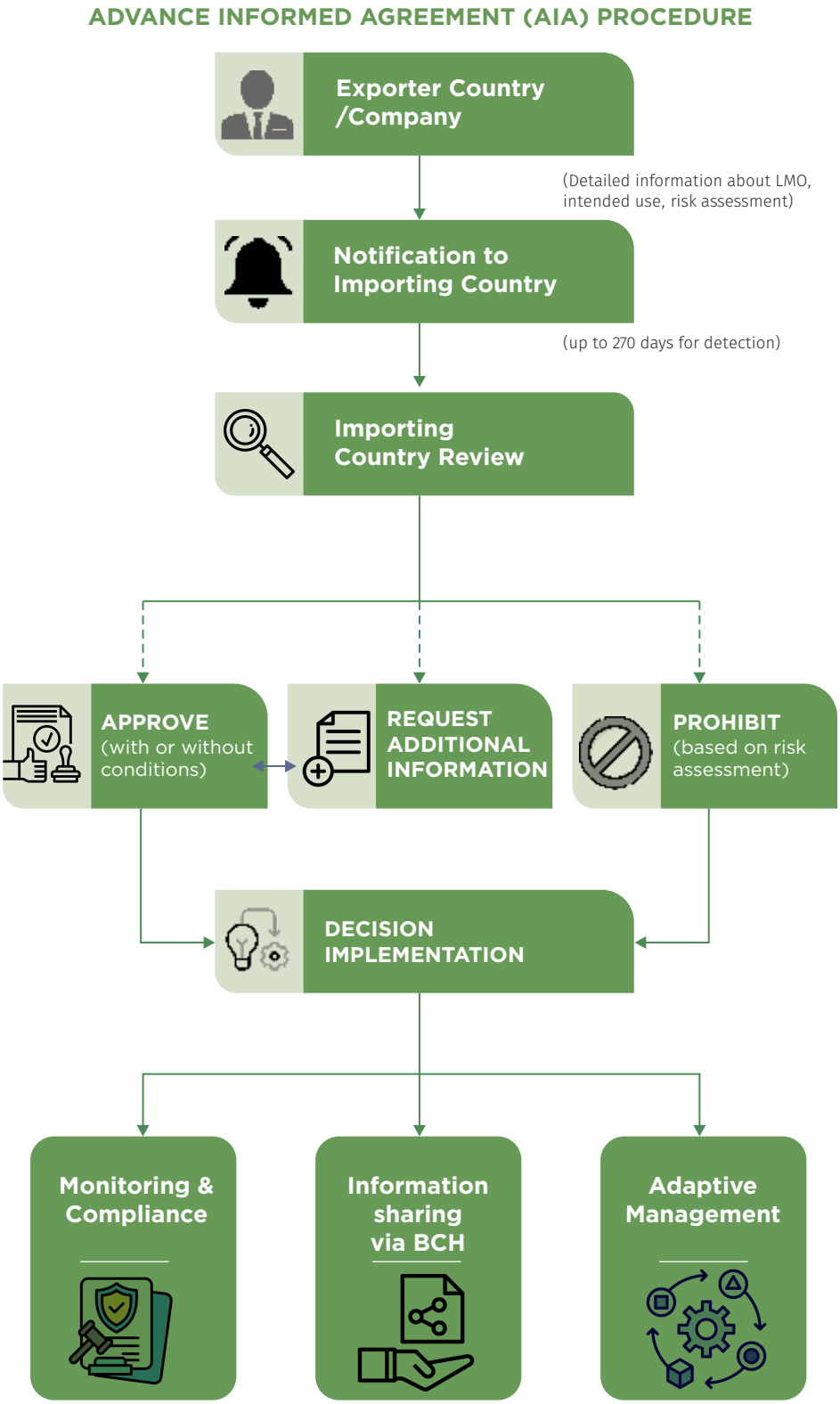
LMOs are commonly referred to as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in general usage. Examples include genetically modified crops, pest-resistant plants, and microorganisms developed through genetic engineering. The Cartagena Protocol regulates the transboundary movement, handling, and use of LMOs to minimize potential risks to biodiversity and human health.



Advance Informed Agreement (AIA) Procedure

The Advance Informed Agreement (AIA) procedure under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a mechanism designed to ensure that countries receive prior information before the first intentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms (LMOs) intended for introduction into the environment. Exporting Parties or exporters must notify the importing country in advance, providing detailed information about the LMO, its intended use, and potential risks. The importing Party then undertakes a risk assessment and decides whether to approve, prohibit, or impose conditions on the import. The AIA procedure reflects the precautionary approach and promotes informed decision-making in biosafety management (Figure-3.6).

Figure-3.6: Advance Informed Agreement (AIA) Procedure



Risk Assessment and Risk Management

Under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, risk assessment and risk management are central mechanisms for ensuring the safe handling, transfer, and use of LMOs. Article 15 of the Protocol requires that risk assessments be carried out in a scientifically sound and transparent manner, based on recognized risk assessment techniques, to identify and evaluate potential adverse effects of LMOs on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, while also taking into account risks to human health. The assessment must consider available scientific evidence and may be undertaken by the importing Party.

Article 16 requires Parties to establish and maintain appropriate mechanisms, measures, and strategies to regulate, manage, and control risks identified through risk assessment. This includes measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements and to ensure monitoring of LMOs released into the environment. Decisions adopted at COP-MOP 11 further emphasized strengthening capacity-building, improving technical guidance on risk assessment and management, promoting information-sharing through the Biosafety Clearing-House, and enhancing cooperation among Parties for effective implementation of biosafety measures.

Biosafety Clearing-House

The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) is an information-sharing mechanism established under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental, and legal information related to LMOs. Its primary objective is to assist Parties in implementing the Protocol and to promote transparency and informed decision-making in biosafety governance. Through the BCH, countries can access information on national biosafety laws, decisions regarding import and release of LMOs, risk assessments, capacity-building activities, and emergency measures. The platform also supports cooperation among Parties by enabling timely access to reliable information, thereby strengthening international coordination and the safe transboundary movement, handling, and use of LMOs.

Special Procedures for Different Categories of LMOs

The protocol establishes different procedures for different categories of living modified organisms, recognizing that various applications may pose different types and levels of risk. Living modified organisms intended for direct use as food, feed, or processing (LMO-FFPs) are subject to a simplified information-sharing procedure rather than the full AIA procedure.

Living modified organisms intended for contained use (such as laboratory research or industrial applications) are generally exempt from the protocol's transboundary movement procedures, based on the assumption that containment measures adequately address environmental risks. However, countries retain the right to regulate these organisms under national jurisdiction.

The protocol also provides for expedited procedures for living modified organisms that have been previously approved and for emergency situations where normal procedures might cause unacceptable delays in addressing urgent needs (Table-3.5).

Table-3.5: Cartagena Protocol Categories And Procedures

LMO Category	Procedure Required	Timeline	Information Requirements
Intentional Introduction to Environment	Full AIA Procedure	Up to 270 days	Complete risk assessment, detailed organism information
Food, Feed, or Processing (LMO-FFPs)	Simplified Information Sharing	15 days notification	Basic safety information, regulatory status
Contained Use	National Regulation	Varies by country	Containment protocols, risk management measures
Transit	Documentation Requirements	Immediate	Clear identification, handling instructions

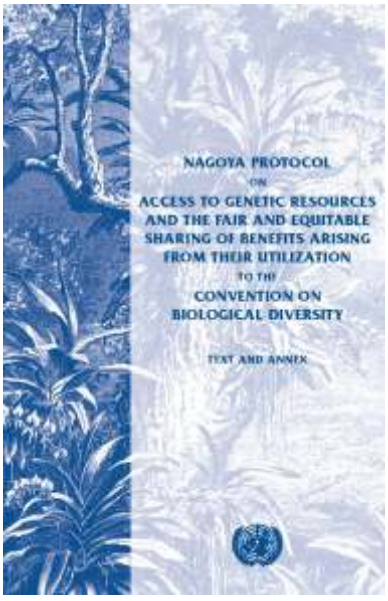
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing

Introduction to Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)

Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) refers to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. It is one of the three core objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, alongside the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. ABS seeks to ensure that countries and indigenous peoples and local communities that provide genetic resources receive a fair share of the benefits derived from their use in research, development, and commercialisation. Such benefits may be monetary, such as royalties, or non-monetary, including technology transfer, capacity-building, and research collaboration. ABS thereby promotes biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and equitable partnerships between providers and users of genetic resources.

Background

The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, as a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Protocol was developed to provide a transparent and legally certain framework for implementing the third objective of the CBD-fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. Before its adoption, countries faced challenges in regulating access to genetic resources and ensuring that benefits derived from their use were shared with



provider countries, indigenous peoples, and local communities. The Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014 and establishes internationally agreed rules governing access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing arrangements, compliance measures, and support for traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

Objectives and Scope of the Nagoya Protocol

The objective of the Nagoya Protocol is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. The Protocol applies to genetic resources covered by the Convention on Biological Diversity and to benefits arising from their utilization. It also applies to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities, where such knowledge is subject to domestic legislation. The Protocol establishes obligations concerning access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing, compliance, and monitoring, while respecting the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources.

Access to Genetic Resources and Prior Informed Consent (PIC)

The Nagoya Protocol recognises the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources. It affirms that access to genetic resources is subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) of the provider country, unless otherwise determined by that country. Users seeking access to genetic resources must obtain permission from the competent national authority and comply with domestic ABS requirements. The Protocol encourages Parties to establish clear and transparent procedures for access, thereby providing legal certainty and predictability for both providers and users of genetic resources. PIC serves as a key mechanism for ensuring that access occurs with the knowledge and approval of the provider country.

Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and Benefit-Sharing

A cornerstone of the Nagoya Protocol is the requirement that benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources be shared on Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) between providers and users. MATs are contractual arrangements that specify the conditions for access and the sharing of benefits. Benefits may be monetary, including upfront payments, milestone payments, and royalties, or non-monetary, such as sharing research results, technology transfer, training, institutional collaboration, and joint ownership of intellectual property rights. By promoting equitable benefit-sharing, the Protocol seeks to create incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use while fostering scientific cooperation and innovation.

Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House

The Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABS-CH) is an information-sharing platform established under the Nagoya Protocol to support its implementation. The ABS-CH facilitates access to information on national ABS measures, competent national authorities, permits or their equivalents, checkpoints, and relevant legislative and administrative procedures. It enhances transparency, legal certainty, and cooperation among Parties by providing a centralized mechanism for sharing information related to access and benefit-sharing. The platform also serves as a tool for monitoring compliance and promoting the effective implementation of the Protocol at national, regional, and international levels.

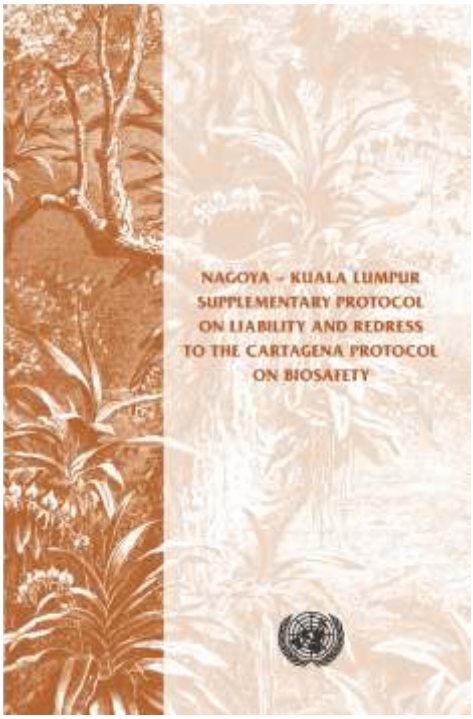
Nagoya Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress

The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress is a supplementary agreement to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, adopted in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. It entered into force on 5 March 2018 after receiving the required ratifications from Parties to the Cartagena Protocol. The Protocol seeks to strengthen international rules and procedures concerning liability and redress for damage caused by LMOs arising from transboundary movement, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

India signed this protocol on 11 October 2011 and ratified it on 19 December 2014

The Supplementary Protocol defines "damage" as a significant and measurable adverse effect on biodiversity, while also taking into account risks to human health. It requires Parties to establish a causal link between the damage and the concerned LMO. Under the Protocol, operators-persons exercising direct or indirect control over LMOs-must take response measures when damage occurs or when there is a sufficient likelihood of damage. These measures include actions to prevent, minimize, contain, mitigate, or restore biodiversity.

Competent national authorities may intervene if operators fail to act and can recover the associated costs from them. The Protocol further encourages Parties to maintain or develop domestic civil liability laws related to biodiversity damage, including material or personal harm. Since implementation primarily relies on administrative authorities rather than courts, the framework is widely regarded as adopting an "administrative approach" to liability and redress.



Short-eared Owl
(*Asio flammeus*)
Kingsley David



CBD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP), SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)



Conference of the Parties, or COP, is the ruling body of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is vital to understand the working mechanism of the COP in order to understand the setting of international biodiversity policy and the evolutionary growth of the Convention in the face of emerging challenges. COP represents world democracy in the sense of gathering the representatives of 196 states to jointly decide on the future of mankind's relationship with the natural world.

04



European Bee-eater
(*Merops apiaster*)

Kingsley David

Functions and Responsibilities of the COP-Principal Governance Activities

A brief on COP and its meeting structure is provided in Box-4.1 and Table-4.1.

Table-4.1
COP Meeting Structure

Frequency		Every 2 years since COP 5
Duration		1 to 2 weeks
No. of Participants		Thousands of delegates
Decision-making		Consensus preferred
Participated by		196 Parties, Observers



Tricolored Munia
(*Lonchura malacca*)
Siva Kumar Murugan

Box-4.1: What is COP?

The **Conference of the Parties (COP)** refers to the decision-making body of international environmental treaties. Each COP brings together representatives from various countries, international organizations, and stakeholders to assess progress, negotiate agreements, and establish future commitments for addressing global environmental challenges. These conferences are held annually or biannually, providing a platform for continuous dialogue and cooperation among the Parties (member countries) of a given treaty.

The concept of COPs traces back to the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**, formally known as the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)**, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This summit was a pivotal moment in global environmental diplomacy, where nations agreed to several key international frameworks aimed at safeguarding the planet's environment and biodiversity. Three of the most important treaties to emerge from this summit were:

1. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
2. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
3. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

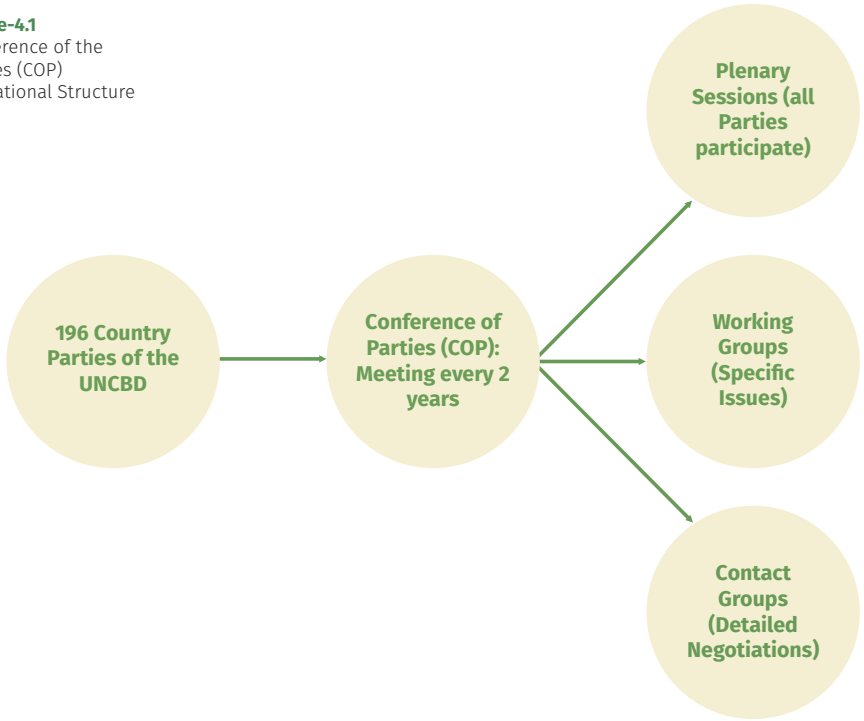
These frameworks led to the establishment of three major types of COPs: the **Climate COP,** the **Biodiversity COP** and the **UNCCD COP** for Combating Desertification. Currently, much emphasis is given to their synergy for these three Rio Conventions for implementation and holistic sustainability.

The Biodiversity COP, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, focuses on protecting the Earth's biodiversity, promoting sustainable development, and ensuring fair access to genetic resources. Its main goal is to halt the loss of species, ecosystems, and genetic diversity, recognizing that biodiversity is essential for ecosystem health and human well-being. The first COP for biodiversity was held in 1994 in Nassau, Bahamas, and its recent meetings have addressed urgent issues such as biodiversity conservation targets and ecosystem restoration. All three COPs serve as platforms to address interconnected yet distinct global environmental challenges-climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification-which originated from the commitments made at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

Article 23 of the Convention sets up the COP and describes its main functions. Its main function is to continue to review the Convention's implementation and direct its evolution over time. It implies reviewing the extent to which Parties are complying with their responsibilities, distinguishing the challenges and opportunities arising and generating additional guidance for complying with changed circumstances. The COP carries out a number of important functions in the regime of governance in the Convention. It approves the budget of operation of the Convention, hence ensuring the Secretariat and the other Convention entities are funded adequately to fulfil their missions. It also reviews national reports submitted by Parties, through which it acquires crucial information on implementation achievements and challenges.

More essentially, the COP can also adopt protocols or annexes to the Convention, such that the legal instrument can expand and develop when circumstances change. It was used in the creation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and is available for future use in addressing emerging challenges. The operational structure of COP is given in Figure-4.1.

Figure-4.1
Conference of the Parties (COP) Operational Structure



Directional Steering and Policy Formation

Besides explicit legal functions, the COP provides general strategic leadership for international conservation of biodiversity. In decisions, the COP establishes priorities, sets aims, develops guidelines, and makes frameworks for guiding not just government but international institutions, civil society, and private sector activity. COP's policy formulation function is especially pronounced in its productive engagement on thematic programmes and cross-cutting themes. Instead of merely implementing the initial text of the Convention, the COP proactively shaped elaborate directions on forest biodiversity, marine biodiversity, invasive alien species, and sustainable tourism.

How do COP meetings work?

Meeting Structure and Frequency

COP meetings are major international events that last typically for a period of one to two weeks and bring together thousands of participants. Since COP 5 in the year 2000, regular sessions of the COP have been held every two years, thereby establishing regular opportunities for the Parties to assess progress and achieve common decisions. Each COP meeting adheres strictly to an agenda with both procedural elements, such as budget ratification and organisational matters, and substantive elements involving specific biodiversity matters. It is generally structured in a small set of primary themes, with room for accommodation for consideration of interrelationships among numerous topics (Table-4.2).

Participants and Observers Based

All Convention Parties are represented in COPs, each having one vote without consideration for size or economic power. The principle of sovereign equality ensures every small island nation an equal nominal voice to a big power, though practical influence is contingent on such factors as a nation's diplomatic capability and coalition-building strength. Apart from government representatives, COP meetings involve widespread involvement of observers from different quarters. Non-governmental organizations, indigenous people and local communities, academicians, experts and business sector entities are all represented in COP meetings, though only Parties enjoy a vote. Observer community greatly contributes to the COP process through the provision of specialized technical inputs, advocacy for certain lines of argument, and facilitating consensus building on diversified initiatives. A vast array of innovative measures in biodiversity policy have emerged from concepts developed within observer organizations, subsequently taken up through the Parties.

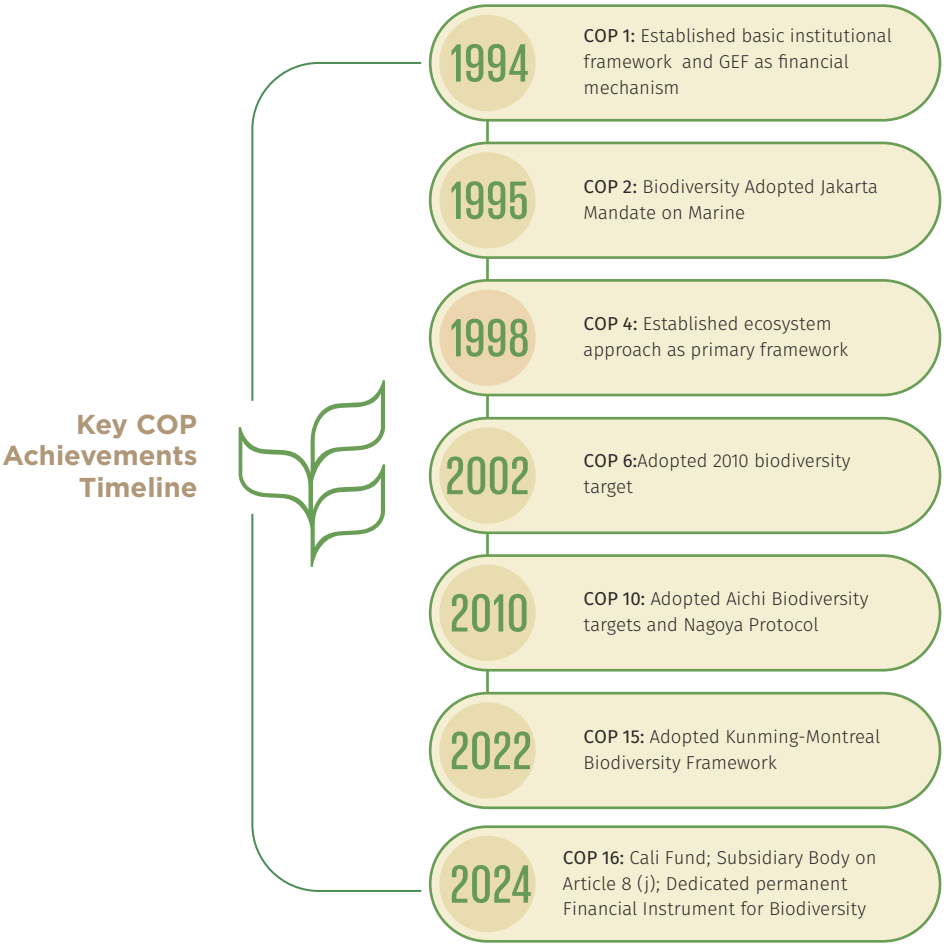
Decision-Making Procedures

COP acts on a consensus basis whenever it deems necessary, so that decisions are made when no Party formally objects and not on a majority vote basis. Such a consensus signifies the realization that implementation of biodiversity undertakings requires broad acceptance, not mere majorities. In such cases where consensus proves infeasible, the Convention permits majority vote, though such a mechanism is rarely utilized in practice. Instead, Parties simply continue in negotiation until they reach consensus or put contentious issues in abeyance for later discussion in future meetings. The consensus method is both a strength and a weakness of the GATT and, later, the WTO. It guarantees the adopted decisions' wide acceptance and legitimacy, facilitating implementation. Yet it can also cause lowest-common-denominator decisions when certain Parties frustrate stronger language or more stringent commitments.

Table-4.2: COP Meeting Process Flow

Phase	Activities	Participants	Outcomes
Pre-COP Preparation	National position development Regional Meetings	Governments Stakeholders	Position papers Draft Decisions
COP Meeting	Negotiations Committee Work Plenary Sessions	Government delegates Observers	COP Decisions Declarations
Post-COP Implementation	National implementation Reporting	Governments Implementing agencies	National actions Progress reports

Figure-4.2
Timeline of Key Achievements of UNCBD COP



Key achievements of the Convention on Biological Diversity are shown in Figure-4.2.

1. **Global Ratification:** CBD has been ratified by most countries of the globe, making it one of the most widely supported international agreements. This widespread participation reflects a global commitment to biodiversity conservation.
2. **Strategic Plans:** CBD has established several Strategic Plans, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2010-2020), which set 20 ambitious goals for biodiversity conservation. Many countries incorporated these targets into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).
3. **Protected Areas:** The CBD has significantly contributed to the expansion of protected areas worldwide. The Aichi Target 11 aimed to protect at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020, leading to an increase in designated protected areas across the globe.
4. **Cartagena protocol:** Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is the first protocol of the CBD. After extended negotiations spanning years, this protocol set out international guidelines for the safe use, handling, and transfer of living modified organisms whose impact on biodiversity might not be favourable.
5. **Access and Benefit-sharing:** The Nagoya Protocol, adopted in 2010, established a framework for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. This protocol has promoted legal certainty and transparency in bioprospecting.
6. **Biodiversity in Development Policies:** CBD has successfully integrated biodiversity considerations into national and regional development policies. Many countries now recognize the value of biodiversity for ecosystem services and economic development.
7. **Public Awareness and Education:** The CBD has raised global awareness about the importance of biodiversity through campaigns, publications, and educational initiatives. International Days for Biological Diversity have helped highlight key issues.
8. **Scientific Research and Monitoring:** The CBD has fostered international collaboration in biodiversity research and monitoring, facilitating the collection and sharing of data essential for informed decision-making.
9. **Mainstreaming Biodiversity:** Efforts have been made to mainstream biodiversity into various sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism, promoting sustainable practices that support biodiversity conservation.
10. **Partnerships and Funding:** CBD has encouraged partnerships between governments, NGOs, and the private sector, leading to increased funding and resources for biodiversity initiatives.
11. **Global Biodiversity Framework:** In response to ongoing biodiversity loss, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted in 2022, setting new targets and commitments to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

12. **Establishment of IPBES:** The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established in 2012. It strengthens the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, human well-being, and sustainable development. IPBES provides scientific inputs through its global assessments to the CBD.

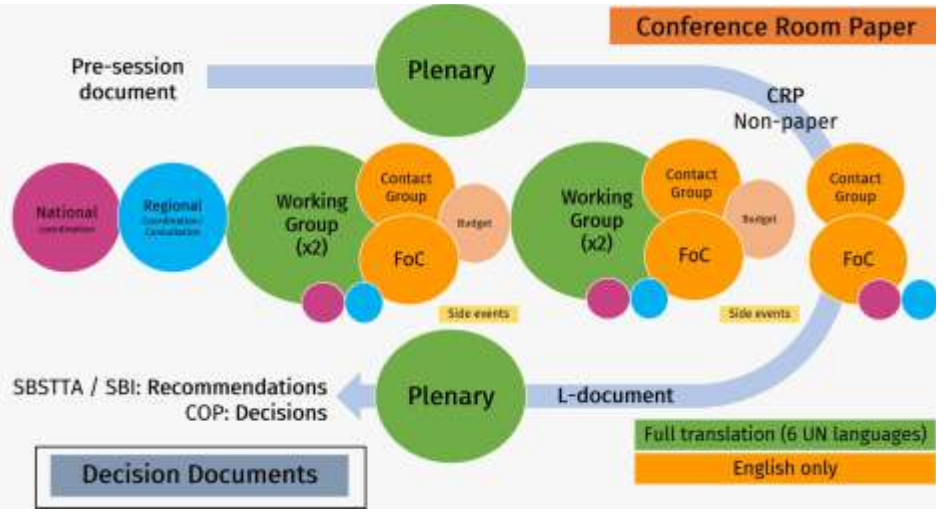
COP Intersessional Meetings: Understanding the Subsidiary Bodies

Science forms the backbone of any effective biodiversity conservation policy, but Science provides the foundation for good biodiversity conservation policy. However, interpreting advanced scientific data in a way that yields useful policy advice is a specialized institutional task. Filling this vital role in the CBD system is the **Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)**, which acts as a liaison in connecting scientific studies with policy decisions. Similarly, the **Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)** focuses on enhancing the implementation of the convention and its protocols.

Intersessional meetings are an essential part of the CBD's work, facilitating the ongoing progress and decision-making processes needed to protect biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use. In summary, intersessional meetings are a vital part of the CBD process, allowing Parties to delve deeper into specific issues and prepare for the next COP meeting. Intersessional meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties occur between regular sessions of the Conference of the Parties, and are often convened to address specific topics or tasks assigned by the COP. These meetings are often organised as Working Groups or other forums to further specific issues and processes, such as Contact Groups, Friends of the Chair, etc. For example, the CBD has an intersessional Working Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, which has held multiple meetings to discuss benefit-sharing from the use of this information. These meetings help Parties prepare for the forthcoming COP and provide opportunities for further discussion and negotiation on various topics. Various CBD intersessional meetings are listed in Figure-4.3 and explained below.

Figure-4.3: Overview of the intersessional processes

Adapted from: Segers (2024)



Definitions of various documents used in the COP

Pre-session Document

These are official, formal documents prepared by the Secretariat before the COP begins. They include the provisional agenda, progress reports, and draft decisions on various topics. They are translated into all official UN languages well before the meeting.

Non-paper

An informal, usually unnumbered document prepared by the Chair or a facilitator to resolve deadlocks or circulate preliminary ideas. It is highly informal, has no official status, and acts as a baseline to gauge potential compromises before official text negotiation begins.

Conference Room Paper (CRP)

An official in-session document usually introduced during the meeting, often containing draft recommendations or decisions proposed by a presiding officer or a Party. CRPs are numbered and translated, and they form the working text for in-depth negotiations in contact groups or working groups.

L Document (Limited Distribution)

An "L" document is produced once a CRP or negotiation text has been agreed upon within a working group or contact group. These documents are issued during the meeting for final review in the plenary, signaling that the text has broad agreement and is ready to be formalized.

Decision Document

These are the final, officially adopted legal outcomes of the COP. Once an "L" document is adopted by the plenary without further amendment, it is finalized, numbered, and published as a definitive COP Decision. These decisions dictate the work programs, guidelines, and obligations of the parties

Definitions of the terminologies used in the documents during negotiations

In UN Convention on Biological Diversity negotiations, specialized formatting and terminology are used to draft and track treaty language. These terms define the structural elements of text and indicate whether specific wording has been formally agreed upon.

Document Structure & Text Definitions

- **Preamble / Preamble Para:** The introductory section of a decision, protocol, or treaty. It lays the groundwork, context, and motivations for the agreement but does not contain legally binding obligations. Preamble paragraphs typically begin with gerunds (e.g., Reaffirming, Recognizing, Conscious).
- **Para (Paragraph):** The fundamental unit of text in a drafted decision. Operational paragraphs define the specific actions Parties must take.
- **Bis / Ter / Quater:** Suffixes used when a new paragraph or clause is inserted during negotiations to avoid renumbering the entire document.
  - **Bis:** The second version of a paragraph (e.g., Para 1, Para 1 bis).
  - **Ter:** The third version (e.g., Para 1 ter).
  - **Quater:** The fourth version (e.g., Para 1 quater).

Negotiating Status Terms

- **Bracketed Text (Square Brackets):** Text enclosed in brackets [...] signifies that it is not yet agreed upon. It is a placeholder containing proposals, alternatives, or text under negotiation. If the text cannot be agreed upon, the brackets remain, and the entire text may be sent to the COP for a final decision.
- **Clean Text:** Text that has been fully agreed upon by all Parties and has had its brackets removed.

Common Drafting Abbreviations

- **OP:** Operational Paragraph (the active, actionable clauses in a drafted decision).
- **PP:** Preambular Paragraph (the introductory statements).
- **Chapeau:** The introductory part of a list or provision that qualifies or explains the subsequent sub-paragraphs.

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

It conducts intersessional work. The CBD uses intersessional meetings of its SBSTTA to facilitate ongoing discussions and strategic planning between formal meetings. SBSTTA provides the Conference of the Parties (COP) with timely advice on implementing the Convention, focusing on scientific, technical, and technological aspects of biodiversity conservation.

Understanding SBSTTA's Role and Mandate

The Science-Policy Interface Challenge. Modern environmental challenges require decisions on policies from the best available scientific evidence, but scientists and policy makers have different views, operate differently, on different time scales, and with different motivations. Scientists invest their efforts in discovering natural systems and generating knowledge using stringent scientific approaches. Policymakers need short, actionable information on which they can base practical decisions within economic and political realities. SBSTTA was established to resolve such a challenge of the science-policy interface through the availability of a designated forum where scientific inputs can, via a systematic process, be brought to bear on the Convention's policy matters (Table-4.3).

Article 25 of the CBD establishes SBSTTA as an open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory mechanism with a clear mandate specifically to provide the COP with scientific, technical, and technological advice, together with suggestions on implementing Convention matters.

Table-4.3: Science-policy Interface Process

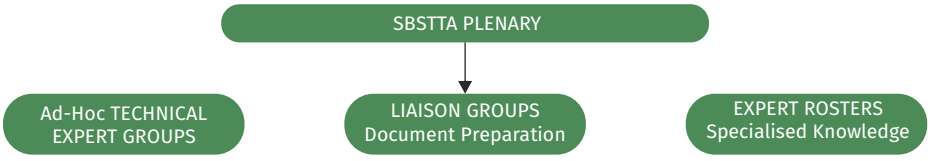
Step	Activity	Input	Output	Target Audience
1.Scientific Assessment	Review current knowledge	Research literature, expert knowledge	Status assessments, trend analysis	Scientific community
2.Policy Transition	Synthesis for policymakers	Scientific findings, case studies	Policy-relevant summaries	Government officials
3.Recommendation Development	Formulate specific advice	Assessment results, consultation	SBSTTA recommendations	COP delegates
4.COP Consideration	Political decisions making	SBSTTA recommendations	COP Decisions	All Parties

Functions of SBSTTA

It includes a few key areas of scientific contribution to biodiversity policy. It offers scientific and technical evaluations of the state of biological diversity such that Parties are well-informed of current tendencies and future dangers. These are based on the world's latest scientific studies that integrate multifaceted data in forms applicable to the formulation of policies. It also develops scientific and technical evaluation of steps taken for the implementation of the Convention, appraising the relative success of various conservation initiatives and approaches to management. It aids in determining what works, what does not and why, and such evaluation is invaluable in refining conservation initiatives.

SBSTTA identifies advanced, efficient, innovative technologies and provides advice on encouraging their development and use. It is particularly important in light of the persistent generation of fresh technologies that either enable the conservation of biodiversity or pose newly emerging threats to biological diversity. It offers a scientific program and international collaboration on research and technology advice, assisting in facilitating international research coordination as well as in determining areas of scientific interest for inquiry. Lastly, SBSTTA addresses particular scientific, technical, and technological matters raised by the COP, including focused analysis on emergent topics. The organizational structure of SBSTTA is depicted in Figure-4.4.

