



# Climate Action Network

Briefing: CBD COP16

October 2024

*Climate Action Network (CAN) is a global network of more than 1,900 civil society organisations in over 130 countries, driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice.*

## What's at stake

The upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP16 set to take place this coming October in Cali, Colombia, represents a pivotal moment for advancing global efforts on biodiversity, climate and human rights protection. Healthy ecosystems are the life support systems for all of humanity and they also play a fundamental role in tackling climate change. Breaking the unprecedented cycle of biodiversity loss and ecological degradation is essential to prevent ecosystems from releasing carbon into the atmosphere and reaching irreversible tipping points that will accelerate the climate crisis and lead to catastrophic regional and global consequences. This is also vital for supporting frontline and marginalised communities coping with and adapting to the escalating impacts of climate change.

As the first CBD COP since the adoption of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (KM-GBF) in 2022, COP16 will be critical for accelerating implementation towards achieving its 2030 targets and 2050 goals. Crucially, countries need to demonstrate how they will implement the KM-GBF domestically by presenting revised and ambitious **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans** (NBSAPs) ahead of COP16. Yet, there is growing concern that the level of ambition will fall short of global targets, and that only a few revised NBSAPs will be submitted this year (as of September 23rd 2024, only 19 countries and the EU have submitted revised NBSAPs aligned with the global goals of the KMGBF<sup>1</sup>).

**Finance** will indisputably take center stage in Cali. The KM-GBF calls for closing the estimated \$700 billion annual biodiversity funding gap by: **reforming harmful incentives by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030** (Target 18); increasing the level of financial resources from “all sources” to at least **\$200 billion per year by 2030** (Target 19); and mobilising international biodiversity finance from developed to developing countries to at least **\$20 billion annually by 2025 and \$30 billion by 2030** (Target 19a) (see Annex I). The level of ambition demonstrated at COP16 significantly hinges on how successfully rich

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop16-tracking-country-pledges-on-tackling-biodiversity-loss/>

nations demonstrate progress on the most imminent target of mobilising \$20 billion annually by 2025. These are key elements of a resource mobilisation strategy that countries need to agree at COP16. Making adequate and predictable resources available in a timely manner, including direct access for Indigenous Peoples and local communities is necessary to avoid putting the national level implementation of the KM-GBF at risk. Yet, while increased funding is undeniably important to addressing biodiversity loss, more attention is needed towards addressing the structural economic and political conditions underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and constraining government action, including debt, austerity and tax avoidance.

COP16 is also expected to **assess the state of implementation** of the KM-GBF and further develop its **monitoring framework**, which will support the 2026 global review of collective progress. Gaps on indicators still remain, with different elements from the KM-GBF targets lacking appropriate indicators and coverage. Additionally, countries are tasked with finalising a multilateral mechanism on the highly contested issue of fair and equitable Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) from the use of **digital sequence information (DSI)** on genetic resources, which is expected to provide an additional source of funds for biodiversity based on payments from commercial users, and in particular support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Lastly, COP16 presents a critical opportunity for countries **to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change as interconnected and mutually reinforcing crises and recognise the important functional role of biodiversity in retaining and recovering ecological integrity and reducing the risk of losing ecosystem carbon to the atmosphere**. There are multiple agenda items and opportunities for countries to advance this, and send a clear message to the UNFCCC and UNCCD, calling for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio Conventions. **Target 8** of the KM-GBF explicitly deals with (1) minimising the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and building resilience, (2) minimising negative impacts of climate action on biodiversity, and (3) fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity. However, there are currently no adequate and headline (required) indicators in the monitoring framework to effectively track progress on this critical target. Nor is there sufficient recognition of the important role of ecological integrity in protecting and restoring the ability of ecosystems to sequester and retain carbon over the long term.

Meanwhile, two COP decisions are being negotiated that provide the opportunity to emphasise the need for cross-Convention collaboration and enhanced efforts at the national level to maximise coordination and synergies, and minimise trade-offs in implementing climate and biodiversity objective: agenda item 13 on Cooperation with Other Conventions and International Organizations<sup>2</sup>, and item 25 on Biodiversity and Climate Change<sup>3</sup>. **Amongst a busy COP schedule, it is essential that these are prioritised and robust decisions are reached ahead of UNFCCC COP29, which follows directly after CBD COP16**. Finally, as COP16 Presidency, Colombia has the opportunity to show the leadership necessary on climate and biodiversity alignment and set a strong foundation for upcoming Rio Convention COPs to progress the delivery of the GBF, the Paris Agreement and the halting of land degradation under the UNCCD.

