

Input to the 2025 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
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Outline of the submission

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Introduction: The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a blueprint for exploring science-and evidence-based solutions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)¹ was adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) in December 2022 after a four-year consultation and negotiation process. The Framework builds on the Convention's previous Strategic Plans and sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050, with a set of 4 goals for 2050 and 23 target for 2030.

The implementation of the Framework is supported by a comprehensive package of decisions also adopted at COP 15. These include a monitoring framework,² an enhanced mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting, and reviewing implementation,³ the mobilization of the necessary financial resources for implementation,⁴ strategic frameworks for capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation,⁵ an agreement on sharing benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources,⁶ as well as an associated Gender Plan of Action.⁷

There are many synergies across the Sustainable Development Goals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The GBF itself can be understood as a tool to support the implementation of the SDGs, with the goals and targets contained within the Framework connecting to the 2030 Agenda. Considering the HLPF review at hand, the GBF and its accompanying package of decisions can be viewed as a blueprint for exploring science and evidence-based solutions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. From encouraging Parties to the Convention to restore and conserve 30% of terrestrial and marine areas of particular importance to biodiversity,⁸ to the development of innovative finance solutions as part of a revised strategy to mobilize resources for biodiversity,⁹ the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework considered the scientific work of experts in order to establish an ambitious plan for addressing biodiversity loss and other global challenges including those associated with Sustainable Development Goals.

With a broad, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, the GBF considers good health, gender equality, economic growth, and life below water as cross-cutting issues that must be addressed in the context of biodiversity restoration and conservation. The successful implementation of the Framework would mean a robust contribution to the achievement of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17, as discussed in Section III of this document.

The High-Level Political Forum may wish to consider, as appropriate, the essential role biodiversity plays across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, it may also wish to re-emphasize its support to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a mechanism for assisting in the implementation of all SDGs, but particularly the ones under review in 2025.

¹ The text on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

² The text on the monitoring framework can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf>.

³ The text on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf>.

⁴ The text on resource mobilization can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-07-en.pdf>.

⁵ The text on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-08-en.pdf>.

⁶ The text on DSI can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-09-en.pdf>.

⁷ Gender Plan of Action: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-11-en.pdf>.

⁸ Language from decision [15/4](#) (GBF).

⁹ Language from decision [15/7](#) (RM).

Sections IV of this document serves to emphasize what areas of the GBF and the CBD contribute to the spotlighted SDGs, and Section V provides the key messages for inclusion in the HLPF ministerial declaration.

Synergies between biodiversity and the spotlighted Sustainable Development Goals

The linkages between biodiversity and health are significant. Countless diseases are linked to ecosystem disturbances, there is a clear connection between preserving biodiversity and preventing future pandemics. Pandemic prevention and preparedness are cross-cutting areas, touching on issues related to avoiding human-wildlife conflict, ecosystem management and conservation, and stronger health systems. The Convention on Biological Diversity has engaged in several processes to accelerate the inclusion of biodiversity protection into health, by, for example developing the Action Plan to mainstream Biodiversity and Health linkages and participating in ongoing negotiations for a pandemic accord.

Similarly, the connections between biodiversity and SDG 5 are significant. Women play a vital role in safeguarding and managing biological resources and are disproportionately affected by the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as natural disasters associated with climate change. Biodiversity loss and degraded ecosystems can perpetuate gender inequalities by increasing the time spent by women and children in performing certain tasks, such as collecting valuable resources including fuel, food and water, and reducing time for education and income generating activities.

The Gender Plan of Action, which accompanies the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, recognizes the importance of gender equality for biodiversity conservation and restoration. This Plan of Action is further described in section III.

Financially speaking, there is broad recognition of the enormous economic value of conserving and sustainably using, biodiversity. Biodiversity supports the provision of ecosystem services which are central to economic activities. According to the **IPBES Global Assessment**¹⁰, more than **50% of the world's GDP is directly or moderately dependent on nature**, with key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries relying heavily on ecosystem services. The report highlights that the continued degradation of biodiversity threatens not only environmental stability but also economic resilience, employment, and long-term growth. This underscores how achieving inclusive and sustained economic growth, and thus SDG 8, necessitates a serious and concerted effort to integrate biodiversity conservation into economic planning and decision-making.

Considering all the SDGs highlighted for the 2025 HLPF, however, it is clearly Goal 14 which is the most directly related to biodiversity. Biodiversity underpins all fishing and aquaculture activities, as well as other species harvested for food and medicine. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including the use of marine protected areas, is essential to ensure that the world's oceans, seas and marine resources remain vital for current and future generations. And, considering the dependence of communities on healthy marine ecosystems, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine and coastal ecosystems is a crucial element for sustainable development.