Figure-4.4
SBSTTA Organizational Structure





Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, Shri Bhupender Yadav (front left) along with Chandra Prakash Goyal IFS, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEFCC, and Tanmay Kumar IAS, Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India during COP 15, Montreal, Canada

How SBSTTA Operates

SBSTTA normally convenes annually in the intersession period between COP meetings to provide adequate time for comprehensive scientific scrutiny of matters to be taken up in the COP. It convenes government-selected experts serving in their scientific capacity who represent the views and interests of their country's government.

Each meeting of the SBSTTA covers a formatted agenda, normally a mixture of ongoing tasks and newly introduced matters brought in for referral from the COP. The agenda is fashioned such that proper in-depth scientific deliberation can occur alongside consideration of implications for policy and implementation challenges. Meetings of the SBSTTA are organized on such a pattern as to accommodate both the presentation of scientific matters and interactivity through the participants. Scientific presentations serve as the foundation for deliberation, though the real advantage remains in the exchange of experience, opinion, and thought through experts from different countries and different disciplines.

Relative Contributions and Engagement

Although meetings of the SBSTTA are restricted to government-registered experts, the body draws on much broader scientific expertise through various mechanisms. The Convention maintains lists of experts on particular matters, made through government nominations to the Secretariat. Such experts contribute to the work of the SBSTTA through various mechanisms, although they are not present at meetings.

Technically qualified ad hoc working groups are customarily established for conducting in-depth examinations of particular issues before they are considered by the SBSTTA. Such working teams are comprised of eminent experts from around the world and function through intense workshops generating technical reports and recommendations.

Liaison groups play a crucial role in aiding the formulation and examination of documents intended for SBSTTA meetings. Typically, these groups comprise representatives from pertinent international organizations, scientific institutions, and networks of experts, thereby guaranteeing that SBSTTA can leverage the comprehensive spectrum of expertise available.

Moving from scientific assessment to policy recommendations

SBSTTA's key responsibility is to interpret scientific facts into policy-relevant decisions that can inform COP decisions. Doing so requires a delicate balance of scientific correctness and feasibility in a policy sense.

Options from the SBSTTA generally start from scientific evaluations that provide a brief account of the present-day understanding of key matters. Such evaluations pinpoint major findings, outline areas where scientific opinion is united or divided, and present scientific findings' implications for biodiversity protection.

These recommendations then go beyond the evaluation to the future direction, outlining particular measures that Parties could adopt in the light of the scientific evidence. It is absolutely essential that such recommendations are scientifically sound but also politically and economically possible for implementation through states with varied circumstances and capabilities.



Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, Shri Bhupender Yadav (right) and Inger Andersen, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) during COP 15, Montreal, Canada

Key Areas of SBSTTA's Scientific Work

Thematic Scientific Assessments: SBSTTA conducted stringent scientific assessments of the key thematic areas dealt with in the Convention, including marine and coastal biodiversity, forest biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, biodiversity of inland water, dryland biodiversity, and biodiversity of mountains.

Thematic assessments offer comprehensive summaries of existing understanding on specific ecosystems, highlight major threats and opportunities and offer concentrated strategies for conservation and sustainable use. These assessments draw on scientific literature, comparative case studies from various countries, and professional judgment to offer authoritative syntheses of contentious issues (Figure-4.5).

Figure-4.5
SBSTTA-Key Work Areas





Serrated Fan-throated Lizard (*Sitana marudhamneythal*)
Jude Degal

Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring: Among the key ongoing functions of SBSTTA is providing scientific advice on monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity. It facilitates the preparation of indicators for tracking progress towards biodiversity objectives and for early identification of impending threats in time before they reach crisis dimensions.

SBSTTA has provided much direction in producing national biodiversity indicators, in selecting pertinent monitoring methods, and in acquiring baseline data on subsequent monitoring for change detection through time. It recognizes differential monitoring capabilities and foci for each nation while emphasizing the consideration of similar data for international comparison. It has also been engaged in major international biodiversity analyses, including those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). SBSTTA also helps such international analyses be responsive to the specific data requirements of the CBD and its Parties.

New Technology and Its Consequences: As newer technologies are being developed that may impact biodiversity conservation, the SBSTTA offers scientific evaluations of their benefits and harms. Its work has included the evaluation of applications of biotechnology, schemes for geoengineering, and information technologies for monitoring and managing biodiversity.

The scientific evaluation of newly emerging technologies is evidence of the necessity for forward-looking scientific evaluation. Reviewing technologies before widespread use, SBSTTA can assist in ensuring consideration of their possible biodiversity consequences and devising adequate protection measures where necessary.

SBSTTA's Impact on CBD Policy Formulation Shaping COP

Decisions: SBSTTA's recommendations are the scientific foundation for many decisions of the COP, providing the evidence base for the formulation of policies. While the COP is not bound to accept the SBSTTA's recommendations, the scientific credentials of the body lend its advice appreciable influence in the consideration of policies (Figure-4.6).

The most direct effect occurs when COP explicitly approves some of the SBSTTA recommendations in whole or in part. Here, the scientific input constitutes a part of official policy guidance for the Parties. Even when decisions of the SBSTTA are not explicitly approved, they very often influence the wording and substance of COP decisions.

Adding to Target Building: SBSTTA has been instrumental in determining the scientific foundation for international biodiversity targets, specifically the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the post-2020 Biodiversity Strategy for the world. Its scientific reports assist in determining the desired targets, assessing the scientifically reasonable level of ambition, and determining appropriate indicators for monitoring progress.

Establishing scientifically sound targets necessitates a stringent evaluation of ongoing tendencies, pinpointing major focal points of pressure, and determining the amount of conservation intervention necessary for effecting desired ends. Such technical proficiency of SBSTTA in such matters positions it centrally in setting targets.

Figure 4.6: Process followed for recommendations



Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)

Another subsidiary body, SBI, refers to meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), which is a body within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that focuses on enhancing the implementation of the convention. These meetings are held between regular Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings to discuss progress, develop strategies, and strengthen implementation of the CBD and its protocols. The SBI's functions include evaluating implementation progress, formulating strategic actions, reinforcing implementation mechanisms, and overseeing convention operations.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, Shri Bhupender Yadav during COP 15 Plenary Session along with Chandra Prakash Goyal IFS, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEFCC, and Tanmay Kumar IAS, Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India



Other Key CBD Intersessional Meetings

Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and its first meeting

Introduction to Article 8(j) and Traditional Knowledge: Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes the vital role of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. It calls upon Parties to respect, preserve, and maintain the knowledge, innovations, and practices of IPLCs that are relevant to biodiversity conservation, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of knowledge holders, and encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use. Over the years, traditional knowledge has become an integral component of CBD implementation, contributing to biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Background of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) (SB-8j): The Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8J) was established by CBD COP 16 through Decision 16/5, replacing the long-standing Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j). The creation of SB8J marked a significant institutional development within the Convention, providing a permanent forum dedicated to issues concerning indigenous peoples and local communities. The Subsidiary Body has the mandate to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties, other CBD subsidiary bodies, and, when requested, the governing bodies of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols on matters relating to IPLCs. Its establishment reflects the growing recognition of the importance of traditional knowledge, customary sustainable use, and the effective participation of IPLCs in biodiversity governance and implementation of the CBD and its Protocols.

Objectives and Functions of SB-8(j): The primary objective of SB-(8j) is to strengthen the participation and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols. The Subsidiary Body provides technical and policy advice on matters relating to traditional knowledge, customary sustainable use, benefit-sharing, and the rights and roles of IPLCs in biodiversity conservation. It also supports the implementation of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) to 2030 and contributes to the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Through its work, SB8J seeks to promote inclusive biodiversity governance and ensure that indigenous and local knowledge systems are appropriately reflected in global biodiversity policies.

First Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) (SB-8j-1): The first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8J-1) was held from 27 to 30 October 2025 in Panama City, Panama, following the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27). As the inaugural session of the newly established permanent subsidiary body, SB8J-1 focused on operationalizing the body and advancing the implementation of the new Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and related provisions to 2030. Key agenda items included consideration of the Subsidiary Body's modus operandi, strengthening participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in CBD processes, and reviewing priority tasks under the new programme of work. The meeting represented an important milestone in enhancing the institutional role of IPLCs within the CBD framework and ensuring that traditional knowledge and customary practices are effectively integrated into global biodiversity policy and implementation.

Programme of Work on Article 8(j) to 2030: At COP 16, Parties adopted a new Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and other provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities for the period up to 2030. The programme aims to ensure the meaningful contribution of IPLCs to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. It includes activities to strengthen traditional knowledge systems, support customary sustainable use, enhance participation in decision-making, and contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. SB8J serves as the primary body for guiding and reviewing the implementation of this programme of work.



Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, Shri Bhupender Yadav during COP 15 Plenary Session along with Chandra Prakash Goyal IFS, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEFCC, during COP 15 meeting, Montreal, Canada.

Institutional Practice - Other Bodies

Working Groups (WG)

Working Groups are formal subsidiary bodies established by a Conference of the Parties (COP), Meeting of the Parties (MOP), or another governing body to examine specific issues in greater detail than is possible in plenary sessions. They may be open-ended, allowing participation by all Parties, or limited in membership. Working Groups review technical, scientific, legal, or policy matters and develop recommendations, draft decisions, or negotiating texts for consideration by the parent body. They are widely used in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to facilitate detailed negotiations and expert deliberations.

Contact Groups (CG)

Contact Groups are smaller negotiating bodies established by the Chair or the plenary to address specific agenda items requiring intensive discussion. Participation is

generally open to all interested Parties and observers, although attendance is often limited in practice. These groups negotiate draft text, identify areas of convergence and divergence, and report progress back to plenary sessions. Contact Groups are particularly useful for resolving complex issues that cannot be adequately addressed in formal plenary discussions.

Informal Groups

Informal Groups are less structured and more flexible than Contact Groups. They are typically convened to facilitate frank exchanges of views, explore compromise solutions, or address sensitive political issues. Meetings may occur outside formal schedules and often do not produce official records. Their informal nature encourages candid dialogue and helps bridge differences among Parties before formal negotiations resume.

Friends of the Chair

A Friends of the Chair Group consists of a limited number of representatives selected by the Chair to assist in resolving particularly difficult or politically sensitive issues. Membership is usually balanced to reflect key negotiating interests and regional representation. The group works confidentially to identify compromise solutions and provide advice to the Chair, who subsequently presents proposals to the wider negotiating body for consideration.

Committee of the Whole

The Committee of the Whole (COW) is a formal body composed of all Parties established by the plenary to consider substantive matters in greater detail. It operates under rules similar to that of the plenary but allows more focused and efficient discussions. It examines agenda items, negotiates draft decisions and forwards recommendations to the plenary for final adoption. Many MEA negotiations rely heavily on COW during major conferences.

Drafting Group

Drafting Groups are established to improve the wording, structure, and coherence of negotiating texts after substantive agreement has largely been reached. Their role is not to reopen political negotiations but to ensure clarity, consistency, and accuracy in the text. Participants are generally technical experts and negotiators familiar with the subject matter.

Legal Drafting Group

Legal Drafting Groups are specialized bodies composed primarily of legal experts. They review draft provisions to ensure consistency with international law, treaty practice, and the objectives of the agreement. These groups refine legal language, address interpretation issues, and ensure that negotiated texts are legally sound and enforceable. Their work is particularly important during the final stages of treaty negotiations.

State/country Groupings

UN REGIONAL GROUPS

Group of African States

The African Group comprises all African Member States of the United Nations. It serves as a coordination mechanism for developing common positions on issues of shared interest, including sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, climate change, and financing. The group plays a significant role in MEA negotiations by promoting African priorities and ensuring regional representation.

Group of Asia and Pacific States

The Asia-Pacific Group includes countries from East, South, Southeast, Central Asia, and the Pacific region. Given its diversity, the group encompasses a wide range of economic, political, and environmental interests. It often coordinates positions on issues such as technology transfer, capacity building, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation.

Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)

GRULAC brings together countries from Latin America and the Caribbean. The group coordinates positions on environmental governance, biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development. GRULAC countries frequently emphasize issues relating to ecosystem conservation, indigenous peoples, sustainable use of natural resources, and environmental justice.

Group of Eastern European States

This regional group includes countries of Central and Eastern Europe and certain former Soviet States. Members often share concerns regarding economic transition, environmental modernization, and implementation of international obligations. The group participates actively in elections to international bodies and in negotiations on environmental agreements.

Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG)

WEOG includes Western European countries together with countries such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Israel, and the United States. The group often plays a prominent role in international environmental negotiations, advocating strong environmental standards, science-based decision-making, and effective compliance mechanisms.

Country Designations

Developing Countries

Developing countries are States that generally face lower levels of industrialization, income, and technological capacity compared with developed countries. In MEA negotiations, they often emphasize equity, capacity building, technology transfer, and access to financial resources to support implementation of environmental commitments.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

LDCs are recognized by the United Nations as countries with severe structural impediments to sustainable development, characterized by low income, weak human assets, and high economic vulnerability. They receive special consideration under many MEAs through financial assistance, capacity-building programmes, and flexibility in implementation.

Other Developing Country Sub-groupings (SIDS):

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of developing countries facing unique challenges arising from their small size, geographic isolation, limited resources, and high vulnerability to climate change and sea-level rise. SIDS are particularly active in negotiations concerning climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, oceans, and disaster risk reduction.

Countries with Economies in Transition

Economies in Transition are countries moving from centrally planned economic systems toward market-based economies. Many are located in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In environmental negotiations, they often seek flexibility in implementation timelines and support for environmental modernization and capacity development.

Developed Countries

Developed countries generally possess advanced economies, strong institutional capacities, and greater technological and financial resources. Under many MEAs, they are expected to take the lead in providing financial support, technology transfer, and capacity-building assistance to developing countries.

Un Negotiating Blocs

Group of 77 and China (G77 and China)

The G77 and China is the largest coalition of developing countries within the United Nations system. Established in 1964, it seeks to promote the collective economic and development interests of developing countries. In MEA negotiations, the group frequently advocates for equity, common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), financial support, technology transfer, and capacity building.

European Union (EU):

The European Union negotiates as a regional economic integration organization and often coordinates common positions among its Member States. The EU is a major advocate of ambitious environmental commitments, strong compliance systems, ecosystem conservation, climate action, and science-based policymaking.

JUSCANZ

JUSCANZ is an informal negotiating coalition consisting primarily of Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other like-minded developed countries. The group often coordinates positions on institutional, procedural, and substantive issues, although membership and participation may vary across negotiations.

Central/Eastern Europe (CEE)

The Central and Eastern European Group represents countries from the region that frequently coordinate positions on issues related to environmental governance, economic transition, technical assistance, and implementation challenges. The group also serves as a recognized electoral constituency within the UN system.

Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)

The LMDC group includes several major developing countries that emphasize the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. In environmental negotiations, the group often advocates for greater flexibility for developing countries,

stronger commitments from developed countries, and enhanced financial and technological support.

Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA):

ALBA is a regional political and economic grouping of several Latin American and Caribbean countries. In international environmental negotiations, ALBA members often emphasize environmental justice, sovereign rights over natural resources, sustainable development, and the historical responsibilities of developed countries.

Arab Group

The Arab Group consists of Arab States from the Middle East and North Africa. It coordinates positions on issues of common concern, including sustainable development, desertification, water scarcity, climate adaptation, and financial support mechanisms. The group often acts collectively in MEA negotiations to advance regional priorities.

Other Informal Groupings

BRICS

The BRICS is currently composed of eleven countries: its five original members - Brazil, China, India, Russia, and South Africa -, and six new members admitted in 2024-25 - Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The group was originally composed of Brazil, Russia, India, and China in 2006; South Africa joined in 2011.

Partner Countries

According to the mandate agreed upon through the Johannesburg II Declaration, August 2023, the leaders approved the creation of the BRICS partner country category during the Kazan Summit in 2024. The BRICS partner countries are: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

It serves as a political and diplomatic coordination forum for countries from the Global South and for coordination in the most diverse areas. Objectives of BRICS include strengthening economic, political, and social cooperation among its members, as well as increasing the influence of Global South countries in international governance. The group seeks to improve the legitimacy, equity in participation, and efficiency of global institutions such as the UN, IMF, World Bank, and WTO. Moreover, it aims to bolster sustainable social and economic development and promote social inclusion.

The Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC)

The Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC) is a group of countries that harbour the majority of the Earth's species and are therefore considered extremely biodiverse. They are rich in biological diversity (60-70% of the world's biodiversity) and associated traditional knowledge. These countries have effectively joined efforts in negotiating the development of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their utilisation to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was adopted in Japan in 2010. 18 in total, these countries are located in, or partially in, tropical or subtropical regions.

In February 2002, the Ministers in charge of the Environment and the Delegates of Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Venezuela, assembled in the Mexican City of Cancún. These countries declared to set up a Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries as a mechanism for consultation and cooperation so that their interests and priorities related to the preservation and sustainable use of biological diversity could be promoted. They also declared that they would call on those countries that had not become Parties to the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the on climate change to become parties to these agreements.

At the same time, they agreed to meet periodically, at the ministerial and expert levels, and decided that upon the conclusion of each annual ministerial meeting, the next rotating host country would take on the role of Secretary of the group, to ensure its continuity, the further development of cooperation among these countries, and to reach the agreements and objectives set forth.

Roles in Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Negotiations

States and Parties

States are the principal actors in international environmental negotiations and treaty-making processes. They negotiate, adopt, ratify, implement, and review Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Once a State expresses its consent to be bound by a treaty through ratification, accession, acceptance, or approval, it becomes a Party to that agreement and assumes legally binding obligations under international law. Parties are expected to implement treaty commitments in good faith and align national legislation, policies, and administrative measures with their obligations under the agreement.

In negotiations, States and Parties

- Participate in plenary sessions, working groups, contact groups, and other negotiating bodies.
- Propose, amend, and negotiate treaty text and draft decisions.
- Exercise voting rights where voting procedures apply.
- Elect officers and members of subsidiary bodies.
- Submit national reports and information required under MEAs.
- Participate in compliance and review mechanisms.
- Contribute financially to treaty budgets and trust funds where applicable.
- Cooperate in scientific, technical, and financial matters to achieve treaty objectives.

Parties collectively govern an MEA through the Conference of the Parties (COP) or Meeting of the Parties (MOP), which serves as the supreme decision-making body responsible for reviewing implementation, adopting decisions, establishing subsidiary bodies, approving budgets, and guiding the future development of the treaty regime.

States frequently coordinate their positions through regional groups and negotiating blocs such as the G77 and China, the European Union, the African Group, GRULAC, the Arab Group, and the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC). Such coordination enhances negotiating effectiveness and helps build consensus on complex issues.

Observers

Observers are non-Party entities that participate in MEA meetings without possessing decision-making or voting rights. Their participation enhances transparency, inclusiveness, expertise, and stakeholder engagement in environmental governance. Observers may include:

- United Nations agencies and specialized organizations.
- Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).
- Scientific and academic institutions.
- Private-sector organizations and business associations.
- Youth, women, and civil society groups.

Observers are generally admitted according to the rules of procedure of the relevant MEA. Once admitted, they may attend open meetings, receive official documents, make statements at the discretion of the Chair, submit information documents, organize side events, and provide technical and scientific expertise.

The principal functions of observers include:

- Providing specialized scientific, technical, legal, and policy expertise.
- Sharing implementation experiences and best practices.
- Raising awareness of emerging environmental issues.
- Facilitating stakeholder participation and transparency.
- Supporting capacity-building and knowledge exchange.
- Contributing to consensus-building through informal dialogue and advocacy.

Although observers cannot formally adopt decisions or vote, they often exert significant influence on negotiations through expert input, coalition-building, side events, technical briefings, and engagement with delegations. Their participation has become an important feature of modern MEA processes, reflecting the growing recognition that environmental governance requires contributions from governments, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, academia, and the private sector alike.

A Scientific Stand: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and Global Assessments

What is IPBES?

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human

well-being and sustainable development. Over the past decades, despite significant scientific advances, biodiversity policy at the national and international levels has often lacked timely access to reliable policy-relevant scientific assessments. The United Nations Environment Program initiated a global consultative process to establish an inclusive, multidisciplinary, and intergovernmental platform. This led to the establishment of the IPBES in 2012, which provides policymakers with objective, scientific assessments to inform better decisions for people and the planet and contributes to various thematic areas on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

IPBES brings together

Scientists and Experts
Over 1,000 experts from 130+ countries contribute to assessments.

Governments
140+ Member States support and guide IPBES work.

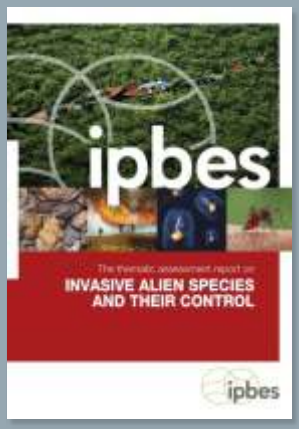
Indigenous and Local Knowledge Holders
Ensuring diverse perspectives are included.

Significance of IPBES

Biodiversity and ecosystems are the foundation of life on Earth. They provide food, clean water, climate regulation, and cultural values. Yet, nature is declining at an unprecedented rate. IPBES assessments highlight the urgent need for action to protect and restore nature for the well-being of current and future generations. It focuses on (1) how sustainable use is conceptualised by various stakeholders, (2) status and trends, (3) main drivers of change, (4) future scenarios and (5) the effectiveness of policies, governance and institutional systems for respective thematic areas. The mandate and core functions of IPBES are knowledge prioritisation and generation, undertaking periodic global, regional and thematic assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services, policy support and capacity building. The IPBES is directly aligned with the United Nations conventions on biological diversity, climate change and combating desertification. The establishment and operationalisation of IPBES is a paradigm shift in the approach of the global community towards the science-related policy-making interface in biodiversity. IPBES also plays a key role in supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international commitments.

Global Assessments

IPBES has produced landmark global assessments that provide comprehensive insights into the state of biodiversity, ecosystems, and their contributions to people. These assessments are the result of collaboration among hundreds of experts from around the world. A few key global assessments are invasive species and their control, sustainable use of wild species, biodiversity and climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services and land degradation and restoration.



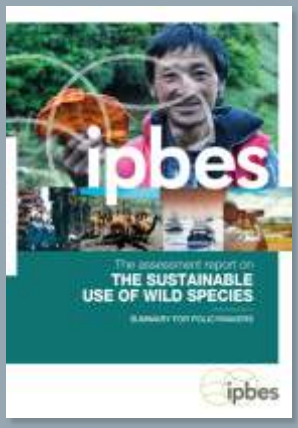
Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

The thematic assessment report on Invasive alien species and their control was brought out in the year 2023 by IPBES. Key findings indicate that they are one of the major drivers of biodiversity loss. It has been reported that the economic costs of invasive species exceed $400 billion annually. The report highlights four crucial messages:

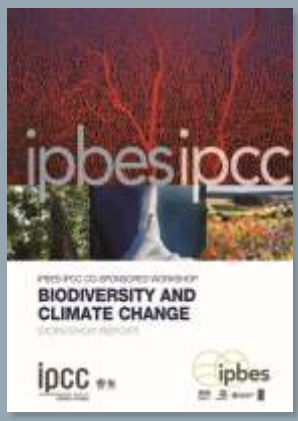
1) IAS are a major threat to nature, nature's contribution to people and good quality of life;
2) Globally, IAS and their impacts are increasing rapidly and predicted to continue rising in the future;
3) IAS and their negative impacts can be prevented and mitigated through effective management;
4) Ambitious progress to manage biological invasions can be achieved with integral governance. Strengthening biosecurity measures and international cooperation is critical, and early detection and rapid response can prevent the spread of invasive species are the key implications.

The **thematic assessment Report on the sustainable use of wild species** in 2022 highlights that billions of people rely on wild species for food, medicine, and income. The use of wild species directly contributes to the well-being of billions of people globally on a day-to-day basis and is particularly important to people in vulnerable situations. Further, unsustainable use threatens the survival of many species and ecosystems. So, ensuring and enhancing the sustainability of the use of wild species is essential for human well-being and biodiversity conservation. The report identifies seven key elements of policy actions that support the sustainable use of wild species. They are:

1) Inclusive and participatory decision making;
2) Inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights;
3) Equitable distribution of costs and benefits;
4) Policies tailored to local social and ecological context;
5) Monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices;
6) Coordinated and aligned policies;
7) Robust institutions, from customary to statutory.



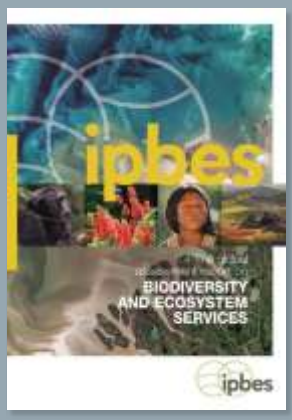
Sustainable Use of Wild Species



Biodiversity and Climate Change

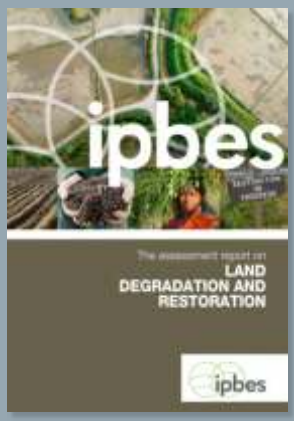
The workshop report on **Biodiversity and Climate Change** of the IPBES-IPCC-sponsored workshop, released in 2021, indicates that biodiversity loss and climate change are interconnected crises. A synopsis of the conclusions of the workshop includes limiting global warming to ensure a habitable climate and protecting biodiversity are mutually supporting goals, and their achievement is essential for sustainably and equitably providing benefits to people, several land- and ocean-based actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems have co-benefits for climate mitigation, climate adaptation and biodiversity objectives; and treating climate, biodiversity and human society as coupled systems is key to successful outcomes from policy interventions. The key messages include that nature-based solutions, such as protecting and restoring ecosystems, can provide up to 37% of the climate mitigation needed by 2030 and that healthy ecosystems enhance resilience to climate impacts, such as floods, droughts, and storms.

The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, released in 2019, highlights that over 1 million species are at risk of extinction, 75% of the Earth's land surface has been significantly altered by human actions, and nature's contributions to people are declining globally. The key messages in this report include 1) Nature and its vital contributions to people, which together embody biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are deteriorating worldwide; 2) Direct and indirect drivers of change have accelerated during the past 50 years; 3) Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors; and 4) Nature can be conserved, restored and used sustainably. The key implications include urgent transformative changes that are needed to restore and protect nature, and Sustainable practices in agriculture, fisheries, and urban planning are critical.

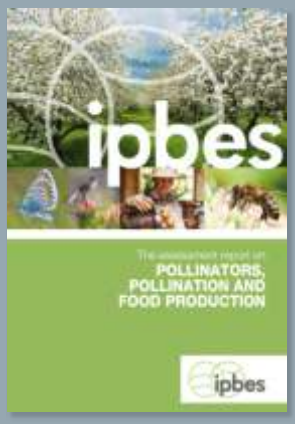


Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The assessment report on Land Degradation and Restoration was published in the year 2018. The key findings show that over 75% of the Earth's land area is degraded, affecting 3.2 billion people. Further, it reports that land degradation contributes to climate change and biodiversity loss. The key messages in this report are 1) Land degradation is a pervasive, systemic phenomenon: it occurs in all parts of the terrestrial world and can take many forms; 2) Unless urgent and concerted action is taken, land degradation will worsen in the face of population growth, unprecedented consumption, an increasingly globalised economy and climate change; and 3) The implementation of known, proven actions to combat land degradation and thereby transform the lives of millions of people across the planet will become more difficult and costly over time. An urgent step change in effort is needed to prevent irreversible land degradation and accelerate the implementation of restoration measures. Key implications are that the restoration of degraded lands can improve livelihoods, combat climate change, and protect biodiversity, and policies must promote sustainable land management and restoration efforts.



Land Degradation and Restoration



Pollinators, Pollination, and Food Production

The assessment report on Pollinators, Pollination, and Food Production by IPBES published in 2016 highlights that 75% of food crops rely on animal pollination and that pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change. The key messages in the report are: 1) Animal pollination plays a vital role as a regulating ecosystem service in nature; 2) More than three-quarters of the leading types of global food crops rely to some extent on animal pollination for yield and/or quality; 3) Pollinator-dependent food products are important contributors to healthy human diets and nutrition; 4) The abundance, diversity and health of pollinators and the provision of pollination are threatened by direct drivers that generate risks to societies and ecosystems; 5) The abundance, diversity and health of pollinators and the provision of pollination are threatened by direct drivers that generate risks to societies and ecosystems; and 6) Many actions to support wild and managed pollinators and pollination could be implemented more effectively with improved governance. Key implications include that protecting pollinators is essential for food security and ecosystem health, and sustainable agricultural practices and habitat conservation are key solutions.

India's Role in IPBES

India has actively engaged in the development and operationalisation of IPBES. India participated in all plenary sessions and contributed to the working programme and conceptualisation frameworks. During the CBD COP 11 hosted in India, the formal establishment was welcomed. The Indian scientific community have been involved in various IPBES assessments, including sustainable use of wild species, invasive alien species, land degradation, etc. Further, India always recognises the strategic importance of IPBES in evidence-based conservation and sustainable development policies.

How You Can Support IPBES

- **Policymakers:** Use IPBES assessments to inform national and international policies.
- **Scientists and Experts:** Contribute to future assessments and knowledge generation.
- **Public and Private Sectors:** Invest in sustainable practices and nature-based solutions.
- **Individuals:** Raise awareness and advocate for biodiversity conservation.

CBD Secretariat: The Engine that keeps Everything Running

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was established under Article 24 of the Convention to support Parties in implementing biodiversity commitments. Initially linked closely with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat later established its permanent headquarters in Montreal, Canada. Over time, its responsibilities expanded significantly with the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. It has evolved from a small coordinating body into a major international environmental institution. Its functions further broadened following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which increased global expectations for implementation and monitoring.

Behind each globally successful international institution is a Secretariat responsible for day-to-day functions, organizing activities, and ensuring continuity between high-level gatherings. The Montreal, Canada-based CBD Secretariat acts as the institutional memory and practical centre of the Convention, operating throughout the year to assist Parties in realizing their biodiversity undertakings.

Although the CBD Secretariat is headquartered in Montreal, it maintains strong institutional collaboration with several international environmental centres across the world. Nairobi plays an important role because it hosts the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a key partner of the Convention. The Secretariat also engages with institutions and conventions located in Geneva, Bonn, Rome, and other global policy hubs. Regional workshops and consultation meetings are frequently organized in different continents to support implementation activities. These global linkages strengthen coordination among biodiversity-related conventions and international organizations.

The Secretariat's Principal Activities

Conference Organising and Office Support

Most noticeable of the CBD Secretariat's activities is in arranging and hosting the numerous meetings of the Convention each year. It not only covers the major COP and SBSTTA events but also numerous small-scale technical workshops, meetings of expert groups, and regional consultations.

Organising meetings extends far beyond fixing locations and caterers. A Secretariat must consult with host governments, arrange complex logistics for a hundred- or thousand-strong meetings, provide interpretation facilities in a dozen different languages, and ensure all paperwork is in place and distributed well ahead of time.

It also offers substantive inputs in meetings such as the preparation of background papers, briefing session chairpersons, facilitating negotiation proceedings, and preparing the reports recording meeting conclusions. It does so on the basis of an intense understanding of the provisions of the Convention, the evolution of decision-making, and the technical matters in focus.

Documentation and Information Management

The CBD generates enormous amounts of data as a part of its various processes, from scientific assessments and technical reports to national plans and reports on implementation. The Secretariat is a focal point repository of such data and makes available the same to the Parties and other stakeholders through various means.

Preparation of documents is one of the Secretariat's keys and most difficult tasks. Dozens of background papers synthesising difficult material, exercising policy options, and offering suggestions for consideration through the Parties are needed for each COP and each SBSTTA meeting. Such papers are scientifically correct, politically neutral, and operationally helpful while remaining available to audiences differing technically from one another.

The Secretariat is responsible for the Convention's total library and documentary services, ensuring that institutional memory gained over thirty years of biodiversity policy evolution is both saved and easily available. This function has also become important in the evolution of the Convention, which requires current decisions to benefit from a vast array of established precedents.

Collaboration and Communication

It works not alone but interacts with numerous other international institutions, conventions, and processes. Secretariat has a main responsibility for managing these relations and ensuring that the endeavour of the CBD is coordinated with relevant activities in other forums.

Formal collaborative agreements are entered into with several of the biodiversity-related conventions, such as CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Migratory Species. The Secretariat pursues coordinated activity with these conventions and seeks to harmonise their activities so they are complementary, not duplicative or conflicting.

Also, the Secretariat acts on behalf of the Convention in wider international processes, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as in various UN processes for sustainable

development. Such representation aids in having considerations on biodiversity mainstreamed in wider international policy deliberations.

ER Engagement Beyond Governments

The Secretariat works closely not only with governments but also with a broad range of non-state stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are important partners due to their traditional knowledge and stewardship practices. The Secretariat also engages scientific institutions, civil society organizations, youth groups, women's organizations, and the private sector. Such inclusive participation helps strengthen biodiversity governance and improves implementation at multiple levels. Stakeholder engagement also promotes awareness, collaboration, and shared responsibility for achieving global biodiversity goals.

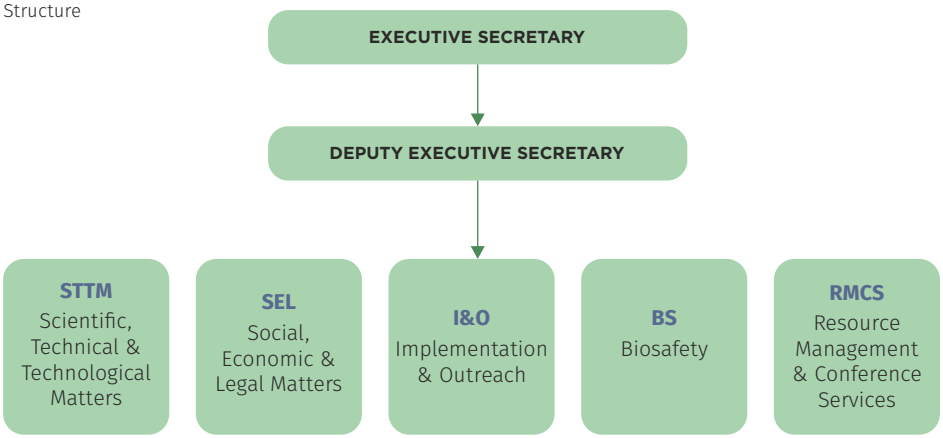
Organizational Design and Professional Activities with Programmatic Segments

The Secretariat is also organized into various programmatic sections reflecting the major areas of activity under the Convention (Figure-4.7). The Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters (STTM) section supports SBSTTA and coordinates scientific work under the Convention, including the preparation of technical assessments as well as organizing networks of experts. The Social, Economic and Legal Matters (SEL) branch is responsible for ensuring policy areas marked by complex relations among the preservation of biodiversity, economic progress, and social issues. It encompasses initiatives on access and benefit-sharing, traditional knowledge, economics and incentives, and sustainable use.