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<sup>2</sup> 15/13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations ([CBD/SBI/REC/4/9](#))

<sup>3</sup> 25/8. Biodiversity and climate change ([CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8](#))

## **CAN demands / Key messages:**

### **COP16 offers the opportunity to:**

- 1. Translate the KM-GBF into national implementation:** With only 6 years remaining until 2030, it is crucial that countries submit updated, KM-GBF-aligned NBSAPs or national biodiversity targets ahead of COP16. Countries should also ensure that their revised NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS are aligned and mutually reinforcing with NBSAPS in order to maximise synergies and minimise trade-offs across climate and biodiversity goals, while adopting human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches in both their development and implementation.
- 2. Place Indigenous Peoples' and environmental defenders' at the centre of the agenda:** Indigenous and local communities are both on the frontlines of the climate and biodiversity crises and at the forefront of solutions. Their knowledge, leadership, and stewardship have proven crucial for protecting biodiversity- and carbon-rich ecosystems. However, Indigenous Peoples and environmental defenders face alarming levels of violence and intimidation from those profiting from the destruction of nature, and are not sufficiently represented in decision-making processes. Many Indigenous Peoples also still lack adequate support and rights to protect their ancestral territories. COP16 needs to put Target 22 of the Global Biodiversity Framework into place, and ensure that urgent action is taken to ensure Indigenous Peoples, local communities and environmental defenders are adequately represented in decision-making processes and their access rights - information, participation, and justice - are fully guaranteed. Alike, Target 3 has to ensure Indigenous and traditional communities' governance is protected and their land tenure is secured.
- 3. Step up ambition on resource mobilisation:** Rich governments have fallen short of their obligation under Article 20 of the CBD to provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing countries to effectively implement the CBD. In addition to the financial shortfall, there is a significant, often unrecognised ecological and climate debt accrued through centuries of extractive development, disproportionately impacting marginalised communities in the Global South. **Addressing the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises fundamentally requires restructuring the economic and political conditions that drive ecological degradation, human rights violations, and obstruct public investments and action.** At COP16:
  - A. Developed countries must significantly and urgently increase their efforts to meet the commitment of mobilising at least \$20 billion per year for developing countries by 2025.** Ministers of environment and finance from developed countries should launch an international ministerial working group specifically tasked with agreeing on a roadmap (delivery plan) for achieving this target. This is key for restoring trust, encouraging the formulation and implementation of ambitious NBSAPs, and ultimately achieving the KMGBF.
  - B. All countries need to set a clear and credible resource mobilisation plan to deliver on Targets 18 and 19 that includes:**

- Reforming their most environmentally harmful subsidies to address nature destruction, in line with global commitments on limiting warming to 1.5°C and protecting biodiversity. This should include an elimination of harmful agricultural and forestry subsidies, subsidies to large-scale energy generation using forest biomass and subsidies to the fossil fuel industry.
  - Ensuring direct access to funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
  - Addressing the structural economic and political conditions impeding public investment and the reform of harmful flows (including austerity, debt, tax avoidance)
- C. Biodiversity credits and offsets are identified in Target 19 as “innovative schemes” to increase financial resources for biodiversity. Given the current trajectory of carbon markets and multi-stakeholder discussions, it's likely that most biodiversity credits will be used for offsetting. Biodiversity credits used for offsetting risk allowing the destruction of untouched nature and replacing it with degraded or less valuable ecosystems, ultimately reducing global biodiversity rather than preserving it. Just as carbon offsetting delays climate ambition, **biodiversity offsetting will only delay urgent action on addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss, be used as greenwashing and put traditional practices, human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples at risk.**

4. **Strengthen joint climate and biodiversity ambition:** There is no viable route to limiting global warming to 1.5°C without stopping the cycle of ecological degradation and respecting human rights. Achieving the Paris Agreement and the KMGBF goals will only be possible if these crises are addressed in an ambitious, integrated, human-rights compliant and mutually supportive manner. This requires increased cooperation, coordinated planning and implementation that **prioritises a fair, fast, full, and funded phase out of all fossil fuels, and addresses the root causes of biodiversity loss and ecological degradation.** Importantly, tackling the biodiversity and climate crises together must not result in greenwashing, dangerous distractions, false solutions, and human rights violations.

