OUTCOMES FROM
SBSTTA-25
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Nairobi, Kenya
October 15-19, 2023
#YOUTHINTO ACTION
Founded in 2010, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is a global coalition of young people and youth organizations who have joined forces to lead, support, and accelerate a just and equitable transition to a society that lives in harmony with nature.

GYBN is also recognized as the international coordination platform for youth participation in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diverse (CBD).

GYBN acts as a catalyst, empowering youth to safeguard biodiversity while addressing the pressing challenges of our generation. Our network operates at the grassroots level to the global level, implementing on-the-ground actions, advocating for policy changes, fostering alliances, and generating knowledge products.
ABOUT CBD SBSTTA-25

THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a multilateral treaty with three objectives: the conservation of biodiversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

WHAT IS SBSTTA-25?

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has a mandate to provide expert advice and recommendations related to the scientific, technical, and technological aspects of the CBD.

For its 25th meeting, SBSTTA convened from 15-19 October 2023 at the UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya, ten months after the historic adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) of the CBD following a four year consultation and negotiation process. This historic Framework sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Among the Framework’s key elements are 4 goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030.
The 25th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-25) addressed various aspects of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the evidence base for biodiversity-related decisions including on invasive alien species, the sustainable use of wildlife, biodiversity and climate change and other elements.

**Agenda Items:**

- **Item 3.** Facilitating the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) and the monitoring of its progress
  - **Item 3a.** Monitoring framework for the KM GBF
  - **Item 3b.** Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting & review (Global Review process)
  - **Item 3c.** Scientific & technical needs to support implementation of the KM GBF + CBD Programmes of Work
  - **Item 3d.** Plant Conservation
  - **Item 4.** Findings of IPBES & IPCC Assessments
  - **Item 5.** Invasive alien species
  - **Item 6.** Sustainable wildlife management
  - **Item 7.** Biodiversity & climate change
ITEM 3A. MONITORING FRAMEWORK of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

BACKGROUND
One of the weaknesses many point out of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Targets was that the indicators to measure progress towards the targets were only adopted much later than the strategic plan itself, providing no agreed way to monitor implementation. To learn from this with the new framework, there was a strong push for a robust monitoring framework to be together with the KMGBF. Therefore, when the KM GBF was adopted at COP15, Parties adopted a monitoring framework with a set of indicators for the goals and targets in Decision 15/5.

However, due to the lack of time to sufficiently negotiate and review the monitoring framework at COP15, Parties agreed to keep the indicators under review until COP16. An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the KMGBF was formed to do further work to address the gaps and issues still remaining in the GBF monitoring framework. These gaps and issues include:

- undeveloped methodology for many headline indicators*
- imbalance in the adopted indicators given that no headline indicators were adopted for a number of targets relating to sustainable use, benefit sharing and means of implementation, including targets 22 and 23
- further work on the wording of binary indicators* which were not negotiated at COP 15 due to lack of time
- the need for advice on the operationalization of the adopted indicators

*Types of Indicators in the GBF Monitoring Framework

- **Headline indicators** - A set of indicators required for all Parties, intended to capture the overall scope of the goals/targets for use in planning and reporting progress nationally, regionally and globally
- **Global indicators collated from binary responses** (Binary indicators) - based on responses to questions to be included in the draft national reporting template; will generally provide a count of the number of countries having undertaken specified activities;
- **Component indicators** - Combined with the headline indicators, would cover all components of the goals and targets
- **Complementary indicators** - optional indicators for thematic or in-depth analysis of each goal and target
WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

- The Co-Chair of the AHTEG on Indicators provided an update on the outcomes of their work so far.
- Negotiations focused on:
  - The wording of the binary indicators (Annex 2 of Document SBSTTA/25/2), on the basis of the proposed wording and methodology from the AHTEG.
  - Guidance for future work of the AHTEG on Indicators.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN INTERVENTION

- Binary indicators can provide helpful information but should not be considered as a replacement for having headline and component indicators for all targets, including Target 22. Binary indicators are not sufficient to fill critical gaps in the framework, and the monitoring framework as it is gives an incomplete picture of progress with the absence of suitable indicators for measuring elements related to many indirect drivers & means of implementation.
- Key considerations outlined in Section C of the Global Biodiversity Framework must be accounted for in the monitoring and reporting process, including intergenerational equity, youth participation, and a human rights-based approach.
- A transformative monitoring framework demands that we take active steps to fully integrate the diverse values of nature into monitoring.