The Implementation and Outreach (I&O) branch is committed to supporting Parties in implementing their Convention responsibilities as well as boosting the overall awareness of biodiversity-related matters. It coordinates projects related to national reporting, building of capacities, education, awareness in the general public, and interacting with various stakeholders.

Biosafety Programme provides technical support for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including the provision of the Biosafety Clearing-House and organizing meetings of the supervisory body of the Protocol.

Figure-4.7
Secretariat-Organisation Structure



Cross-Cutting Functions

Aside from programmatic partitions, the Secretariat also encompasses a number of units availing cross-cutting support services. The Resource Management and Conference Services (RMCS) branch is in charge of financial management, human resources, information technologies, and conference arrangements. Support in legal matters is offered in every branch, so the work of the Secretariat is in harmony with the Convention's legal framework and international law in general. It is a very significant function for the reason that there are intricate matters related to law in areas such as liability and redress, intellectual property rights, and access and benefit-sharing.

Executive leadership and administration functions provide overarching strategic direction and enable coordination among the various divisions and programs (Table-4.4). The Executive Secretary, who is the head of the Secretariat, is the representative face of the Convention and is the primary intermediary with Parties and other international organizations.

Table-4.4: Core functions of Secretariat

Function Areas	Specific Activities	Target beneficiaries	Key Outputs
Administrative Support	Meeting Organisation, logistics, documentation	Parties, meeting participants	Successful meetings, reports
Technical Assistance	Guidelines, best practices, advisory services	Developing countries, practitioners	Technical guidance materials
Information Management	Database management, Clearing House, publications	Global community, researchers	Information products, websites
Coordination & Liaison	Inter-agency cooperation, partnership facilitation	International organisations	Collaborative agreements

Key Services Provided To Parties

Technical and Policy Assistance: Several Parties, especially developing States, do not possess the technical skills and institutional capacity to effectively fulfil their Convention responsibilities. The Secretariat offers a range of facilitation in an attempt to overcome such capacity limitations.

Technical cooperation encompasses the preparation of guidelines and model materials for use in achieving an understanding for the Parties to undertake certain provisions of the Convention. Therefore, the Secretariat has prepared comprehensive guidance on the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and plans of action, conducting environmental impact assessments, and establishing arrangements for access and benefit-sharing.

Policy support means facilitating the understanding of the Parties of the consequences of decisions taken at COP in a way to convert international undertakings into domestic implementation, done through different means such as technical workshops, consultation from experts and direct advisory services.

Capacity Building and Training: As implementation works best with qualified staff and efficient institutions, the Secretariat conducts a vast range of training and capacity



Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Shri Bhupender Yadav being welcomed during the COP 15, Montreal, Canada

building initiatives. They are directed towards a diversity of audiences, ranging from government officials and protected area staff to indigenous leadership and private sector stakeholders.

Training programs encompass scientific training in technical competencies such as monitoring approaches to biodiversity and identification of species, as well as argumentation on policy, including negotiation strategies and methods of engaging stakeholders. Such initiatives are framed in a pragmatic and easily applicable manner in participants' working areas.

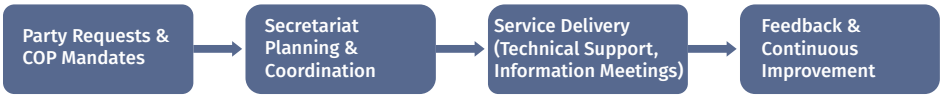
It also facilitates South-South cooperation and cross-fertilisation of knowledge, so that regions of the world learn from each other's examples and adapt good approaches in their own settings.

Information Services and Knowledge Management: The Secretariat is a focal point of biodiversity-related information; it is engaged in gathering, synthesising, and disseminating worldwide knowledge. Its mandate has gained added significance due to fast-paced growth in both biodiversity literature and policy experiences (Figure-4.8).

Information services also cover updating comprehensive databases of national reports, strategies, and policies; monitoring implementation of COP decisions; and monitoring achievement of global biodiversity targets. Such information is available through the Convention's website and analytical reports.

Also managed by the Secretariat is the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, a universal system of technical and scientific cooperation. It facilitates the exchange of information for finding opportunities for collaboration, and for the promotion of joint projects on research and development.

Figure 4.8: Secretariat Service Delivery Flow



Pied Paddy Skimmer
Neurothemis tullia
Dr K Sasikumar, IFS



CBD COPs: A JOURNEY THROUGH THREE DECADES OF GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE



Global Biodiversity Outlooks (GBOs)

The Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) is the flagship assessment publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), providing periodic global reviews of the status of biodiversity, progress towards international biodiversity targets, and future policy directions. Collectively, the five Outlooks document the evolution of global biodiversity governance from the early implementation of the CBD to the adoption of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

GBO-1 (2001) established the first global baseline on biodiversity trends and CBD implementation. **GBO-2 (2006)** assessed progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and highlighted the links between biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human well-being. **GBO-3 (2010)** concluded that the 2010 target had not been achieved and warned of continued biodiversity loss. **GBO-4 (2014)** evaluated progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and identified priorities for accelerated action. **GBO-5 (2020)** found that none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets had been fully achieved globally, emphasized the need for transformative changes across economic, social, and governance systems, and informed the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It concluded that while considerable progress had been made in a number of areas, none of the twenty targets had been entirely met globally. In order to realise the 2050 Vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature," the

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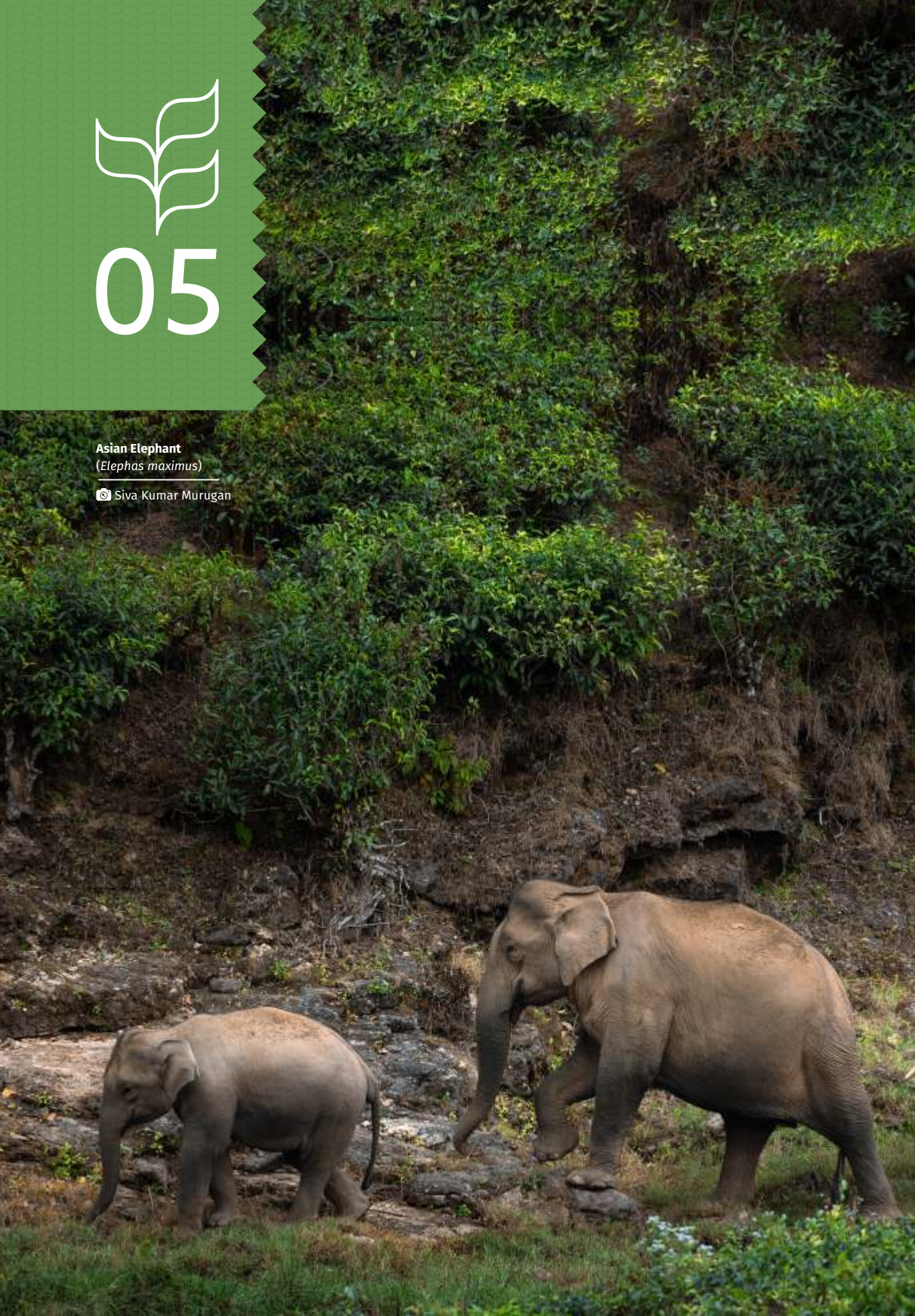


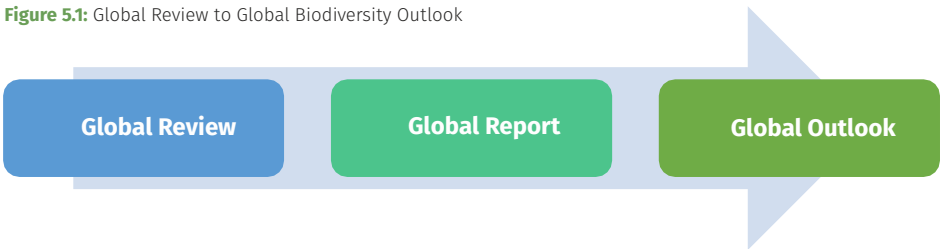
Asian Elephant
(*Elephas maximus*)

Siva Kumar Murugan

report highlighted the necessity of radical reforms in economic, social, and governance systems. It also provided guidance for negotiations over the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Figure-5.1 depicts the process by which the Global Review leads to Global Biodiversity Outlooks.

- **Global Review:** The CBD's global review process periodically assesses collective progress by Parties in implementing the Convention and achieving its goals, identifying gaps, challenges, and priorities for enhanced action.
- **Global Reports:** Under Article 26, Parties submit periodic national reports to the Conference of the Parties (COP) on measures to implement the Convention and their effectiveness in achieving its objectives.

Figure 5.1: Global Review to Global Biodiversity Outlook



AICHI Targets (2011-2020)

As part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were approved during the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP-10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010. The Plan, which offers a common framework for governments, international organizations, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the corporate sector, was created in response to the ongoing loss of biodiversity worldwide and the unfulfilled 2010 biodiversity target.

The framework comprised 20 global targets arranged under five Strategic Goals (A-E): mitigating the causes of biodiversity loss, lowering biodiversity pressures, protecting species and ecosystems, boosting ecological benefits, and bolstering implementation. Through their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), which are backed by national targets, monitoring mechanisms, and recurring reports to the CBD, countries were urged to carry out the targets

Implementation required mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure, and finance, while promoting protected areas, ecosystem restoration, invasive species control, pollution reduction, and stakeholder participation. Subnational governments and local authorities also played important roles in conservation and sustainable resource management.

Although the Aichi Targets significantly increased global attention to biodiversity and drove important policy and conservation actions, global assessments found that none of the 20 targets was fully achieved by 2020. Nevertheless, the experience gained from their implementation provided the foundation for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted in 2022.



Montagu's Harrier
(*Circus pygargus*)

Siva Kumar Murugan



Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) (2022-2030)

At the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP-15), which took place in Montreal, Canada, in December 2022, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) established the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) by Decision 15/4. The Framework replaces the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as the global biodiversity agenda for the years 2030-2050. In order to achieve the goal of "living in harmony with nature" by 2050, it seeks to spur immediate action to stop and reverse the loss of biodiversity.

The KMGBF, a historic international accord sometimes referred to as the "Paris Agreement for Nature," was negotiated over four years and ratified by almost 200 nations. It offers a thorough framework for enterprises, civil society, local communities, indigenous peoples, governments, and other stakeholders to support sustainable use and biodiversity protection. The KMGBF consists of:

- A 2050 Vision of "living in harmony with nature consisting of **four long-term goals for 2050**, addressing ecosystem integrity, species conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, equitable benefit-sharing from genetic resources, and means of implementation.
- 23 action-oriented **global targets for 2030**, to realize the 2050 vision designed to drive immediate action during the current decade. These targets cover reducing threats to biodiversity, promoting sustainable use and benefit-sharing, and strengthening implementation and mainstreaming across sectors. It addresses the root cause of biodiversity decline by integrating conservation into financial systems and economic sectors.

This framework extends the previous global agenda by requiring nations to translate these global goals into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Through revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), parties are required to convert the global targets into national commitments. The implementation includes a monitoring framework, review procedures, a resource mobilization strategy,

capacity-building plans, and requirements pertaining to Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources.

Since the CBD was adopted in 1992, the KMGBF is the most comprehensive global biodiversity pact. It integrates biodiversity considerations into financial systems, development planning, and economic sectors while attempting to address the root causes of biodiversity loss. The Framework offers a shared road map for nations and stakeholders to preserve biodiversity, guarantee sustainable use, and encourage fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources by creating quantifiable global goals and targets.

The Global Review under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a process established through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) to assess collective progress towards its goals and targets. Prior to the KMGBF, global progress was primarily evaluated through the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) reports. GBO-3 (2010) found that the global biodiversity target for 2010 had not been achieved, leading to the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. GBO-4 (2014) provided a mid-term assessment, showing limited progress and highlighting the need for stronger implementation efforts. GBO-5 (2020) concluded that none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets had been fully achieved globally, although some elements of several targets had been met. These findings informed the development and adoption of the KMGBF at COP-15 in 2022. Under the KMGBF, the Global Review will draw on national reports, revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the monitoring framework, and scientific assessments to evaluate implementation and outcomes. The first comprehensive global review is expected to inform COP-17 in 2026, providing an assessment of progress towards the 2030 targets, identifying implementation gaps and challenges, highlighting good practices, and guiding Parties in strengthening biodiversity action, resource mobilization, capacity-building, and international cooperation to achieve the Framework's 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.

Conference of the Parties (COPs)

Conference of the Parties (COP) events for the Convention on Biological Diversity represent the maturation of international governance for the sector of biodiversity over three decades. Each COP has recorded major milestones in the joint endeavour of humankind in responding to the emergency of biodiversity, from the establishment of initial institutional arrangements to the ratification of ambitious world objectives for the conservation of nature. COP's initial gathering had the unprecedented task of transforming the CBD from a treaty into a functional international institution. Meeting in Nassau, little more than a couple of years after the CBD had entered into force, the representatives of 105 countries outlined the foundation for COPs. A summary of the 1st to 16th COP meeting details is presented in Table-5.1.

Table-5.1: COP MEETING DETAILS

COP-1			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
November 28 to December 9	1994	Nassau, Bahamas (The)	105
Theme	**Institutional Framework**		
Outcome	• Established Scientific Advisory Body • Designed GEF as an interim financial mechanism • Adopted medium -term work program • Created Rules of Procedure		
Decisions	**Decision I/2** adopted the most notable accomplishment in view of the Convention's medium- term program of work for 1995-1997. It formed the thematic approach to implementing the CBD, initially focusing on priority thematic areas such as marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, and forest biodiversity, alongside a general framework for international biodiversity governance **Decision I/8** designated the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as the interim financial mechanism, thereby addressing a key institutional question concerning the implementation of the Convention. It ensured that developing countries were to benefit from world funds for conservation of biodiversity, in the process defining the principle that Incremental costs should be met by the international community. **Decision I/6** accepted, setting up the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and thereby establishing the vital science-policy interface to inform evidence-informed decision-making over the course of the Convention's development.		
Remarks	**Institutional Innovation:** COP 1 established several precedents that would impact future meetings. The decision to hold meetings of the COP every two years developed a steady rhythm for international biodiversity governance. Furthermore, the conference instituted the practice of drafting comprehensive decisions with specific recommendations for the Parties, shifting from general pronouncements to practical directives. Their use instituted a democratic system to guide all future COP meetings, facilitate open and inclusive decision-making processes, and uphold the sovereign equality of all the Parties.		
COP-2			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
November 6-7	1995	Jakarta, Indonesia (First COP in a non-industrial Country)	118
Theme		**Marine and coastal biodiversity**	
Outcome	• Established Scientific Advisory Body • Designed GEF as an interim financial mechanism • Adopted medium -term work program • Created Rules of Procedure		
Decisions	**Decision II/10** adopted the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity		

Month	Year	Held at	No. of Country Parties
November 6-7	1995	Jakarta, Indonesia (First COP in a non-industrial Country)	118
Theme		**Marine and coastal biodiversity**	
	Decision II/8 established the CHM to promote scientific and technical cooperation. It was realised that effective conservation of biodiversity not only needed funds but also the sharing of information and the building of capabilities of those countries having different amounts of technical capability. The assembly ratified **Decision II/6** on intellectual property rights, setting in motion the complex negotiations that eventually led to the Nagoya Protocol. It noted the tension between the protection of innovations and the assurance of fair genetic resource access and related traditional knowledge.		
Remarks	**The Jakarta Mandate** set up the first-ever comprehensive thematic work program under the CBD (a template later replicated for other ecosystems). The Mandate identified five activity sub-themes: • integrated marine and coastal area management, • marine and coastal living resources, • marine and coastal protected areas, • mariculture, and • alien species and genotypes • First Comprehensive Thematic Program • Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) • Intellectual Property Rights discussion		
COP-3			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
November 14-15	1996	Buenos Aires, Argentina	132
Theme		**Agricultural biodiversity and biosafety**	
Outcome	• Launched National Reporting Frameworks • Agricultural Biodiversity Program adopted • Traditional Knowledge recognition • Biosafety Protocol Negotiations launched		
Decisions	**National Reporting Frameworks:** Decision III/9 introduced a standardized system for the presentation of national reports, hence introducing a systematic procedure for tracking and assessing the pace of implementation globally. **Agricultural Biodiversity Program:** Decision III/11 established an entire program for agricultural biodiversity, acknowledging the key role of genetic diversity in crops and livestock for the maintenance of world food security. It comprised plans for both the conservation of genetic material for agriculture and the sustainable utilisation of biodiversity for agricultural ecosystems. Further, the Decision commended the significance of traditional farming and knowledge system approaches in biodiversity conservation as key aspects.		

Month	Year	Held at	No. of Country Parties
November 14-15	1996	Buenos Aires, Argentina	132
Theme	**Agricultural biodiversity and biosafety**		
	Biosafety Protocol Negotiation: Decision III/20 to set up an Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety for preparing a draft protocol on biosafety. It started what was to turn out to be one of the most contentious and complicated negotiations in international environmental law.		
Remarks	National reporting frameworks obliged nations to present implementation reports every two years, hence generating frameworks of accountability while at the same time presenting invaluable data on trends and challenges in conservation. The initiative on agricultural biodiversity progressed substantially with the express mention of the role of farmers, indigenous people, and local communities in the preservation of genetic diversity as custodians. The issue of biosafety was an answer to rising concern about the environmental and health impact of genetically modified organisms, particularly the impact of such organisms on biodiversity. It was a reflection of the awareness that such a concern required differentiated instruments of law from the CBD provisions.		

COP-4			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
May 4-15	1998	Bratislava, Slovakia	150
Theme	**Inland water ecosystems and the ecosystem approach**		
Outcome	• Ecosystem Approach adopted • Inland water ecosystems program initiated • Traditional Knowledge work program initiated • 12 ecosystem principles established		
Decisions	**The Ecosystem Approach Adoption:** Decision IV/1B, enshrined the ecosystem approach as the central tool of activity under the Convention. Such a decision represented a cornerstone shift from species-by-species preservation towards holistic ecosystem management. **Inland Water Ecosystems:** Decision IV/4 determined a programme of work for the biological diversity of inland aquatic ecosystems, such as rivers, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater systems. It was realised that the freshwater ecosystems are disproportionately threatened despite the fact that they are crucial for sustaining amazing biodiversity. **Traditional Knowledge Recognition:** Made a significant step forward on Article 8(j) and related provisions in Decision IV/9, essentially laying out a program of work on traditional innovations, knowledge, and practices.		
Remarks	Ecosystem approach highlights the essence of human beings as components of ecosystems, asserting that conservation needs to consider both the requirements of biodiversity and human societies. It was agreed to set out twelve general principles for ecosystem-based management, such as adaptive management, suitable spatial scales, and engagement of stakeholders.		

Month	Year	Held at	No. of Country Parties
May 4-15	1998	Bratislava, Slovakia	150
Theme	**Inland water ecosystems and the ecosystem approach**		
	The inland waters program emphasized integrated watershed management, recognizing that effective freshwater conservation requires addressing activities throughout entire river basins. This landscape-scale approach would influence all subsequent thematic programs. Article 8 (j) provisions highlighted indigenous and local communities as co-players in biodiversity conservation rather than simple beneficiaries of conservation efforts.		
COP-5			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
May 15-26	2000	Nairobi, Kenya	180
Theme	**Biosafety and sustainable use**		
Outcome	• Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety established • Addis Ababa Principle (Sustainable Use Guidelines) • Bonn Guidelines (Access and Benefit Sharing) • Global Taxonomy Initiative expanded		
Decisions	**Historic Biosafety Achievement:** Witnessed the accord on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the first protocol of the CBD. After protracted negotiations spanning years, the protocol set out international guidelines for the safe use, handling, and transfer of living modified organisms whose impact on biodiversity might not be favourable. **Sustainable Use Guidelines: Decision V/24** ratified the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. These guidelines were practical guidelines for the implementation of the CBD's second objective, with concrete measures for ensuring biological resource use remains within ecological limits. **Access and Benefit-Sharing progress: Decision V/26** established the Bonn Guidelines on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable benefit-sharing from such use. Voluntary in nature, they offered the first holistic multilateral framework for the implementation of the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity.		
Remarks	The implementation of the protocol marked a significant achievement for nations advocating for precautionary strategies in the regulation of biotechnology, simultaneously addressing apprehensions related to promoting advantageous uses of genetic modification technologies. Principles on sustainable use advocated for adaptive management, stakeholder involvement, and economic incentives for conservation. They further indicated that the sustainable use had to balance both ecological sustainability and social equity.		

COP-6			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
April 7-19	2002	The Hague, the Netherlands	188
Theme	**Strategic planning and forest biodiversity**		
Outcome	• 2010 Biodiversity Target adopted • Strategic Plan for Convention • Expanded Forest Biodiversity Program • Global Taxonomy Initiative enhanced		
Decisions	**The 2010 Biodiversity Target:** Adoption of **Decision VI/26**, laying out the Convention's Strategic Plan. Its aim was to "achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional, and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth." **Expanding Forest Biodiversity: Decision VI/22** established an expanded programme of work concerning forest biological diversity, in consideration of the essential contribution of forests to biodiversity protection and climate regulation. It determined a programme of sustainable forest management as a main strategy of conservation capable of sustaining forest biodiversity in concordance with human requirements. **Global Taxonomy Project: Decision VI/8** considerably amplified the Global Taxonomy Initiative, in appreciation of the fundamental importance of species identification and classification for all biodiversity conservation-related work. It resolved the "taxonomic impediment," a lack of adequate taxonomic expertise and knowledge that hampers the effectiveness of conservation initiatives.		
Remarks	The 2010 target established the first explicit and time-bound objective for the conservation of world biodiversity, generating the focus and sense of urgency previously absent in earlier implementation plans. It was subsequently endorsed through the World Summit on Sustainable Development and became a focal point of the Millennium Development Goals.		

COP-7			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
February 9-20	2004	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	190
Theme	**Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas**		
Outcome	• Mountain Biodiversity Program • Protected Areas work program • Addis Ababa Principles implementation • Climate change adaptation guidance		
Decisions	**Mountain Biodiversity Program: Decision VII/27** instituted a mountain biological diversity work program, thereby filling out the CBD's comprehensive approach to major kinds of ecosystems. Mountain ecosystems offer priceless watershed functions and are characterised by exceptional biodiversity and high endemism rates.		

COP-7			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
	Program of Work for Protected Areas: Decision VII/28 ratified a comprehensive initiative for the protection of areas, setting out clear targets for the improvement and enlargement of the world's protected area system. It called for the achievement of ecologically representative networks of protected areas for land regions by 2010 and for seas and oceans by 2012. **Addis Ababa Principles Implementation:** Decision VII/12 offered explicit guidelines concerning the application of the Addis Ababa Principles for sustainable use, including measurement criteria for the practice of sustainable use as well as case studies on successful implementation.		
Remarks	The mountain Program emphasised the vulnerability of high-altitude ecosystems to climate change and highlighted the need for maintaining connectivity of mountain habitats in order to accommodate species migration in response to a changing environment.		

COP-8			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
March 20-31	2006	Curitiba, Brazil	196
Theme		**Strategic planning and forest biodiversity**	
Outcome	• Mid-term review of 2010 target • Invasive Alien Species Strategy • Private sector engagement • Indicator Framework revised		
Decisions	**Mid-term Review and Adjustment: Decision VIII/15** adopted advanced indicators for reviewing progress, but noted that much increased efforts were needed in order to achieve the 2010 target. **Alien Species Plan: Decision VIII/27** set out guiding principles for the prevention, designation, and minimization of effects related to alien invasive species. Alien invasive species are a major cause of the degradation of biodiversity, and the decision provided comprehensive direction for addressing the problem. **Private Sector Engagement:** COP 8 had a significant increase in private sector engagement through various side events and initiatives.		
Remarks	COP 8 made a comprehensive assessment of 2010 target progress, identifying significant gaps in intentions and implementation. It was noted in the proceedings that the achievement of the world's biodiversity targets would entail considerable engagement by business and industry as well as government initiatives.		

COP-9			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
May 19-30	2008	Bonn, Germany	195
Theme	**Strategic planning and forest biodiversity**		
Outcome	• Resource mobilisation strategy • Agricultural Biodiversity International Initiative • Forest biodiversity work expanded • Innovative financial mechanism		
Decisions	**Resource Mobilization Strategy: Decision IX/11** established a strategy aimed at mobilizing resources to support the three objectives of the Convention. It acknowledged that meeting biodiversity targets would necessitate substantial enhancements in funding from both governmental and non-governmental sources. **Agricultural Biodiversity International Initiative: Resolution IX/1** instituted the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agricultural Biodiversity, gathering governments, international agencies, and civil society for a common objective of tackling the key contribution of agricultural genetic diversity to food security.		
Remarks	Resource mobilisation strategy demanded innovative use of instruments such as payments for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsets, and green fiscal reform for harmonising economic incentives with biodiversity conservation.		

COP-10			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
October 18-29	2010	Nagoya, Japan	193
Theme	**Life in harmony - into the future we want**		
Outcome	• Aichi Biodiversity targets (20 targets) • Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 • Nagoya Protocol on ABS • Resource mobilisation commitments		
Decisions	**Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:** Ratification of **Decision X/2**, adopting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Those targets set much more specific and measurable goals than the unsuccessful 2010 target, but they dealt with a much broader array of biodiversity issues from habitat destruction through to sustainable use. **Nagoya Protocol on ABS:** Concurred on the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, thereby offering a substantive legal instrument for the fulfilment of CBD's third objective. **Resource Mobilization Commitment: Decision X/3** committed developed countries to greatly increased financing for biodiversity, specifically mentioning the target of doubling international financial flows by 2015. The commitment accepted the fact that achieving the Aichi Targets would require unprecedented amounts of investment in the preservation of biodiversity.		

COP-10			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
Remarks	Aichi Targets were harmonized with five key strategic objectives: • Strategic Goal A: Fight against root causes of biodiversity loss • Strategic Objective B: Reduce direct threats to biodiversity. • Societal Goal C: Enhance the health of biodiversity through the preservation of ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity. • Sustainable Objective D: Increase the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services for everyone. • Strategic Goal E: Support implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management, and capacity building The Nagoya Protocol set out specific responsibilities for both provider and user countries, as well as mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement.		

COP-11			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
October 8-19	2012	Hyderabad, India	190
Theme		**Biodiversity for sustainable development**	
Outcome	• Financial targets set (doubling by 2015) • Hyderabad Call for a Quantum Leap • Marine Spatial Planning guidance • Ecosystem Services emphasis		
Decisions	Financial Commitments: Focused on resource mobilization, and Decision XI/4 set initial targets for doubling total biodiversity-related financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015 and maintaining such pace through 2020. Hyderabad Call for a Quantum Leap: Increase in funding for biodiversity conservation emphasized the need for innovative financial approaches and engagement of the private sector in achieving the Aichi Targets. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity: Decision XI/17 established updated recommendations concerning marine spatial planning and educational programs, acknowledging the pressing requirement to fulfil the objectives of Target 11 related to marine protected areas.		

COP-12			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
October 6-17	2014	Pyeongchang Republic of Korea	195
Theme		**Biodiversity for sustainable development**	
Outcome	• Pyeongchang roadmap adopted • Mid-term review of Aichi Targets • Biodiversity and Climate integration • Implementation acceleration measures		
Decisions	**Pyeongchang Roadmap:** Decision XII/1 ratified the Pyeongchang Roadmap for enhancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, providing interim guidance to accelerate progress towards achieving the Aichi Targets.		

COP-12			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
	Biodiversity and Global Warming: Decision XII/20 significantly expanded the guidelines on biodiversity and climate change, recognizing the increased importance of measures centered on ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation.		
Remarks	The strategic plan set out for the second half of the decade included the reinforcement of national plans for biodiversity, the continuation of scientific collaboration, and the upscaling of efficient plans for conservation.		

COP-13			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
December 4-17	2016	Cancun, Mexico	196
Theme	**Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Opportunities for Business**		
Outcome	• Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming • Sectoral Guidance (agriculture, forests, tourism) • Digital Sequence Information debate begins • Gender Action Plan adopted		
Decisions	**Cancún Declaration on Mainstreaming: Decision XIII/3** provided comprehensive guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral plans of agriculture, forests, fisheries, and tourism sectors, including sectoral recommendations on policy integration and stakeholder engagement. **Digital Sequence Information Controversy:** COP 13 also ushered in spirited debates on digital sequence information for genetic resources, a contentious matter that was to feature prominently in later negotiations as genomic technologies were rising fast.		
Remarks	The Cancún Declaration called for mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors Cancún Declaration called for mainstreaming of biodiversity for every government and societal sector in consideration of the reason that meeting international biodiversity targets extends far beyond mainstream areas of conservation.		

COP-14			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
November 17-29	2018	Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt	196
Theme	**Investing in biodiversity for people and planet**		
Outcome	• Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming • Sectoral Guidance (agriculture, forests, tourism) • Digital Sequence Information debate begins • Gender Action Plan adopted		
Decisions	**Final Push for Aichi Targets:** With two years to 2020, COP 14 called for immediate action in accelerating implementation through **Decision XIV/1**, seeking the first time transformative change in achieving the Aichi Targets.		

COP-14			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
	Post-2020 Framework Preparation: Decision XIV/34 outlined the process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including consideration of the need for a new strategic plan in 2020. **Synthetic Biology Regulation: Decision XIV/19** set up a recurrent mechanism for reviewing progress in synthetic biology and their likely effects on biodiversity, thereby fulfilling an overarching challenge surrounding emergent technologies.		
Remarks	The strategic plan set out for the second half of the decade included the reinforcement of national plans for biodiversity, the continuation of scientific collaboration, and the upscaling of efficient plans for conservation.		

COP-15 (Part 1)			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
October 11-15	2021	Kunming, China	196
Theme	**Ecological civilization - building a shared future for all life on earth**		
Outcome	• Kunming Declaration adopted • Commitment to new Global Framework • Leadership statements on urgency • Preparation for Montreal negotiations		
Decisions	**Kunming Declaration:** Highlighted the need for short-term action to address the biodiversity crisis while also expressing the key role for biodiversity in facilitating sustainable development and human well-being.		
Remarks	With COVID-19 pandemic regulations, Part I of COP 15 was conducted online, resulting in the Kunming Declaration committing world leaders to elaborate, adopt, and realise an efficient post-2020 GBF.		

COP-15 (Part 2)			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
December 7-19	2022	Montreal, Canada	196
Theme	**Nature positive for people and planet**		
Outcome	• Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) • 30 X 30 target (30% protection by 2030) • $200 billion annual funding by 2030 • 23 targets for 2030; 4 goals for 2050		
Decisions	**KMGBF: Decision 15/4**, approved the KMGBF and adopted a bold vision for a future- "a world of living in harmony with nature where, by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people." **Financial Responsibilities: Decision 15/7** set historic financial undertakings, including increasing world financial contributions to at least $20 billion a year in 2025 and $30 billion a year in 2030, as well as ending or reducing detrimental subsidies of at least $500 billion a year.		

COP-15 (Part 2)			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
	Implementation Mechanisms: Encompass arrangements for comprehensive planning, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation for the purpose of preventing implementation slips characteristic of past strategic plans. Increased accountability and transparency provisions set to see expressed commitments translated into practice effectively.		
Remarks	Established four 2050 goals and 23 targets for 2030 (e.g., flagship target of maintaining 30% of lands & seas by 2030 (30x30 target); key targets include reducing extinction risk, restoring damaged ecosystems, and raising $200 billion annually for biodiversity conservation.		
COP-16 Part I			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
October 21 – November 1	2024	Cali, Colombia	196
Theme	**Towards making peace with nature**		
Outcome	• COP 16 advanced implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and assessed progress since its adoption at COP15 • Parties adopted the Strategy for Resource Mobilization to support implementation of the KMGBF and address the global biodiversity finance gap • COP 16 adopted a new Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and related provisions up to 2030. • COP 16 operationalized the multilateral mechanism on benefit-sharing from the use of DSI, including the Cali Fund		
Decisions	• **Cali Fund: Decision 16/2** addresses the mechanism for benefit-sharing from DSI, including the Cali Fund, and establishes the operational framework for the DSI benefit-sharing mechanism • Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and related provisions to 2030 is addressed in decision 16/4. • **Financial mechanism: Decision 16/34** addresses operation and future development of the CBD financial mechanism, including Articles 20 and 21. Establishes the Strategy for Resource Mobilization supporting KMGBF implementation and Target 19.		
Remarks	COP 16 should therefore be characterized not merely as a conference that adopted individual thematic decisions, but as a major implementation COP for the KMGBF. Its most consequential institutional outcomes were the completion of the KMGBF monitoring framework and PMRR mechanism, agreement on resource mobilization and the future financial mechanism, operationalization of the Cali Fund/DSI benefit-sharing mechanism, and elevation of IPLC participation through the permanent Article 8(j) subsidiary body.		