At COP16, countries should **agree on robust COP decisions on joint climate and biodiversity action, particularly under Item 13 on Cooperation and Item 25 on Biodiversity and Climate Change.** These decisions should provide clear mandates for action at both the international level, paving the way for the UNFCCC and CBD to strengthen and align their work programs, and at the national level, urging Parties to ensure that their actions to implement the Paris Agreement and the KM-GBF are mutually supportive. In particular, we urge Parties to consider establishing a Joint Work Programme across the Rio-Conventions, recognising the common responsibility to protect and restore ecological/ecosystem integrity, while respecting each convention's mandate, encourage close collaboration among the national focal points of the conventions to support coherence in respective policies, strategies and action plans, and strengthening, as appropriate, coherence between NBSAPs, NDCs and NAPs.

*(See more detailed text recommendations on these decisions in Annex II below)*

**5. Finalise a robust monitoring framework** for the KM-GBF, as well as processes for national reporting and global reviews of progress:

- The monitoring framework should retain and incorporate, as appropriate, indicators that facilitate **reporting on the ecological integrity** of ecosystems, as well as tracking progress on restoration efforts by realm, biome and ecosystem functional group, according to IUCN's Global Ecosystem Typology<sup>4</sup>.
- Countries need to include headline and appropriate **indicators for Target 8** to ensure that climate actions do not negatively impact biodiversity (i.e., large-scale land-based carbon dioxide removal, and the use of bioenergy resulting in forest degradation), and capture the contribution of biodiversity action to ecological integrity and climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Overall, the monitoring framework should be aligned with and complement the Paris Agreement's Global Stocktake cycle and the development of indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation.

**6. High-level political engagement:** The Colombian Presidency should work with the UNFCCC Presidential Troika to build on the strong mandate from the GST outcome<sup>5</sup> to integrate UNFCCC action with the goals of the KM-GBF, and the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People to signal strong political support for joined-up action on climate and biodiversity in the high-level segment at Cali and help shape a pathway for nature to be better embedded into the UNFCCC ahead of COP30.

**7. Agree on the details of a new multilateral mechanism for the sharing of benefits from Digital Sequencing of Information (DSI)** that secures fair and equitable distribution of benefits, increased funding for biodiversity, while ensuring benefits for and respecting the rights and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

**8. Reaffirm and strengthen *de facto* moratorium on geengineering:** since 2010 the CBD has taken [a series of important decisions](#) to prevent harm to biodiversity and communities from geengineering, in particular Decision X/33 (w). It is of deep concern that these are being undermined by a proliferation of outdoor experiments in recent years, and the inclusion of interventions in marine and terrestrial ecosystems in UNFCCC negotiations and IPCC pathways. We call on parties to support the inclusion of text reaffirming and strengthening the *de facto* moratorium on geengineering in draft recommendation 26/7 (see *Annex II below*). Countries should also explore creating new moratoriums in support of climate, biodiversity and human rights objectives, such as a [moratorium on fossil fuel expansion in the Amazon](#) and a

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<sup>4</sup> IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology.

<https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tool/iucn-global-ecosystem-typology>

<sup>5</sup> Decision 1/CMA.5, paragraph 33: *Further emphasizes the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and by conserving biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;*

[moratorium on all industrial activity in primary forests until 2050](#). This is crucial to meet other KMGBF targets and responds to strong regional demands from Indigenous Peoples.

9. **Ensure energy transitions don't harm biodiversity and human rights:** Climate change is a major driver of biodiversity loss. Delivering on climate and biodiversity commitments implies first and foremost a just and rapid phase out of fossil fuels and large-scale forest biomass as well as deep, rapid, and just reduction of energy consumption and materials and minerals demand in developed countries. To contribute to a just and equitable transition, those who extract and process minerals and forest biomass must respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, communities, and workers; protect water, biodiversity, and ecosystems across the world; and ensure producer countries and communities retain more of the value of resource development and see drastic increases in access to energy and fulfilment of all economic and social rights.
10. **Advance gender justice:** Biodiversity loss disproportionately affects women and girls due to gender disparities and differentiated gender needs and roles in the use and management of biodiversity. All aspects of the CBD negotiations must recognise and maintain a strong commitment to addressing the power imbalances that underpin gender inequalities, especially in rural areas. We call on Countries and other the Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action (GPA). The Monitoring Framework should also include relevant gender-sensitive indicators for those targets that relate to people.