OUTCOMES

Approved recommendation: SBSTTA-25/1

- The wording of the binary indicators were partially negotiated by Parties. Some binary indicators relating to youth are in brackets, in particular those on capacity-building and financial resources for Target 22, due to proposed deletion by some Parties citing redundancy.
- The recommendation requests the AHTEG to identify and provide technical advice to fill critical gaps to improve the monitoring framework, including on elements of targets and goals not currently covered by any headline indicator.
- Encourages the AHTEG to consider section C in its future work.

Action

On the final day, civil society held an action decrying the current state of indicators for the GBF. Their messages spoke to the importance of meaningful indicators (“wrong indicators = fake success”), the lack of headline indicators for many targets including T22 and T23, the lack of human rights headline indicators including for environmental defenders, among others.
ITEM 3B. GLOBAL REVIEW PROCESS
(Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting & review)

BACKGROUND

At COP-15, an enhanced mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting & review was adopted to enhance the implementation of the CBD and the GBF. In addition to NBSAPs, National reports, and other components, this mechanism includes a “Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KM GBF, including the means of implementation, based on national reports and, as appropriate, other sources, to be considered by the COP at its 17th and 19th meetings.” The Global Review will serve as a stocktake of progress at around the midpoint between GBF adoption and 2030, as well as in 2030 at the end of the timeframe for the GBF.

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

SBSTTA is invited to prepare conclusions and recommendations on the scientific, technical and technological inputs to the global review to inform the related deliberations of SBI (the Subsidiary Body on Implementation). In turn, SBI will develop the concrete procedures for the global review.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN INTERVENTION

- The global review process must be inclusive and rights-based, including by ensuring diverse knowledge systems are taken into account and ensuring inclusive representation in the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group.
- The global review must ensure full transparency and accountability when considering inputs from business and industry that could hold conflicts of interest.
- Enough attention must be paid to cover the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, including economic drivers, in the global review.
- GYBN looks forward to pursuing work to documenting youth contributions to the targets of the KM-GBF to feed into the Global Review process.

OUTCOMES

- Among the sources of information for the global review, the draft COP recommendation lists “information on commitments by non-State actors towards the Framework, including disaggregated information on contributions from indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth”
- It also includes a decision to establish an ad hoc scientific and technical advisory group for the preparation of the global report, with a time-bound mandate until COP17
ITEM 4. FINDINGS OF IPBES & IPCC

BACKGROUND
- **IPBES** and **IPCC** are intergovernmental bodies that **assess and evaluate scientific evidence** for biodiversity and climate, respectively.
- Parties consider it important that their findings are taken into account as a key evidence-base to inform actions and policies within the CBD.

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?
- Negotiations focused on how the CBD will consider the findings of the following recently approved IPBES assessments:
  a. **The IPBES Values Assessment** finds that there is a dominant global focus on short-term profits and economic growth, often excluding the consideration of multiple values of nature in policy decisions.
  b. **The IPBES Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Assessment** outlines the impact of IAS on nature, humans, and economies, and proposes management actions for immediate and urgent control of IAS.
  c. **The IPBES Sustainable Use Assessment** proposes ways forward for the sustainable use of wild species and transformative changes in human-nature relationships.
- SBSTTA-25 also deliberated on its consideration of the findings of the **IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6)**, in particular about synergies and linkages between biodiversity loss and climate change.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN INTERVENTION
On the IPBES Values Assessment:
- The predominant values that have been guiding decision-making today are centered on monetary values and this is leading to the biodiversity crisis we are facing.
- To address biodiversity loss, we must center worldviews that do not separate people from nature and prioritize collective well-being.
- There is a need to allocate sufficient resources so that Parties develop capacities to take into account and consider the diversity of nature’s values in implementation, policies, and monitoring processes.

OUTCOMES

**Approved recommendation: SBSTTA-25/5**

Even though Parties were unable to agree on whether to “welcome,” “welcome with appreciation,” or “endorse” the IPBES Values assessment, Parties approved the recommendation (with some remaining brackets).

The draft recommendation includes the need to:
- address the diverse values of nature in new and ongoing assessment processes, policies and institutions;
- support participatory processes and ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth.

IN THE KM-GBF

**TARGET 14**

“Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values [...], within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, [...].”
This item was discussed to support deliberations in identifying comprehensive gaps in scientific and technical guidance for implementing GBF and other CBD works.