COP-16 Part II			
Month	**Year**	**Held at**	**No. of Country Parties**
February 25-27	2025	Rome, Italy	196
Theme	**Towards making peace with nature**		
Outcome	• Parties reached agreement on the outstanding elements of biodiversity finance and resource mobilization. The agreement completed one of the most politically sensitive issues left unresolved in Cali. It seeks to improve the availability, predictability and accessibility of biodiversity finance, particularly for developing countries • Parties agreed on a process towards future permanent arrangements for the financial mechanism, rather than immediately establishing a new standalone fund.		
Decisions	• **Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review (PMRR): Decision 16/32** establishes the process for national reporting and global review of collective progress, including reviews at COP17 and COP19. • **Resource mobilization: Decision 16/34** establishes the Strategy for Resource Mobilization to 2030 and the roadmap for mobilizing biodiversity finance. • **Financial mechanism: Decision 16/34** addresses the financial mechanism supporting implementation of the Convention and KMGBF		
Remarks	The most important consequence of the Rome session for COP17 is that the focus shifts from negotiating the basic KMGBF implementation architecture to demonstrating implementation and collective progress. The agreed monitoring framework, PMRR, and resource-mobilization arrangements will provide the basis for the first global review at COP17. Therefore, national data, indicators, financial reporting and implementation information submitted through national processes will become increasingly important.		

Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) (Montreal, Canada 2022): Key Highlights

Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Following a lengthy intersessional period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, the first part of COP 15 was convened virtually from 11-15 October 2021, with a limited number of delegates physically present in Kunming, China. The Kunming Declaration was adopted, which called for urgent and integrated action to reflect biodiversity considerations in all sectors of the global economy. The second part of the meeting, the 2022 UN Biodiversity Conference, took place from 7 to 19 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada. India participated in the negotiations and adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), with the following key takeaways:

i. **Target 3:** India's intervention of clubbing the land and sea areas to reach the 30x30 target was accepted;

ii. **Target 6:** India's intervention of no numerical target for eradication and control of invasive alien species globally was accepted;

iii. **Target 8:** India's intervention in Nature-based solutions and Ecosystem-based approaches, conjugated with and/or to be implemented as per national circumstances, priorities and capabilities, was accepted.

iv. **Target 18:** India's intervention in the Phase-out or reform of harmful subsidies was retained in the final text instead of the complete phase-out of harmful subsidies.

CoP-15 adopted 35 decisions, including KMGBF. The meeting approved a series of related agreements on their implementation, including planning, monitoring, reporting and review; resource mobilisation; helping nations build their capacity to meet the obligations; and digital sequence information on genetic resources.

View of the dais during the COP 15 plenary on December 5, 2022. Photo by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis.



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) (Cali-Rome, 2024-2025): Key Highlights

The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) marked a critical milestone in advancing the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The conference was held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024, with a resumed session concluding in Rome, Italy, on 27 February 2025 after negotiations in Cali were suspended due to a lack of quorum.

A major achievement of COP 16 was the agreement on biodiversity finance and resource mobilization. Parties adopted a Strategy for Resource Mobilization aimed at closing the global biodiversity finance gap and supporting the KMGBF target of mobilizing at least US$200 billion annually by 2030. Importantly, Parties agreed on a process to establish a **permanent financial instrument for biodiversity under the Convention**, with a decision to be taken at COP 18 in 2028. The agreement outlines a roadmap for improving the global biodiversity finance architecture and enhancing the accessibility, effectiveness, and predictability of financial resources for developing countries. COP 16 also reaffirmed commitments to increase international biodiversity finance flows to developing countries.

The meeting finalized the monitoring framework and the Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review (PMRR) mechanism, providing Parties with a common set of indicators to assess progress towards the Framework's goals and targets. COP 16 further operationalized the Cali Fund, a multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources. Notably, at least 50 per cent of the Fund's resources will support the priorities and needs of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

Another landmark outcome was the establishment of a permanent subsidiary body on Article 8(j), formally strengthening the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in CBD processes. Additional decisions addressed biodiversity and climate change, invasive alien species, synthetic biology, ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), biodiversity and health, capacity-building, and technical and scientific cooperation. Collectively, the outcomes of COP 16 strengthened the institutional, financial, and monitoring framework required to implement the KMGBF and reinforced global commitment to halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.

Patterns and Evolution Across Three Decades

A total of 5 phases mark the patterns and evolution of COP across the three decades (Figure-5.2).

Phase-1-Institutional Development (COPs 1-3, 1994-1996)

Early COPs centred on establishing the institutional framework for delivering on the CBD. Principal accomplishments were the setting up of SBSTTA, the identification of GEF as the means of financial mechanism, and the initiation of thematic program preparation. These COPs paved the way for systematic international biodiversity governance.

Phase-2-Program Development (COPs 4-6, 1998-2002)

This period witnessed the formation of comprehensive thematic programmes for the entirety of major ecosystems, embracing the ecosystem approach, and for the first time in global target setting through the 2010 biodiversity target. Adoption of the Cartagena Protocol was the CBD's foray into biotechnology governance.



Figure-5.2
Phases of the Three Decades of COP

Phase-3-Implementation Intensification (COPs 7-10, 2004-2010)

As the 2010 deadline came near, the COPs became more interested in implementation, gathering of resources, and monitoring progress. Non- achievement of the 2010 target led to more sophisticated target setting in the form of the Aichi Targets and more attention to mainstreaming biodiversity across the sectors.

Phase-4-Mainstreaming and Integration (COPs 11-14, 2012-2018)

This was a phase of mainstreaming biodiversity considerations in the broader economic and development policies in response to newer challenges, including synthetic biology and digital sequence information. Broad recognition of the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development characterized the period.

Phase-5-Global Biodiversity Framework Phase (COP 15-16 & 16.2, 2021-2025)

After adopting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a new era of unprecedented ambition was ushered in with enhanced accountability mechanisms and acknowledgement of biodiversity's essential contribution to human welfare and planetary health. COP 16 outcomes on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) focused on operationalizing the framework's goals. In the context of Monitoring and Review Mechanisms, Parties agreed on a standardized set of indicators to measure progress against the KMGBF's 23 targets and 4 goals. This establishes a "common yardstick" allowing countries to aggregate national tracking up to the global level in preparation for the global stock take at COP17.



White-eyed Buzzard
(*Butastur teesa*)

Siva Kumar Murugan

FUNDING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM



Funding is not necessarily the most exciting feature of biodiversity protection, but it is entirely vital. Conservation of ecosystems, managing species populations, setting up protected areas and finding sustainable substitutes for ecologically harmful activities involve substantial expenditure. CBD's fund mechanism is one of the most significant and intricate features of international biodiversity governance.

06



Great Hornbill
(*Buceros bicornis*)

Kingsley David

UNDERSTANDING THE FISCAL CHALLENGE

The Magnitude of Financing Needs

Successful conservation of biodiversity entails massive financial investments on various scales and temporal arrangements. At the international scale, it is estimated that world biodiversity objectives need additional annual investments in the range of several hundred billion dollars on top of current investment amounts.

These investments need to span a wide range of activities, from establishing and maintaining protected site networks to assisting in the practice of sustainable forests and agriculture. They both encompass direct conservation investments (e.g., purchasing lands for protection) and indirect investments (e.g., generating alternative incomes for communities currently engaged in environmentally damaging activities).

This financing need is most pressing in developing nations, where much of the planet's biodiversity exists, but where there are often not enough funds on hand for productive conservation initiatives. Developing nations are presented with a trade-off of either tending to short-term human development requirements or investing in lasting environmental protection.

The Incremental Cost Principle

Article 20 of the CBD enounces a primary rule for the response to the necessity for funds: developed countries bind themselves to provide "*new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed full incremental costs*" of discharging their Convention obligations.

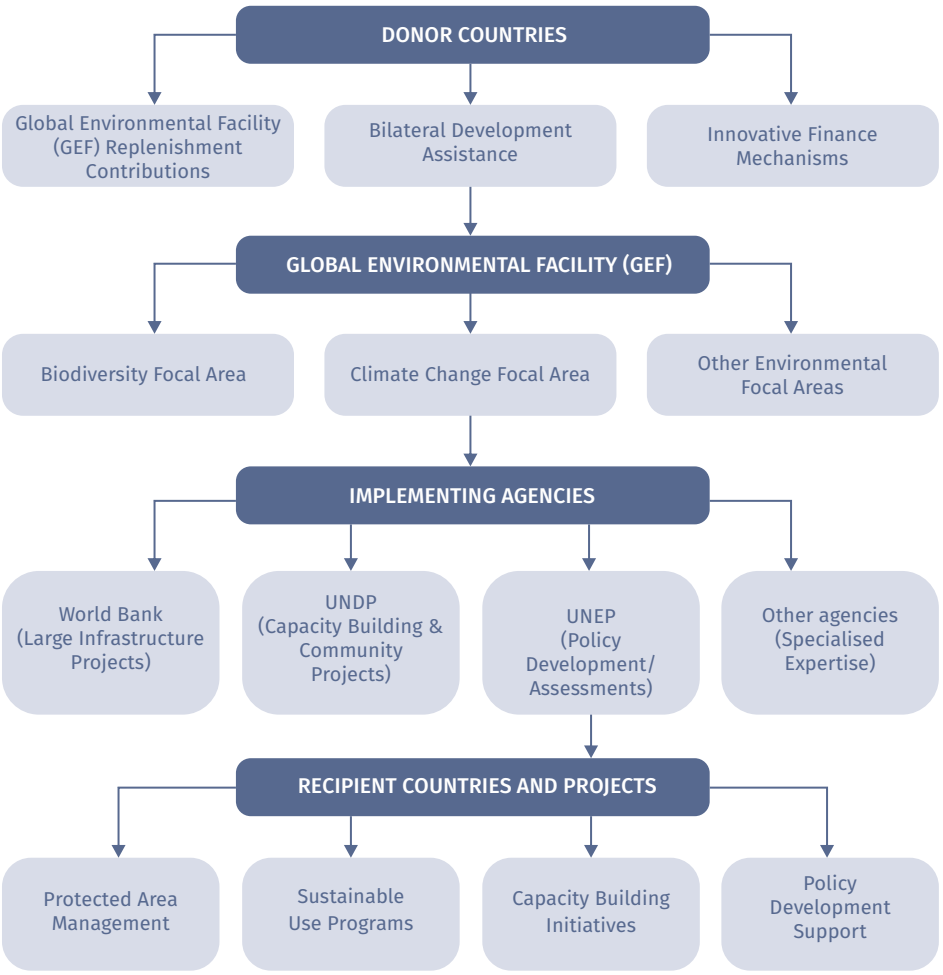
The incremental cost principle recognizes that it is not proper for developing countries to bear the entire expense for conservation projects generating universal benefits. Instead, it is necessary for the world to bear the additional costs for such countries when they choose environmentally benign options over cheaper alternatives that could negatively affect biodiversity.

For example, if a forested nation was capable of generating $100 million from clear-cutting a forest but was only capable of generating $60 million from sustainable forest management, then the added expense of biodiversity-friendly forest management was $40 million. According to the CBD's fund, such a rise in expenses must be covered from international funds.

Himalayan Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*)
Pooja Kumari



Figure 6.1: Financial Mechanism Funding Flow



The Global Environment Facility: The CBD's Financial Engine GEF Structure and Governance

Article 39 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) also designated the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to serve temporarily as the Convention's financial mechanism. Conceived in the early stages as a short-term measure, the GEF has continued to serve as the CBD's financial mechanism for over three decades, having developed into a lasting feature of the international environmental finance architecture (Figure-6.1).

GEF is a partnership of 183 countries, international agencies, the private sector, and civil society. Its operating mechanism is a GEF Council comprised of 32 representatives from different constituencies, of whom 16 are from developing countries, 14 from developed economies, and 2 from transition economies. This governance framework secures for the developing world much input into GEF policies and priorities while reassuring developed world contributors that funds are being expended effectively. It requires consensus on all GEF decisions, thereby ensuring that each of the various stakeholder groups has real veto power over any policies it disagrees with strongly.

GEF Execution Agencies

GEF does not actually implement projects but rather through a system of implementing agencies qualified with technical skill and implementation capability to handle complex projects in conservation (Table-6.1). The initial implementing agencies were the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

With time, GEF's implementing agency network was enlarged to cover regional development banks, UN specialized agencies, and national institutions from developing regions. Expanding implementing agencies in such a way made implementation more local for communities and regions where conservation activity is carried out, and increased local capacity for project implementation.

Each implementing agency contributes different strengths and comparative advantages to GEF projects. The World Bank offers experience in big infrastructure and reform projects. UNDP is a specialist in capacity building and community conservation methods. UNEP is a specialist in regional and international environmental assessments and policy formulation.

Table-6.1: GEF Implementation Structure

Level	Entity	Primary Function	Key Features
Governance	GEF Council (32 Members)	Policy and Strategy Direction	Consensus-based decision making, developing country majority
Implementation	Implementing Agencies	Project Management and Execution	World Bank, UNDP, UNEO, Regional banks, National Institutions
Oversight	COP Guidance	Project Setting and Policy Direction	Determines eligibility criteria, strategic priorities and funding allocation
Recipients	Developing Countries	Project Implementation and Execution	National ownership, Incremental cost coverage, capacity building support

INCREMENTAL COST PRINCIPLE: Developed countries provide funding for the additional costs that developing countries incur when choosing biodiversity-friendly options over cheaper alternatives that would harm biodiversity. For example, if sustainable forest management generates 60 million USD versus 100 million USD from clear-cutting, the 40 million USD difference should be covered by international funding.

Project Development and Approval Process

GEF projects start from concepts developed by host countries together with implementing agencies. Such proposals are then expected to demonstrate how proposed activities shall generate international environmental benefits while at the same time serving the host country's developmental objectives.

Development of projects normally requires wide consultation with stakeholders such as government agencies, civil society, indigenous and local communities, and those from the private sector. Consultation facilitates well-designed projects, technically valid projects, and projects with widespread support for implementation.

All GEF projects must be endorsed by the recipient country's GEF operational focal point, typically a senior government official responsible for coordinating GEF activities. This endorsement ensures that projects align with national priorities and have high-level political support.



Nilgiri Sholakili
(*Sholicola major*)

Siva Kumar Murugan

COP Direction to the Financial Mechanism Policy

Leadership and Priorities

The funds operate under the authority and direction of the COP, who fixes the policy, strategy, program priorities, and the eligibility for accessing funds. Such a guidance relationship seeks to ensure GEF funds serve explicit objectives and priorities set by CBD Parties in preference to advancing independent agendas. It provides guidance to the financial mechanism through overarching decisions set at each gathering. Such guidance encompasses both general policies (such as the kinds of initiatives that should receive funds) and specific programmatic directives (such as an emphasis on particular ecosystems or approaches to conservation).

COP directives on CBD implementation have evolved significantly in the three decades of implementation, both in reaction to rising international experience with biodiversity finance and international priorities. Earlier directives focused on the establishment of minimum conservation infrastructure, while subsequent directives pay more attention to landscape-scale implementation, ecosystem services, and harmonization with sustainable developmental objectives.

Replenishment Negotiations

GEF follows a four-year cycle of funds, called replenishment, where the donor countries agree on a pool of funds available and how they are to be distributed among different focal areas. These are focal points for international commitment for biodiversity conservation.

Traditional GEF's biggest area of focus is biodiversity, and it normally receives 25-30% of the entire GEF funds. Biodiversity funds, however, are contested by other high-priority environmental areas like climate change in both the adaptation and the mitigation fronts, chemicals and waste, and forest sustainability.

COP is also actively engaged in replenishment negotiations by communicating priorities and resource needs of the Parties to donor countries. COP resource needs decisions help set the starting point for negotiation and build political cover for ambitious replenishment targets.

GEF Biodiversity Portfolio and Impact Steward

Geographical and Thematic Dispersion

GEF biodiversity grants have enabled projects in more than 155 nations, with the highest investments normally going into those nations where the opportunity for conservation is high, and biodiversity is high. Among the major recipients have been Mexico, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and numerous nations in sub- Saharan Africa.

Thematically, GEF projects on biodiversity have spanned the entire spectrum of conservation issues tackled under the CBD. Establishing and managing protected areas have traditionally enjoyed a majority of the funds, a reflection of the basic significance of the protection of habitats for biodiversity protection.

Nevertheless, the GEF portfolio evolved over time to include more diversified methods of biodiversity conservation. Recent projects included sustainable use of biological resources, ecosystem adaptation to climate change, ecosystem restoration, and mainstreaming biodiversity aspects in productive sectors such as agriculture and tourism.

Measurable Conservation Benefits

Since its inception, three decades ago, the GEF has made significant measurable impacts towards the preservation of world biodiversity. The facility has financed the establishment or upgraded management of some 230 million hectares of protected areas, a region larger than Algeria or nearly 10% of the world's entire protected areas.

GEF projects have directly helped save many threatened species, from big mammals such as tigers and elephants to marine species such as sharks and sea turtles. Most of these conservation initiatives involved not only protection measures but also community-driven approaches to management, supplying sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

The facility has furthermore contributed to substantial capacity-building initiatives, educating thousands of professionals in conservation, reinforcing environmental institutions, and formulating policy frameworks that promote biodiversity conservation. These investments in capacity building frequently yield effects that reach well beyond the scope of individual projects.

Other and supplementary sources of funds

Bilateral and Multilateral Development Assistance

While the GEF is the largest pool of pledged international funds for biodiversity conservation, it constitutes only a small fraction of the total funds needed. Biodiversity-related work is financed from major additional funds put in by donor country bilateral development agencies, most of which are a part of comprehensive development projects.

Main bilateral supporters of biodiversity are the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, and the Nordic nations. Such supporters are driven to pay attention to specific regions or activity sectors, corresponding to areas of technical excellence and foreign policy areas of concern.

Also playing key roles are the multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank, regional development banks, and the specialized banks like the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in facilitating activities for biodiversity conservation through their funds. Biodiversity may not in particular be the focal point for such banks, but their funds for sustainable agriculture, rural development, and natural resource management yield significant co-benefits for biodiversity.

New Financing Strategies

Increased awareness of the economic benefits of biodiversity has resulted in the establishment of a series of innovative financial instruments with the potential to complement mainstream donor funds. Ecosystem service payment schemes offer compensation for communities and landholders for their services of having ecosystems with benefits such as water purification, carbon sequestration, or flood protection.

Debt-for-nature swaps enable developing nations to alleviate their foreign debt obligations in return for pledges to allocate resources towards environmental conservation. These frameworks can generate considerable funding for conservation efforts while simultaneously tackling issues related to development financing.

Green bonds and various environmental financial instruments are steadily including aspects for biodiversity, although such a sector continues to remain considerably minimal compared to the climate markets.

SYNERGY BETWEEN THE RIO CONVENTIONS: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEA FOCAL POINTS



The Rio-Trio

The loss of biodiversity, desertification, and climate change are closely related and present existential problems for humanity. At the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992, governments convened to examine and tackle such existential issues.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were made available for signature during this summit, and Agenda 21 called for the negotiation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). For this reason, these three sister gatherings were eventually referred to as "**the Rio Conventions**" as a group. Sustainable development is at the core of the three Rio Conventions, which were created in response to similar environmental and development challenges.

The Rio Conventions collaborate closely. As cross-cutting solutions are created for the existing problems associated with desertification, climate change and increased biodiversity loss, there are also significant overlaps in their agenda and activities.

07



Bengal Tiger
(*Panthera tigris tigris*)

Kingsley David

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) establishes a general framework for international initiatives aimed at addressing the problem of climate change. Its goals are to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at a level that would avoid hazardous human intervention with the climate system within a timeframe that would allow ecosystems to naturally adjust to climate change. The UNFCC secretariat is in Bonn, Germany.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The conservation of biological diversity, its sustainable use, and the just and equitable distribution of the benefits resulting from commercial and other uses of genetic resources are the main goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Biotechnology is also included in the Convention, as are all potential fields that are either directly or indirectly connected to biodiversity and its role in development, from business, agriculture, and culture to research, politics, and education. The CBD secretariat is in Montreal, Canada.

United Nation Convention to Desertification

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) seeks to address desertification and reduce the impacts of drought, especially in countries severely affected by these challenges, particularly in Africa. It promotes coordinated action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnerships, through an integrated approach aligned with Agenda 21 to advance sustainable development in affected regions. The UNCCD secretariat is in Bonn, Germany.

The Importance of Synergy among the Three Rio Conventions

Introduction

A Unified Response to a Triple Planetary Crisis: the three Rio Conventions-namely the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)-originated from the landmark United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. While conceived as distinct legal frameworks addressing biodiversity conservation, climate change, and land degradation respectively, subsequent scientific understanding and policy experience have firmly established that these challenges are interdependent manifestations of a single, complex planetary crisis.

Over the past three decades, it has become increasingly evident that addressing these issues in isolation limits the effectiveness of global and national responses. Consequently, fostering synergy among the Rio Conventions has evolved into a strategic necessity. Recent high-level deliberations, including joint statements by Conference of the Parties (COP) Presidencies, have emphasized that fragmented institutional approaches risk undermining collective progress. In this context, synergistic implementation offers a coherent pathway to enhance environmental governance, optimize resources, and deliver durable outcomes.

The Push for Local Synergies

Treating climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation as separate issues often leads to redundant work, wasted funds, and conflicting policies. Developing localised synergies maximises impact through shared planning and shared ecologies.

Scientific Basis for Synergistic Action

The rationale for integration is grounded in robust scientific evidence demonstrating the interconnected nature of climate systems, ecosystems, and land processes. Climate change accelerates biodiversity loss through altered temperature regimes, habitat shifts, and extreme events. Simultaneously, land degradation diminishes ecosystem resilience, reduces productivity, and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions through loss of soil carbon and vegetation cover.

These interactions are not linear but characterized by feedback loops and thresholds. Ecosystem degradation can trigger cascading effects, leading to irreversible transformations. For instance, loss of vegetation cover in drylands may initiate soil erosion and desertification, thereby reducing carbon sequestration potential and further intensifying climate change. Such dynamics underscore that interventions targeting a single domain may be insufficient unless aligned with broader ecosystem considerations. The recognition of these interlinkages has reinforced the importance of ecosystem-based approaches that simultaneously address climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management.

Black-hooded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*)
Kingsley David



Operational Advantages of Synergy

From an implementation perspective, synergy among the Rio Conventions offers significant practical benefits, particularly for developing countries with constrained institutional and financial capacities. Each Convention entails distinct planning and reporting obligations-such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the UNFCCC, and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets under the UNCCD.

When pursued independently, these processes can lead to duplication of efforts, fragmented policy frameworks, and increased administrative burden. Synergistic implementation facilitates alignment of national priorities, integration of planning mechanisms, and consolidation of reporting systems. This not only reduces transaction costs but also enhances policy coherence and institutional efficiency.

Furthermore, integrated approaches tend to yield more cost-effective and sustainable outcomes. Investments in ecosystem restoration, sustainable agriculture, and landscape management can simultaneously contribute to carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, and the prevention of land degradation. Such multi-benefit interventions exemplify the advantages of coordinated action over sector-specific initiatives.

Advancing Ecosystem-Based and Nature-Based Solutions

A central pillar of synergy lies in the promotion of ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions. These strategies recognize ecosystems as fundamental to addressing environmental challenges while supporting human well-being.

For example, restoration of degraded forests and wetlands enhances several ecosystem services such as carbon storage, safeguards habitats, improves water regulation, and supports livelihoods. Similarly, sustainable land management practices in agricultural landscapes can improve soil health, increase productivity, and reduce vulnerability to climate variability. By aligning the objectives of all three Conventions, such approaches provide a unified framework for achieving multiple environmental and socio-economic goals.

In addition, these integrated solutions contribute to resilience-building by strengthening the adaptive capacity of both ecosystems and communities, particularly the regions most vulnerable to climate change and land degradation.

Policy Coherence and Institutional Integration

Synergy among the Rio Conventions necessitates enhanced coordination across sectors and governance levels. Harmonization of national policies, strategies, and institutional arrangements is essential to ensure that actions in one domain do not inadvertently undermine objectives in another.

Countries are increasingly encouraged to align their NBSAPs, NDCs, and LDN targets within a common planning framework. This integrated approach facilitates cross-sectoral collaboration, promotes consistency in decision-making, and supports the efficient allocation of resources.

At the international level, collaborative initiatives among the Convention secretariats and COP Presidencies have gained momentum. Joint statements and coordinated work

programmes reflect a shared commitment to strengthening coherence across the biodiversity, climate, and land agendas. Such efforts are instrumental in guiding Parties toward more integrated and effective implementation pathways.

Emerging Mechanisms and Collaborative Platforms

Recent years have witnessed the development of institutional mechanisms and knowledge platforms aimed at operationalizing synergy. Collaborative initiatives, including joint programmes and inter-convention dialogues, have provided opportunities for sharing best practices, aligning methodologies, and fostering capacity-building.

Digital platforms and policy tools have further enabled stakeholders to identify linkages across thematic areas, streamline data collection, and enhance transparency in reporting. These innovations support evidence-based decision-making and facilitate the scaling up of integrated solutions at national and regional levels.

Furthermore, initiatives such as coordinated restoration programmes and integrated landscape management projects demonstrate the practical feasibility of synergy, offering replicable models for broader adoption.

Global Policy Context and Future Opportunities

The importance of synergy is reinforced within the broader framework of global sustainability agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Progress toward targets related to climate action, life on land, and sustainable ecosystems is inherently dependent on integrated approaches (Figures-7.1 and 7.2).

Looking ahead, forthcoming international processes, including the convergence of COP meetings across the three Conventions, present a strategic opportunity to deepen collaboration, align commitments, and mobilize collective action. Such convergence can catalyse political momentum and support the translation of policy commitments into tangible outcomes on the ground.

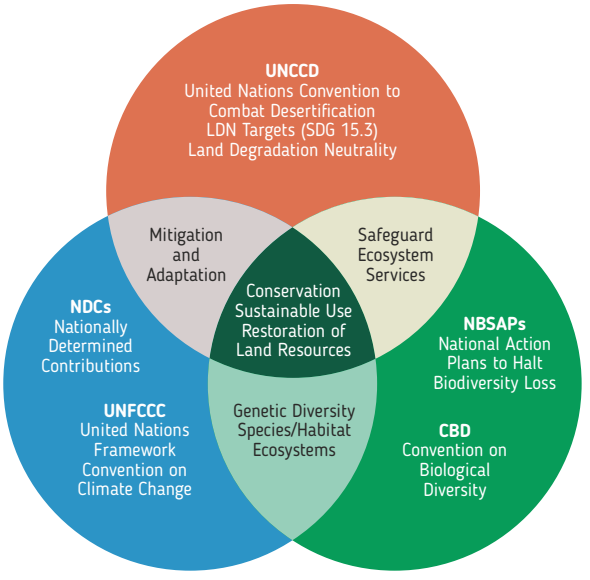


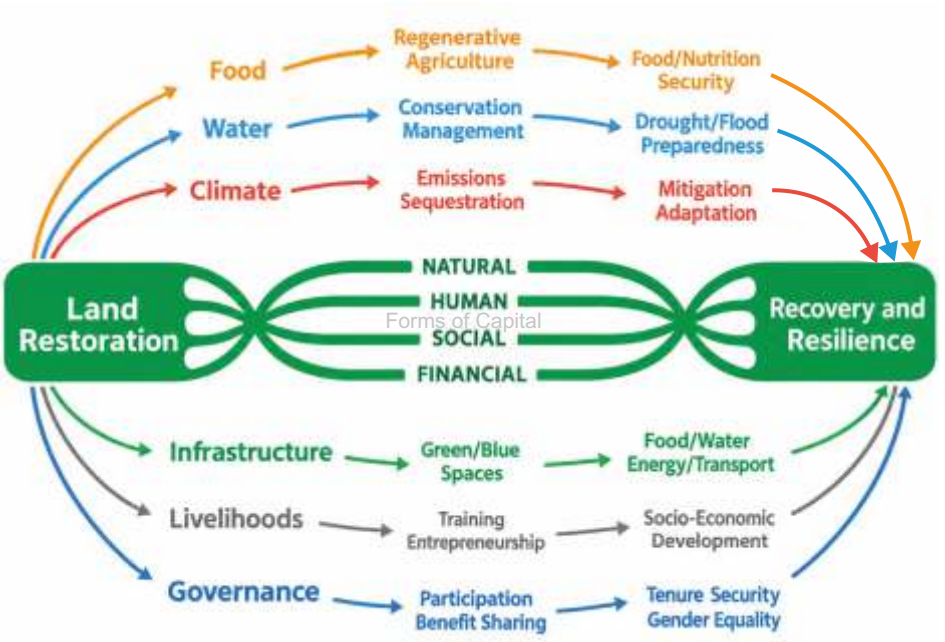
Figure-7.1: Synergies in Rio Trio

Source: UNCCD, 2017

The efficiency gains of joint land climate and biodiversity prioritization underscore the mutual benefits that arise from bridging the aims of the three conventions rather than pursuing their objectives in isolation.

Figure-7.2: Hypothetical Example: Land Restoration and the Rio Conventions

Land restoration pathways to recovery and resilience



Conclusion

The growing emphasis on synergy among the Rio Conventions reflects a fundamental shift in global environmental governance-from fragmented, sector-specific approaches toward integrated, systems-based solutions. The scientific evidence, operational experience, and policy developments collectively affirm that climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation must be addressed as interconnected dimensions of a single challenge (Table-7.1).

Strengthening synergy is therefore not merely a matter of institutional coordination but a prerequisite for achieving long-term environmental sustainability and human well-being. By promoting policy coherence, optimizing resource use, and advancing ecosystem-based solutions, integrated implementation enhances the effectiveness and resilience of global and national responses.

As the international community continues to refine its approach, sustained commitment to collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity will be essential. The transition from silos to synergy offers a pragmatic and forward-looking pathway to safeguard the planet's ecological integrity while supporting sustainable development for present and future generations.

Suggestive pathways:

A set of pathways that can build and contribute to the more synergistic planning and actions to achieve multiple cost-effective benefits is suggested as listed below.

Institutional Mechanisms for Synergy

- **Joint National Committees:** Forward-thinking governments house the NFPs for all three Rio Conventions within a single Ministry of Environment to mandate weekly cross-communications.
- **Unified Data Portals:** Creating centralized environmental databases allows planners to view climate risks, biodiversity hotspots, and land degradation metrics on a single map.

Multi-Benefit Ecological Solutions

- **Mangrove Restoration:** Protects coastal communities from climate-induced storms (UNFCCC), restores marine nurseries (CBD), and prevents coastal soil erosion (UNCCD).
- **Agroforestry Systems:** Planting trees alongside agricultural crops sequesters carbon (UNFCCC), builds wildlife corridors across farms (CBD), and improves soil moisture retention to halt desertification (UNCCD).
- **Peatland Rewetting:** Prevents massive underground carbon fires and emissions (UNFCCC), preserves highly specialized wetland species (CBD), and restores regional water tables (UNCCD).

Connect with Local Focal Points

To actively participate in national environmental planning, review policy drafts, or seek project funding, contact your designated national representatives through these official global directories:

- **Climate Change Initiatives:** Access the UNFCCC National Focal Point Portal to locate your country's climate envoys.
- **Biodiversity Frameworks:** Search the CBD National Focal Points Directory to engage with biodiversity and biosafety officers.
- **Land & Drought Management:** Visit the UNCCD National Focal Points Database to connect with land degradation and desertification leaders.