## **Annex I - Finance targets under the KMGBF**

### **Goal D: Invest and Collaborate**

Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively **closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year**, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

**Target 18:** Reduce Harmful Incentives by at least **\$500 Billion per year**, and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity.

*Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least 500 billion United States dollars per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.*

**Target 19:** Mobilize \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance

*Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by 2030 mobilizing at least 200 billion United States dollars per year, including by:*

- (a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, **to at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least US\$ 30 billion per year by 2030;***
- (b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;*
- (c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;*
- (d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;*
- (e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises;*
- (f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions[1] and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity;*
- (g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.*

## **Annex II - CAN's text recommendations for Item 13, Item 25 and Item 20**

- **Item 13. Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions:**
  - **Retain text** that *invites* Parties to **foster stronger synergies in the planning and implementation** of national climate, biodiversity and land restoration plans, and strengthen **coherence among NBSAPs, NDCs and NAPs** (Paragraph 5 CBD/SBI/REC/4/9)
  - **Retain text** that *calls upon* Parties to **establish effective coordination processes** to support close collaboration between national focal points of conventions to **support coherence in their respective policies, mainstream biodiversity across relevant sectors, and improve implementation** at the national level (Paragraph 14 CBD/SBI/REC/4/9)



- **Retain text** that *requests* the Executive Secretary to **strengthen collaboration with the secretariats of the UNFCCC and UNCCD**, including exploring the potential for a joint work programme between Rio Conventions (*Paragraph 18(b) CBD/SBI/REC/4/9*)
  
- **Item 25. Biodiversity and climate change**
  - **Retain text** that *encourages* Parties, when undertaking action to meet Targets 8 and 11 of the GBF to:
    - **ensure a human-rights based approach** (*Paragraph 3(a) CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8*)
    - **identify and maximise synergies** between biodiversity and climate actions, **promoting positive and avoiding negative impacts** of climate actions on biodiversity (*Paragraph 3(b) CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8*)
    - **Integrate NbS and EbA into their NBSAPs and promote synergies with planning processes under the UNFCCC** in coordination with focal points (*Paragraph 3(c) CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8*)
  - **Add text** on **prioritising the protection and restoration of high integrity carbon dense ecosystems and species important for carbon cycling** (*Add into Paragraph 3(b) CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8*).
  - **Retain text** that *Encourages* Parties as well as financial institutions, relevant organisations and the private sector, to provide **new and additional resources to scale up investments that provide synergistic benefits for biodiversity and climate**, while avoiding double counting and enhancing transparency (*Paragraph 5 CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8*)
  - **Strengthen text** that *Encourages* Parties to **develop and implement sectoral just transitions** in response to the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change (*Paragraph 6 CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8*)
  - **Retain text** that *requests* the Executive Secretary to **assess options for better integration with the secretariats of the UNFCCC and UNCCD**, including exploring the potential for a joint work programme between Rio Conventions (*Paragraph 14 CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8*)
  - **Add text** to *Welcome* the outcomes of the UNFCCC Global Stocktake, agreed through COP28 Decision 1/CMA.5, in particular paragraph 33 (which emphasises the importance of protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goals in line with the KMGBF), paragraph 63(d) (which relates to the role of ecosystems in adaptation) and paragraph 163 (which related to cooperation with MEAs) (*Add a new operational paragraph after paragraph 7 CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8*)
  
- **Item 20: Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity**
  - Recommendation 26/7 Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity
    - PP13 retain text reaffirming decision X/33 on biodiversity and climate change
    - Para 9 retain text welcoming the ongoing work of the London Convention / London Protocol on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by



- Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters on marine geoengineering techniques that could have deleterious impacts on marine biodiversity
- Annex para 1(d) retain text on the implementation of the precautionary approach on geoengineering activities that may have impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity;