

CBD COP16

Youth Outcomes

Prepared by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network



Cali, Colombia

October 21 – November 2, 2024



Rome, Italy

February 25-27, 2025



COP16
COLOMBIA
Paz con la Naturaleza



**Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network**



>> ABOUT

GLOBAL YOUTH BIODIVERSITY NETWORK



Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network

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 a movement of youth acting to safeguard biodiversity and address the social-ecological crisis faced by our and future generations. Our network operates at the grassroots level to the global level, implementing on-the-ground actions, advocating for policy changes, fostering alliances, and carrying out transformative education for biodiversity.

As of May 2024, GYBN brings together over 705 youth organizations from 172 countries, representing a total of 1.25 million youth. GYBN also has 61 national and 7 regional and sub-regional chapters.

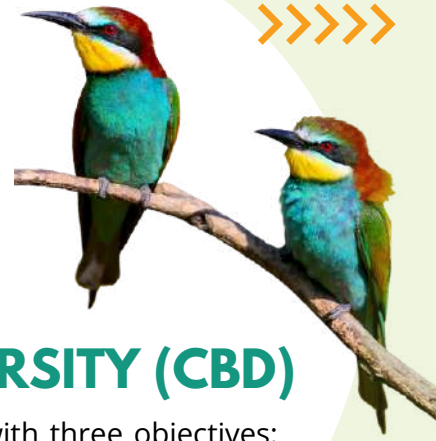
Since 2012, GYBN is the recognized coordination platform for youth participation in the negotiations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

- Website: gybn.org
- Twitter: @GYBN_CBD
- Instagram: @gybn_cbd
- Facebook: fb.com/thegybn





CONTEXT



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.

ABOUT COP16

The Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, or **CBD COP16**, was held on 21 October–1 November 2024 - Cali, Colombia, with the theme “Peace with Nature.”



The first Biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), COP16 served as the multilateral space for governments to review the state of implementation of the KMGBF, show the alignment of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (**NBSAPs**) with the KMGBF, further develop the monitoring framework, and advance resource mobilization for the KMGBF, among other tasks.

COP16 was suspended on the morning of November 2, 2024 with a number of decisions pending adoption. The resumed sessions (COP16.2) were held in Rome from February 25-27, 2025.



Photos by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis

THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)** was adopted during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the CBD in December 2022 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.

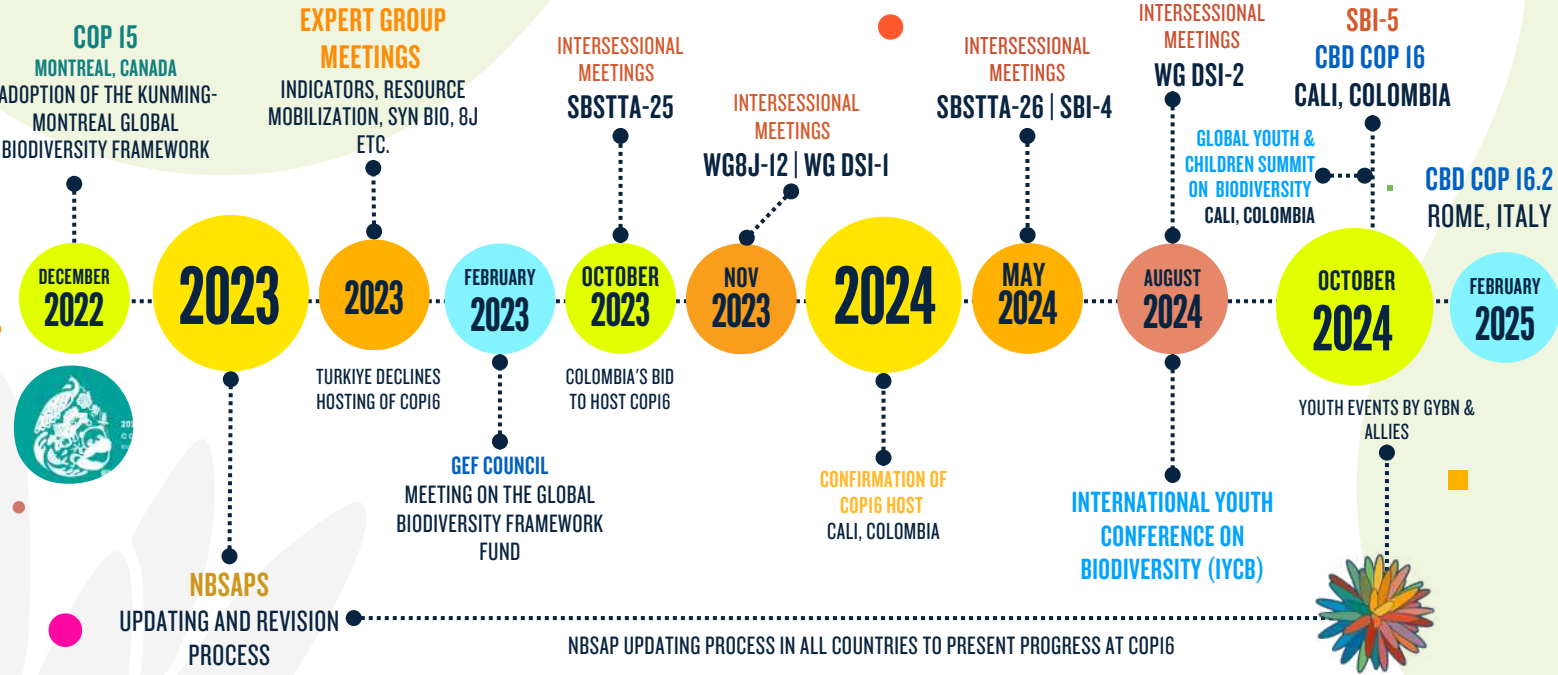


Kunming - Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



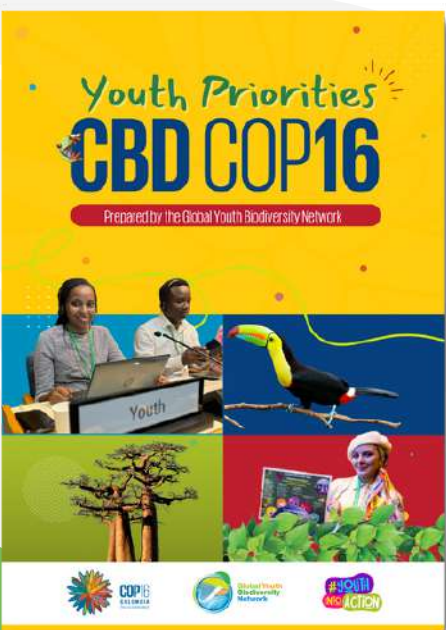


THE PATH TO COP16



GYBN had been actively engaging in the process leading up to COP16 by coordinating youth delegations to SBSTTA, SBI, and Working Group meetings, through its representatives on several expert groups, and through advocacy at the national level, particularly by engaging in the NBSAP revision process. Reports from GYBN participation in selected meetings can be accessed here:

www.gybn.org/cbd-participation



GYBN COP16 PRIORITIES

www.gybn.org/cop16policy

Key youth recommendations for the COP16 negotiations were compiled prior to the meeting to guide youth advocacy during the negotiations. These recommendations were developed based on the principles and priorities continuously gathered by GYBN from our youth community through various consultation processes and through analysis and preparations by the GYBN Policy Team.





Youth Participation in the CBD

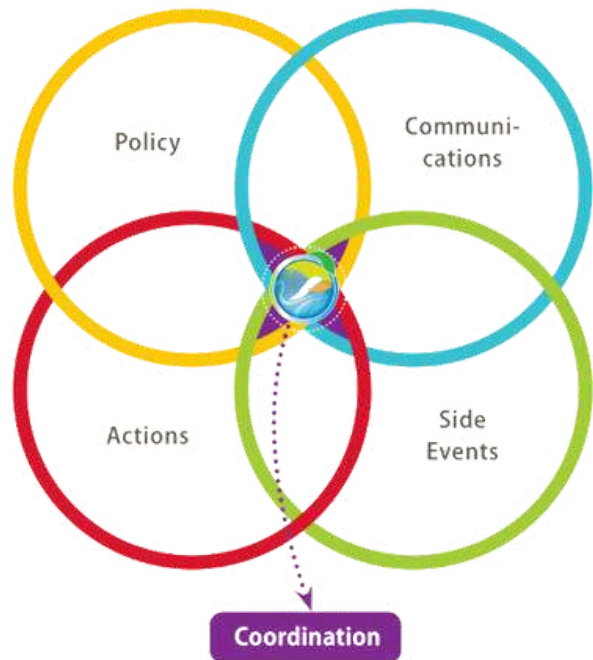


Young people participate in and contribute to the CBD process in various ways both within and outside of the COP, through capacity-building on biodiversity and the CBD, consultations with youth on pertinent issues, policy advocacy, campaigning and mobilization, and alliance building.

Within the COP, the youth constituency works to advocate for our priorities by delivering interventions in negotiation spaces, lobbying, tracking the negotiations, giving press conferences, holding side events, participating in parallel events, curating spaces such as the youth pavilion and the youth summit, holding coordination meetings, developing partnerships, staging actions, and other ways of participation.

As the international coordination platform for youth participation in the CBD, GYBN over the years has coordinated youth delegations to CBD and has provided scholarships to young people to attend the COP. Ensuring youth participation in CBD process has been essential in enabling the integration of youth priorities into the CBD, the KMGBF and their engagement in the implementation process of the framework.

COP16 was no exception, with more than 90 GYBN members present to ensure that their perspectives are heard and taken into account in these decision-making processes that impact them.



This report summarizes the outcomes of GYBN’s active participation at CBD COP16, both within and at the margins of the negotiations.



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Side Events, Parallel Events, Actions, Press Conferences and other activities

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Capacity Building & Communications

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Photo by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis



1

Outcomes from the Negotiations

KEY OUTCOMES FROM COP16

Among the notable outcomes from COP16 are the following



Cali Fund established on benefit-sharing from DSI



Permanent Subsidiary Body on Article 8J established & Programme of Work adopted



Decision recognizing the role of people of African descent



Adopted Modalities on EBSAs



Global Action Plan on Biodiversity & Health adopted



44 Countries submitted their post-COP15 NBSAPs



Recognition of biodiversity and climate actions synergies



COP17 host decided - Armenia

Resumed COP16 session - Rome 2025

On the morning of November 2, after a 24-hour negotiation session, **COP16 was suspended** because of lack of quorum as many delegates had to leave to catch their flights. The following decisions were **not** adopted by the end of the final plenary session in Colombia:

- **Resource Mobilization**
- **The financial mechanism**
- **Planning, monitoring, reporting, and review**
- **Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations,**
- **CBD's multi-year programme of work**
- **Budget**

The COP16 negotiations resumed on **25-27 February 2025** in Rome, Italy in a smaller-scale meeting, given the limited capacity of venue and the advanced stage of negotiations. **A small GYBN delegation was present at the meeting to follow the final negotiations and advocate for youth priorities.**



YOUTH COP16 POLICY ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

An Overview

117 youth actively engaged in following & participating in the COP16 negotiations

13 youth trained through its Policy Team fellowship

20+ Interventions delivered



50+

Youth-led events on diverse topics, e.g., Peace and Conflict, Indicators, NBSAPs, Finance, etc.

24+

GYBN national chapters engaged in NSBAP updating

5

Press Conferences held during COP16

21

COP16 Decisions influenced through youth advocacy

YOUTH WINS!

Some of GYBN's key achievements in policy advocacy for the COP16 agenda are:

- Improved language on resource mobilization and financial mechanism in terms of inclusiveness and accessibility for rightsholders including youth, social and environmental safeguards, and human rights-based approaches
- Contributing to guidance on inclusive monitoring of the KMGBF, and inclusion of global binary indicators on all key aspects of Target 22 including children and youth participation and access to justice and information
- The inclusion of GYBN in the list of organizations that will contribute to the global plan on education for biodiversity
- Improved language on climate change in terms of ecosystem integrity and free, prior, informed consent processes
- Contributing to removing references to false solutions on resource mobilization, climate change, and wildlife management
- Youth priorities reflected in the decision on biodiversity and health, including the global plan of action on biodiversity and health
- Strengthening the basis for advancing work on participation and applying human rights-based approaches under marine & coastal biodiversity and the work of the CBD in general



1 Outcomes from the Negotiations

A SBI-5

Prior to CBD COP16, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) held its 5th meeting in Cali, Colombia, from October 16–18, 2024. The meeting’s deliberations centered around two key items: (1) Reviewing progress on National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans (NBSAPs) and (2) Piloting the open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation.

a. Review of implementation - Progress in national target setting and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)

In an analysis conducted by the CBD Secretariat on the NBSAPs and national targets submitted in due time prior to SBI-5 (*the findings can be read in full in [CBD/SBI/5/2/Add.2/Rev.1](#)*), they had notably found that:

- Only about half of the Parties have set targets that refer to the representation of children and youth and their participation in decision-making;
- Only about one-third of Parties have set targets that partially or fully relate to children and youth’s access to justice, and a third on their access to information; and that
- About two-thirds of the national targets submitted by Parties contained information on how the issues identified in section C were being taken into account.

GYBN’s intervention on this item highlighted the following findings gathered through a survey launched for chapters prior to the meeting to gather information on their participation at the national level in the NBSAP updating process:

Of the 32 national chapters of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network that shared their experience,

- Only half were provided funding or support to participate,
- One fourth shared that they directly influenced their NBSAPs, and half believe they influenced it in some way,
- And more than half who engaged in the process so far saw their participation as meaningful including those from Austria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Kenya, Nigeria, Paraguay, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe among others.

Regrettably, a few shared that their NBSAP process was completed without any consultation with youth that they were aware of, or that their inputs were not taken up. On the other hand, a number of our chapters shared that their participation in the process was key to improving trust between youth and their ministries, developed their skills in advocacy and consensus building, and made their NBSAPs more inclusive.

GYBN also made a text proposal that was supported and integrated into the [outcome recommendation](#) (para 4) regarding the full and effective participation and engagement of diverse actors including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, and youth in NBSAP updating processes.

Photo by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis



Josefa Tauli
(Philippines),
GYBN Policy Co-
ordinator

1 Outcomes from the Negotiations

A SBI-5



b. Pilot of the open-ended forum for voluntary country review



Camari Divuniwaqa (Fiji) from the GYBN Policy Team 2024 representing GYBN on a panel during the pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review during SBI-5.

During SBI-5, Parties made a trial for an "open-ended forum for voluntary country reviews" to support the review of progress for countries to update their NBSAPs. The main objective was to share lessons learned and challenges faced, with a format that aimed to break the usual patterns of formal negotiations and instead mimic the experiences from regional NBSAP workshops held throughout the two years between COPs. The following topics were discussed:

1. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and the integration of the Protocols to the CBD and other multilateral environmental agreements into NBSAPs
2. National target setting and monitoring
3. Means of implementation, including national biodiversity finance planning and capacity-development planning

GYBN was part of the panel for the 3rd topic, highlighting differences between countries on the level of youth engagement as well as the diversity of youth and the different roles youth have or can have within biodiversity-related processes. GYBN also gave an intervention on the 1st topic, highlighting the participation of GYBN chapters in the NBSAP updating process, while providing several recommendations to enhance youth participation.

Outcome: SBI-5 adopted a recommendation on the progress in national target setting and updating of NBSAPs ([SBI/REC/5/1](#)), and a recommendation on the pilot open-ended forum for voluntary country review of implementation ([SBI/REC/5/2](#)). These draft decisions were submitted for consideration at COP16.

Status of NBSAP updating:

- As of December 12, 2024, a total of **44 countries** have submitted an NBSAP to the Secretariat, and 121 countries have submitted national targets aligned with the KMGFBF.
- The list of Parties and updated information can be found on the Online Reporting Tool website: ort.cbd.int ►





1 Outcomes from the Negotiations

B CBD COP16

The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD convened on October 21 - November 1, 2024 in Cali, Colombia. The following agenda items were discussed:

COP16 Agenda Items:



Item 8. Progress on updating NBSAPs



Item 9. Digital Sequence Information (DSI)



Item 10. Planning, Monitoring, Reporting & Review



Item 11. Resource Mobilization & Financial Mechanism



Item 12. Capacity-building, Knowledge Management +



Item 13. Cooperation with other conventions



Item 14. Article 8(j) and related provisions



Item 15. Communication, Education & Public Awareness



Item 16. Scientific & Technical Needs to support GBF Implementation



Item 17. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within & across sectors



Item 18. Diverse values of biodiversity



Item 19. Sustainable wildlife management.



Item 20. Marine & coastal; island biodiversity



Item 21. Invasive alien species



Item 22. Biodiversity & Health



Item 23. Plant conservation



Item 24. Synthetic biology



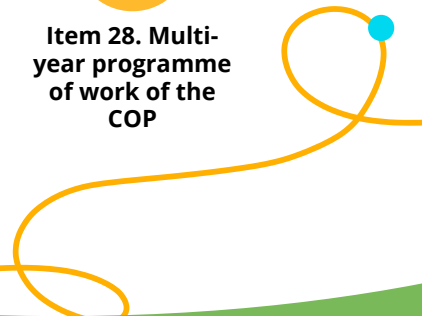
Item 25. Biodiversity & Climate Change



Item 26. Liability and redress



Item 28. Multi-year programme of work of the COP





ITEM 9. Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

BACKGROUND

- In its decision COP15/9, the COP agreed that benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources should be shared fairly and equitably and it established a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund.
- It also established an Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group tasked with undertaking the further development of the mechanism and making recommendations to the COP16.
 - Two meetings happened to discuss views on the development and operationalization of the mechanism.

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

Discussions focused on:

- The implementation of a Multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources;
- Several guidelines for given for the functionality of the multilateral mechanism such as the allocation, disbursement and funding modalities, among others;
- Some of the most discussed and negotiated points where on the annex, including:
 - Paragraph3 (Contributions); Paragraph9 (Databases and their actions); Paragraph18 (Funding); Paragraph19 (Allocation); Paragraph20 (Disbursement).

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

GYBN pushed for several points to be included during negotiations, such as:

- Inclusion of the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women and youth within those communities;
- Fair and equitable distribution of monetary and/or non-monetary benefits from the use of sequences for research, innovation and development by all users of digital sequence information;
- Providing details on the country of origin and permissions of each piece of digital sequence information uploaded to public databases, not only to trigger potential multilateral benefit-sharing mechanisms, but also to ensure the protection of the rights of communities that are custodians of biodiversity;
- Allocation in a community-oriented approach.

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/2](#)

- The multilateral mechanism was adopted as the "Cali Fund" for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.
- The fund will be administered by the United Nations through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.
- Databases are required to include the country of origin, where known, and metadata associated with the use of traditional knowledge linked to genetic resources and its origin or source;
- Funding will prioritize Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women and youth within those communities, while also supporting capacity building, technology transfer, and knowledge sharing to enable the generation, access, use, analysis, and storage of digital sequence information.
- National entities will remain responsible for fund disbursement, but direct support for community-driven projects was secured, requiring continuous monitoring of their implementation.
- At least half of the global fund's resources will be allocated to self-identified needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women and youth within these communities.





ITEM 10a. Monitoring Framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

BACKGROUND & WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT COP16

- In COP Decision 15/5, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted the **Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** alongside the KMGBF itself to monitor progress towards implementing the goals and targets. Due to lack of time, by the end of COP15, the monitoring framework needed further development in order to be operational. A series of technical discussions to analyze the gaps and improve the monitoring framework followed COP15, including the establishment of an **Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the KM-GBF**, as well as multilateral negotiations during **SBSTTA 25 & 26**.
- An operational monitoring framework with sufficient guidance for Parties was expected by the end of COP16 for use by countries to prepare their next national reports. The next round of national reports are due in 2026.
- By the end of SBSTTA-26, there were some remaining issues for binary, headline, complementary and component indicators that needed to be resolved at COP16, particularly on Targets 7, 13, 16 and 22. Many brackets also remained in the draft decision. These were negotiated in 5 contact groups during COP, where no interventions by observers were allowed. These issues were mostly resolved with some remaining brackets. The decision was *not* adopted by the end of the meeting with the suspension of COP16.



*Types of Indicators in the GBF Monitoring Framework



Headline Indicators

- **Required** to be used by all parties in their national reports
- For tracking national, regional and global progress
- Need to meet certain criteria including availability and reliability of data/metadata, existing methodology, regularly updated data sources, ability to detect trends, and alignment with existing intergovernmental processes

Binary Indicators

- **Required**
- based on responses to questions to be included in the draft national reporting template, answerable by “Yes”, “Partially”, “Under development” or “No.”
- will generally provide a count of the number of countries with relevant policies/structure in place

Component Indicators

- **Optional**
- Together with the headline indicators, cover all components of goals & targets

Complementary Indicators

- **Optional**
- For thematic or in-depth assessment

***These are supplemented by additional national indicators**



ITEM 10a. MONITORING FRAMEWORK of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

- Call to keep all indicators and disaggregations related to human rights, equitable governance, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and gender.
- Acknowledge gaps in the framework and therefore the need to develop and adopt additional indicators, especially for Target 22, including outcome indicators on youth participation and access to information and justice
- Adoption of the indicator on land use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as one of the headline indicators for T22
- Use of human rights-based approach to data in monitoring, reporting and review processes, including data disaggregation by age, gender, and for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and respect for FPIC, and for Parties to make use of the Guidance on applying section C to KMGBF monitoring developed by the AHTEG.
- Recognition and support for community-based monitoring and information systems and youth-responsive monitoring
- Call for countries to integrate youth indicators in their NBSAPs and national monitoring frameworks



Nadia Putri Rachma (GYBN SEA) sharing during GYBN side event on youth-responsive monitoring

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/31](#)

Key outcomes:

- An updated KMGBF Monitoring Framework with a list of headline, binary, component, and complementary indicators ([CBD/COP/DEC/16/31](#)) to measure progress towards the GBF, as well as metadata/guidance on how to measure them ([CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1](#) or <https://gbf-indicators.org/>)
- Guidance on monitoring Section C of the KMGBF ([CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1](#) Page 15)
- A gap analysis of the KMGBF Monitoring Framework and an assessment of capacity needs ([INF/4](#))



Timothy Andrianaivo (GYBN Madagascar) sharing during GYBN side event on youth-responsive monitoring

By the end of COP16 in Colombia, the decision on this item was among those that were not adopted with the suspension of the meeting. The decision on this item together with the resource mobilization and financial mechanism decisions were considered by Parties to constitute a package that should be adopted together. By the end of the resumed COP16 session in Rome, this decision was adopted after resolving remaining brackets on the headline indicators for Target 7 (Pollution) and Target 16 (Sustainable consumption).

Gaps remain on indicators that can measure *outcomes* for key aspects like participation in decision-making and access to justice and information, which binary indicators cannot measure, as well as means to measure intergenerational equity. **Key outcomes for youth are summarized on the following pages, most of which were advanced through GYBN's engagement in the work of the AHTEG and related indicators expert groups, and in SBSTTA 25 & 26.**



How are youth reflected in the KMGBF Monitoring Framework?

Indicators Note: Binary indicator questions will be required for countries to answer during national reporting.

Target 22 Binary Indicator: Indicator 22.b. Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation, in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

Question 22.1. Does your country have policy, legislative and administrative frameworks at the national and subnational levels that:

- Ensure full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive **representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making** related to biodiversity of the following (select all that apply): (a) Indigenous peoples and local communities (b) Women and girls (c) **Children and youth** (d) Persons with disabilities (e) Others
- Ensure the full protection of **environmental human rights defenders**? (Yes/No)
- Ensure **public access to information** related to biodiversity for the following (select all that apply): (a) Indigenous peoples and local communities (b) Women and girls (c) **Children and youth** (d) Persons with disabilities (e) Others
- Provide **access to justice** for one or more of the following categories (select all that apply): (a) Indigenous peoples and local communities (b) Women and girls (c) **Children and youth** (d) Persons with disabilities (e) Others

Question 22.2. Does your country have operational frameworks and mechanisms related to the policy, legislative and administrative frameworks listed under question 22.1?

- Answerable by: (a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully

Question 22.3. Does your country monitor the following:

- The full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in biodiversity decision-making of the following (select all that apply): (a) Indigenous peoples and local communities (b) Women and girls (c) **Children and youth** (d) Persons with disabilities (e) Others

Target 20 Binary Indicator: Indicator 20.b. Number of countries that have taken significant action to strengthen capacity-building and development and access to and transfer of technology, and to promote the development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation.

Question 20.2. Does your country have measures to ensure the **full and effective participation** of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, **children and youth** and people with disabilities in **capacity-building** and development for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (Select all that apply)

- (a) Women and girls (b) **Children and youth** (c) People with disabilities (d) Indigenous peoples and local communities (e) Others

Question 20.4 Has your country undertaken a **national assessment of the capacity-building and development needs** of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, **children and youth** and people with disabilities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (Select all that apply)

- (a) Women and girls (b) **Children and youth** (c) People with disabilities (d) Indigenous peoples and local communities (e) Others

Target 9 Binary Indicator: Indicator 9.b. Number of countries with policies to manage the use in wild species sustainably, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and to protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities

Question 9.3 Does your country monitor the social, economic and environmental benefits derived from the use of wild species for people, in particular those in vulnerable situations and most dependent on biodiversity? (Select all that apply)

- (a) No (b) Under development (c) Partially (d) Fully
- If fully or partially, disaggregate by all relevant groups of people, as determined at the national level: (a) Women and girls (b) **Children and youth** (c) People with disabilities (d) Indigenous peoples and local communities

Goal D Complementary Indicators

- International funding targeted at youth within biodiversity-related activities
- Domestic funding targeted at youth within biodiversity-related activities
- Private funding targeted at youth within biodiversity-related activities
- Private funding mobilized for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth

Disaggregation by age is reflected for headline indicators of Target 9 and Target 23.

How are youth reflected in the KMGBF Monitoring Framework?



Draft Decision contained in [CBD/COP/16/L.26](#)

- “ 10. **Invites** international and other relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and **youth** to **support Parties in the implementation of the monitoring framework at the national level**;
- “ 14. **Urges Parties** and other Governments, including local and subnational governments, **to take section C of the Framework into consideration** when implementing the monitoring framework, including by **disaggregating the headline indicators by indigenous peoples and local communities, sex, age, persons with disabilities and other relevant groups** and by ecosystem type, where appropriate, using relevant component, complementary and national and local **indicators relevant to section C** and traditional knowledge indicators, including by **strengthening community-based monitoring systems**, where relevant and applicable;
- “ 19. **Urges Parties and other Governments**, and invites local and subnational governments, to **strengthen their monitoring systems**, subject to the availability of the necessary means of implementation, **involving** all relevant institutions, **indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth** and relevant stakeholders in a **participatory manner, with support, where appropriate, from international organizations and initiatives**, in particular **to facilitate the reporting of indicators in the seventh national report**, due in February 2026;
- “ 25. **Encourages Parties** and relevant organizations, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and **youth**, to **exchange knowledge**, and **build capacity related to** the headline, component and complementary **indicators and to the consideration of section C** of the Framework **when implementing the monitoring framework**;
- “ 30. **Requests the Executive Secretary:**
(b) To **compile submissions** from Parties, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, relevant academia and research institutions and other relevant organizations, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and **youth for the inclusion of additional headline, component and complementary indicators** that **meet the criteria** for inclusion in the monitoring framework in order to help to **address the gaps** in the monitoring framework;

Related Documents

[CBD/COP/16/INF/3/Rev.1](#)

- “Section 2a: Guidance on how to inclusively take people and biodiversity into account when implementing the monitoring framework - Taking an inclusive approach to monitoring” (p.18) includes **guidance on applying human rights-based approaches, inclusive and participatory processes, youth-responsiveness, intergenerational equity, and diverse value systems to monitoring.**
- The metadata, or in other words, further guidance notes, to measure the headline indicators and binary indicators, including the binary indicators 22.b, 20.b, 9.b that contain provisions on youth, are also contained in this document.