Galaxy Day Gecko (*Cnemaspis galaxia*) Amirtha Balan



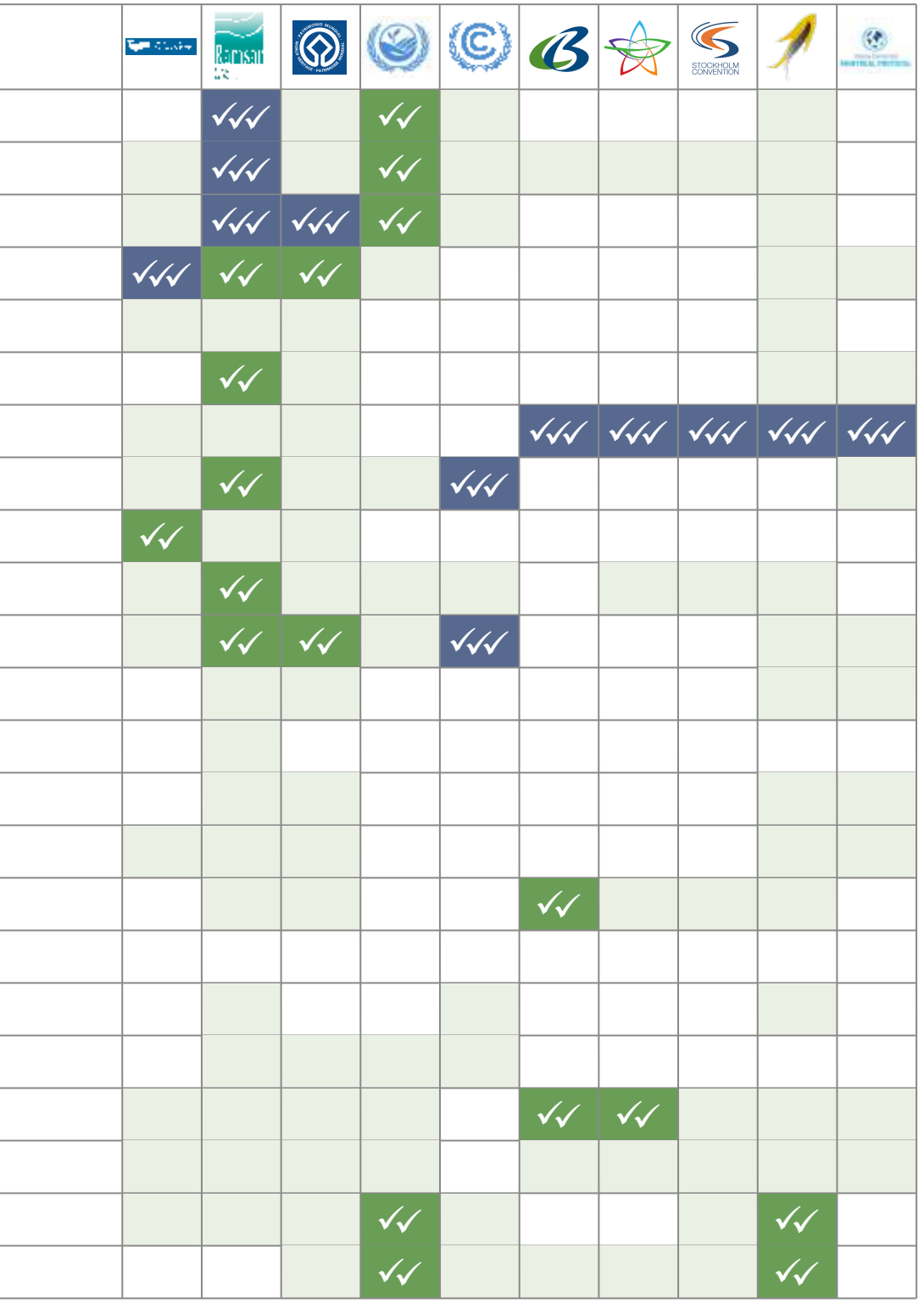
Table 7.1: Indicative cross-mapping of targets and MEAs

	CITES	CMS		
Target 1 (spatial planning)		✓✓		✓✓
Target 2 (restoration)				
Target 3 (protected areas)		✓✓		
Target 4 (species conservation)	✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓✓
Target 5 (sustainable use of species)	✓✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓
Target 6 (invasive alien species)			✓✓✓	
Target 7 (pollution)				
Target 8 (climate change)				
Target 9 (species management)	✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓
Target 10 (other key sectors)				✓✓✓
Target 11 (nature's contributions to people)				
Target 12 (urban nature)				
Target 13 (access and benefit sharing)				✓✓✓
Target 14 (mainstreaming)		✓✓		
Target 15 (business and biodiversity)				✓✓✓
Target 16 (sustainable consumption)				
Target 17 (biosafety)				
Target 18 (incentives and subsidies)				
Target 19 (financial resources)				✓✓✓
Target 20 (capacity-building)				✓✓
Target 21 (data, information, knowledge)				✓✓
Target 22 (IPLCs)				
Target 23 (gender equality)				

✓✓✓ Potential 'champion' or partner

✓✓ Contributing 'champion' or partner

Also relevant to the MEA


Ramsar
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Reference to Table 7.1: During the Bern III Conference, the participants representing each MEA were asked to consider which of the targets in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework were most relevant to their interests, and to 'score' the level of relevance. The aim of this exercise was to identify ***potential clusters of interest*** as a basis for identifying 'champions' or more likely future partnerships or collaborative arrangements - while recognising that the need and approach might vary from one target to another. The result of this exercise is presented in the table. The MEAs involved were the following.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Logo of "The Biodiversity Plan" for Life on Earth, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)



Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC)



United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal



Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

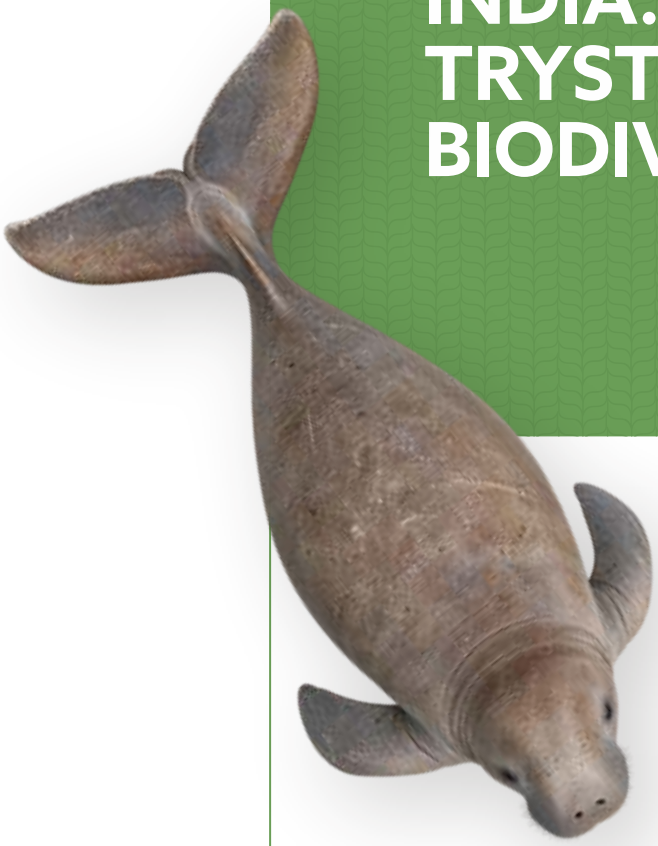


Minamata Convention on Mercury



Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

INDIA: TRYST WITH BIODIVERSITY



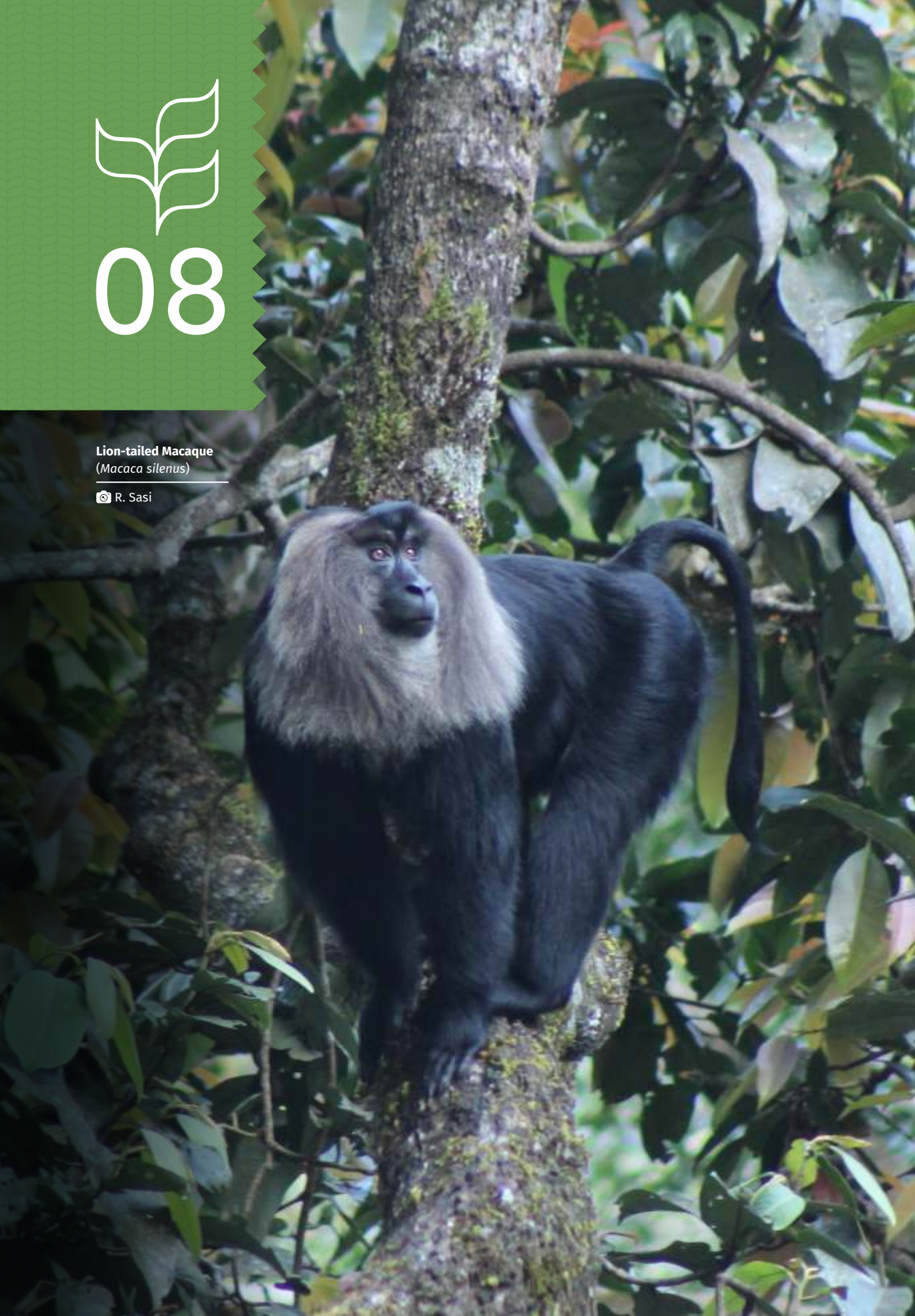
India's Biodiversity Governance Framework

India has progressive policies and laws to enable public participation.

Biological Diversity Act 2002: India's Biological Diversity Act (BDA), was enacted in 2002. The primary goal of the Act is to protect India's biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use for the benefit of all. The act ensures that local communities and indigenous people who possess traditional knowledge related to biodiversity receive fair compensation for the use of their knowledge and resources. The act regulates access to biological resources and associated knowledge to prevent exploitation and ensure that benefits are shared fairly.

The Act established a three-tier institutional structure **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** at the national level, playing an advisory, regulatory and facilitatory role; the **State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)** and the **Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs)** to implement the Act at the subnational level, and the **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)** at the grassroots. India has 28 SBBs, 8 UTBCs and over 2.76 lakh BMCs.

08



Lion-tailed Macaque
(*Macaca silenus*)

R. Sasi

One of the tasks BMCs are mandated with is the preparation of **People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)** in the prescribed format. Information on agricultural biodiversity of crops, livestock, plants and trees, waterscapes, and native healers and traditional knowledge holders is recorded, with the active involvement of knowledge holders, including tribal and local communities who are directly dependent on biodiversity. Currently, 2.73 lakh People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) have been prepared and are in the process of being digitized.

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS): The Biodiversity Act 2002 provides states with the power to declare unique and ecologically fragile biodiversity-rich terrestrial, coastal, inland and marine ecosystems as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. A total of 20 states across India have declared 56 BHS of different types and categories.

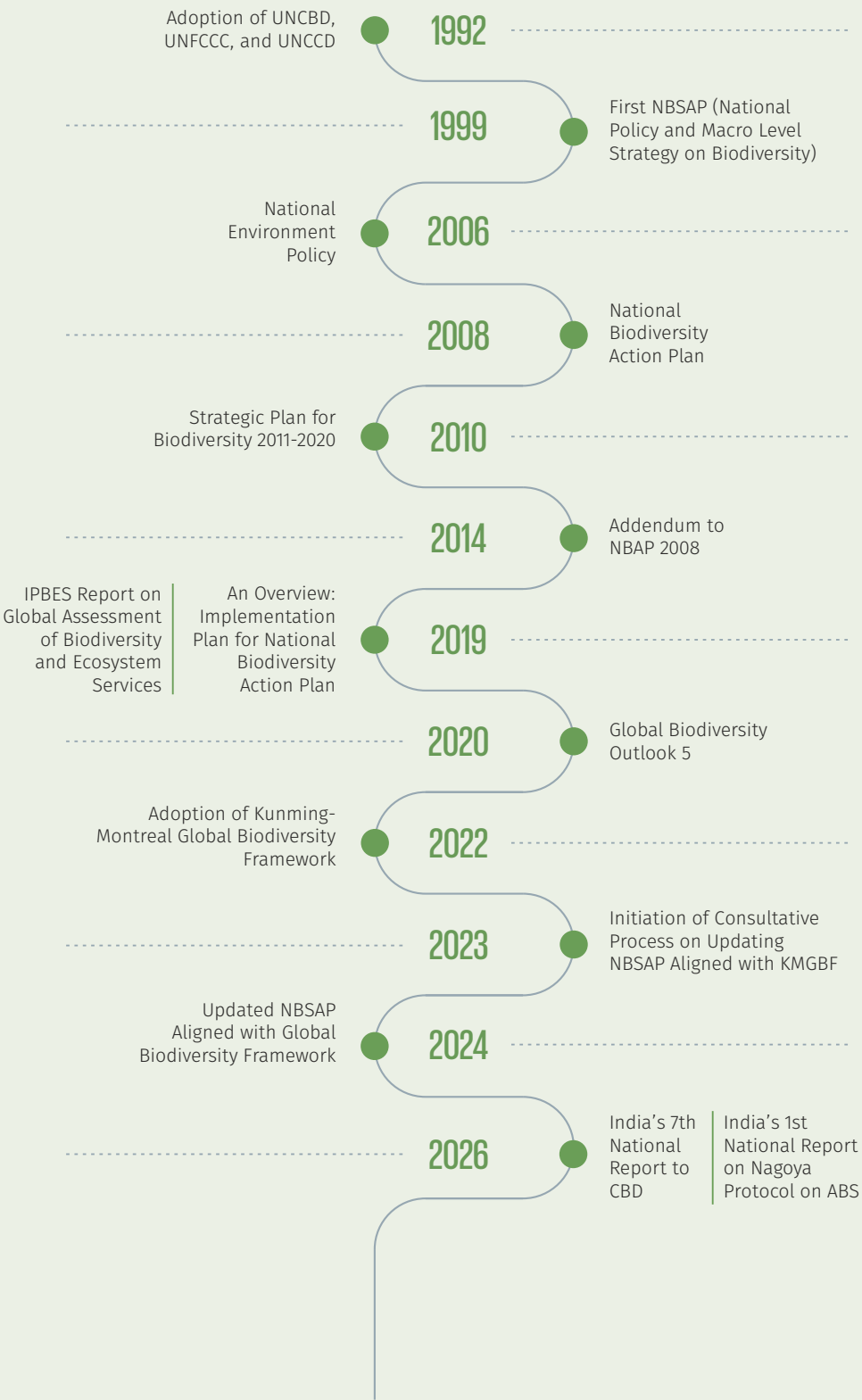
NBAP 2002, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) and National Reporting (NR): The CBD requires Parties to prepare a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) under Article 6 and submit National Reports under Article 26. The NBSAP serves as the primary framework for implementing the Convention at the national level. The Conference of the Parties (COP) considered that the NBSAPs would be the primary instrument and umbrella process for achieving the goals and action-oriented targets, and the periodic National Reports would be the instrument for monitoring and reviewing the progress on implementation (Figure-8.1).

Similar efforts have been made by different states in India at subnational levels by preparing NBSAP-aligned State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAPs), City Biodiversity Indexes (CBI) and are being implemented on the ground. The NBSAP and SBSAP are the key instruments through which the implementation of KMGBF is operationalised.

Bell Snow Rhododendron (*Rhododendron niveum*)
John Mc Quirre



Figure-8.1
Progress of
NBSAPs in India



- **India's NBAP:** India actively aligned its biodiversity conservation efforts with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and incorporated the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into its National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP). Among the 20 targets, India reported 12 targets. Aichi Target 11 and Aichi Target 16 were particularly significant. Aichi Target 11 called for the conservation of at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas through effectively managed, ecologically representative, and well-connected protected area systems by 2020. India made substantial progress towards this target through the expansion of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves, community reserves, biosphere reserves, and eco-sensitive zones, while also strengthening landscape-level conservation approaches. Aichi Target 16 sought the entry into force and operationalization of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. India emerged as a global leader in implementing this target through the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, thereby promoting equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. These experiences significantly contributed to India's engagement in the development and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- **India's updated NBSAP:** Following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at CBD COP-15, India initiated a comprehensive update of its NBSAP through national, regional, inter and intra-ministerial consultations based on a "*whole-of-government*" and "*whole-of-society approach*". India also developed National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) aligned with the KMGBF goals and targets. The updated NBSAP was officially launched by the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, on 30 October 2024 during CBD COP-16 in Cali, Colombia. The launch highlighted India's roadmap for achieving the KMGBF targets and strengthening biodiversity conservation efforts. It has reported 23 national targets, 4 goals, 193 action points and 142 indicators that aim at reducing threats to biodiversity, meet people's needs and provide tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming.
- **India's Seventh National Report:** The objective of national reporting, as specified in Article 26 of the Convention, is to provide information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures. The reporting process is therefore not intended to elicit information on the status and trends of biological diversity as such in the country concerned, except insofar as such information is relevant to the account of the implementation measures. India has successfully submitted its Seventh National Report (NR7) to the CBD in February 2026, underscoring its steadfast commitment to global biodiversity governance and the principles of transparency and accountability. The report has been meticulously prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in close coordination with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), drawing upon extensive consultations with various ministries, state-level stakeholders, and eminent technical experts across the country, with the valued support of the United Nations Development Programme under the GEF-8 Umbrella Programme.
- **India's First National Report on Nagoya Protocol:** India submitted its First National Report (2017-2025) on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol through the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABS-CH) of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 27 February 2026. The report highlights India's implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, showcasing legislative, policy, and institutional

measures, regulatory frameworks, capacity-building efforts, stakeholder engagement, and practical experiences in access and benefit-sharing (ABS). As a megadiverse country and a longstanding champion of ABS principles, the submission underscores India's commitment to transparent, equitable, and effective biodiversity governance while strengthening global cooperation on the sustainable use of biological resources.

India and the ITPGFRA: Plant genetic resources and its exchange are critical for ensuring food and nutritional security and sustainable agriculture of nations. Nations that are signatories to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) have access to a network of international and national gene banks and other institutions. In addition, the ITPGFRA recognizes the efforts of farmers and local communities involved in on-farm conservation and management of plant genetic resources. Access to genetic resources are facilitated through Standard Material Transfer Agreements (SMTA), notified under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (amended 2023). Through the multilateral system (MLS) of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under the ITPGFRA, provisions of providing facilitated access and options for benefit sharing have been provided.

During November 2025, a "package of measures" have been made to improve the functioning of the Multilateral System (MLS) of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and benefit sharing arising from their utilisation, the Digital Sequence Information (DSI). The benefits arising from the use of plant genetic resources under MLS shall primarily flow to farmers, notably in developing countries and countries with economics in transition who conserve and sustainably utilize such resources.

Developed countries and seed companies have largely been non-committal on monetary benefit. Another threat to the integrity of the MLS is the loose use of DSI. Genetic sequences derived from MLS materials are presently being uploaded and downloaded from unaccountable databases, with no traceability or benefit sharing. This is an issue that concerns both national sovereignty and rights of indigenous communities and farmers.

Common Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)
Kingsley David



Other relevant legislation and policies that have direct links to biodiversity

The Government of India has been a pioneer in the area of environmental protection having enacted and implemented several legislation and policies related to biodiversity. Table-8.1 provides a summary of legislation and policies that have a strong bearing on biodiversity and livelihoods associated with them.

Table-8.1: Other relevant acts linked to biodiversity governance

Sl.No.	Acts / Constitutional Provisions/ Policy	Inside forests	Outside forests	Brief Description
1	Forest Conservation Act, 1927 (amended 2023)	✓		The Indian Forest Act, 1927 was framed with the objective of managing timber and other forest resources. It provides for state governments to notify any forest land they own as reserved or protected forests. All land rights in such land are subject to the provisions of the Act. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, was enacted to prevent large-scale deforestation. It requires the central government's approval for any diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.
2	Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (amended 2022)	✓		To protect and conserve plant and animal species. The prohibition of hunting, the protection of sanctuaries, conservation plans, and the establishment of foundations are among its objectives. The act also provides provisions for establishing community conservation reserves, which are jointly managed by the forest department and local communities.
3	V Scheduled Areas (10 states) The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 (PESA)		✓	Constitutional Provision Involvement and consent of the people is also advocated in the areas of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation, land restoration (in case of alienation), mining of minerals, use of intoxicants, ownership of minor forest produce, management of village markets, management of water bodies and control over money lending. Implemented in 10 states: Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana

Sl.No.	Acts / Constitutional Provisions/ Policy	Inside forests	Outside forests	Brief Description
4	VI Scheduled Areas		✓	Constitutional Provision. The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution has provisions for the administration of the tribal areas in the north-eastern states of Assam (3), Meghalaya (3), Tripura (1) and Mizoram (3), providing freedom to the autonomous regions and districts in terms of legislative and executive powers.
5	Tribal State (Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh)		✓	The State of Nagaland comprising of several tribal communities has been provided special status under Article 371A (1) in Constitution of India.
6	The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006	✓		Empowerment of local communities, through Gram Sabhas and recognizes: Individual rights such as cultivation and habitation Community rights such as grazing, fishing and access to water bodies, intellectual property and traditional knowledge Habitat rights such as seasonal access to pastures and grazing lands by nomadic and pastoral communities and recognition of traditional customary rights to protect, manage any community forest resource for sustainable use.
7	Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Act 2001		✓	Recognizes the contribution made by local and indigenous communities and farmers for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources Protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; Right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; The right that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law. Also connected to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Sl.No.	Acts / Constitutional Provisions/ Policy	Inside forests	Outside forests	Brief Description
8	Seed Act 1966 (amended 2025)		✓	The legislation regulates the quality of seeds and planting materials and ensure the availability of quality seeds for farmers; curb the sale of spurious and poor-quality seeds; liberalize the import of seeds and protect rights of farmers.
9	National Forest Policy 1988	✓		The policy of the Joint Forest Management (JFM) was formalized in 1990 to manage forests jointly with the local communities. Non-monetary positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity. The JFM program is implemented by 1,18,000 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) (involving 83,00,000 families) and spread across 28 states and union territories managing an area of 22 million hectares.

National Focal Points

A focal point is the person or institution designated by a government to represent the Party between meetings of the Conference of the Parties in its routine dealings with the Secretariat in matters involving the Convention. These dealings include such activities as communications, dissemination of information, representation at meetings, responding to various request, collaboration with other stakeholder groups, monitoring, promoting and/or facilitating national implementation of the Convention. Roles and responsibilities of the national Focal Points can be referred at the link: https://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/a2-train-role-nfp-v2-2009-02-en.pdf. The list of current National Focal points of India is available in Annexure-6 of the document.

Conference of Parties (COP) / Meeting of Parties (MOP) - Cartegena and Nagoya Protocols

COP 11 in Hyderabad, India

Despite intense biotic pressure, India has been able to harbour 7-8% of the world's biodiversity. While most developing countries have lost forest cover, India has added around 3 million hectares of forests and tree cover over the last three decades. With a strong legal and policy framework on biodiversity, some recent positive initiatives relevant to biodiversity taken up include: Forests Rights Act, MG NREGA. Globally, India is recognized as a pioneer and trendsetter on biodiversity issues, and is a major player. On biodiversity, India speaks from a position of strength. Advancing biodiversity agenda contributes to equity as well as development agenda. This cannot be said of any other environmental issue under discussion in international fora.

Hosting of CoP-11 in India was a culmination of the biodiversity agenda being pursued by India over several decades. The event provided India with an opportunity to

consolidate, scale-up and showcase its initiatives and strengths on biodiversity. India, having a strong institutional, legal and policy framework, has the potential and capability to emerge as the world leader in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and also to set the global agenda on biodiversity in the context of sustainable livelihoods during the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Hosting of CoP-11 brought to focus the need for balancing economic development, demographic pressures and environmental conservation in developing countries like India, and the need to spread awareness for better use and management of biological resources among different stakeholders. CoP-11 provided a unique platform to display, promote, interact, learn and network from each other experiences and knowledge relating to biodiversity.

The Presidency of COP was handed over by Japan (as the host of COP-10) to the Indian Minister for Environment and Forests. India was the President of COP-11 for a two-year period ending at the opening of the next COP. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 along with twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets. COP-10 held in Nagoya in October 2010 had adopted. These include:

- By 2020 at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water (from the present 13%), and 10% of coastal and marine areas (from the present 1.6%) are conserved;
- By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is atleast halved;
- By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably. While adopting the ambitious Strategic Plan, CoP-10 could not agree on the targets for funding as the means to implement Strategic Plan and achieve Aichi targets.

CoP-11 Brought out a road map for operationalisation of the Strategic Plan and Aichi targets; facilitation of early entry into force of Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing; and determine targets for mobilizing resources for implementing the Strategic Plan.

On resource mobilization, presently, the international flows for biodiversity directly and indirectly were approximately USD 6 billion, which is about 4.7% of the global ODA of USD 127 billion. To enable CoP-11 to agree on targets for resource mobilization for implementation of the Strategic Plan, an assessment of the requirement of funding to meet the Aichi targets at the global level was attempted during the intersessional period.

India with Sweden, Ecuador and others co-sponsored a Dialogue seminar on finance in Quito in March 2012, the outcomes of which resulted in an improved understanding between the developed and developing countries. Thereafter, India along with UK have sponsored a High-Level Panel for assessing the resources required globally to implement the Strategic Plan. An interim report of this Panel was presented to CoP-11. The Panel estimated that the costs for implementing the Aichi targets was between USD 150 billion to 430 billion annually, though coordinated action on the targets is expected to substantially reduce the total estimate. A team of five experts commissioned by the CBD Secretariat undertook an assessment of the amount of funds required to assist developing countries in achieving Aichi targets, over the period 2014-2018. As per the assessment, the total funding needs for developing countries for the period 2014-2018 works out to be between USD 74 billion and 191 billion.

India also hosted and supported a number of workshops and meetings for capacity building on Protected Areas, National Biodiversity Strategies and Biosafety. The CoP-

MoP-6 discussed and adopt further decisions for safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology. The discussions focussed on risk assessment and management of LMOs, socio-economic considerations, capacity building, information sharing, cooperation among countries, and resource mobilization to assist developing countries in meeting their global commitments towards safe use of LMOs.

Four Panel discussions on the topics were held during the High-Level Segment:

- Panel I: Implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020
- Panel II: Biodiversity for Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction
- Panel III: Coastal and Marine Biodiversity
- Panel IV: Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing.

COP-16: India's Participation and Outcomes at Cali, Colombia, 2024 and Rome, 2025

India played a vital role in the Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) held in Cali, Colombia, as well as during the second resumed session at Rome, Italy, influencing discussions and outcomes concerning global biodiversity conservation. India has been a proactive participant in international biodiversity discussions, advocating for the protection of diverse ecosystems and species. Its leadership helped to guide and change global strategies. Some of the key aspects of India's involvement and outcomes are summarized in the subsections below:

National Commitments: India presented its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and aligned them with the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), during the side event organised at the High-level Segment by the Indian Delegation on 30 October 2024 and adopting National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in accordance with national priorities, circumstances and capabilities.

India's Updated NBSAP release by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh (fourth from left) and the CBD Executive Secretary Astrid Schomaker during COP 16, Cali, Colombia, 2024



Digital Sequence Information (DSI): India's position on DSI under the CBD emphasised equitable benefit-sharing, proposing that a multilateral fund be managed under the CBD with sector-wise contributions. Non-monetary benefits, such as capacity building and technology transfer, should complement monetary benefits, with fund allocation based on biodiversity richness and directly distributed to the relevant parties. India also stressed that national legislation should guide support for Indigenous and local communities. Additionally, databases should require the disclosure of genetic resource origins, and hosting parties must ensure compliance with the multilateral mechanism, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability in DSI utilisation.

Indian delegation at COP 16, Cali, Colombia, 2024: Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh (in front); Tanmay Kumar IAS, Secretary, MoEFCC; Achuta Nand Shukla, Scientist E, MoEFCC and other Indian Delegate.



Cali Fund: A major highlight of the Rome session was the **official launch of a global fund, known as the Cali Fund** on February 25, 2025. This fund aims to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) genetic data from plants, animals, and other organisms. The fund, led by the private sector, will support Indigenous communities and biodiversity conservation efforts. The inclusion of the phrase "without prejudice to national legislation" in the final agreement, following India's concerns, marks a significant step forward in addressing sovereignty issues related to DSI. The Cali Fund will be administered by the United Nations through the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. Users of DSI on genetic resources in sectors that directly or indirectly benefit from its use in their commercial activities should contribute to the global fund at an indicative rate, proportionate to the size of the entities, in accordance with the modalities for sharing benefits in a fair and equitable manner. This was established to ensure that industries benefiting from DSI on genetic resources share their profits with developing countries and Indigenous Peoples.



Indian Delegates at COP 16 Second Resumed Session, Cali, Colombia, 2024 (front row, left to right):
Chirra Achalender Reddy IFS (Retd.), SBI 5 Chair and Chairperson, NBA and the Additional Secretary Aman Deep Garg IAS, along with other Indian Delegates.

Agenda on Resource mobilisation and financial mechanism: India consistently argued for the establishment of a dedicated financing mechanism for the convention under the authority of the Conference of the Parties in Cali. India also called for the need to strengthen, simplify and reform existing instruments for biodiversity finance and the biodiversity finance gap. India emphasized the need to develop, update and implement national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments on the basis of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

At Rome, India played a pivotal role in advocating for a dedicated global financial instrument for biodiversity, aligning with developing countries (LMMCs, African Group, BRICS, and P-SIDS). The discussions on resource mobilisation were highly contentious, with developing countries expressing concerns over the inefficiencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), including bureaucratic delays and lack of transparency. Developed countries, on the other hand, resisted calls for a new financial mechanism, emphasising cost-effectiveness. The alternative proposal submitted by the BRICS block, with India's active role, successfully pushed for a permanent financial mechanism to address the biodiversity finance gap, ensuring equitable and transparent funding for biodiversity conservation through resource mobilisation. As a compromise solution, this was eventually accepted by all the Parties. The outcome at Rome, was a breakthrough decision was reached to establish a **permanent institutional structure** for the financial mechanism by COP 19 at the latest.

In the context of the financial mechanism, India supported the four-year outcome-oriented framework of the biodiversity programme and its mechanisms and strategies under the convention to strengthen the means of the implementation of the KMGBF,

especially arguing for retaining mobilising sufficient resources towards implementing the Framework and achieving its goal and targets; capacity building and development, while noting the obligation set out in Articles 20 and 21 of the convention. India aligned with other developing countries in calling for developed countries to fulfil their financial commitments under the CBD, emphasising the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The final decision on the **financial mechanism** included **Articles 20** and **21**.

Agenda on Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions: India supported the creation of a separate institutional mechanism, referred to as a "subsidiary body," for Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention. Additionally, interventions were made based on recommendations from the "Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues," arguing that the convention should not exclude local communities from its implementation. India expressed reservations about introducing the "Role of African Descent" in biodiversity conservation during the contact group sessions but showed flexibility in the plenary session by agreeing to include the “Role of people of African Descent” in the implementation of the convention. As a result of India's intervention, new text was added under the new Programme of Work, to recognise the efforts of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in biodiversity conservation. India also reiterated that the implementation of Article 8(j) should align with national legislation, circumstances, and priorities, which was later reflected in the final text.



Delegates at Plant4Mother (*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*) Campaign during COP 16, Cali, Colombia

Agenda on Monitoring framework for KMGBF and Mechanisms for Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review (PMRR): In Cali, India, along with other parties, agreed to request the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to provide financial resources to contribute to the development and implementation of national biodiversity monitoring systems in response to requests by "all eligible parties" and according to its mandate. Further, India agreed to encourage the provision of "support, including resources," for community-based monitoring and information systems. In Rome, the plenary adopted a comprehensive monitoring framework for the KMGBF, which includes standardised reporting templates and indicators to track progress toward biodiversity targets. India raised concerns over the indicator related to pesticide toxicity, and eventually flexibility was introduced to address divergent views on indicators related to **pesticides** and **sustainable consumption choices**.



Delegates at the Pavilion of India during COP 16, Cali, Colombia

Agenda on Cooperation with other conventions & International organizations: Expressed reservations on premature references to a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, advocating for practical pollution reduction measures instead. It did not agree to certain consumption-related indicators (e.g., ecological footprint) but withdrew objections after clarifications, maintaining a pragmatic stance. The word 'legally binding instrument' had been removed from the final decision due to India's intervention.

Agenda on Biodiversity and health: Under the **Actions for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into the implementation of the KMGBF** and in the context of climate change (Target 8), India intervened to suggest exploring the possibilities of developing indicators that link climate, biodiversity, and health. India emphasised its disagreement with the proposal to remove the term "derivatives" of genetic resources (Target 13) of the KMGBF and finally agreed to the inclusion of "Nagoya Protocol" in place of the term "derivatives". A **Global Action Plan** was approved to connect biodiversity conservation with health outcomes, promoting a holistic approach to ecosystem and human health, designed to help curb the emergence of zoonotic diseases, prevent non-communicable diseases, and promote sustainable ecosystems. The strategy embraces a holistic **"One Health approach"** that recognizes the health of ecosystems, animals, and humans as interconnected.



Indian delegation at SBSTTA 27 in Panama City, Panama, 2025 (from left to right):

Raghu Kumar Kodali, Scientist 'G', MoEFCC and National Focal Point to the CBD; Virendra Tiwari IFS (Retd.), Chairperson, NBA and Achuta Nand Shukla, Scientist E, MoEFCC. Photo by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis

Agenda on Biodiversity and Climate Change: India advocated for the interconnectedness of climate change and biodiversity, emphasising the need for integrated approaches to address them. India prominently supported inclusive and equitable approaches. Divergent views emerged regarding the Paris Agreement's temperature goals, with UK proposing to retain 1.5°C target while removing broader references. In contrast, India, alongside Argentina and Russia, argued for maintaining broader goals, emphasising the need for Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDRs) that address conservation while considering development needs. India stressed for enhanced financial and technical assistance from developed nations, collaboration and shared responsibilities to tackle global environmental challenges, aligning with the interests of developing nations. The plenary considered integrating and promoting nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction into revised NBSAP and National Targets. Also, the final decision did not fix specific temperature goals but addressed the challenges in other ways, such as nature-based solutions / ecosystem-based approaches, integration of biodiversity and climate action. A decision was also taken to identify and maximize potential synergies between biodiversity and climate actions.

Overall Impact of India's role in COP-16

India emerged as a key player in the sixteenth meeting of COP, balancing its national interests with global biodiversity goals. Its constructive engagement, advocacy for developing countries, and leadership in resource mobilisation underscored its commitment to equitable and effective biodiversity conservation. India's efforts ensured that the final decisions reflected the needs and priorities of developing nations while advancing the global biodiversity agenda.