During the negotiations, Parties and stakeholders brought the following points:

- the need for further & more comprehensive analysis to identify gaps in scientific and technical guidance including on cross-cutting issues, citing that the results of the rapid analysis available for the meeting, while useful, was insufficient
- alignment with existing CBD documents and guidelines, including its work programs and multi-annual work programs, among others
- the importance of the contribution of different knowledge systems
- the need for guidance on equitable governance and a human rights-based approach to biodiversity conservation, and guidance to implement the Gender Plan of Action

Approved recommendation: SBSTTA-25/3

The recommendation includes a request to the Secretariat to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis, as well as compile information and guidance from all interested Parties and Groups, to support implementation of the objectives and other elements of the GBF. It also includes an invitation to all actors to submit views related to the IPBES work programme.

At SBSTTA-25, Parties considered a set of voluntary complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the GBF for the period 2023-2030. It also considered a draft recommendation for COP16.

Approved recommendation: SBSTTA-25/4

The draft decision for discussion and adoption at COP16 includes:
- a decision to adopt the abovementioned set of voluntary complementary actions;
- an emphasis that these complementary actions should be viewed as a flexible framework within which national and regional actions may be developed; and
- an invitation to Parties to develop or update national and regional actions related to plant conservation and incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes, and initiatives;
Sustainable wildlife management (SWM) is important to support KM-GBF Target 5 which deal with on sustainable, safe and legal use, harvesting and trade of wild species, as well as T4 on species management and T9 on the management of wild species.

At SBSTTA-25, the discussions focused on:
- revised draft voluntary guidance and advice on various IAS-related matters
- how the IPBES thematic assessment on IAS will be considered
- Horizon scanning, monitoring and managing emerging infectious diseases affecting biodiversity caused by alien pathogens or parasites and IAS
- Activities of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on IAS and cooperation with other organizations

**OUTCOMES**  
Approved recommendation: SBSTTA-25/6

The draft decision for discussion at COP16 includes elements on:
- welcoming the IPBES IAS Assessment and encouraging Parties and other actors to make use of this information when updating NBSAPs and in implementing Target 6
- endorsing the elements of voluntary guidance on IAS

**Item 6. Sustainable wildlife management**

Sustainable wildlife management (SWM) is important to support KM-GBF Target 5 which deal with on sustainable, safe and legal use, harvesting and trade of wild species, as well as T4 on species management and T9 on the management of wild species.

At SBSTTA-25, the discussions focused on:
- Synergies with the IPBES Sustainable Use Assessment;
- The list of priority areas conflicting with other Conventions;
- Intersection with several themes such as:
  - legal, sustainable and safe use and trade of wildlife;
  - links between the sustainable use of wildlife, food security, livelihoods, well-being and culture;
  - prevention, management and reduction of conflicts between humans and wild animals;
  - advocacy for sustainable and wildlife-inclusive economies.

**OUTCOMES**  
Approved recommendation: SBSTTA-25/7

SBSTTA-25 Recommends that COP16:
- Welcomes the IPBES Assessment on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species.
- Recognizes that monitoring wildlife species is resource intensive and will require increased support and investment.
- Encourages Parties and other governments to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in decision-making processes involving wild species.
Biodiversity loss and climate change are interconnected with synergies and trade-offs between them. Aspects such as financing, nature-based solutions & ecosystem-based approaches, maladaptation, social and environmental safeguards and false solutions are relevant to be addressed in the CBD.

**IN THE KM-GBF**

**TARGET 8** | “Minimize the impact of climate change [...] on biodiversity and increase its resilience [...], including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, [...]”

**TARGET 11** | “Restore, maintain and enhance nature’s contributions to people, [...], through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature”.

**TARGET 19** | (e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises”.

**SUMMARY OF NEGOTIATIONS**

- There were discussions about **synergies or trade-offs** between climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as clarifying **responsibilities and overlaps** between CBD and UNFCCC.
- There were different proposals by Parties to **delete or maintain references to Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**, reflecting continued lack of consensus on this issue.