[CBD/COP/16/INF/4](#)

- The **gap analysis** of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework monitoring framework contained in this document points out that:
 - The need to improve data collection efforts is particularly apparent when considering **section C of the KMGBF**. (Note: Section C contains provisions on youth, intergenerational equity, and rights.)
 - The **Target 22** binary indicator (22.b) cannot provide information on outcomes; therefore it only partially informs on the participation in decision-making related to biodiversity, access to justice and information related to biodiversity for the groups named in Target 22 including children and youth, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.



Item 10b. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting & review (PMRR)

BACKGROUND

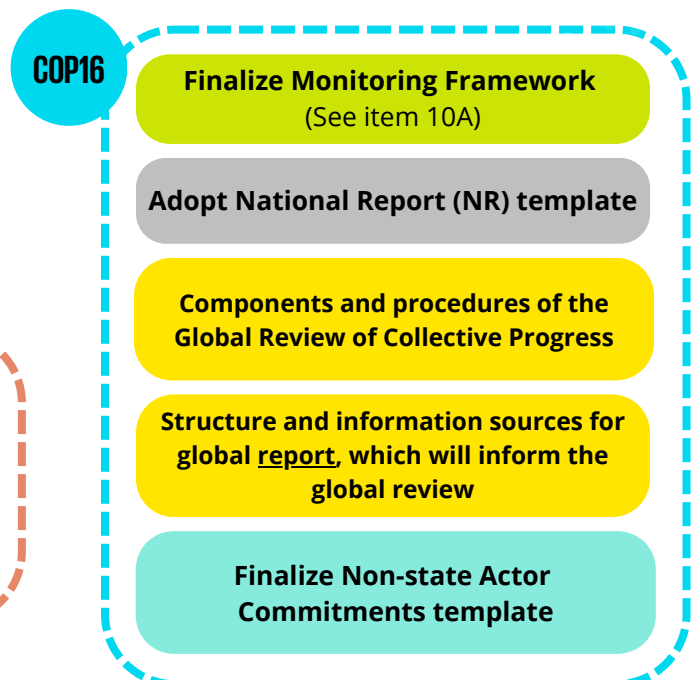
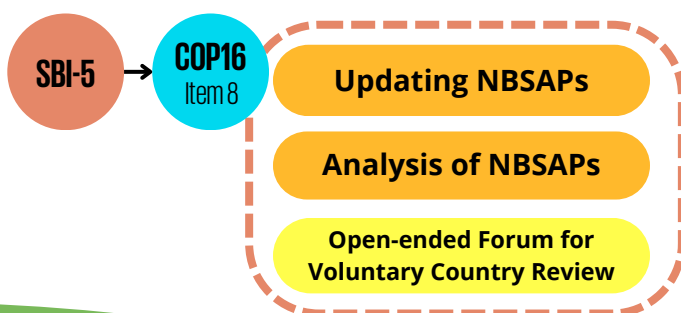
In Decision 15/6, the COP adopted a multidimensional approach to **planning, monitoring, reporting, and review** (often shortened to “PMRR”), to enhance the implementation of the CBD and KMGBF. These mechanisms are also stated briefly in the KMGBF itself as follows:

KM GBF Section J. Responsibility and transparency

- “16. The successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework requires **responsibility and transparency**, which will be supported by effective mechanisms for **planning, monitoring, reporting and review**, forming an agreed, synchronized and cyclical system.
- 15. This includes the following elements:
 - (a) **National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP)**, revised or updated in alignment with the Framework and its goals and targets as the main vehicle for implementation of the Framework, including national targets communicated in a standardized format;
 - (b) **National reports**, including the headline and, as appropriate, other indicators in the **monitoring framework** of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
 - (c) **Global analysis of information in NBSAPs**, including national targets to assess the contribution towards the Framework;
 - (d) **Global review of collective progress** in the implementation of the Framework, including the means of implementation, based on national reports and, as appropriate, other sources;
 - (e) **Voluntary peer reviews**;
 - (f) Further development and testing of an **open-ended forum for voluntary country reviews**;
 - (g) Information on **non-state actor commitments** towards the Framework, as applicable.”

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT COP16?

COP16 considered different aspects of the CBD’s / KMGBF’s mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review and aimed to resolve remaining brackets. Much of the time was spent considering the global review of collective progress that will be conducted at COP17 and COP19.





Item 10b. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting & review (PMRR)

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

- **On the global review of collective progress**
 - There is a need to ensure full, effective, and inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, and youth throughout the global review process, ensure that major groups are represented in the relevant advisory bodies, and facilitate a process to receive stakeholder contributions as inputs to the global review and the global report.
- **On Non-State Actor Commitments**
 - A meaningful mechanism for non-State actor reporting must provide a simple way for rightsholders to report their contributions, while ensuring accountability and transparency for reporting done by the private sector to prevent greenwashing.
- **On National Reporting**
 - Parties should report on their actions to support youth participation & youth-led initiatives on biodiversity, and on their implementation of Section C of the Framework.

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/32](#)

By the end of COP16 in Colombia, the decision on this item was among those that were not adopted with the suspension of the meeting. The final decision was adopted at the resumed COP16 session in Rome, with minor changes, in particular to the references to non-objection under the mechanism for communicating commitments other than national governments.



National Report template

The template for the 7th and 8th national reports was adopted. It asks Parties to report on the status of their updated NBSAP and on their progress towards goals, targets, and other sections of the framework.

Components and procedures of Global Review

The final decision states, among others, that:

- The global review will be a Party-led process through the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and will be conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner.
- The global review will primarily be based on national reports and a global report on collective progress, and will also draw upon relevant recommendations of the subsidiary bodies and working groups.
- Information on commitments by actors including indigenous peoples, local communities, women, and youth, towards the KMGBF will inform the global report.
- An ad hoc scientific and technical advisory group for the preparation of the global report will be established, which will include among its members 5 representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth groups.

Non-State Actor Commitments* template

**Now referred to as 'Commitments by actors other than national governments'*

- The standardized template to voluntarily communicate commitments by actors other than national governments (or non-State actors)—which includes youth—was adopted by Parties. The template contained in the decision lists a set of principles as well as core reporting elements for such commitments, including the description of the commitment and how progress will be tracked.
- Information on commitments sent in through the template will be shared with the relevant national focal points of the Convention through an automated notification sent to Parties that wish to be informed. A mechanism will be further developed by the Secretariat.