The Convention on Biological Diversity further recognizes the importance of strengthening the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, the revised strategy for resource mobilization, which was adopted by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, strives to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by

¹⁰ <https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment>

establishing a process to progressively close the biodiversity financing gap – and thus enable developing country Parties to effectively implement the Goals and Targets of the Framework.

Potential Contributions of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Convention on Biological Diversity to the 2023 SDG Summit and the 2024 Summit for the Future

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

The achievement of SDG 3 depends on actions that address the various elements of the planetary crisis. This means that healthy lives and well-being for all require taking action to combat biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change. It should be noted that the interconnectedness of these elements is more amply recognized, and at a global level, the concept of the “triple planetary crisis” has echoed and gained relevance. This has served as an entry point for collaboration and synergies across various fora and organizations. The interconnectedness is also reflected in decisions by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Concerning the impacts of the interconnected crisis on the implementation of SDG3, it is our view that, in addressing the various elements of the crisis, the goal of “well-being for all” is not always given sufficient attention, and individual countries’ economic needs and interests are still driving their agenda, which may not necessarily bring equity.

At the CBD, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is aligned with the SDGs. In this respect, actions towards the implementation of the Framework will contribute to the overall progress towards achieving the SDGs. In the case of SDG 3, the GBF considers the interlinkages between biodiversity and health in its implementation. This has triggered actions such as the recent adoption of a Global Action Plan for Biodiversity and Health to mainstream these linkages, whose implementation will have co-benefits for health and biodiversity. The plan also considers the principle of health equity, and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Similarly, it is important to underscore the relevance of a biodiversity-inclusive One Health transition which includes managing ecosystems, including agricultural and urban ecosystems as well as the use of wildlife through an integrated approach to promote healthy ecosystems and healthy people. This transition recognizes the full range of linkages between biodiversity and all aspects of human health, and addresses the common drivers of biodiversity loss, disease risk and ill-health.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

The Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes that implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework depends on ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls and reducing inequalities. This understanding is a key consideration for the implementation of the GBF, and is reflected further in its Target 22, which calls for: “ensuring gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity”.

In order to ensure gender equality in the implementation of the GBF, the Framework is accompanied by the Gender Plan of Action. The Gender Plan of Action contains three main outcomes, under which are grouped a series of indicative objectives, actions and timelines. The three main outcomes are:

- I. All people, in particular all women and girls, have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention;

- II. Biodiversity policy, planning and programming decisions address equally the perspectives, interests, needs and human rights of all people, in particular of all women and girls;
- III. Enabling conditions are created to ensure gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

More information on the Convention's Gender Plan of Action and all associated actions, deliverables, and timelines, is available in document [CBD/COP/DEC/15/11](#).

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

According to a report released by OECD¹¹, ecosystem services delivered by biodiversity are valued between USD 125-140 trillion per year. In the European Union alone, 4.4 million jobs depend on healthy ecosystems. These statistics provide a clear picture: biodiversity, and by extension, the products of biodiversity, are crucial for sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth – as well as for achieving full and productive employment.

Target 15 of the GBF recognizes this clear importance of biodiversity for employment and social security – as it aims to enable businesses to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production. The achievement of Target 15 would steer businesses, and in particular large transnational companies and financial mechanisms, to use natural resources in a sustainable way – while continuing to generate jobs and economic growth in a manner that is not harmful to biodiversity, therefore contributing to SDG 8.

Investing in nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based approaches presents a significant opportunity to drive economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability. These approaches, which include restoring wetlands, sustainable agriculture, reforestation, and green infrastructure, enhance ecosystem resilience and provide essential services such as carbon sequestration, flood protection, and soil fertility. Studies indicate that every dollar invested in NbS can yield multiple times its value in economic returns by reducing disaster risks, lowering healthcare costs, and increasing agricultural productivity. Furthermore, these solutions create green jobs, strengthen local economies, and support long-term economic stability by preserving the natural capital on which industries such as agriculture, tourism, and fisheries depend. By integrating NbS into economic planning and business strategies, countries can build climate-resilient economies that generate employment while safeguarding biodiversity and essential ecosystem services.