India's leadership role in COP 16 Regional Meetings

India has demonstrated strong leadership in the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), both regionally (Asia Pacific), within the BRICS bloc, and through its engagement with Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC). A summary of India's key contributions is as follows:



Tanmay Kumar IAS, Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India (in the middle) along with other Indian Delegates during COP 16, Cali, Colombia

Asia Pacific Region (APR)

- **Capacity Development:** India played a pivotal role in promoting capacity-building programs in the APR to ensure the KMGBF is well understood and translated into actionable steps. This effort is seen as crucial for full implementation with broad participation.
- **NBSAP Alignment:** India was one of the first countries to update its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to align with the four goals and 23 targets of the KMGBF. This move set an example for other countries and was showcased in a side event at COP16.
- **Resource Mobilization:** India led discussions on the urgent need for greater financial resources to achieve the ambitious goals of the KMGBF. India advocated for a multilateral fund to support developing countries and called for stronger international collaboration for resource mobilization and technology transfer.
- **Synergy Among Conventions:** India emphasized a holistic approach to implementation, calling for synergy with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to improve efficiency, avoid duplication, and ensure comprehensive biodiversity governance.

BRICS BLOC

Collaboration for Conservation: India spearheaded initiatives within BRICS aimed at enhancing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Notable efforts include the International Big Cats Alliance, promoting collective action for the conservation of large carnivores.



Tarun Kumar Kathula (in the middle), Scientist 'G', MoEFCC and National Focal Point to the CBD, India at SBSTTA 28 in Nairobi, Kenya, 2026 along with delegates from Nepal, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Bangladesh, and China. Photo by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis

Agricultural Innovation: The BRICS Agricultural Research Platform fosters cooperation among member countries to enhance agricultural innovation, promote sustainability, and support resilience against global challenges.

Urban Sustainability: India proposed a "BRICS Partnership for Urban Environmental Sustainability," encouraging the creation of a network of environmentally advanced cities to exchange innovative solutions, contributing to Target 12 of the KMGBF.

Youth Engagement: India is also exploring the creation of a "BRICS Youth Environmental Network" to involve young people in addressing environmental challenges.

Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC)

Biodiversity Finance: India has been a strong advocate for a dedicated fund within the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) to support biodiversity conservation, particularly focusing on Digital Sequence Information (DSI). It called for increased financial resources for megadiverse countries, highlighting the need for a transparent, efficient, and direct allocation system.

Equitable Resource Allocation: India emphasized that the global financial mechanisms should prioritize countries that bear the greatest burden in protecting biodiversity. This includes reforming the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to ensure the voices of megadiverse countries are heard and that resources are allocated more equitably.

Addressing Global Consumption: India highlighted the disproportionate burden borne by developing countries in biodiversity protection, arguing that unsustainable consumption patterns in developed countries contribute significantly to biodiversity loss in megadiverse nations. The very first meeting participated by the Indian Delegation at Rome was the LMMC regional Group Meeting. The Indian delegation participated in this regional meeting and raised all the concerns with respect to the regional group to strategically put forward the issues by the LMMC Chair (Brazil) during the plenary on 25th February 2025. In all the forums India played a key role in DSI.

India's leadership in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is evident across regional and international platforms. Through its active role in the Asia Pacific region, the BRICS bloc, and as a member of the Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries, India has been instrumental in driving efforts to align national actions with the KMGBF, advocate for enhanced resource mobilization, and ensure that the voices of biodiversity-rich countries are central to global discussions on conservation and sustainable development.

ANNEXURES

Annexure-1

List of COP 1 - 16 Decisions

COP-1 Decisions (Decision 1/1 - 1/13)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 1/1	Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties
2	Decision 1/2	Financial resources and mechanism
3	Decision 1/3	Clearing-House mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation
4	Decision 1/4	Selection of a competent international organization to carry out the functions of the Secretariat of the Convention
5	Decision 1/5	Support to the Secretariat by international organizations
6	Decision 1/6	Financing of and budget for the Convention
7	Decision 1/7	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
8	Decision 1/8	Preparation of the participation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
9	Decision 1/9	Medium-term programme of work of the Conference of the Parties
10	Decision 1/10	Location of the Secretariat
11	Decision 1/11	reparation for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties
12	Decision 1/12	Forest biological diversity programme
13	Decision 1/13	Tribute to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

COP-2 Decisions (Decision 2/1 - 2/23)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 2/1	Report of the First Meeting of the Subsidiary Body On Scientific, Technical And Technological Advice
2	Decision 2/2	Publication and distribution of scientific and technical information
3	Decision 2/3	Clearing-house Mechanism
4	Decision 2/4	Ways and means to promote and facilitate access to, and transfer and development of technology
5	Decision 2/5	Consideration of the need for and modalities of a protocol for the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms
6	Decision 2/6	Financial Resources and Mechanism
7	Decision 2/7	Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention
8	Decision 2/8	Preliminary consideration of components of biological diversity particularly under threat and action which could be taken under the Convention
9	Decision 2/9	Forests and biological diversity
10	Decision 2/10	Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity
11	Decision 2/11	Access to genetic resources
12	Decision 2/12	Intellectual property rights
13	Decision 2/13	Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
14	Decision 2/14	Convening of an open-ended intergovernmental workshop on cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international conventions on related issues
15	Decision 2/15	FAO global system for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
16	Decision 2/16	Statement to the international technical conference on the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
17	Decision 2/17	Form and intervals of national reports by Parties
18	Decision 2/18	Medium-term programme of work of the Conference of the Parties for 1996-1997
19	Decision 2/19	Location of the Secretariat
20	Decision 2/20	Financing of and budget for the Convention
21	Decision 2/21	Venue and date of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties
22	Decision 2/22	Convening of regional and subregional meetings for Parties to the Convention
23	Decision 2/23	Tribute to the government and people of the Republic of Indonesia

COP-3 Decisions (Decision 3/1 - 3/27)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 3/1	Pending issues arising from the work of the second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
2	Decision 3/2	Report and recommendations of the second meeting of SBSTTA
3	Decision 3/3	Use of languages in SBSTTA meetings
4	Decision 3/4	Clearing-House mechanism to promote and facilitate cooperation
5	Decision 3/5	Additional guidance to the financial mechanism
6	Decision 3/6	Additional financial resources
7	Decision 3/7	Guidelines for review of financial mechanism effectiveness
8	Decision 3/8	MoU between COP and GEF Council
9	Decision 3/9	Implementation of Articles 6 and 8
10	Decision 3/10	Identification, monitoring and assessment
11	Decision 3/11	Agricultural biodiversity
12	Decision 3/12	Forest biological diversity programme
13	Decision 3/13	Future work: dryland, mountain, inland water ecosystems
14	Decision 3/14	Article 8(j) implementation
15	Decision 3/15	Access to genetic resources
16	Decision 3/16	Access & transfer of technology
17	Decision 3/17	Intellectual property rights
18	Decision 3/18	Incentive measures

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
19	Decision 3/19	UNGA special session on Agenda 21
20	Decision 3/20	Biosafety issues
21	Decision 3/21	Relationship with other conventions and processes
22	Decision 3/22	Medium-term programme (1996-1997)
23	Decision 3/23	Administrative matters
24	Decision 3/24	Budget of the Trust Fund
25	Decision 3/25	Date and venue of COP-4
26	Decision 3/26	Regional and subregional meetings
27	Decision 3/27	Tribute to Argentina

COP-4 Decisions (Decision 4/1 - 4/19)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 4/1	Report and recommendations of SBSTTA-3 and instructions from COP
2	Decision 4/2	Review of the operations of the clearing-house mechanism
3	Decision 4/3	Issues related to biosafety
4	Decision 4/4	Inland water ecosystems: status, trends, conservation and sustainable use
5	Decision 4/5	Marine and coastal biological diversity programme
6	Decision 4/6	Agricultural biological diversity
7	Decision 4/7	Forest biological diversity
8	Decision 4/8	Access and benefit-sharing
9	Decision 4/9	Implementation of Article 8(j)
10	Decision 4/10	Measures for implementing the Convention
11	Decision 4/11	Review of effectiveness of the financial mechanism
12	Decision 4/12	Additional financial resources
13	Decision 4/13	Additional guidance to the financial mechanism
14	Decision 4/14	National reports by Parties
15	Decision 4/15	Relationship with other conventions and institutions
16	Decision 4/16	Institutional matters and programme of work
17	Decision 4/17	Programme budget (1999-2000)
18	Decision 4/18	Date and venue of COP-5
19	Decision 4/19	Tribute to the Slovak Republic

COP-5 Decisions (Decision 5/1 - 5/29)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 5/1	Work plan of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
2	Decision 5/2	Inland water ecosystems programme implementation (decision IV/4)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
3	Decision 5/3	Marine and coastal biodiversity programme implementation
4	Decision 5/4	Forest biological diversity programme implementation
5	Decision 5/5	Agricultural biodiversity multi-year work programme
6	Decision 5/6	Ecosystem approach
7	Decision 5/7	Identification, monitoring and indicators
8	Decision 5/8	Alien invasive species
9	Decision 5/9	Global Taxonomy Initiative
10	Decision 5/10	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
11	Decision 5/11	Additional financial resources
12	Decision 5/12	Second review of financial mechanism
13	Decision 5/13	Further guidance to financial mechanism
14	Decision 5/14	Scientific cooperation & clearing-house mechanism
15	Decision 5/15	Incentive measures
16	Decision 5/16	Article 8(j)
17	Decision 5/17	Education and public awareness
18	Decision 5/18	Impact assessment, liability and redress
19	Decision 5/19	National reporting
20	Decision 5/20	Operations of the Convention
21	Decision 5/21	Cooperation with other bodies
22	Decision 5/22	Budget (2001-2002)
23	Decision 5/23	Dryland and related ecosystems biodiversity
24	Decision 5/24	Sustainable use as a cross-cutting issue
25	Decision 5/25	Biodiversity and tourism
26	Decision 5/26	Access to genetic resources
27	Decision 5/27	Contribution to UNCED 10-year review
28	Decision 5/28	Tribute to Kenya
29	Decision 5/29	Date and venue of COP-6

COP-6 Decisions (Decision 6/1 - 6/32)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 6/1	Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP)
2	Decision 6/2	Biological diversity of inland waters
3	Decision 6/3	Marine and coastal biological diversity
4	Decision 6/4	Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands
5	Decision 6/5	Agricultural biological diversity
6	Decision 6/6	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
7	Decision 6/7	Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments
8	Decision 6/8	Global Taxonomy Initiative

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
9	Decision 6/9	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
10	Decision 6/10	Article 8(j) and related provisions
11	Decision 6/11	Liability and redress
12	Decision 6/12	Ecosystem approach
13	Decision 6/13	Sustainable use
14	Decision 6/14	Biological diversity and tourism
15	Decision 6/15	Incentive measures
16	Decision 6/16	Additional financial resources
17	Decision 6/17	Financial mechanism under the Convention
18	Decision 6/18	Scientific & technical cooperation and clearing-house mechanism
19	Decision 6/19	Communication, education and public awareness
20	Decision 6/20	Cooperation with other organizations and conventions
21	Decision 6/21	Annex to The Hague Ministerial Declaration
22	Decision 6/22	Forest biological diversity
23	Decision 6/23	Alien invasive species
24	Decision 6/24	Access and benefit-sharing
25	Decision 6/25	National reports
26	Decision 6/26	Strategic Plan for the CBD
27	Decision 6/27	Operations of the Convention
28	Decision 6/28	Multi-year programme of work up to 2010
29	Decision 6/29	Budget (2003-2004)
30	Decision 6/30	Preparations for COP-7
31	Decision 6/31	Date and venue of COP-7
32	Decision 6/32	Tribute to the Netherlands

COP-7 Decisions (Decision 7/1 - 7/36)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 7/1	Forest biological diversity
2	Decision 7/2	Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands
3	Decision 7/3	Agricultural biological diversity
4	Decision 7/4	Inland water ecosystems
5	Decision 7/5	Marine and coastal biological diversity
6	Decision 7/6	Assessment processes
7	Decision 7/7	Environmental impact and strategic assessment
8	Decision 7/8	Monitoring and indicators
9	Decision 7/9	Global Taxonomy Initiative
10	Decision 7/10	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
11	Decision 7/11	Ecosystem Approach

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 7/1	Forest biological diversity
2	Decision 7/2	Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands
3	Decision 7/3	Agricultural biological diversity
4	Decision 7/4	Inland water ecosystems
5	Decision 7/5	Marine and coastal biological diversity
6	Decision 7/6	Assessment processes
7	Decision 7/7	Environmental impact and strategic assessment
8	Decision 7/8	Monitoring and indicators
9	Decision 7/9	Global Taxonomy Initiative
10	Decision 7/10	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
11	Decision 7/11	Ecosystem Approach
12	Decision 7/12	Sustainable Use
13	Decision 7/13	Alien invasive species
14	Decision 7/14	Biodiversity and Tourism
15	Decision 7/15	Biodiversity and Climate Change
16	Decision 7/16	Article 8(j)
17	Decision 7/17	Liability and Redress
18	Decision 7/18	Incentive Measures
19	Decision 7/19	Access and benefit-sharing
20	Decision 7/20	Guidance to financial mechanism
21	Decision 7/21	Additional financial resources
22	Decision 7/22	Review of financial mechanism effectiveness
23	Decision 7/23	Scientific cooperation and CHM
24	Decision 7/24	Education and public awareness
25	Decision 7/25	National Reporting
26	Decision 7/26	Cooperation with conventions and organizations
27	Decision 7/27	Mountain biological diversity
28	Decision 7/28	Protected Areas
29	Decision 7/29	Technology transfer and cooperation
30	Decision 7/30	Strategic Plan evaluation
31	Decision 7/31	Multi-year programme of work up to 2010
32	Decision 7/32	CBD and Millennium Development Goals
33	Decision 7/33	Operations of the Convention
34	Decision 7/34	Budget (2005-2006)
35	Decision 7/35	Date and venue of COP-8
36	Decision 7/36	Tribute to Malaysia

COP-8 Decisions (Decision 8/1 - 8/34)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 8/1	Island biodiversity
2	Decision 8/2	Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands
3	Decision 8/3	Global Taxonomy Initiative (review of programme of work)
4	Decision 8/4	Access and benefit-sharing
5	Decision 8/5	Article 8(j) and related provisions
6	Decision 8/6	Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)
7	Decision 8/7	Global Biodiversity Outlook
8	Decision 8/8	Implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan
9	Decision 8/9	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment implications
10	Decision 8/10	Operations of the Convention
11	Decision 8/11	Scientific and technical cooperation and CHM
12	Decision 8/12	Technology transfer and cooperation
13	Decision 8/13	Financial resources and mechanism review
14	Decision 8/14	National reporting and Global Biodiversity Outlook
15	Decision 8/15	Monitoring framework for 2010 target
16	Decision 8/16	Cooperation with other conventions and organizations
17	Decision 8/17	Private-sector engagement
18	Decision 8/18	Guidance to the financial mechanism
19	Decision 8/19	Forest biological diversity implementation
20	Decision 8/20	Inland water ecosystems: implementation and threats
21	Decision 8/21	Marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction
22	Decision 8/22	Integrated marine and coastal area management
23	Decision 8/23	Agricultural biodiversity
24	Decision 8/24	Protected areas
25	Decision 8/25	Incentive measures (valuation tools)
26	Decision 8/26	Incentive measures (review preparation)
27	Decision 8/27	Alien invasive species framework gaps
28	Decision 8/28	Biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment
29	Decision 8/29	Liability and redress
30	Decision 8/30	Biodiversity and climate change synergy
31	Decision 8/31	Budget (2007-2008)
32	Decision 8/32	Avian influenza and biodiversity
33	Decision 8/33	Date and venue of COP-9
34	Decision 8/34	Tribute to Brazil

COP-9 Decisions (Decision 9/1 - 9/47)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 9/1	Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing
2	Decision 9/2	Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets)
3	Decision 9/3	Strategy for resource mobilization
4	Decision 9/4	Global Biodiversity Outlook-3 implications
5	Decision 9/5	Implementation of the Convention
6	Decision 9/6	Biodiversity and poverty eradication
7	Decision 9/7	Goals, targets and indicators beyond 2010
8	Decision 9/8	UN Decade on Biodiversity
9	Decision 9/9	Multi-year programme of work (2011-2020)
10	Decision 9/10	National reporting (5th report)
11	Decision 9/11	Science-policy interface
12	Decision 9/12	Improving SBSTTA effectiveness
13	Decision 9/13	New and emerging issues
14	Decision 9/14	Retirement of decisions
15	Decision 9/15	Scientific cooperation and CHM
16	Decision 9/16	Technology transfer
17	Decision 9/17	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation update
18	Decision 9/18	CEPA and International Year of Biodiversity
19	Decision 9/19	Gender mainstreaming
20	Decision 9/20	Cooperation with conventions
21	Decision 9/21	Business engagement
22	Decision 9/22	Subnational governments and cities
23	Decision 9/23	South-South cooperation
24	Decision 9/24	Review of financial mechanism guidance
25	Decision 9/25	Additional financial guidance
26	Decision 9/26	Financial needs assessment (GEF)
27	Decision 9/27	Review of financial mechanism effectiveness
28	Decision 9/28	Inland waters biodiversity
29	Decision 9/29	Marine and coastal biodiversity
30	Decision 9/30	Mountain biodiversity
31	Decision 9/31	Protected areas
32	Decision 9/32	Sustainable use
33	Decision 9/33	Biodiversity and climate change
34	Decision 9/34	Agricultural biodiversity
35	Decision 9/35	Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity
36	Decision 9/36	Forest biodiversity
37	Decision 9/37	Biofuels and biodiversity
38	Decision 9/38	Invasive alien species
39	Decision 9/39	Global Taxonomy Initiative

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
40	Decision 9/40	Indigenous and local communities participation
41	Decision 9/41	Sui generis systems for traditional knowledge
42	Decision 9/42	Tkarihwaié:ri Code of Ethical Conduct
43	Decision 9/43	Programme of work on Article 8(j)
44	Decision 9/44	Incentive measures
45	Decision 9/45	Budget (2011-2012)
46	Decision 9/46	Date and venue of COP-11
47	Decision 9/47	Tribute to Japan

COP-11 Decisions (Decision 10/1 - 10/33)

S. No	Decision No.	Topic
1	Decision 10/1	Access and Benefit-Sharing (Nagoya Protocol)
2	Decision 10/2	The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
3	Decision 10/3	Strategy for Resource Mobilization
4	Decision 10/4	Global Biodiversity Outlook
5	Decision 10/5	Implementation of the Convention
6	Decision10/6	Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication
7	Decision 10/7	Examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets (and associated indicators) and consideration of their possible adjustment for the period beyond 2010
8	Decision 10/8	United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020
9	Decision 10/9	The multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties for the period 2011-2020 and periodicity of meetings
10	Decision 10/10	National reporting: review of experience and proposals for the fifth national report
11	Decision 10/11	Science-policy interface on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being and consideration of the outcome of the intergovernmental meetings
12	Decision 10/12	Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
13	Decision 10/13	New and emerging issues
14	Decision 10/14	Retirement of decisions
15	Decision 10/15	Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism
16	Decision 10/16	Technology transfer and cooperation
17	Decision 10/17	Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020
18	Decision 10/18	Communication, education and public awareness and the International Year of Biodiversity
19	Decision 10/19	Gender mainstreaming

S. No	Decision No.	Topic
20	Decision 10/20	Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives
21	Decision 10/21	Business engagement
22	Decision 10/22	Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity
23	Decision 10/23	Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development
24	Decision 10/24	Review of guidance to the financial mechanism
25	Decision 10/25	Additional guidance to the financial mechanism
26	Decision 10/26	The financial mechanism: Assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention for the sixth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund
27	Decision 10/27	Preparation for the fourth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism
28	Decision 10/28	Inland waters biodiversity
29	Decision 10/29	Marine and coastal biodiversity
30	Decision 10/30	Mountain biological diversity
31	Decision 10/31	Protected areas
32	Decision 10/32	Sustainable use
33	Decision 10/33	Biodiversity and climate change

COP-11 Decisions (Decision 11/1 - 11/33)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 11/1	Status of the Nagoya Protocol and related developments
2	Decision 11/2	Review of NBSAP implementation and capacity-building
3	Decision 11/3	Monitoring implementation of Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets
4	Decision 11/4	Resource mobilization strategy review
5	Decision 11/5	Financial mechanism
6	Decision 11/6	Cooperation with conventions and organizations
7	Decision 11/7	Business and biodiversity
8	Decision 11/8	Engagement of stakeholders and subnational authorities
9	Decision 11/9	Gender mainstreaming progress
10	Decision 11/10	Periodicity of meetings
11	Decision 11/11	New and emerging issues
12	Decision 11/12	Retirement of decisions
13	Decision 11/13	SBSTTA effectiveness and IPBES collaboration
14	Decision 11/14	Article 8(j)
15	Decision 11/15	Island biodiversity programme review
16	Decision 11/16	Ecosystem restoration
17	Decision 11/17	Marine biodiversity (EBSAs)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
18	Decision 1118	Marine biodiversity and sustainable fisheries
19	Decision 11/19	Biodiversity safeguards in climate policies (REDD+)
20	Decision 11/20	Climate-related geoengineering
21	Decision 11/21	Biodiversity integration into climate activities
22	Decision 11/22	Biodiversity for development and poverty eradication
23	Decision 11/23	Inland water ecosystems
24	Decision11/24	Protected areas
25	Decision 11/25	Sustainable wildlife management (bushmeat)
26	Decision 11/26	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
27	Decision 11/27	Biofuels and biodiversity
28	Decision 11/28	Invasive alien species
29	Decision 11/29	Global Taxonomy Initiative
30	Decision 11/30	Incentive measures
31	Decision 11/31	Budget (2013-2014)
32	Decision 11/32	Date and venue of COP-12
33	Decision 11/33	Tribute to India

COP-12 Decisions (Decision 12/1 - 12/35)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 12/1	Mid-term review of Strategic Plan and Global Biodiversity Outlook-4
2	Decision 12/2	Support for implementation and capacity-building
3	Decision 12/3	Resource mobilization
4	Decision 12/4	Biodiversity in post-2015 development agenda
5	Decision 12/5	Biodiversity for poverty eradication
6	Decision 12/6	Cooperation with conventions and organizations
7	Decision 12/7	Gender mainstreaming
8	Decision 12/8	Stakeholder engagement
9	Decision 12/9	Subnational and local government engagement
10	Decision 12/10	Business engagement
11	Decision 12/11	Biodiversity and tourism
12	Decision 12/12	Article 8(j)
13	Decision 12/13	Access and benefit-sharing
14	Decision 12/14	Liability and redress
15	Decision 12/15	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
16	Decision 12/16	Invasive alien species (pets, aquarium, etc.)
17	Decision 12/17	Invasive alien species (future work)
18	Decision 12/18	Sustainable wildlife management
19	Decision 12/19	Ecosystem conservation and restoration

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
20	Decision 12/20	Biodiversity, climate change & disaster risk reduction
21	Decision 12/21	Biodiversity and human health
22	Decision 12/22	Marine biodiversity (EBSAs)
23	Decision 12/23	Marine impacts (noise, acidification, coral reefs)
24	Decision 12/24	Synthetic biology
25	Decision 12/25	IPBES
26	Decision 12/26	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
27	Decision 12/27	Concurrent COP & Protocol meetings
28	Decision 12/28	Retirement of decisions
29	Decision 12/29	Efficiency of Convention processes
30	Decision 12/30	Financial mechanism
31	Decision 12/31	Multi-year programme of work to 2020
32	Decision 12/32	Budget and administration
33	Decision 12/33	Tribute to Republic of Korea
34	Decision 12/34	Date and venue of COP-13
35	Decision 12/35	Dates and venues of COP-14 & COP-15

COP-13 Decisions (Decision 13/1 - 13/34)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 13/1	Progress in implementation of Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets
2	Decision 13/2	Progress on Aichi Targets 11 & 12
3	Decision 13/3	Strategic actions for implementation and mainstreaming
4	Decision 13/4	Biodiversity and climate change
5	Decision 13/5	Ecosystem restoration (short-term action plan)
6	Decision 13/6	Biodiversity and human health
7	Decision 13/7	Forest biodiversity and role of international organizations
8	Decision 13/8	Sustainable wildlife management
9	Decision 13/9	Marine spatial planning
10	Decision 13/10	Marine debris and underwater noise
11	Decision 13/11	Biodiversity in cold water areas
12	Decision 13/12	Marine biodiversity (EBSAs)
13	Decision 13/13	Invasive alien species and trade risks
14	Decision 13/14	Climate-related geoengineering
15	Decision 13/15	IPBES pollinators assessment
16	Decision 13/16	Digital sequence information
17	Decision 13/17	Synthetic biology
18	Decision 13/18	Article 8(j)
19	Decision 13/19	Article 8(j) - additional matters
20	Decision 13/20	Resource mobilization

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
21	Decision 13/21	Financial mechanism
22	Decision 13/22	Communication strategy
23	Decision 13/23	Capacity-building and CHM
24	Decision 13/24	Cooperation with conventions
25	Decision 13/25	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
26	Decision 13/26	Integration of Convention and Protocols
27	Decision 13/27	National reporting
28	Decision 13/28	Indicators for Strategic Plan
29	Decision 13/29	Global Biodiversity Outlook & IPBES
30	Decision 13/30	Scientific assessment of Aichi Targets
31	Decision 13/31	Scientific and technical needs
32	Decision 13/32	Budget and administration
33	Decision 13/33	Future COP meetings
34	Decision 13/34	Tribute to Mexico

COP-14 Decisions (Decision 14/1 - 14/38)

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
1	Decision 14/1	Updated assessment of progress towards selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets and options to accelerate progress
2	Decision 14/2	Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity
3	Decision 14/3	Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors
4	Decision 14/4	Health and biodiversity
5	Decision 14/5	Biodiversity and climate change
6	Decision 14/6	Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators
7	Decision 14/7	Sustainable wildlife management
8	Decision 14/8	Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures
9	Decision 14/9	Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas
10	Decision 14/10	Other matters related to marine and coastal biodiversity
11	Decision 14/11	Invasive alien species
12	Decision 14/12	Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for repatriation of traditional knowledge
13	Decision 14/13	Glossary of key terms (Article 8(j))
14	Decision 14/14	Other matters related to Article 8(j)
15	Decision 14/15	Safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms
16	Decision 14/16	Methodological guidance on IPLC contributions
17	Decision 14/17	Integration of Article 8(j) in Convention work
18	Decision 14/18	Gender plan of action

S. No.	Decision No.	Title
19	Decision 14/19	Synthetic biology
20	Decision 14/20	Digital sequence information on genetic resources
21	Decision 14/21	Liability and redress
22	Decision 14/22	Resource mobilization
23	Decision 14/23	Financial mechanism
24	Decision 14/24	Capacity-building and cooperation
25	Decision 14/25	Knowledge management
26	Decision 14/26	Communication
27	Decision 14/27	Aligning national reporting
28	Decision 14/28	Tools to evaluate policy effectiveness
29	Decision 14/29	Review mechanisms
30	Decision 14/30	Cooperation with other conventions
31	Decision 14/31	Integration on biosafety and ABS
32	Decision 14/32	Concurrent meetings review
33	Decision 14/33	Conflicts of interest in expert groups
34	Decision 14/34	Post-2020 global biodiversity framework process
35	Decision 14/35	Global Biodiversity Outlook
36	Decision 14/36	IPBES work programme
37	Decision 14/37	Programme of work and budget
38	Decision 14/38	Future COP meetings (date & venue)

COP-15 Decisions (Decision 15/1 - 15/35)

S. No	Decision No.	Topic
1.	Decision 15/1	Interim budget for the programme of work of the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on ABS for the year 2022
2.	Decision 15/2	Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
3.	Decision 15/3	Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
4.	Decision 15/4	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
5.	Decision 15/5	Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
6.	Decision 15/6	Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review
7.	Decision 15/7	Resource mobilization
8.	Decision 15/8	Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation
9.	Decision 15/9	Digital sequence information on genetic resources
10.	Decision 15/10	Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities

S. No	Decision No.	Topic
11.	Decision 15/11	Gender Plan of Action
12.	Decision 15/12	Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
13.	Decision 15/13	Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations
14.	Decision 15/14	Communication
15.	Decision 15/15	Financial mechanism
16.	Decision 15/16	Knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism
17.	Decision 15/17	Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors
18.	Decision 15/18	Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols
19.	Decision 15/19	Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
20.	Decision 15/20	In-depth dialogue on the thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues conducted by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions
21.	Decision 15/21	Recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the Convention on Biological Diversity
22.	Decision 15/22	Nature and Culture
23.	Decision 15/23	Sustainable wildlife management
24.	Decision 15/24	Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity
25.	Decision 15/25	Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean and adjacent areas
26.	Decision 15/26	Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: further work
27.	Decision 15/27	Invasive alien species
28.	Decision 15/28	Biodiversity and agriculture
29.	Decision 15/29	Biodiversity and health
30.	Decision 15/30	Biodiversity and climate change
31.	Decision 15/31	Synthetic biology
32.	Decision 15/32	Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties
33.	Decision 15/33	Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties
34.	Decision 15/34	Budget for the integrated programme of work of the Secretariat
35..	Decision 15/35	Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties

COP-16 Decisions (Decision 16/1 - 16/36)

S. No	Decision No.	Topic
1.	Decision 16/1	Review of implementation: progress in NT setting and updating of NB strategies and action plans
2.	Decision 16/2	Digital sequence information- genetic resources
3.	Decision 16/3	Capacity-building and development
4.	Decision 16/4	Programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the CBD related to IPLC to 2030
5.	Decision 16/5	Institutional arrangements for the full and effective participation of IPLC in the work undertaken under CBD
6.	Decision 16/6	Role of people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, in implementation of the CBD
7.	Decision 16/7	In-depth dialogue: "The role of languages in the intergenerational transmission of TK, innovations and practices"
8.	Decision 16/8	Recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues pertaining to the CBD.
9.	Decision 16/9 A and B	Clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management
10.	Decision 16/10	Communication, education, and public awareness
11.	Decision 16/11	Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
12.	Decision 16/12	Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation -KMGBF
13.	Decision 16/13	Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors
14.	Decision 16/14	Review of findings from the Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention
15.	Decision 16/15	Sustainable wildlife management
16.	Decision 16/16	Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas
17.	Decision 16/17	Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity
18.	Decision 16/18	Invasive alien species
19.	Decision 16/19	Biodiversity and health
20.	Decision 16/20	Plant conservation
21.	Decision 16/21	Synthetic biology
22.	Decision 16/22	Biodiversity and climate change
23.	Decision 16/23	Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2)
24.	Decision 16/24	Procedures for convening online and hybrid meetings
25.	Decision 16/25	Options to further improve the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols

S. No	Decision No.	Topic
26.	Decision 16/26	Procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups
27.	Decision 16/27	Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties
28.	Decision 16/28	Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds
29.	Decision 16/29	Cost of convening an in-person resumed session of the sixteenth meeting
30.	Decision 16/30	Matters related to the appointment of executive secretaries- CBD
31.	Decision 16/31	Monitoring framework -KMGBF
32.	Decision 16/32	Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, including the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be conducted at the seventeenth and nineteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties
33.	Decision 16/33	Financial mechanism
34.	Decision 16/34	Resource mobilization
35.	Decision 16/35	Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations
36.	Decision 16/36	Multi-year programme of work -COPs

Annexure-2

List of Administrative and Technical agenda items for COP 1 - 17

Meeting	Agenda	
COP 1 First Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Nassau, Bahamas (The) 28 November - 9 December 1994	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters:
	2.1.	Election of officers;
	2.2.	Adoption of the agenda;
	2.3.	Organization of work.
	3.	Adoption of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties.
	4.	Report of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity.
	5.	Report on the credentials of representatives to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
	6.	Matters stipulated by the Convention for action by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting:
	6.1.	Policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria regarding access to and utilization of financial resources;
	6.2.	Institutional structure to operate the financial mechanism under the Convention;
	6.3.	List of developed country Parties and other Parties which voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties;
	6.4.	Clearing-house mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation;
	6.5.	Selection of a competent international organization to carry out the functions of the Secretariat of the Convention;
	6.6.	Financial rules governing the funding of the Secretariat of the Convention.
	7.	Subsidiary body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
	8.	Preparation of the participation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
	9.	Medium-term programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.
	10.	Budget for the Secretariat of the Convention.
	11.	Venue and date of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
	12.	Other matters.
	13.	Adoption of the report.
	14.	Closure of the meeting.