Item 11a. Resource Mobilization



BACKGROUND

- Discussions on resource mobilization are central theme of the CBD.
- Article 20 of the Convention emphasizes that all Parties must provide financial support and incentives to promote biodiversity conservation, with a particular focus on the responsibility of developed countries to provide new and additional financial resources to developing countries.
- More recently, the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) underscores the pivotal role of resource mobilization in achieving its objectives and targets.
- Target 19 of the GBF outlines the need to mobilize at least USD 200 billion annually by 2030, including a minimum of USD 20 billion annually from developed to developing countries, alongside the mobilization of domestic resources, business and private sector contributions, innovative financial mechanisms, and collective actions, including Mother Earth-centric actions.
- By its decision 15/7, the COP adopted a strategy for resource mobilization to align with the GBF, and decide to revise it, while also exploring gaps and overlaps in the current financial landscape.
- In the same decision, the COP also established an Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization (ACRM)*.
- The agenda was previously discussed at SBI4, and recommendation 4/3 presents a draft of recommendations to be considered by the COP.
- During SBI4, countries were unable to reach a consensus due to divergent positions.
 - Many Parties welcomed the draft revised strategy for resource mobilization and expressed appreciation for the the biodiversity finance landscape study, but for the list of voluntary actions some Parties expressed uncertainty.
 - Parties were divided regarding the discussion of the financial mechanism: many Parties called for the establishment of a new Global Biodiversity Fund under the authority of the COP, while many others suggested that the existing mechanisms already serve this purpose, and that a new fund would not be necessary.
- Critical issues were left to be resolved at COP16, as the decision on the financial mechanism, and many other important recommendations.

*ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (ACRM)

Made up of 34 members of the Parties and 20 additional members, including a youth representative from GYBN. There were a total of 4 virtual and 2 in-person meetings.

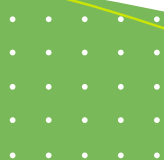
The COP established the ACRM, with a view to:

- Reviewing the strategy for resource mobilization to align it with the GBF;
- Exploring the current finance landscape with a view to assessing gaps and overlaps;
- Exploring proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance.

The ACRM prepared three Annexes for the SBI4.

Annex I is the draft revised resource mobilization strategy. **Annex II** is the draft non-exhaustive list of voluntary actions to strengthen, simplify and reform existing instruments for biodiversity finance.

Annex III is the draft non-exhaustive list of elements for discussion on a possible specific global instrument for biodiversity finance.





Item 11a. Resource Mobilization

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT COP16 IN CALI?

Discussions on resource mobilization were conducted within Contact Groups., focusing on specific themes:

- **Review of the Resource Mobilization Strategy**

- Most Parties agreed on the need to advance improvements to the existing strategy and collaborated constructively to enhance the material.
- The negotiations went through all the items of the resource mobilization strategy, which are: objective, enabling conditions, biodiversity-related international resources and domestic resources. Both the international and domestic resources sessions suggested actions to increase new financial resources; identify, eliminate and phase out harmful subsidies; and improve the use of private resources.
- The strategy was advanced as it was developed within the ACRM and previously discussed at SBI4. The discussions focused on streamlining the material and reviewing concepts and references, including aspects on human rights-based approaches; socio-environmental safeguards; mentions of specific financial instruments (e.g. biodiversity credits) and task-forces (e.g. TNFD); and how to reference and differentiate rightsholders and stakeholders.

- **ACRM proposed annexes**

- Many Parties were unhappy with the content and manner in which the annexes proposed by the ACRM were being presented in the decision - reinforcing them to be suggestions, exploratory and voluntary aspects.
- Previous annexes II and III have been simplified into a single Annex covering: Assessment of options for closing the biodiversity financing gap by mobilizing resources from all sources and instruments; Assessment of the effectiveness of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Possible criteria for the development of a instrument on biodiversity finance.



- **Instrument on Biodiversity Finance**

- No consensus was reached on whether this topic should or shouldn't be addressed.
- The discussions were highly polarized:
 - Developed countries argued that there were already ongoing mechanisms addressing resource mobilization for the GBF, e.g. the GEF Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), and stated they lacked the fiscal space for new official development assistance mechanisms.
 - Developing countries expressed dissatisfaction, arguing that the existing mechanisms, such as the GEF GBFF, were insufficient and had challenges mobilizing resources, either because it did not reach all countries or did not have an equitable governance. Developing countries emphasized the need for new and additional financial resources.





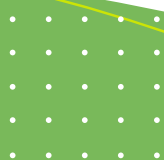
Item 11a. Resource Mobilization

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

- **On the Resource Mobilization Strategy:**
 - Successfully advocated for modifying generic references to "stakeholders" or "relevant rightsholders" by explicitly naming "Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth, and other stakeholders." *This was supported and included throughout the final document.*
 - Successfully advocated for including an enabling condition that consider the full, equitable and effective participation in decision-making of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth". *This was supported and incorporated into the final document.*
 - Worked to retain references to social and environmental safeguards, as well as rights-based approaches. *While safeguards remained throughout the document, references to rights-based approaches were weakened by including only a general mention of Section C of the GBF in the Aim of the Resource Mobilization Strategy.*
 - Worked to eliminate references to financial mechanisms lacking validation from grassroots and science. *The mention of biodiversity credits was successfully removed from the Resource Mobilization Strategy.*
- **On the New Financial Mechanism:**
 - Advocated for the establishment of a new instrument on biodiversity finance!
 - GYBN emphasized that a new instrument on biodiversity finance mechanism must go beyond increasing funding to improve allocation, ensuring fairness, efficiency, and balanced governance. Current mechanisms, as the GBFF, fail to provide direct, flexible funding for local biodiversity actions or address global power imbalances in governance, neglecting diverse worldviews and knowledge systems. Consequently, developing countries, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth lack an equal voice in funding decisions - a critical gap still unaddressed in ongoing negotiations.

HOW DID COP16 END IN CALI?

- By the end of COP16, the decision on this item was among those **not adopted** due to the suspension of the meeting.
 - This item was considered at the resumed session of COP16.
- The L document was presented during the final Plenary, but was rejected by developed countries, as it proposed establishing "a dedicated global financing instrument for biodiversity to receive, disburse, mobilize, and coordinate funding from all sources, under the authority of the Conference of the Parties (COP), with the aim of making it fully operational by 2030".





Item 11a. Resource Mobilization

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE RESUMED SESSION OF COP16 IN ROME?

- The agenda opened with ongoing disagreements over the need for a dedicated financial instrument for biodiversity under the COP's authority, as outlined in Article 21 of the CBD. Developed countries opposed creating a new instrument, while developing countries insisted on its necessity. Discussions continued informally among heads of delegations and ministers, excluding observer groups.
- The debate centered on addressing the global biodiversity finance gap and fully implementing Article 21 by 2030. Key priorities included enhancing financial mobilization from all sources, assessing the effectiveness of existing instruments, and establishing a permanent financial mechanism. As negotiations progressed, attention shifted toward developing a roadmap for COP 19 to close the global biodiversity finance gap.
- Final discussions emphasized the need to integrate the resource mobilization strategy with institutional capacity provisions. This required revising decision paragraphs to include a draft decision within an implementation criteria, and a roadmap for intersessional work.
- Due to time constraints and the advanced stage of negotiations, observer groups—including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth—were not given the floor. Despite this, GYBN continued its advocacy, emphasizing that any future financial mechanism must ensure direct access to resources for rights holders and incorporate a more equitable and participatory governance structure.