Additionally, addressing and phasing out biodiversity-harmful subsidies will further promote long-term economic growth that does not deplete natural resources or degrade ecosystems and their services. Redirecting financial flows towards nature-positive investments will create a more resilient economic foundation, ensuring that economic development aligns with ecological sustainability. By eliminating incentives that contribute to environmental degradation and shifting towards sustainable business practices, economies can foster innovation, enhance resource efficiency, and secure livelihoods for future generations.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

The robust implementation of the GBF and the achievement of SDG 14 and related goals can only be achieved through the engagement of, and strong action by, key sectors that use or rely on ocean biodiversity.

¹¹ https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2019/12/biodiversity-finance-and-the-economic-and-business-case-for-action_016f1faa/a3147942-en.pdf

CBD Parties have emphasized this point clearly and have requested the Secretariat to facilitate various areas of work in this regard. The Secretariat works closely with FAO and regional fishery bodies to facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity into fisheries management. This builds on a long history of collaboration and has focused on various thematic issues. Recently, significant attention has been placed on supporting the identification and reporting of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in marine fisheries. This has been the topic of focus for various meetings and workshops convened or co-convened by the Secretariat and we have actively engaged in supporting Parties and competent authorities such as regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in identifying and reporting OECMs in their areas of competence.

Since 2010, the Secretariat has coordinated the process to describe and map ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). This has led to the description of more than 300 EBSAs around the world. EBSAs are not management measures but rather are scientific descriptions that can be used to support planning and management. Recognizing the need to ensure the best available information is included in the description of EBSAs, new modalities for the EBSA process were adopted by the CBD COP and its sixteenth meeting in 2024.

The Secretariat coordinates various activities to develop the capacity of Parties. One such endeavor is the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI), a global capacity-building platform coordinated by the CBD Secretariat. Through SOI, various types of capacity-building activities are provided, including regional and national workshops that focus on bringing together managers, experts and policymakers from across sectors and stakeholder groups to identify means to achieve common goals for the ocean.

The ambition of the goals and targets of the GBF requires robust and scaled-up action, which depends on the means of implementation being in place for such action. Targets 2 and 3, which call (among other points) for at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems to be under effective restoration and conservation by 2030 exemplify the ambition of the GBF in achieving Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to efforts specifically focused on marine and coastal areas, implementation of the GBF in terrestrial areas is also highly important for marine and coastal biodiversity in view of the many land-sea interactions. For example, Targets 1 (spatial planning), 2 (restoration), 3 (area-based conservation), 8 (climate change) and 12 (green and blue spaces) are essential for sound management of coastal habitats. Target 7 on pollution is critical not only for addressing pollution from marine activities, but also pollution from land-based sources, which is one of the most significant pressures on marine ecosystems.

Finally, the recent decision on a multilateral mechanism, including a freshly-launched Cali Fund for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on digital sequence information (DSI) directly serves goal 14 in providing a strong decision that all users of DSI should share benefits and that commercial users of DSI above certain financial thresholds should contribute a portion of their profits or revenues to the Cali Fund. These funds will be distributed to countries in the global South to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in developing country Parties, and Parties with economies in transition; to benefit indigenous peoples and local communities; an potentially to support building of capacity to generate, access, use, analyse and store DSI. This mechanism uses the whole-of-society approach to the CBD goals and contributes to increasing equity globally which will include DSI from marine genetic resources. The modalities of the multilateral mechanism state that the multilateral mechanism will be implemented in a way that is mutually supportive of and adaptive to other international ABS instruments on DSI.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework calls for a whole-of-government and whole of society approach. Its success relies on action and cooperation by all levels of government and by all actors of society. Technical and scientific cooperation through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation addresses the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries where more capacity development is needed. Target 19 emphasizes that resource mobilization for implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans should come from all sources, including domestic, international, public, and private sources. Moreover, Target 21 aims to ensure that the best available data, information, and knowledge are accessible not only to guide biodiversity action, but also to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, and practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities. As such, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is positioned for the whole of government and the whole of society relying on action and cooperation by all levels of government and by all actors of society.

Key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HPLF

Considering the above, the HLPF may wish to consider the following, as appropriate:

- Re-emphasize the essential role of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Emphasize the importance of Biodiversity for the achievement of SDG 3. Highlight that there is no human health without biodiversity. The principles of equity and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment should be stressed.
- Re-emphasize its support for the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as an essential contribution to the UN Decade of Action on the SDGs and note 2024 as the second-year anniversary since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Welcome the decisions adopted by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- Welcome the recently established Cali Fund for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.
- Welcome and encourage further contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, managed by the Global Environmental Facility, to operationalize resources needed for the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Call on governments, business, financial institutions and relevant stakeholders to scale up the financial resources necessary for the full and successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a means to address the unprecedented biodiversity loss that is impeding the full achievement of the SDGs on a broader scale.