COP 2
Second Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Jakarta, Indonesia

6 - 17 November 1995

1.	Opening of the meeting.
2.	Organizational matters:
2.1	Election of officers;
2.2	Adoption of the agenda;
2.3	Organization of work.
3.	Pending issues arising from the work of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
3.1	Paragraph 1 of rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
3.2	Paragraphs 4 and 16 of the Financial Rules for the Administration of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity.
4.	Scientific, technical and technological matters:
4.1	Report of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
4.2	Clearing-house mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation;
4.3	Ways to promote and facilitate access to, and transfer and development of technology;
4.4	Consideration of the need for and modalities of a protocol for safe handling and transfer of living modified organisms.
5.	Matters related to financial resources and mechanism:
5.1	Report on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as the interim institutional structure;
5.2	Report of the Secretariat on the financial mechanism under the Convention;
5.3	Study on the availability of additional financial resources;
5.4	List of developed country Parties and other Parties which voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties;
5.5	Designation in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention of the institutional structure to operate the financial mechanism;
5.6	Draft memorandum of understanding between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Environment Facility.
6.	Conservation and sustainable use:
6.1	Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention;
6.2	Preliminary consideration of components of biological diversity particularly under threat and action which could be taken under the Convention;
6.3	Coastal and marine biological diversity.
7.	Access to genetic resources:
7.1	Existing legislation, administrative and policy information on access to genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use;
7.2	Policy, legislative, or administrative measures related to intellectual property rights as provided in Article 16 of the Convention and to access to and transfer of technology that makes use of genetic resources.
8.	Relationship with other bodies:

8.1	Outcome of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;
8.2	Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions;
8.3	FAO Global System for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture:
8.3.1	International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
8.3.2	International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
8.3.3	*Ex-situ* collections of plant genetic resources.
9.	Form and intervals of national reports by Parties.
10.	Medium-term programme of work of the Conference of the Parties 1995-1997.
11.	Administrative matters:
11.1	Location of the Secretariat;
11.2	Report on the administration of the Convention;
11.3	Budget of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity.
12.	Report on the credentials of representatives to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
13.	Venue and date of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
14.	Other matters.
15.	Adoption of the report.
16.	Closure of the meeting

COP 3
Third Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Buenos Aires, Argentina

4 - 15 November 1996

1.	Opening of the meeting.
2.	Organisational matters:
2.1	Election of officers;
2.2	Adoption of the agenda;
2.3	Organisation of work.
3.	Pending issues arising from the work of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
3.1	Paragraph 1 of rule 40 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
3.2	Paragraphs 4 and 16 of the financial rules for the administration of the Trust Fund of th Convention on Biological Diversity;
4.	Consideration of the report and recommendations of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and instructions by the Conference of the Parties to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
5.	Report on assessment and review of the operation of the clearing-house mechanism.
6.	Financial resources and mechanism:
6.1	Report on the activities of the Global Environment Facility;
6.2	Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of decision II/6 on financial resources and mechanism;

6.3	To consider the availability of additional financial resources and to consider possible suggestions to funding institutions on how to make their activities in the area of biodiversity more supportive of the Convention;
6.4	To consider guidelines for the Conference of the Parties' review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;
6.5	To consider the revised draft "Memorandum of Understanding Between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Council of the Global Environment Facility Regarding the Institutional Structure Operating the Financial Mechanism of the Convention";
6.6	To endeavour to decide upon the institutional structure to be designated in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention.
7.	General measures for conservation and sustainable use:
7.1	Implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention.
8.	Identification, monitoring and assessment:
8.1	To consider options for implementing Article 7 of the Convention;
8.2	Appraisal of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice assessment of biological diversity for the implementation of Article 25 (2)(a) and advice on methodologies for future assessments.
9.	Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity:
9.1	To consider agricultural biological diversity within the context of the Convention's three objectives and its provisions;
9.2	To consider a report on progress under the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
10.	Consideration of the future programme of work for terrestrial biological diversity in the light of th outcome of deliberations of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995:
10.1	Communication of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on progress on issues relevant to forests and biological diversity;
10.2	To consider whether further input to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests is required;
10.3	Future programme of work for terrestrial biological diversity in the light of the outcome of deliberations of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995.
11.	Knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities:
11.1	Implementation of Article 8(j).
12.	Access to genetic resources:
12.1	To consider the compilation of views of the Parties on possible options for developing national legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to implement Article 15.
13.	Issues related to technology:
13.1	To consider ways to promote and facilitate access to and transfer and development of technology, as in envisaged

	by Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention.
14.	Intellectual property rights:
14.1	To consider the impact of intellectual property rights on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from its use with a view to better understand the implications of Article 16.5;
14.2	To consider a possible input into the negotiations that are taking place in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organisation.
15.	Incentive measures:
15.1	To consider the compilation of information and experiences shared on the implementation of Article 11.
16.	Special session of the General Assembly to review implementation of Agenda 21:
16.1	To provide a report from the perspective of the Convention's three objectives.
17.	Issues related to biosafety: 17.1 To consider the first report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety.
18.	Relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance.
19.	Medium-term programme of work of the Conference of the Parties for 1996-1997.
20.	Administrative matters:
20.1	Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention.
20.2	Budget of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity
21.	Report on the credentials of representatives to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
22.	Venue and date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
23.	Other matters.
24.	Adoption of the report.
25.	Closure of the meeting.

COP 4
Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Bratislava, Slovakia,

4 - 15 May 1998

1.	Opening of the meeting
2.	Organizational matters
2.1	Election of officers
2.2	Adoption of the agenda
2.3	Organization of work
3.	Reports of the regional preparatory meetings
4.	Report and recommendations of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and instructions by the Conference of the Parties to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

5.	Pending issues arising from the work of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties
6.	Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use
7.	Reports on programmes of work
7.1	Jakarta Mandate on marine and coastal biological diversity
7.2	Agricultural biological diversity
7.3	Forest biological diversity
8.	Assessment and review of the operation of the clearing-house mechanism
9.	Issues related to biosafety
10.	Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions
11.	Synthesis of information contained in national reports on the implementation of the Convention
12.	The relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance
12.1	Results of the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21
12.2	Cooperation with other agreements, institutions and processes relevant to insitu conservation (Article 8)
13.	Review of the operations of the Convention
14.	Financial resources and mechanism
14.1	Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility
14.2	Activities of the Global Environment Facility
14.3	Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism
14.4	Additional financial resources
14.5	Further guidance to the financial mechanism
15.	Measures for implementing the Convention
15.1	Incentive measures: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 11
15.2	Public education and awareness: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 13
15.3	Impact assessment and minimizing adverse effects: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 14
16.	Matters related to benefit-sharing
16.1	Measures to promote and advance the distribution of benefits from biotechnology in accordance with Article 19 ("Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of Benefits")
16.2	Means to address the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of genetic resources
16.3	Compilation of views of the Parties on possible options for developing national legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to implement Article 15 ("Access to Genetic Resources")
17.	Administrative and budgetary matters

	17.1	Administration of the Convention
	17.2	Budget of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity
	18.	Report on the credentials of representatives to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
	19.	Venue and date of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
	20.	Other matters
	21.	Adoption of the report
	22.	Closure of the meeting

COP - 5
Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

15 - 26 May 2000

Nairobi, Kenya

	I.	**ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**
	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Election of Officers.
	3.	Adoption of Agenda.
	4.	Organization of Work.
	5.	Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
	6.	Pending Issues.
	7.	Date and venue of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
	II.	**ADOPTION OF REPORTS**
	8.	Reports of regional meetings.
	9.	Reports from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
	10.	Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Operations of the Convention.
	11.	Report of the Working Group on the Implementation of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.
	12.	Report on the status of the Biosafety Protocol.
	13.	Report of the Global Environment Facility.
	14.	Report of the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing.
	15.	Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the Trust Fund of the Convention.
	III.	**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK**
	16.	Thematic areas:
	16.1	Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems diversity, marine and coastal biological diversity, and forest biological diversity (implementation of decisions IV/4, IV/5, IV/7);
	16.2	Agricultural biological diversity: review of phase I of the programme of work and adoption of a multi-year work programme.
	17.	Cross-cutting issues:
	17.1	Ecosystem approach: adoption of principles (implementation of decision IV/1 B);
	17.2	Identification, monitoring and assessment, and indicators (implementation of decision IV/1 A);

17.3 Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (implementation of decision IV/1 C);

17.4 Global Taxonomy Initiative: implementation and further advance of the Suggestions for Action (implementation of decision IV/1 D).

18. Mechanisms for implementation:

18.1 Financial resources and mechanism (Article 20 and 21);

18.2 Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism (Article 18);

18.3 Incentive measures (Article 11);

18.4 Article 8(j) and related provisions;

18.5 Education and public awareness (Article 13);

18.6 Impact assessment, liability and redress (Article 14);

18.7 National reporting (Article 26).

19. Operations of the Convention.

20. Budget for the Programme of Work for the biennium 2001-2002.

IV. PRIORITY ISSUES FOR REVIEW AND GUIDANCE

21. Consideration of options for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems.

22. Sustainable use, including tourism.

23. Access to genetic resources.

V. FINAL MATTERS

24. Other matters.

25. Adoption of the report.

26. Closure of the meeting.

Blue-tailed Yellow Skimmer
(*Palpopleura sexmaculata*)
Dr K Sasikumar, IFS



COP-6
Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

7 - 19 April 2002

The Hague, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Report on the credentials of representatives to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Pending issues.
7. Date and venue of, and preparations for, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

II. REPORTS

8. Reports of regional meetings.
9. Reports of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
10. Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and the Implementation of the Convention.
11. Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.
12. Report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.
13. Report on the status of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
14. Report of the Global Environment Facility.
15. Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the Trust Fund of the Convention.

III. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

16. Thematic programmes of work-progress reports on implementation: biological diversity of inland waters; marine and coastal biological diversity; biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; and agricultural biological diversity.
17. Cross-cutting issues-progress reports on implementation:
17.1. Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments;
17.2. Global Taxonomy Initiative;
17.3. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;
17.4. Article 8(j) and related provisions;
17.5. Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2);
17.6. Ecosystem approach; sustainable use; and incentive measures.
18. Mechanisms for implementation:
18.1. Financial resources and mechanism (Articles 20 and 21);
18.2. Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism (Article 18, paragraph 3);
18.3. Education and public awareness (Article 13).

19. Cooperation:

19.1. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives;

19.2. Contribution to the ten-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 ("Rio+10").

20. Budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2003-2004.

IV. PRIORITY ISSUES

21. Forest biological diversity.

22. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

23. Access and benefit-sharing as related to genetic resources.

24. Strategic plan, national reporting and operations of the Convention.

V. FINAL MATTERS

25. Other matters.

26. Adoption of the report.

27. Closure of the meeting.

COP - 7 Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

9 - 20 February 2004

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Report on the credentials of representatives to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Pending issues.
7. Date and venue of, and preparations for, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

II. REPORTS

8. Reports of regional meetings.
9. Reports of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
10. Report of the President on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
11. Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-year Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010.
12. Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.
13. Report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.
14. Report on the status of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
15. Report of the Global Environment Facility.
16. Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the Trust Funds of the Convention.

III. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

17. Thematic programmes of work-progress reports on implementation and consideration of proposals for future action: forest biological diversity; biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; and agricultural biological diversity.

18. Thematic programmes of work-review, further elaboration and refinement:

18.1 Biological diversity of inland waters ecosystems;

18.2. Marine and coastal biological diversity.

19. Cross-cutting issues-progress reports on implementation and consideration of proposals for future action:

19.1. Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments (Article 7);

19.2. Global Taxonomy Initiative;

19.3. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;

19.4 Ecosystem approach;

19.5. Sustainable use (Article 10);

19.6. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (Article 8 (h));

19.7. Biological diversity and tourism;

19.8 Article 8(j) and related provisions;

19.9 Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2);

19.10. Incentive measures (Article 11);

19.11. Access and benefit-sharing as related to genetic resources (Article 15).

20. Mechanisms for implementation:

20.1. Financial resources and mechanism (Articles 20 and 21);

20.2. Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism (Article 18, paragraph 3);

20.3. Communication, education and public awareness (Article 13);

20.4. National reporting.

21. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives;

22. Budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2005-2006.

IV. PRIORITY ISSUES

23. Mountain biological diversity.

24. Protected areas (Article 8 (a) to (e)).

25. Transfer of technology and technology cooperation (Articles 16 and 18).

26. Follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, strategic plan and operations of the Convention.

V. FINAL MATTERS

27. Other matters.

28. Adoption of the report.

29. Closure of the meeting.

COP-8
Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

20 - 31 March 2006

Curitiba, Brazil

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Report on the credentials of representatives to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Pending issues.
7. Date and venue of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

II. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

8. Reports of the regional preparatory meetings.
9. Reports of inter-sessional meetings.
10. Report on the status of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
11. Report of the Global Environment Facility.
12. Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the Trust Fund of the Convention.
13. Global Biodiversity Outlook.

III. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

14. Island biodiversity.
15. Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands.
16. Global Taxonomy Initiative.
17. Access and benefit-sharing (Article 15).
18. Article 8(j) and related provisions.
19. Communication, education and public awareness (Article 13).

IV. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR EVALUATING PROGRESS OR SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION

20. Progress towards implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan including the 2010 target and the Convention's contribution to relevant Millennium Development Goals:

20.1. Review of implementation;

20.2. Implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity concerns, and options for the provision of increased technical support.

21. Implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

22. Refining mechanisms to support implementation:

22.1. Review of the effectiveness and impacts of the Convention bodies, processes and mechanisms;

22.2. Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism;

22.3 Technology transfer and cooperation;

22.4. Financial resources and mechanism.

23. Monitoring progress and reporting processes, including integration of targets into the thematic programmes of work, national reporting and the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

24. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives, and engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention.

25. Guidance to financial mechanism.

V. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARISING FROM DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

26. Thematic programmes of work:

26.1. Forest biological diversity: implementation of the programme of work;

26.2. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: criteria for site designation, and reporting processes;

26.3. Marine and coastal biological diversity: deep-seabed genetic resources, and integrated marine and coastal area management;

26.4. Agriculture biological diversity: International Soil Biodiversity Initiative, and crosscutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition.

27. Cross-cutting issues:

27.1 Protected areas: consideration of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas;

27.2 Incentive measures: development of proposals on the removal or mitigation of perverse incentives, on positive incentives and on valuation tools;

27.3 Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species: gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework;

27.4 Impact assessment: refinement of guidelines for biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment;

27.5 Liability and redress: consideration of the recommendations of the Group of Legal and Technical Experts; 27.6 Biodiversity and climate change: guidance to promote synergy among activities for biodiversity conservation, mitigating or adapting to climate change and combating land degradation.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

28. Administration of the Convention and budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2007- 2008.

VII. FINAL MATTERS

29. Other matters.

30. Adoption of the report.

31. Closure of the meeting.

COP-9
Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

19 - 30 May 2008

Bonn, Germany

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1.1. Opening of the meeting.

1.2. Election of officers.

1.3. Adoption of the agenda.

1.4. Organization of work.

1.5. Report on the credentials of representatives to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

1.6. Pending issues.

1.7. Date and venue of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

II. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

2.1. Reports of inter-sessional and regional preparatory meetings.

2.2. Report of the Global Environment Facility.

2.3. Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the Trust Fund of the Convention.

III. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

3.1. Agricultural biodiversity.

3.2. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

3.3. Invasive alien species.

3.4. Forest biodiversity.

3.5. Incentive measures.

3.6. Ecosystem approach.

3.7. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals.

3.8. Financial resources and the financial mechanism

IV. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARISING FROM DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR EVALUATING PROGRESS

4.1. Access and benefit-sharing.

4.2. Article 8(j) and related provisions.

4.3. Technology transfer and cooperation.

4.4. Monitoring, assessments and indicators.

4.5. Biodiversity and climate change.

4.6. Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

4.7. Protected areas.

4.8. Biodiversity of inland waters.

4.9. Marine and coastal biodiversity.

4.10. Island biodiversity.

4.11. Global Taxonomy Initiative.

4.12. Liability and redress.

4.13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives, and engagement of stakeholders. 4.14. Operations of the Convention.

4.15. Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism.

4.16. Guidance to the financial mechanism.

4.17. Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA).

V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

5.1. Administration of the Convention and budget for the Trust Fund of the Convention for the biennium 2009-2010.

VI. FINAL MATTERS

6.1. Other matters.

6.2. Adoption of the report.

6.3. Closure of the meeting.

COP - 10
Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

18 - 29 October 2010

Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1.1. Opening of the meeting.

1.2. Election of officers.

1.3. Adoption of the agenda.

1.4. Organization of work

1.5. Report on the credentials of representatives to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

1.6. Pending issues.

1.7. Date and venue of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

II. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

2.1. Reports of inter-sessional and regional preparatory meetings.

2.2. Report of the Global Environment Facility.

2.3. Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the Trust Fund of the Convention.

III. ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING

3. International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing.

IV. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR EVALUATING PROGRESS AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION

4.1. Progress toward the 2010 biodiversity target, including national reports and the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

4.2. Revised Strategic Plan, biodiversity target and indicators.

4.3. Operations of the Convention, including programme of work for the period 2011-2022 and periodicity of meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

4.4. Strategy for resource mobilization.

4.5. Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism.

4.6. Technology transfer and cooperation.

4.7. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

4.8. Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) and the International Year of Biodiversity

4.9. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives, engagement of stakeholders, including business and biodiversity, cities and biodiversity, and South/South cooperation.

4.10. Financial mechanism: fourth review of effectiveness and guidance.

V. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

5.1. Inland waters biodiversity.

5.2. Marine and coastal biodiversity.

5.3. Mountain biodiversity.

5.4. Protected areas.

5.5. Sustainable use of biodiversity.

5.6. Biodiversity and climate change.

VI. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARISING FROM DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

6.1. Agriculture biodiversity.

6.2. Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

6.3. Forest biodiversity.

	6.4. Biofuels and biodiversity.
	6.5. Invasive alien species.
	6.6. Global Taxonomy Initiative.
	6.7 Article 8(j) and related provisions.
	6.8. Incentive measures.
	6.9. New and emerging issues.
	VII ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
	7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the Trust Fund of the Convention for the biennium 2011-2012.
	VIII. FINAL MATTERS
	8.1. Other matters.
	8.2 Adoption of the report.
	8.3. Closure of the meeting
COP - 11 Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	1. Organizational matters:
	1.1. Opening of the meeting;
	1.2. Election of officers;
	1.3. Adoption of the agenda;
	1.4. Organization of work
	1.5. Report on the credentials of representatives to the meeting;
	1.6. Pending issues;
8 - 19 October 2012	1.7. Reports of inter-sessional and regional preparatory meetings.
Hyderabad, India	2. Status of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization and related developments.
	3. Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets:
	3.1. Review of progress in implementation including the establishment of national targets and the updating of national strategies and action plans;
	3.2. Review of progress in providing capacity-building support to Parties, promoting communication, education and public awareness and strengthening of the clearing-house mechanism and technology transfer and cooperation;
	3.3. Further development of tools and guidance for monitoring implementation, including the use of indicators.
	4. Financial resources and financial mechanism:
	4.1. Review of implementation of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, including the establishment of targets;
	4.2. Report of the Global Environment Facility;
	4.3. Guidance to the financial mechanism: four-year framework of programme priorities and review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;
	4.4. Needs assessment for the sixth GEF replenishment cycle.
	5. Cooperation, outreach and the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity:
	5.1. United Nations Decade on Biodiversity;
	5.2. Cooperation with international organizations, other conventions and initiatives;
	5.3. Business and biodiversity;

5.4.	Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities.
6.	Operations of the Convention:
6.1.	Periodicity of meetings;
6.2.	Consideration of the need to strengthen the existing mechanisms of the Convention and the need for and possible development of additional mechanisms;
6.3.	Retirement of decisions.
7.	Article 8(j) and related provisions.
8.	Review of the programme of work on island biodiversity.
9.	Ecosystem restoration.
10.	Marine and coastal biodiversity:
10.1.	Identification of ecologically and biologically significant marine and coastal areas;
10.2.	Other matters related to marine and coastal biodiversity.
11.	Biodiversity and climate change and related issues:
11.1.	Advice on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity with regard to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries;
11.2.	Studies on geo-engineering;
11.3.	Other matters related to biodiversity and climate change.
12.	Biodiversity and development.
13.	Other substantive issues arising from the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
13.1.	Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
13.2.	Forest biodiversity;
13.3.	Inland waters biodiversity;
13.4.	Protected areas;
13.5.	Agricultural biodiversity;
13.6.	Sustainable use of biodiversity;
13.7.	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;
13.8.	Biofuels and biodiversity;
13.9.	Invasive alien species;
13.10.	Global Taxonomy Initiative;
13.11.	Incentive measures.
14.	Administrative and budgetary matters:
14.1.	Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the trust funds of the Convention;
14.2.	Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds of the Convention for the biennium 2013-2014.
15.	Final matters:
15.1.	Date and venue of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
15.2.	Other matters;
15.3.	Adoption of the report;
15.4.	Closure of the meeting.

COP-12
Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

6 - 17 October 2014

Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Report on the credentials of representatives to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Pending issues.
7. Date and venue of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

II. REPORTS

8. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings.
9. Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the Trust Funds of the Convention.
10. Status of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

III. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS: ASSESSING PROGRESS AND ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION

11. Fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.
12. Mid-term review of progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and further actions to enhance progress.
13. Review of progress in providing support in implementing the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and enhancement of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation.
14. Resource mobilization.
15. Financial mechanism.
16. Biodiversity and sustainable development.
17. Mainstreaming gender considerations.

IV. OTHER ITEMS RESULTING FROM THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION

18. Access and benefit-sharing.
19. Article 8(j) and related provisions.
20. Liability and redress.
21. Marine and coastal biodiversity.
22. Invasive alien species.
23. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
24. New and emerging issues: synthetic biology.
25. Biodiversity and climate change.
26. Ecosystem conservation and restoration.
27. Sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management.
28. Biofuels and biodiversity.
29. Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and stakeholders' engagement, including business.

V. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

30. Improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention.
31. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020.
32. Budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2015-2016.

VI. FINAL MATTERS

33. Other matters.
34. Adoption of the report.
35. Closure of the meeting.

COP-13
Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Cancun, Mexico

4 - 17 December 2016

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Election of officers.
4. Report on the credentials of representatives to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Pending issues.
6. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

II. REPORTS

7. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings.
8. Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the Trust Funds of the Convention.

III. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020: ASSESSING PROGRESS AND ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION

9. Interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and related means of implementation.
10. Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors.
11. Resource mobilization and financial mechanism.
12 Other means of implementation: enhancement of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation.
13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.

IV. OTHER ITEMS RESULTING FROM THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION

14. Article 8(j) and related provisions: guidelines for the repatriation of traditional knowledge; guidelines for the development of legislation or other mechanisms; and recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
15. Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas; specific work plan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas; addressing impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity; and marine spatial planning and training initiatives.

	16. Invasive alien species: addressing risks associated with trade; experiences in the use of biological control agents; and decision support tools.
	17. Other scientific and technical issues, including synthetic biology, implications of the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators, and sustainable wildlife management.
	V. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION
	18. Improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention, including integration among the Convention and its Protocols.
	19. Guidelines for the sixth national reports, modalities for future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and indicators.
	VI. FINAL MATTERS
	20. Other matters.
	21. Adoption of the report.
	22. Closure of the meeting.
COP - 14 Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	1. Opening of the meeting.
	2. Organizational matters.
	3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
	4. Pending issues.
	5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt,	6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings.
17 - 29 November 2018	7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds.
	8. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
	9. Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism.
	10. Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation.
	11. Knowledge management and communication.
	12. Mechanisms for national reporting, assessment and review.
	13. Enhancing integration under the Convention and its Protocols with respect to provisions related to access and benefit-sharing, biosafety, and Article 8(j) and related provisions.
	14. Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives.
	15. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols.
	16. Second work programme of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
	17. Long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, approaches to living in harmony with nature and preparation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

	18.	Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
	19.	Article 8(j) and related provisions.
	20.	Sustainable wildlife management.
	21.	Biodiversity and climate change.
	22.	Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.
	23.	Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators.
	24.	Spatial planning, protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
	25.	Marine and coastal biodiversity.
	26.	Invasive alien species.
	27.	Synthetic biology.
	28.	Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2).
	29.	Other matters.
	30.	Adoption of the report.
	31.	Closure of the meeting.

COP-15 Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Part Two)

7 - 19 December 2022

Montreal, Canada

I.	**ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**
1.	Opening of the meeting.
2.	Organizational matters.
3.	Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4.	Pending issues.
5.	Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
II.	**REPORTS**
6.	Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings.
III.	**ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET**
7.	Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds.
IV.	**REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION**
8.	Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
V.	**THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, RELATED MATTERS AND MECHANISMS FOR ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION**
9.	The post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
10.	Enhancing integration with respect to provisions related to Article 8(j) and related provisions.
11.	Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
12.	Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism.
13.	Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management and communication.
14.	Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.
15.	Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.
16.	Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.

COP-15 Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Part Two) **7 - 19 December 2022** **Montreal, Canada**	17. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols. 18. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties. **VI. FURTHER TECHNICAL ISSUES** 19. Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. 20. Marine and coastal biodiversity. 21. Invasive alien species. 22. Sustainable wildlife management. 23. Biodiversity and climate change. 24. Biodiversity and agriculture. 25. Biodiversity and health. 26. Nature and culture. 27. Synthetic biology. **VII. FINAL MATTERS** 28. Other matters. 29. Adoption of the report. 30. Closure of the meeting.
COP-16 Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity **21 October-1 November 2024** **Cali, Colombia**	1. Opening of the meeting. 2. Organizational matters. 3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. 4. Pending issues. 5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties. 6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings. 7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds. 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. 9. Digital sequence information on genetic resources. 10. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review. 11. Resource mobilization and financial mechanism. 12. Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management. 13. Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions. 14. Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions. 15. Communication, education and public awareness. 16. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including implications for the programmes of work of the Convention. 17. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.

	18. Diverse values of biodiversity.
	19. Sustainable wildlife management.
	20. Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity.
	21. Invasive alien species.
	22. Biodiversity and health.
	23. Plant conservation.
	24. Synthetic biology.
	25. Biodiversity and climate change.
	26. Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2).
	27. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols.
	28. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.
	29. Other matters.
	30. Adoption of the report.
	31. Closure of the meeting.
COP-16 Resumed second part of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	1. Opening of the meeting.
	2. Organizational matters.
	3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
25 - 27 February 2025	7. Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds.
	10. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.
Rome, Italy	11. Resource mobilization and financial mechanism.
	13. Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions.
	28. Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.
	29. Other matters.
	30. Adoption of the report.
	31. Closure of the meeting.
COP-17 Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	**Provisional Agenda**
	1. Opening of the meeting.
	2. Organizational matters.
	3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
19-30 October 2026	4. Pending issues.
	5. Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
Yerevan, Armenia	6. Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings.
	7. Administration of the Convention on Biological Diversity, budget for the trust funds and functional review of the Secretariat.

8.	Resource mobilization and financial mechanism:
(a)	Resource mobilization;
(b)	Financial mechanism.
9.	Planning, monitoring, reporting and review:
(a)	Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
(b)	Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
10.	Implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities:
(a)	Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;
(b)	Implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030:
(I)	Guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities (Task 1.1); and guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2);
(ii)	Process to review and update the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention (Task 5.4);
(c)	In-depth dialogue on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention;
(d)	Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
11.	Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
12.	Matters relating to support mechanisms for the implementation and awareness of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:
(a)	Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation;
(b)	Clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management;
(c)	Communication, education and public awareness.
13.	Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions.
14.	Mainstreaming of biodiversity and engagement with subnational governments:
(a)	Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors;
(b)	Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
15.	Gender Plan of Action.
16.	Synthetic biology.
17.	Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global

	Biodiversity Framework and matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:
(a)	Strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity in the context of the Framework;
(b)	Strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity;
(c)	Strategic review of and updates to the programme of work on protected areas;
(d)	Areas of potential further work in the context of the Framework;
(e)	Matters related to the work programme of the Platform.
18.	Other scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:
(a)	Biodiversity and climate change;
(b)	Sustainable wildlife management;
(c)	Marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity;
(d)	Biodiversity and agriculture;
(e)	Invasive alien species;
(f)	Biodiversity and health.
19.	Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols.
20.	Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.
21.	Other matters.
22.	Adoption of the report.
23.	Closure of the meeting.

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Clouded Leopard
(*Neofelis* sp.)
Dr K Sasikumar, IFS

Annexure-3

List of Administrative and Technical agenda items for SBSTTA 1 - 28

Meeting	Agenda	
First Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 4 - 8 September 1995 Paris, France	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters:
	2.1	Election of officers;
	2.2.	Adoption of the agenda;
	2.3.	Organization of work
	3.	Matters related to the modus operandi of the SBSTT?.
	4.	Programme of work of the SBSTTA for 1995-1997.
	5.	Matters on which advice from the SBSTTA is required by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
	5.1.	Provision of scientific and technical assessments of the status of biological diversity (Article 25, paragraph 2(a));
	5.1.1.	Alternative ways and means in which the Conference of the Parties could start the process of considering the components of biological diversity particularly those under threat and the identification of action which could be taken under the Convention (priority item);
	5.2.	Preparation of scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention (Article 25, paragraph 2(b));
	5.3.	Identification of innovative, efficient and state-or-the-art technologies and know-how relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and provision of advice on the ways and means of promoting development and/or transferring such technologies (Article 25, paragraph 2(c));
	5.3.1.	Ways and means to promote and facilitate access to, and transfer and development of technologies as envisaged in Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention (priority item);
	5.4.	Provision of advice on scientific programmes and international cooperation in research and development related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (Article 25, paragraph 2(d));
	5.5.	Scientific, technical, technological and methodological questions that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies may put to the body (Article 25, paragraph 2(e));
	5.5.1.	What kind of scientific and technical information should be contained in national reports on measures taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention? (priority item),
	5.5.2.	How can the Convention on Biological Diversity contribute to the preparation for the forthcoming International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 1996?

Meeting	Agenda
	5.5.3. Provision of adyice on the scientific. technical and technological aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biological diversity (also taking into account the other provisions in Article 25, paragraph 2) (priority item).
	6. Draft provisional agenda of the second meeting of the SBSTTA.
	7. Date and venue of the second meeting.
	8. Other matters.
	9. Adoption of the report.
	10. Closure of the meeting.
Second Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice **2 - 6 September 1996** **Montreal, Canada**	1. Opening of the meeting.
	2. Organisational matters: 2.1. Election of the officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organisation of work.
	3. Matters on which advice from the SBSTTA is required by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties:- 3.1. Assessment of biological diversity and methodologies for future assessments 3.1.1. Review of assessment of biological diversity made in 1995, and methodologies for future assessments, as well as the minimum standard data required, as appropriate, to be applied in accordance with national priorities and programmes. 3.2. Identification, monitoring and assessment of components of biological diversity and of processes that have adverse impacts 3.2.1. Alternative ways and means in which the Conference of the Parties could start the process of identification, monitoring and assessment of components of biological diversity, as well as processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in accordance with Article 7. 3.3. Review and promotion of indicators of biological diversity 3.3.1. Review and promotion of indicators of biological diversity to be used for assessment of effectiveness of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. 3.4. Practical approaches for capacity-building for taxonomy 3.4.1. Consider advice to the Conference of the Parties on ways and means to overcome the current lack of taxonomists taking into account existing initiatives and being mindful of adopting a practical direction to taxonomy linked to bio-prospecting and ecological research on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components. 3.5. Ways and means to promote and facilitate access to, and transfer and development of technology, including biotechnology

Meeting	Agenda
	3.5.1. Identification of sound technologies, including biotechnology and description of ways and means to promote and facilitate access to, and transfer and development of these technologies, and the role of the clearing-house mechanism.
	3.6. Knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities
	3.6.1. Ways and means to identify and protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles and to compensate through the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of such knowledge, innovations and practices, in accordance with Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
	3.7. Capacity-building for biosafety
	3.7.1. Capacity-building in relation to safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.
	3.8. The role of the clearing-house mechanism in promoting technical and scientific cooperation
	3.8.1. Role of the clearing-house mechanism in facilitating and promoting technical and scientific cooperation in research and development related to conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.
	3.9. Agricultural biological diversity
	3.9.1. Scientific, technical and technological aspects of the conservation of agricultural biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.
	3.10. Terrestrial biological diversity
	3.10.1. Scientific, technical and technological aspects of the future programme of work for terrestrial biological diversity in the light of the outcome of deliberations of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995.
	3.11. Economic valuation of biological diversity
	3.11.1. Scientific, technical and technological advice on economic valuation of biological diversity and its components, in particular in relation to access to genetic resources.
	3.12. Coastal and marine biological diversity
	3.12.1. Scientific, technical and technological aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biological diversity;
	3.12.2. Bio-prospecting of genetic resources of the deep seabed.
	4. Review of the modus operandi of the SBSTTA.
	5. Review of the medium-term programme of work of the SBSTTA, 1995-1997.
	6. Draft provisional agenda of the third meeting of the SBSTTA.
	7. Date and venue of the third meeting of the SBSTTA.
	8. Other matters.
	9. Adoption of the report.
	10. Closure of the meeting.

Meeting		Agenda
Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 1 - 5 September 1997 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters:
	2.1	Election of officers;
	2.2	Adoption of the agenda;
	2.3	Organization of work.
	3.	The main ecosystem topic: assessment of the status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use.
	4.	Scientific, technical and technological aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity: report of the First Meeting of Experts and consideration of a draft three- year work plan.
	5.	Scientific, technical and technological advice on forest biological diversity, taking account of research and technical priorities previously identified.
	6.	Review of ongoing activities on agricultural biological diversity:
	6.1	Review of relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national and international levels relating to the thematic areas of Annex 2 to decision III/11 and advice on priorities for further work within the programme of activities on agricultural biological diversity;
	6.2	Review of work done on the topics described in Annex 3 to decision III/11.
	7.	Implementation of Article 7 on indicators and monitoring:
	7.1	Provision of scientific advice and further guidance to assist in the national elaboration of Annex I of the Convention;
	7.2	Review of methodologies for assessment of biological diversity;
	7.3	Current approaches to indicator development and recommendations for a preliminary core set of indicators of biological diversity, particularly those related to threats, and options for capacity-building in developing countries in the application of guidelines and indicators for subsequent national reports.
	8.	Promotion of international technical and scientific cooperation: report on the implementation of the pilot phase of the clearing house mechanism.
	9.	Progress report of the SBSTTA's work and of the effectiveness of its advice (1995-1997):
	9.1	Overall assessment of the operations of the SBSTTA and proposals for action, including ways and means to further the development of cooperative arrangements at the scientific and technical level with appropriate biological diversity-related conventions and institutions.
	10.	Draft provisional agenda of the fourth meeting of the SBSTTA.
	11.	Date and venue of the fourth meeting of the SBSTTA.
	12.	Other matters.
	13.	Adoption of the report.
	14.	Closure of the meeting.