  > **Concerns raised on NbS:** 1) Lack of concrete outcomes from the recently concluded intergovernmental consultations on NbS
  2) NbS are not a panacea for climate change mitigation, and that the concept shifts the burden of implementation to developing countries
  3) NbS can cause damage to biodiversity in afforestation projects
  4) Divergence around the interpretation and implementation
  5) The need to better incorporate local and cultural contexts

  > **Rationales raised in support of NbS:** 1) UNEA Resolution (5/5) is highlighted as an agreed definition to be used for NbS, making discussion on terminologies unnecessary;
  2) NbS as a tool for achieving carbon neutrality

- Points were also raised to highlight specific ecosystems and groups that are particularly impacted by biodiversity loss and climate change.
- There were discussions about **financing**, including scaling up biodiversity investments and transparency and accounting to avoid double counting.
ITEM 7. BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE
(continued)

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN INTERVENTION

- Express concern about NbS being implemented in ways that cause damage to biodiversity and threaten indigenous peoples and local communities. We call for strong social and environmental safeguards and a human rights-based approach.
- Highlight need for synergistic approaches to financing biodiversity and climate change to avoid double counting.
- Express strong concerns with biodiversity offsetting; proposed new paragraph, requesting the compilation of studies and evidence on the implications of carbon & biodiversity offsetting on biodiversity.

The intervention were supported by Parties and some elements (not in exact wording as proposed) were included in the draft recommendation (CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/8), Paragraphs 3 & 12.

OUTCOMES  Approved recommendation: SBSTTA-25/8

The whole text of the COP16 draft decision on climate change remains in brackets for further negotiation because of several aspects where consensus could not be reached.

The current draft decision (still in brackets) includes elements on:
- Welcomes the IPCC AR6 and the decision by IPBES to undertake a second Global Assessment
- Support and encourage actions and policies with a balanced approach that reflects IPBES and IPCC reports and highlights collaboration between the CBD and UNFCCC;
- Express concern about the accelerating negative impact of climate change on biodiversity, especially the impact on indigenous peoples and local communities, women and young people.
- Review and analyze actions, tools and policies to support GBF Targets 8 and 11.
  - When it comes to actions to expand synergies between biodiversity and climate, it encourages to:
    - Guarantee human rights-based approach and effective participation of indigenous people and local communities, women and youth;
    - Take into account the diversity of values, knowledge systems and intergenerational equity;
    - Integrate and promote, where appropriate, NbS/EbA.

The topic of biodiversity and climate change will be discussed again at SBSTTA-26.
GYBN and GYBN Africa organized / co-organized 3 successful side events at SBSTTA-25:

- **Youth Into Action: Youth as Key Actors for KM-GBF Implementation and Monitoring**
  October 15, 2023 | Organized by GYBN and UNESCO

- **Empowering African Youth: Closing the Gap of the Technical and Scientific Needs for Transformative Actions**

- **Implementing a Human Rights-based Approach to Addressing Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change**
  October 18, 2023 | Organized by GYBN, SwedBio, ICLEI, FPP, CBD Secretariat, CBD Women Caucus, W4B, Tebtebba, AIPP, WWF, UNEP, OHCHR
GYBN members also brought youth voices to other side events:

**Catalysing action for achieving Targets 8 and 11 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through comprehensive risk governance**

October 18, 2023 | GYBN members Alan from LAC and Irene from Africa participated in a side event organized by UNDRR, CBD and UNEP to talk from a youth perspective about the intersections of the KM GBF and Disaster Risk Reduction.

**Actions to advocate for better indicators on human rights**

October 19, 2023 | GYBN joined the CBD alliance, Women Caucus and other organizations to express our concerns about the monitoring framework -- including the lack of headline indicators for targets 22 and 23, the lack of indicators capturing diverse values of nature & human rights, and the bracketed binary indicators on resources & capacity building for IPs, LCs, women and youth.
OUTCOMES FROM CBD SBSTTA-25

3 COMMUNICATIONS

GYBN used different channels of communication to share about SBSTTA-25 and the youth engagement during the negotiations:

Social Media

Facebook
fb.com/thegybn
3 publications, 3 videos, and 1 re-share
4,000 + Reach
11 New followers

Instagram
@GYBN_CBD
3 publications, 6 videos and 39 stories
2,900 + Reach
96 New followers

X (Twitter)
@GYBN_CBD
1 publication, 3 videos and 11 reposts
6,900 + Reach
181 New followers

LinkedIn
Global Youth Biodiversity Network
One video
1,700 + Reach
65 New followers

48 Content created
15,500 People Reached
353 New followers
OUTCOMES FROM CBD SBSTTA-25

GYBN @ SBSTTA25

GYBN Africa
- Fatima El-aaraby (GYBN Morocco)
- Scovia Ampumuza (GYBN Rwanda)
- Irene Natukunda (GYBN Uganda)
- Melkam Getachew (Ethiopia)

> GYBN Kenya
- Kevin Lunzalu (also SC)
- Abdul Hamid
- Hannah Mathenge
- Rukhsar Rafiq
- Kiki Mbogua
- Martha Wandera Nasirumbi
- Devina Ongera
- Rosely Njoroge
- Nelly Musyoka
- Faith Kilonzo