OUTCOMES [CBD/COP/16/L.34/Rev.2](#)

- The COP adopts the revised resource mobilization strategy for 2025-2030 and encourages its use as flexible guidance to mobilize new and additional resources from all sources, aligning financial flows with the implementation of the CBD, its Protocols, and the GBF.
- It urges developed countries and other contributors to increase their support for the GBF Fund and calls for improved access to financial resources for IPLCs, women, and youth to enhance GBF implementation.
- To address the global biodiversity finance gap by 2030, the COP commits to implementing Articles 21 and 39, establishing a permanent financial mechanism, and strengthening finance mobilization from all sources. A set of actions is recognized as key to closing this gap in Annex II.
- The COP acknowledges that the financial mechanism under Article 21 may be managed by one or more entities—whether new, reformed, or existing—provided they meet essential criteria, including alignment with the Convention and its Protocols, accountability to the COP, democratic and transparent governance, and equitable, non-discriminatory access for all eligible parties.
- To define the institutional structure of the financial mechanism, the COP establishes an intersessional process to refine criteria by COP 17, further develop the structure by COP 18, and determine the permanent arrangement by COP 19. Concrete deliverables for this process include:
 - Identifying obstacles to effective global biodiversity finance and proposing solutions by COP 17;
 - Enhancing global biodiversity finance and assessing existing instruments by COP 18; and
 - Integrating a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy by COP 19.





Item 11b. Financial Mechanism

BACKGROUND

Following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the COP requested the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to establish a trust fund to support the implementation of the Framework and decided to provide further guidance to the GEF.



At COP16, Parties worked on developing additional guidance to the GEF, specifically addressing: (a) the GEF trust fund; (b) the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF); (c) the four-year outcome-oriented framework of program priorities; (d) the funding needs assessment; and (e) the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

GBFF

The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) was established to scale up financing to help countries achieve the GBF targets and goals. It's part of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Funds Family. The GBFF currently has over 200 million USD. The resources can come from public, private or philanthropic sources.

The GBFF will scale up financing for the implementation of the GBF, considering a Policy allocation that includes:

- 36%+3% allocated to to SIDS and LDCs;
- 25% to be programmed through IFIs;
- aspirational share of 20% by 2030 to support actions by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The governance of the GBFF has a Council with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth as observers able to speak at meetings.

It also has an Auxiliary and an Advisory Bodies that will ensure the engagement of nonsovereign contributors and of experts of developing countries with areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

Discussions focused on evaluating the efficiency of the GEF and its governance structure. Many developing countries emphasized that they have not yet been able to access support from the GEF. Additionally, concerns were raised about the structure of the GEF Council, with calls for greater equity and parity in decision-making processes between developed and developing countries.

The discussion also addressed the need to strengthen the GEF's partnerships, ensure facilitated and direct access, and provide capacity-building support for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth, recognizing their critical contributions to biodiversity conservation.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

GYBN highlighted concerns over uneven attention to GBF targets, particularly T22, T23, and Section C, and emphasized gaps in rightsholder inclusion within the GEF and the GBFF. GYBN called on the GEF to enhance full and effective participation on decision-making and increase direct funding for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth.



OUTCOMES [Decision 16/33](#)

This decision was adopted at the resumed COP16 session.

The document falls short of expectations, as it does not address necessary reforms to the governance structure or resource allocation policies of the GEF.

The text mentions the need to strengthen the GEF's partnerships, ensure facilitated and direct access, and provide capacity-building support for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth.

However, it only refers to engagement rather than full and effective participation in decision-making processes, including at the GEF Council Meetings.





Item 13. Cooperation with other conventions

BACKGROUND

- In its decisions COP15/13, the COP emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation with other conventions and international organizations for the successful implementation of the GBF.
- SBI4 adopted recommendation 4/9, which contained updated information on the decisions of the governing bodies of other conventions and international organizations regarding their recognition, welcome and first steps to identify synergies and joint actions for the successful implementation of the GBF.



Earth Summit 1992
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Convention on
Biological Diversity



UNFCCC



UNCCD

Discussions about increasing synergies between the three Rio Conventions have been highlighted in the negotiations of COP16.



WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

Discussions focused on:

- How the CBD should relate to other conventions and international organizations, including what requests the CBD should make of them;
- How to improve the science-policy interface of which of the conventions;
- It also deals with recognising both the synergies and tradeoffs of actions targeting the objectives of different conventions or international organisations;
- Whether to establish a joint work programme of the Rio Convention Secretariats.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

GYBN mentioned that:

- Cooperation should consider the whole-of-society and also be implemented on the ground;
- Enhancing collaboration between the CBD and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) ensures that CBD is provided with expert inputs on integrating human rights-based approaches in its work;
- Ensuring policy coherence of actions to implement the GBF across conventions and international organisations, should include addressing tradeoffs, not only synergies.

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/35](#)

Parties agreed on:

- Invitation to the OHCHR to develop tools and guidance on a human rights-based approaches to support the implementation of the GBF and convey the results to the CBD Secretariat;
- Invitation to parties to the Rio Conventions to strengthen synergies and coordination in the implementation of each convention in accordance with national circumstances and priorities.





Item 14. Article 8(j) and related provisions

Development of a new programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions

BACKGROUND & COP16 DISCUSSIONS

- **Article 8(j)** is a provision of the CBD focused on respecting, preserving, and maintaining the traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs & LCs) related to biodiversity.
- **The programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions** is the main instrument that Parties to the CBD have given themselves to achieve the commitments in Article 8(j). In its decision 15/10, the COP decided to develop a **new programme of work** on Article 8(j), aligned with the KMGBF, with the full and effective participation of IPs & LCs.
- Carrying on from negotiations at the 12th meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) (**WG8J-12**) which was informed by an **Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Article 8(j)**, COP16 considered the programme of work's elements and tasks, prioritization, access to direct funding for IPs & LCs, among other matters.

Photo from the Convention on Biological Diversity



OUTCOMES Decision 16/4

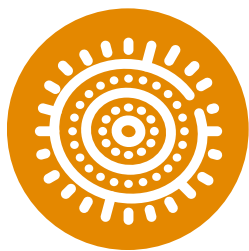
- At COP16, a new programme of work on Article 8(j) was adopted, extending through 2030, aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The programme of work includes nine principles and eight elements, emphasizing biodiversity conservation, restoration, sustainable use, participation, and a human rights-based approach.
- Notable elements of the Programme of Work include direct funding access for IPs & LCs and monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of the GBF.

Some notable excerpts from the new programme of work on Article 8(j)

- “ General Principles “2. The **full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in particular women, girls and youth among them**, should be ensured, from the local to the global level, at all stages of the identification, implementation and monitoring of the elements of the programme of work. Partnerships with indigenous peoples and local communities should be ethical, equitable and based on mutual respect and good faith.”
- “ Task 4.1 Support efforts by indigenous peoples and local communities to strengthen the **intergenerational transmission, use and revitalization, and enhancement of their languages and traditional knowledge, including in formal and informal education settings and in cultural and education centres**, in particular with respect to the roles and needs of women, girls and youth.
- “ Element 6. To enable the **full and effective participation** of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women, girls and **youth among them**, in **decision-making related to biodiversity** and the **implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**.
- “ Task 8.2 Identify gaps, promote good practices and further explore options for the development or improvement of existing policies, mechanisms and other appropriate initiatives and measures to enhance **access, including direct access, to funding by indigenous peoples and local communities for collective actions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, in particular for actions to be led by women and youth**.