Meeting	Agenda	
Fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 21 - 25 June 1999 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters:
	2.1	Election of officers;
	2.2	Adoption of the agenda;
	2.3	Organization of work.
	3.	Reports:
	3.1	Cooperation with other bodies;
	3.2	Progress in the work programmes on thematic areas.
	4.	Priority issues:
	4.1	Programme of work of SBSTTA;
	4.2	Ad hoc technical expert groups: establishment of the terms of reference;
	4.3	Global Taxonomy Initiative: advice on its further advancement;
	4.4	Assessment of the status and trends and options for conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial biological diversity (drylands, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland, and savannah ecosystems);
	4.5	Development of guiding principles for the prevention of impacts of alien species, by identifying priority areas of work on isolated ecosystems and by evaluating and giving recommendations for further development of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), with a view to cooperation;
	4.6	Consideration of the consequences of the use of the new technology for the control of plant gene expression for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
	4.7	Incorporation of biological diversity considerations into environmental impact assessment;
	4.8	Development of approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources, including tourism.
	5.	Draft provisional agenda for the fifth meeting of SBSTTA.
	6.	Dates and venue of the fifth meeting of SBSTTA.
	7.	Other matters.
	8.	Adoption of the report.
	9.	Closure of the meeting.
Fifth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 31 January - 4 February 2000 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters:
	2.1.	Election of officers;
	2.2.	Adoption of the agenda;
	2.3.	Organization of work.
	3.	Reports:
	3.1.	Cooperation with other bodies;
	3.2.	Pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism;
	3.3.	Review of the Global Taxonomy Initiative;
	3.4.	Alien species: guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts;
	3.5.	Specific issues in ongoing work programmes on thematic areas:

Meeting	Agenda
	3.5.1. Inland waters biological diversity: ways and means to implement the work programme; 3.5.2. Marine and coastal biological diversity: consideration of implementation tools for the programme of work, and analysis of coral bleaching; 3.5.3. Forest biological diversity: status and trends and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use.
	4. Priority issues: 4.1. Thematic areas: 4.1.1. Programme of work for dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semiarid, grassland and savannah biological diversity; 4.1.2. Agricultural biological diversity: assessment of ongoing activities and priorities for a programme of work; 4.2. Cross-cutting issues: 4.2.1. Ecosystem approach: further conceptual elaboration; 4.2.2. Development of indicators of biological diversity; 4.2.3. Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity: identification of sectoral activities that could adopt biodiversity-friendly practices and technologies; 4.3. Mechanisms for implementation: 4.3.1. Establishment of guidelines for the second national reports, including indicators and incentive measures; 4.3.2. Ad hoc technical expert groups: terms of reference, and rosters of experts and proposal on a uniform methodology for their use.
	5. Draft provisional agenda for the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
	6. Dates and venue of the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
	7. Other matters.
	8. Adoption of the report.
	9. Closure of the meeting.
Sixth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 12 - 16 March 2001 Montreal, Canada	1. Opening of the meeting.
	2. Organizational matters: 2.1. Election of officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work.
	3. Reports: 3.1. Ad hoc technical expert groups; 3.2. Assessment processes; 3.3. Marine and coastal biological diversity; 3.4. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. 4. Invasive alien species. 5. Other substantive issues:

Meeting	Agenda
	5.1. Scientific assessments; 5.2. Global Taxonomy Initiative; 5.3. Biological diversity and climate change, including cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; 5.4. Migratory species and cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.
	6. Preparation for the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: 6.1. Draft provisional agenda; 6.2. Dates and venue.
	7. Other matters.
	8. Adoption of the report.
	9. Closure of the meeting.
Seventh Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice **12 - 16 November 2001** **Montreal, Canada**	1. Opening of the meeting.
	2. Organizational matters: 2.1. Election of officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work.
	3. Reports: 3.1. Ad hoc technical expert groups; 3.2. Assessment processes; 3.3. Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; 3.4. Sustainable use: progress on development of practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments.
	4. Main theme: forest biological diversity.
	5. Other substantive issues: 5.1. Agricultural biological diversity; 5.2. Plant conservation strategy; 5.3. Incentive measures; 5.4. Indicators and environmental impact assessment.
	6. Preparation for the eighth and ninth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: 6.1. Draft provisional agendas; 6.2. Dates and venues.
	7. Other matters.
	8. Adoption of the report.
	9. Closure of the meeting.

Meeting	Agenda	
Eighth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 10 - 14 March 2003 ICAO, Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters:
	2.1.	Election of officers;
	2.2.	Adoption of the agenda;
	2.3.	Organization of work.
	3.	Reports:
	3.1.	Progress in implementation of the thematic programmes of work;
	3.2.	Progress in implementation of the programmes of work on cross-cutting issues;
	3.3.	Report of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the inter-sessional activities of the Bureau.
	4.	Main theme: mountain biological diversity.
	5.	In-depth reviews:
	5.1.	Inland water ecosystems: review, further elaboration and refinement of the programme of work;
	5.2.	Marine and coastal biological diversity: review, further elaboration and refinement of the programme of work.
	6.	Other substantive issues:
	6.1.	Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity: matters requested by the Conference of the Parties in paragraphs 5 and 6 of its decision V/23 and decision VI/4;
	6.2.	Biological diversity and tourism: draft guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development and biological diversity and case-studies on the implementation of the guidelines;
	6.3.	Operations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:
	(a)	Strategic plan of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
	(b)	Assessment of recommendations made to the Conference of the Parties by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
	(c)	Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010.
	7.	Preparation for the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:
	7.1.	Provisional agenda;
	7.2.	Dates and venue.
	8.	Other matters.
	9.	Adoption of the report.
	10.	Closure of the meeting.

Meeting	Agenda
Ninth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 10 - 14 November 2003 ICAO, Montreal, Canada	1. Opening of the meeting. 2. Organizational matters: 2.1. Election of officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work. 3. Reports: 3.1. Progress in the implementation of the thematic programmes of work; 3.2. Progress in the implementation of the programmes of work on cross-cutting issues; 3.3. Report of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the inter-sessional activities of the Bureau. 4. Main themes: 4.1. Protected areas; 4.2. Technology transfer and cooperation. 5. Other substantive issues: 5.1. Ecosystem approach: further elaboration and guidelines for implementation; 5.2. Sustainable use: development of practical principles, operational guidelines and associated instruments; 5.3. Monitoring and indicators: designing national-level monitoring programmes and indicators; 5.4. Biological diversity and climate change; 5.5. Mountain ecosystems. 6. Preparation for the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: 6.1. Draft provisional agendas; 6.2. Dates and venues. 7. Other matters. 8. Adoption of the report. 9. Closure of the meeting.
Tenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 7 - 11 February 2005 Bangkok, Thailand	**I. ORGANIZATIONAL AND REPORTING MATTERS** 1. Opening of the meeting. 2. Organizational matters: 2.1 Election of officers; 2.2 Adoption of the agenda; 2.3 Organization of work. 3. Progress report on the implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention. **II. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES** 4. New thematic area: island biodiversity. 5. Strategic issues for evaluating progress in or supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan, including the 2010 biodiversity target, and contributions to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals:

Meeting	Agenda
	5.1 Review of the Operational Plan of SBSTTA, including the review of methods and modalities for pilot assessments initiated in paragraph 6 of SBSTTA recommendation VI/5; 5.2 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: review of the draft reports, in particular the draft synthesis report prepared for the Convention on Biological Diversity; 5.3 Further development of goals and sub-targets to facilitate coherence among the programmes of work, and to provide a flexible framework for national targets; 5.4 Indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 target, including the review of an outline of the second Global Biodiversity Outlook; 5.5 Role of the clearing-house mechanism in promoting technical cooperation to achieve the 2010 targets and facilitating information exchange on progress made.
	6. Other scientific and technical matters as determined by the Conference of the Parties: 6.1 Incentive measures: further refinement and consideration of the proposals for the application of ways and means to remove or mitigate perverse incentives; 6.2 Agricultural biodiversity: (a) Options for a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition; (b) Further development of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity; (c) Advice on the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Genetic Use Restriction Technologies; 6.3 Global Taxonomy Initiative: (a) Development of the process and guidelines for the in-depth review of the programme of work; (b) Review of the Global Taxonomy Initiative guide; 6.4 Climate change: terms of reference for an ad hoc technical expert group to develop advice or guidance for promoting synergy among activities addressing the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change at the national, regional and international level.
	III. FINAL MATTERS 7. Preparation for the eleventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: 7.1 Draft provisional agenda; 7.2 Date and venue. 8. Other matters. 9. Adoption of the report. 10. Closure of the meeting.

Meeting	Agenda
Eleventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 28 November - 2 December 2005 Montreal, Canada	**I. ORGANIZATIONAL AND REPORTING MATTERS** 1. Opening of the meeting 2. Organizational matters: 2.1. Election of officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work. 3. Progress report on the implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention. **II. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES** 4. In-depth review of programmes of work: 4.1. Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity; 4.2. Global Taxonomy Initiative. 5. Strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan, including the 2010 biodiversity target, and contributions to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: 5.1. Second Global Biodiversity Outlook: review of the draft; 5.2. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: review of the findings, in particular the synthesis report on biodiversity prepared for the Convention; 5.3. Incentive measures: (a) Proposals on the application of positive incentive measures and their integration into relevant policies, programmes or strategies; (b) Proposals on valuation of biodiversity and biodiversity resources and functions; 5.4. Mountain biodiversity: development of goals and subtargets for the programme of work in the framework of the 2010 target. 6. Other scientific and technical issues as determined by the Conference of the Parties: 6.1. Marine and coastal biodiversity: identification of technical options for the conservation and sustainable use of deep seabed genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction; 6.2. Inland water ecosystems: (a) Proposals on matters identified in paragraphs 3 and 16 of decision VII/4 relating to national reporting on inland water ecosystems; (b) Consideration of matters relating to paragraphs 29 and 30 of decision VII/4 on criteria for the designation of Ramsar sites in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and guidelines for their application; (c) Ways and means for making the review of the implementation of the programme of work on inland water ecosystems more comprehensive; 6.3. Forest biological diversity: (a) Consideration of matters arising from the implementation of paragraph 19 of decision VI/22; (b) Consideration of the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity;

Meeting	Agenda
	6.4. Invasive alien species: further consideration of gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks; 6.5. Sustainable use: further consolidation of the work on the use of terms and on associated instruments; 6.6. Guidance for promoting synergy among activities addressing biological diversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change.
	III. FINAL MATTERS 7. Preparation for the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: 7.1. Draft provisional agendas; 7.2. Dates and venues. 8. Other matters. 9. Adoption of the report. 10. Closure of the meeting.
Twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 2 - 6 July 2007 Paris, France	1. Opening of the meeting.
	2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3. In-depth reviews: 3.1. Application of the ecosystem approach; 3.2 Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.
	4. Strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation of the Convention: 4.1 Review of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and follow-up to decision VIII/9; 4.2 Lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook; 4.3 Report of the SBSTTA Bureau on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body.
	5. Scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of the 2010 target: 5.1 Biodiversity and climate change: proposals for the integration of climate change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention and options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions; 5.2 Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands: guidance on strengthening the assessment of the 2010 targets; and proposals for land use options combining income generation with biodiversity conservation; 5.3 New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
	6. Draft provisional agenda, and dates and venue for, the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
	7. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

Meeting	Agenda	
Thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 18 - 22 February 2008 FAO, Rome, Italy	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	In-depth review of the implementation of the programmes of work on:
	3.1.	Agricultural biodiversity;
	3.2	Forest biodiversity.
	4.	Scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of the 2010 target:
	4.1	Marine and coastal biodiversity: options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems of marine areas in need of protection;
	4.2	Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention;
	4.3	Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards;
	4.4	Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions;
	4.5	New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
	5.	Draft provisional agendas, dates, and venues the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
	6.	Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.
Fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 10 - 21 May 2010 Nairobi, Kenya	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of, reporting on, and follow-up to, the 2010 target:
	3.1	In-depth reviews of implementation of the work on:
	3.1.1	Mountain biodiversity;
	3.1.2	Inland waters biodiversity;
	3.1.3	Marine and coastal biodiversity;
	3.1.4	Protected areas;
	3.1.5	Biodiversity and climate change;
	3.1.6	Article 10 of the Convention (sustainable use of biodiversity) and application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines;
	3.2	Consideration of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, its messages and implications;
	3.3	Proposals for a consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;
	3.4	Examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators, and consideration of their possible adjustments for the period beyond 2010.

Meeting	Agenda	
	4.	Matters arising from other decisions adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
	4.1	Agricultural biodiversity:
	4.1.1	Follow-up to requests of the Conference of the Parties in decision IX/1;
	4.1.2	Biofuels and biodiversity: consideration of ways and means to promote the positive and minimize the negative impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity;
	4.2	Consideration of proposals related to the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
	4.3	Forest biodiversity: joint work plan with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and report on cooperation, on the monitoring of forest biodiversity and on clarifying the definitions of forest and forest types;
	4.4	Further work on gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework on invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food, and best practices for addressing the risks associated with their introduction;
	4.5	Global Taxonomy Initiative: results and lessons learned from regional taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities;
	4.6	Incentive measures (Article 11 of the Convention): Good-practice cases from different regions on the identification and removal or mitigation of perverse, and the promotion of positive, incentive measures;
	4.7	New and emerging issues.
	5.	Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
	6.	Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.
Fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice **7 - 11 November 2011** **Montreal, Canada**	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of, reporting on, and follow-up to, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:
	3.1	Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: updated technical rationales and indicators;
	3.2	Ways and means to support ecosystem restoration;
	3.3	Draft comprehensive capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative.
	4.	Matters arising from other decisions adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
	4.1	Invasive alien species: proposals on ways and means to address gaps in international standards regarding invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food;
	4.2	Inland water biodiversity: implications of changes in the water cycle, and freshwater resources in the implementation of the programmes of work;

Meeting	Agenda	
	4.3	Sustainable use of biodiversity: revised recommendations of the Liaison Group on Bushmeat, including options for small-scale food and income alternatives, and report on how to improve sustainable use in a landscape perspective;
	4.4	Arctic biodiversity.
	5.	Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
	6.	Draft provisional agenda, and dates and venue for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
	7.	Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.
Sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice **30 April - 5 May 2012** **Montreal, Canada**	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters:
	2.1.	Election of officers;
	2.2.	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and issues, modalities and options for collaboration with the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES).
	4.	Global Biodiversity Outlook: preparation of the fourth edition.
	5.	Island biodiversity: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work.
	6.	Marine and coastal biodiversity:
	6.1.	Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
	6.2.	Addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, including coral bleaching, ocean acidification, fisheries, and underwater noise;
	6.3.	Marine spatial planning, marine protected areas and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas.
	7.	Biodiversity and climate change:
	7.1.	Advice on the application of relevant REDD+ safeguards1 for biodiversity, and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to monitor or assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity;
	7.2.	Integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information;
	7.3.	Geo-engineering: impacts on biodiversity and gaps in regulatory mechanisms.
	8.	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: progress in implementing decision X/17.
	9.	Global Taxonomy Initiative: revised draft comprehensive capacity-building strategy.
	10.	New and emerging issues.

Meeting	Agenda	
	11.	Biofuels and biodiversity: progress in implementing decision X/37.
	12.	Incentive measures: progress in implementing decision X/44.
	13.	Reports on collaborative work in the areas of agriculture, forests and health.
	14.	Other matters.
	15.	Adoption of the report.
	16.	Closure of the meeting.
Seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 14 - 18 October 2013 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters.
	3.	Facilitating the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through scientific and technical means:
	(a)	Policy support tools and methodologies developed or used under the Convention and their adequacy, impact and gaps;
	(b)	The adequacy of observations, and of data systems, for monitoring the biodiversity attributes addressed in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the use and development of indicators for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
	(c)	New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
	(d)	Scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
	4.	Assessing the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.
	5.	Contribution of the Convention to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) intersessional process.
	6.	Progress reports by the Executive Secretary.
	7.	Conclusions and recommendations for further work, including inputs to the IPBES work plan in accordance with decision XI/13.
	8.	Other matters.
	9.	Adoption of the report.
	10.	Closure of the meeting.
Eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 23 - 28 June 2014 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters.
	3.	Global Biodiversity Outlook: mid-term review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets:
	3.1	Review of the draft of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;
	3.2	Review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020.
	4.	Marine and coastal biodiversity:

Meeting	Agenda	
	4.1	Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
	4.2	Addressing impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity;
	4.3	Addressing impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity;
	4.4	Systematic review on the impacts of ocean acidification and proposal to update the specific work plan on coral bleaching;
	4.5	Tools and capacity development, including marine spatial planning and training initiatives.
	5.	Invasive alien species:
	5.1	Management of risks associated with invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food;
	5.2	Review of work on invasive alien species and considerations for future work.
	6.	New and emerging issues: synthetic biology.
	7.	Incentive measures: obstacles encountered in implementing options identified for eliminating, phasing out or reforming incentives that are harmful for biodiversity
	8.	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
	9.	Consideration of issues in progress:
	9.1	Integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into climate-change mitigation and adaptation activities;
	9.2	Application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity with regard to policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries;
	9.3	Climate-related geoengineering;
	9.4	Ecosystem conservation and restoration;
	9.5	Definitions of key terms related to biofuels and biodiversity;
	9.6	Sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management;
	9.7	Health and biodiversity.
	10.	Other matters.
	11.	Adoption of the report.
	12.	Closure of the meeting.

Meeting	Agenda	
Nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 2 - 5 November 2015 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters.
	3.	Strategic scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:
	3.1	Further consideration of the implications of the findings of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and related reports, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across sectors;
	3.2	Key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related research;
	3.3	Tools to evaluate the effectiveness of policy instruments for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
	3.4	Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
	4.	Reports and studies for review:
	4.1	Biodiversity and human health;
	4.2	Climate-related geoengineering;
	4.3	Forest biodiversity.
	5.	Work of the Subsidiary Body in the light of the 2014-2018 Work Programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and relationship with the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.
	6.	Other matters.
	7.	Adoption of the report.
	8.	Closure of the meeting.
Twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 25 - 30 April 2016 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters:
	2.1	Election of officers;
	2.2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Scientific review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related programmes of work and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
	4.	Marine and coastal biodiversity:
	4.1	Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
	4.2	Specific work plan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas;
	4.3	Addressing impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity;
	4.4	Marine spatial planning and training initiatives.
	5.	Invasive alien species: addressing the risks associated with trade; biological control; and decision support tools.
	6.	Synthetic biology.
	7.	Review of the IPBES assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production.
	8.	Biodiversity and climate change.
	9.	Sustainable wildlife management.

Meeting	Agenda	
	10.	Protected areas and ecosystem restoration.
	11.	Fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, guidelines for the sixth national reports, and indicators for assessing progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
	12.	New and emerging issues.
	13	Mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors, including agriculture, forests and fisheries.
	14.	Other matters.
	15.	Adoption of the report.
	16.	Closure of the meeting.
Twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 11 - 14 December 2017 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for biodiversity, and links between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.
	4.	Sustainable wildlife management: Guidance for achieving a more sustainable bush meat sector.
	5.	Biodiversity and human health.
	6.	Mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing industry, and health: scientific and technical considerations and use of the programmes of work of the Convention.
	7.	Fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.
	8.	Tools for evaluating the effectiveness of policy instruments for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
	9.	New and emerging issues.
	10.	Other matters.
	11.	Adoption of the report.
	12.	Closure of the meeting.
Twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 2 - 7 July 2018 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Digital sequence information on genetic resources.
	4.	Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms.
	5.	Synthetic biology.
	6.	Updated scientific assessment of progress towards selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets and options for accelerating progress.
	7.	Protected areas and other measures for enhanced conservation and management.

Meeting	Agenda	
	8.	Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, addressing anthropogenic underwater noise and marine debris, biodiversity in cold-water areas and marine spatial planning.
	9.	Biodiversity and climate change: ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
	10.	Invasive alien species.
	11.	Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators.
	12.	Second work programme of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
	13.	Other matters.
	14.	Adoption of the report.
	15.	Closure of the meeting.
Twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 25 - 29 November 2019 Montreal, Canada	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
	4.	Biodiversity and climate change.
	5.	Possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
	6.	Sustainable wildlife management.
	7.	Technical and scientific cooperation.
	8.	Results of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean.
	9.	New and emerging issues.
	10.	Other matters.
	11.	Adoption of the report.
	12.	Closure of the meeting
Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 14 - 29 March 2022 Geneva, Switzerland	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters: election of officers and adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
	4.	Synthetic biology.
	5.	Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms.
	6.	Marine and coastal biodiversity.
	7.	Biodiversity and agriculture.
	8.	Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
	9.	Biodiversity and health.
	10.	Invasive alien species.
	11.	Other matters.
	12.	Adoption of the report.
	13.	Closure of the meeting.

Meeting	Agenda	
Twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 15–19 October 2023 Nairobi, Kenya	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters: election of officers and adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Facilitating the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the monitoring of its progress:
	(a)	Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
	(b)	Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review;
	(c)	Approaches to identifying scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework, including its implication for the programmes of work of the Convention;
	(d)	Plant conservation.
	4.	Findings from the assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention.
	5.	Invasive alien species.
	6.	Sustainable wildlife management.
	7.	Biodiversity and climate change.
	8.	Other matters.
	9.	Adoption of the report.
	10.	Closure of the meeting.
Twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 13–18 May 2024 Nairobi, Kenya	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
	4.	Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
	5.	Synthetic biology.
	6.	Risk assessment and risk management.
	7.	Detection and identification of living modified organisms.
	8.	Marine and coastal biodiversity:
	(a)	Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
	(b)	Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.
	9.	Biodiversity and health.
	10.	Other matters.
	11.	Adoption of the report.
	12.	Closure of the meeting.

Meeting	Agenda	
Twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 20–24 October 2025 Panama City, Panama	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
	4.	Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
	5.	Biodiversity and climate change.
	6.	Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:
	(a)	Strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work under the Convention in the context of the Framework;
	(b)	Strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity;
	(c)	Areas of potential further work.
	7.	Risk assessment and risk management.
	8.	Invasive alien species.
	9.	Biodiversity and agriculture.
	10.	Biodiversity and health.
	11.	Other matters.
	12.	Adoption of the report.
	13.	Closure of the meeting.
Twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 27 July–1 August 2026 Nairobi, Kenya	1.	Opening of the meeting.
	2.	Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3.	Planning, monitoring, reporting and review:
	(a)	Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
	(b)	Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
	4.	Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
	5.	Synthetic biology.
	6.	Sustainable wildlife management.
	7.	Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas.
	8.	Marine and coastal biodiversity.
	9.	Other matters.
	10.	Adoption of the report.
	11.	Closure of the meeting.

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Annexure-4

List of Administrative and Technical agenda items for SBI 1 - 7

Meeting		Agenda Item Name
SBI-1 First meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation 2 - 6 May 2016 Montreal, Canada	1	Opening of the meeting
	2	Adoption of the agenda
	3	Organization of work
	4	Review of progress in implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan (2011-2020)
	5	Progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 (Nagoya Protocol)
	6	Effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol & mid-term evaluation
	7	Strategic actions & mainstreaming biodiversity
	8	Capacity-building, technical cooperation & technology transfer
	9	Resource mobilization
	10	Financial mechanism
	11	Cooperation & synergies among conventions
	12	Modus operandi of SBI & review mechanisms
	13	National reporting
	14	Integration among Convention & Protocols
	15	Administration & Secretariat review
	16	Other matters
	17	Adoption of the report
	18	Closure of the meeting
SBI-2 Second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation 9 - 13 July 2018 Montreal, Canada	1	Opening of the meeting
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	3	Review of progress in implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan (2011-2020)
	4	Effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol (ABS)
	5	Mainstreaming biodiversity and strategic actions
	6	Global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (Article 10)
	7	Specialized international ABS instruments (Article 4.4)
	8	Resource mobilization
	9	Financial mechanism
	10	Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer
	11	Cooperation with other conventions and organizations
	12	Mechanisms for review of implementation

Meeting		Agenda Item Name
	13	National reporting and assessment/review
	14	Enhancing integration under the Convention and its Protocols
	15	Review of effectiveness of processes
	16	Preparation for follow-up to the Strategic Plan (post-2020)
	17	Resource allocation & private sector engagement
	18	Other matters
	19	Adoption of the report
	20	Closure of the meeting
SBI-3 Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	1	Opening of the meeting
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	3	Review of progress in implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan (2011-2020)
	4	Effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
14 - 29 March 2022	5	Post-2020 global biodiversity framework
	6	Resource mobilization and financial mechanism
Geneva, Switzerland	7	Capacity-building, technical cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and communication
	8	Cooperation with other conventions and organizations
	9	Mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review
	10	Review of effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols
	11	Mainstreaming biodiversity and strategic actions
	12	Specialized international ABS instruments (Article 4.4)
	13	Global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (Article 10)
	14	Administrative and budgetary matters
	15	Other matters
	16	Adoption of the report
	17	Closure of the meeting
SBI-4 Fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	1(a)	Opening of the meeting
	1(b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Progress in national target setting and NBSAPs
	3	Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review
21-29 May 2024	4(a)	Resource mobilization
	4(b)	Financial mechanism
Nairobi, Kenya	5(a)	Capacity-building, technical cooperation, CHM & knowledge management
	5(b)	Capacity-building action plan for the Nagoya Protocol
	6	Communication
	7	Cooperation with other conventions and organizations
	8	Review of effectiveness of processes

Meeting		Agenda Item Name
	9	Effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol (Article 31)
	10	Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming
	11	Review of programmes of work
	12	Multi-year programme of work of COP
	13	Administrative and budgetary matters
	14	Other matters
	15	Adoption of the report
	16	Closure of the meeting
SBI-5 Fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation 16-18 October 2024 Cali, Colombia	1(a)	Opening of the meeting
	1(b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Review of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including means of implementation
	3	Other matters
	4	Adoption of the report
	5	Closure of the meeting
SBI-6 Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation 16-19 February 2026 Rome, Italy	1	Opening of the meeting
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	3(a)	Resource mobilization
	3(b)	Financial mechanism
	4	Planning, monitoring, reporting and review (NBSAPs, targets, reporting)
	5	Gender Plan of Action
	6	Capacity-building and technical/scientific cooperation
	7	Cooperation with other conventions and organizations
	8	Specialized international ABS instruments (Article 4.4)
	9	Review of effectiveness of processes
	10	Administrative and budgetary matters (Secretariat review)
	11	Other matters
	12	Adoption of the report
	13	Closure of the meeting
SBI-7 Seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation 4-12 August 2026 Nairobi, Kenya	1	Opening of the meeting
	2	Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
	3	Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
	4	Resource mobilization and financial mechanism:
	(a)	Resource mobilization;
	(b)	Financial mechanism.
	5	Digital sequence information on genetic resources.

Meeting	Agenda Item Name	
	6	Fifth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol.
	7	Second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.
	8	Synthetic biology: thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing.
	9	Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
	10	Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation.
	11	Clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management.
	12	Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors.
	13	Communication, education and public awareness.
	14	Administrative and budgetary matters.
	15	Other matters.
	16	Adoption of the report.
	17	Closure of the meeting.

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Annexure-5

List of Administrative and Technical agenda items for SB8j-1

Meeting		Agenda Item Name
SB8j-1 First meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities 27-30 October 2025 Panama City, Panama	1	Opening of the meeting
	2	Organizational matters.
	3	In-depth dialogue: "Strategies for mobilizing resources to ensure the availability of and access to financial resources and funding, as well as other means of implementation, including capacity-building, development and technical support for indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth, to support the full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework"
	4	Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
	5	Implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030:
	(a)	Guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities (Task 1.1);
	(b)	Guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2);
	(c)	Process to review and update the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention (Task 5.4)
	6	Provision of advice on traditional knowledge for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
	7	Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
	8	Other matters
	9	Adoption of the report
	10	Closure of the meeting.

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Annexure-6

Indian Focal Points – UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC and their key roles

Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)

The **Indian Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** is responsible for various initiatives and reports related to biodiversity conservation.

India has developed the updated **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2024 - 2030** and has submitted its **Seventh National Report** to the CBD, highlighting progress in achieving these targets.

The country aims to conserve **30% of its terrestrial and marine ecosystems** effectively and has set targets for invasive species management and sustainable consumption.

India also is contributing to the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which focus on halting global biodiversity loss by 2030.

Primary National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD NFP)	**Mr. Tarun Kumar Kathula**, Scientist 'G' Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change 5th Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110003 India Tel.: +91 112081 9420 E-Mail: tk.kathula@gov.in
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National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI NFP)	**Mr. Tarun Kumar Kathula**, Scientist 'G' Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change 5th Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110003 India Tel.: +91 112081 9420 E-Mail: tk.kathula@gov.in
National Focal Point to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC NFP)	**Mr. Tarun Kumar Kathula**, Scientist 'G' Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change 5th Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110003 India Tel.: +91 11 2081 9420 E-Mail: tk.kathula@gov.in

National Focal Points to the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA)	**Mr. Vaibhav C. Mathur** Inspector General of Forest Wildlife Division Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110003 India E-Mail: igfwl-mef@nic.in
National Focal Point for Article 8(j) and related provisions (Traditional knowledge and Customary Sustainable Use)	**Mr. Tarun Kumar Kathula**, Scientist 'G' Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change 5th Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110003 India Tel.: +91 11 2081 9420 E-Mail: tk.kathula@gov.in
National Focal Point for Resource Mobilization (RM NFP)	**Mr. Tarun Kumar Kathula**, Scientist 'G' Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change 5th Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110003 India Tel.: +91 11 2081 9420 E-Mail: tk.kathula@gov.in
National Focal Point for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (MAR NFP)	**Mr. Tarun Kumar Kathula**, Scientist 'G' Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change 5th Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110003 India Tel.: +91 11 2081 9420 E-Mail: tk.kathula@gov.in
National Focal Point for Gender and Biodiversity (Gender NFP)	**Ms. Abhilasha Singh Mathuriya**, Scientist 'D' Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change 2nd Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road New Delhi 110003 India E-Mail: abhilasha.mathuriya@gov.in
Access and Benefit-sharing and Nagoya Protocol	
National Focal Point on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS NFP)	**Dr. Achuta Nand Shukla**, Scientist 'E' Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change 2nd Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road New Delhi 110003 India Tel.: +91 11 2081 9296 E-Mail: achuta.shukla@gov.in
Competent National Authorities on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS CNA) published in the ABS Clearing-House	National Biodiversity Authority
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	
Primary National Focal Point to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB NFP)	**Mr. Tarun Kumar Kathula**, Scientist 'G' Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change 5th Floor, Vayu Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110003 India Tel.: +91 11 2081 9420 E-Mail: tk.kathula@gov.in

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Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)

National Focal Point

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igf.naeb@gov.in; desertification-mef@nic.in

Science and Technology Correspondents

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification has established a Committee on Science and Technology (CST). It is composed of government representatives competent in the fields of expertise relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. The committee identifies priorities for research, and recommends ways of strengthening cooperation among researchers. It is multi-disciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. It meets in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the COP.

Dr. Prashant Rajagopal, Deputy Inspector General of Forests
National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Room 706, 7th floor, Pt. Deen Dayal Antyodaya, Bhawan, CGO Complex, Near LJN Stadium Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003 India
Phone 01124362497 prashant.rajagopal@nic.in; desertification-mef@nic.in

Discipline of Expertise: Environmental sciences/ecology, Biodiversity and ecosystem sciences Desertification, Forestry

Independent Experts Nominated by the Party

The Group of Experts (GoE) plays an important institutional role, providing the CST with information on the current knowledge, the extent and the impact, the possible scenarios and the policy implications on various themes assigned in its work programme. The results of the work performed by the GoE are widely recognized and

include dissemination of its results on ongoing activities (benchmarks and indicators, traditional knowledge, early warning systems).

The Group of Experts develops and makes available to all interested people information on appropriate mechanisms for scientific and technological cooperation and articulates research projects, which promote awareness about desertification and drought between countries and stakeholders at the international, regional and national level.

The Group of Experts seeks to build on and use existing work and evidence to produce pertinent synthesis and outputs for the use of the Parties to the Convention and for the broader dissemination to the scientific community. The programme of work and its mandate is pluri-annual in nature, for a maximum of four years.

UNCCD Accredited CSOs

The civil society, non-governmental organizations and private sector entities play a vital role in amplifying grassroots' voices and bridging the gap between local realities and the global agenda of the UNCCD. Their participation fosters valuable connections between the United Nations system and diverse stakeholders, ensuring a broad range of perspectives on sustainable development and environmental issues are heard and considered.

National Action Programmes

National Action Programmes (NAP) are one of the key instruments in the implementation of the Convention. They are strengthened by Action Programmes on Sub-regional (SRAP) and Regional (RAP) level. National Action Programmes are developed in the framework of a participative approach involving the local communities and they spell out the practical steps and measures to be taken to combat desertification in specific ecosystems.

Convention on Climate Change (CCC)

The large number of matters related to climate change and the increased number of national activities relevant to the Convention, call for a closer co-operation between the Convention secretariat and Parties and for improvement in their communications. The main task to be carried out by the National Focal Point(s) were defined by the abovementioned subsidiary bodies.

The National Focal Point(s) should be able to, among other functions:

a) Receive copies of notification, documents, information regarding budgetary matters of the Convention secretariat and general data concerning the Convention, and distribute them to other concerned partners at the national level;

b) Liaise with the Convention secretariat on the preparation of national communication, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Convention and provide information regarding activities related to the Convention at the national level as well as the needs for financial and technical support to enable such activities;

c) Accept, approve or endorse activities implemented jointly and report on them to the COP through the secretariat.

Mr. Rajat Agarwal, Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
IPB, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110003 India

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4. CBD Secretariat-Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs Unit (2022). Managing Processes within the Framework of The Convention On Biological Diversity: A Guide for Presiding Officers.
5. Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat - All COP decisions and documents available at: https://www.cbd.int/decisions/
6. Earth Negotiations Bulletin, International Institute for Sustainable Development - Meeting reports for all CBD COPs: https://enb.iisd.org/biodiv/
7. Keystone International Dialogue Series on Plant Genetic Resources, Second Plenary Session (29 January–2 February 1990, Madras, India, pp. 25–26).
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15. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Global Biodiversity Outlook series (1-5), CBD Secretariat.

Weblinks

- https://www.un.org/en/observances/biological-diversity-day/convention
- https://www.sprep.org/sites/default/files/Pacific%20MEA%20Mana%20Kit/MEAs%20CBD%20Background.pdf
- https://www.icimod.org/event/regional-action/strengthening-science-policy-interface-between-biodiversity-and-climate-change-in-the-hindu-kush-himalaya/
- https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/Promoting_synergies_in_the_biodiversity_cluster.pdf

- https://enb.iisd.org/articles/linking-rio-conventions-progress-2022
- https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/adaptation_eng.pdf
- https://stakeholderforum.org/international-environmental-governance/
- https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop?id=12276
- https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/png234433.pdf

Key Institutional Sources Referenced Throughout:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Governing Council decisions and various reports
- Global Environment Facility (GEF) - Financial mechanism documentation
- Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) - Scientific assessments and recommendations
- Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions from COP 1 (1994) through COP 15 (2022)
- Cartagena Protocol documentation and implementation reports
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing documentation

Additional Implicit Sources

The document also draws from:

- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)
- Aichi Biodiversity Targets documentation
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Various COP decisions and meeting reports spanning 1994-2022

UN and International Organization Sources:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit, 1992)
- World Trade Organization rules and regulations
- Global Environment Facility (GEF) documents and reports
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Institutional Bodies Referenced:

- Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)
- CBD Secretariat (Montreal, Canada)
- Conference of the Parties (COP)
- Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- World Bank
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Other Conventions and Agreements referenced:

- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Convention on Migratory Species
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification

Notes

Notes



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change



For inquiries or more information, kindly contact:

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