GYBN Steering Committee (SC)
- Alan Valdes (Mexico, GYBN LAC)
- Axel Eriksson (as Swedish Youth Delegate; GYBN Europe)

GYBN Co-founder
- Melina Sakiyama (Brazil)

GYBN Policy Co-coordinators
- Josefa Tauli (GYBN Philippines)
- Heitor Dellasta (Brazil; Incoming policy coordinator)
- Mirna Fernandez (Bolivia; Outgoing policy coordinator)

GYBN Asia
- Abigail Kitma (GYBN Philippines; as Tebtebba)

GYBN Europe
- Wouter Ubbink (as Dutch Youth Delegate; GYBN Europe)
MESSAGES FROM THE DELEGATES

Read below about the experiences & rich reflections of the young people who joined SBSTTA-25!

“Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity to attend the SBSTTA meeting and to learn more about biodiversity policy. I have learned a lot so far, and I have a lot now to research.
— Hannah Mathenge, GYBN Kenya

“I strongly believe in the essential role of youth in decision-making. Participating for the first time in SBSTTA-25 was enlightening, and is motivating me to actively contribute locally and share my perspectives globally. I am grateful to GYBN for the opportunity to get involved, especially as the event focused on implementing the significant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, something that requires the contribution of all components of society”
— Fatima El-aaraby, GYBN Morocco

“This opportunity let me understand how the countries follow up and work for the implementation of the most important agreement for the environment. Moreover, I'm totally grateful to also represent the voices of other young people in these international spaces.”
— Alan Valdes, GYBN Mexico

“SBSTTA 25 on GBF implementation and monitoring framework provided much-needed space for youth and other marginalized groups to engage with the process and affirm their commitment to pursuing an inclusive and respectful framework. We need to see more youth participation in the implementation of the framework and clarity of the language, void of ambiguity, even as we head to SBSTTA 26 and beyond. In the implementation, I would urge CBD member Parties to respect the principle of the whole of society, whole of government approach in ensuring that no one is left behind
— Abdul Hamid, GYBN Kenya
OUTCOMES FROM CBD SBSTTA-25

5 WHAT’S NEXT?

Here are the upcoming major international CBD meetings in 2024 that will discuss related topics and further provide input to recommendations on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

- **SBSTTA-26**
  - Nairobi, Kenya
  - May 13-18, 2024
  - **SBSTTA-26** will likely continue discussions on the monitoring framework including headline indicators, biodiversity and climate change, and other scientific and technical aspects of the Convention.

- **SBI-4**
  - Nairobi, Kenya
  - May 21-29, 2024

- **SBI-5**
  - TBC
  - 2024
  - SBI is the **Subsidiary Body on Implementation**. Its functions include reviewing progress in implementation of the CBD and providing advice on strategic actions to enhance implementation.

- **COP16**
  - Colombia
  - October 21-November 1
  - **COP16** will be the first Biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

  - At **COP16**, Parties are expected to show the alignment of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the GBF, further develop the monitoring framework, and advance resource mobilization for the GBF, among others.
OUTCOMES FROM CBD SBSTTA-25

6 REFERENCES & MORE INFORMATION

Official SBSTTA-25 webpage on the CBD Website
Contains all the final outcomes, the meeting report, all statements, information documents, and many more.

via CBD Youtube: The live webcast of the meeting / a playlist of recordings of plenary sessions, available in the 6 official UN languages

Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) by IISD
- The ENB is a source of balanced, timely and independent reporting of a number of UN meetings including those of the CBD. They provide daily summaries and highlights, an overall summary of proceedings, an analysis of the negotiations, and photos.

CBD in a Nutshell
- A youth friendly guidebook on the CBD process, published by GYBN
- gybn.org/publications

ECO
ECO is a newsletter produced by the CBD Alliance (network of civil society organizations) and it is distributed during the meetings featuring articles by several organizations on key issues that will be negotiated.
OUTCOMES FROM CBD SBSTTA-25

6 RESOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

IPBES Values Assessment
IPBES Sustainable Use Assessment
IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment
IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6)
IPBES-IPCC Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change

This document was prepared by:
Josefa Tauli
Heitor Dellasta
Alan Valdés

Design by Ines Hirata

For any feedback/inquiries:
gybn.policy@gmail.com
THANK YOU

Global Youth Biodiversity Network

#YOUTH INTO ACTION