Photo from the Convention on Biological Diversity





Item 14. Article 8(j) and related provisions

Institutional Arrangements for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the CBD

BACKGROUND & COP16 DISCUSSIONS

- The Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8j) was established in 1998 by COP4. In 2000, COP5 adopted a programme of work to implement the commitments of Article 8(j).
- In its decision 15/10, COP15 decided to continue WG8j with the intention to subsequently decide at COP16 on institutional arrangements and future *modus operandi* for Article 8(j).
- Discussions at COP16 focused on deliberating whether to establish a permanent subsidiary body on Article 8(j) (which would replace the Ad Hoc Working Group) and its *modus operandi*. There were diverging views, with a few parties expressing reservations with regard to the subsidiary body.



- Advocacy by the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and allies, and negotiating positions by supportive Parties, aimed to push toward consensus to agree on the permanent subsidiary body to be established at COP16.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

GYBN supported the establishment of the permanent subsidiary body, a position aligned with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB). The permanent subsidiary body would institutionalize a dedicated mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and local communities and Parties to the CBD to address relevant issues, recognizing the indispensable role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. GYBN joined in celebrating the outcomes of the negotiations.

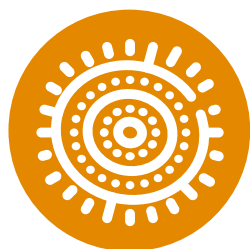


Photo from the Convention on Biological Diversity

OUTCOMES Decision 16/5

- In a landmark decision, COP16 agreed to create a permanent Subsidiary Body on Article 8j and other provisions related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities (SB8j). This subsidiary body will address the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and issues related to traditional knowledge in the CBD. This decision is the result of decades of work by the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and supporting networks.
- SB8j replaces the Working Group on Article 8j, which although created as a temporary body, existed for over 20 years. It will have the mandate to provide advice to the COP, other subsidiary bodies, and the Protocols.
- In the Decision, the COP acknowledges the unique role of IPs & LCs, their innovations, practices, and traditional knowledge in the implementation of the CBD and recognizes the need for the full and effective participation of IPs & LCs through a permanent subsidiary body.
- The COP requests SB8j to further elaborate and finalize its *modus operandi* at its first meeting and submit it for consideration by COP17.





Item 14. Article 8(j) and related provisions

Role of people of African descent in the implementation of the CBD [Decision 16/6](#)

- In the decision, the COP invites Parties, as appropriate, in line with national legislation or circumstances, to recognize the contributions of people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, their shared knowledge, and connection with their lands in the implementation of the CBD and the KMGBF, while ensuring that nothing in such recognition may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights that Indigenous Peoples currently have or may acquire in future.
- The COP also encourages Parties to facilitate the full and effective participation of this group in implementing the CBD and the KMGBF, collaborate with them, and consider providing financial support and enhancing capacity building to protect the shared knowledge, innovations and practices of this group, among others.



In-depth dialogue on Article 8(j) and related provisions [Decision 16/7](#)

In the decision, the COP, among others, decides that the theme of the next in-depth dialogue shall be **“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 IPLCs, including women and youth, to support the full implementation of the GBF.”**



Recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [Decision 16/8](#)

- In the decision, the COP takes note of the UNPFII recommendations and requests exchanging information with the UNPFII on activities undertaken in the context of the Convention.





Item 15. Communication, Education & Public Awareness

BACKGROUND & COP16 DISCUSSIONS

- By its decision 15/14, the COP adopted a communications strategy to support the implementation of the KMGBF. It also requested the Executive Secretary to update the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) for the Convention.
- SBI-4 adopted a draft decision for COP16 as well as an Annex containing suggested actions to align the programme of work on CEPA with the KMGBF.
- COP16 discussed the details of the draft decision and the Annex which was not considered at SBI-4.



KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

- The process to develop the global plan of action for education for biodiversity must be participatory, inclusive and bring in a broad range of actors. The Global Youth Biodiversity Network is interested to be among the organizations actively involved in the development of the global plan of action for education for biodiversity.
- It's important to keep references to "transformative change" across the text.
- Parties must work to address identified gaps including the insufficient involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and a broad set of stakeholders in the Convention's CEPA work and the gap on the work on education.
- Access to information, transformative education, and a human rights-based approach, including respect for free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) are key cross-cutting considerations across the work on communication, education and public awareness.

OUTCOMES Decision 16/10

- Through an intervention on behalf of Norway and GYBN, Norway proposed to **include GYBN to the list of organizations that will collaborate to develop a global plan of action on education for biodiversity**, encompassing formal and informal education, in order to support transformative actions needed to implement the Framework. This proposal supported by Mexico, Fiji, Peru and others, and was ultimately kept in the final decision in para 4 - a win for youth!
 - A draft for this plan is expected for consideration by a future SBI.
- Instead of the reference to "transformative change," the decision now refers to "transformative actions" to implement the GBF.
- The Annex containing suggested actions to align the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was also adopted.





Item 16a. Scientific & Technical Needs to support KMGBF Implementation



BACKGROUND & COP16 DISCUSSIONS

- Following a recommendation from SBSTTA-25, the Secretariat prepared document that contained the results of a comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that could support the implementation of the KMGBF, an identification of their gaps and redundancies, and technical advice for the adjustment of work undertaken under the Convention. On this basis, the draft decision contained a list of areas of work to be advanced by the Convention.
- During SBSTTA, out of four identified gaps, Russia moved to delete the reference to the area about equity and human rights-based approaches during a plenary session, arguing that this is work for outside the CBD.
- This deleted reference to equity was reinserted during COP16, and negotiated. Additionally Bolivia also inserted an additional area on different value systems.
- COP16 deliberations focused on the list of areas of work to be advanced by the CBD, as well as on the requests to the Secretariat, in particular whether and how the past process (the compilation of guidance and the gap analysis by the Secretariat) should be referenced in the doc.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION



- GYBN has advocated strongly for the CBD to recognize the need for strengthened efforts on equity and a human rights-based approach since the development of the GBF, and expressed disappointment at the deletion of this reference at SBSTTA-26 during our closing remarks at that meeting. We also continued to advocate for its reinsertion prior to and during COP16.
- We emphasize that the CBD is best placed as a multilateral forum to strengthen work on the interlinkages of equity, human rights, and biodiversity. Equity, equality, and human rights-based approaches are indispensable to achieve effective and just conservation and sustainable use.

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/12](#)

Paragraph 2 of the decision now reads as follows:

"2. Decides that work could be advanced in the following areas, avoiding duplication with existing multilateral processes and respecting their mandates:*

- (a) *Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning;*
- (b) *Pollution and biodiversity;*
- (c) *Sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity;*
- (d) **Equity, gender equality and the human rights-based approach** relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;
- (e) **Different value systems**, as stated in paragraph 7 (b) of section C of the Framework;

*Note: Language in the chapeau was weakened, where it reads "Decides that work could be advanced," rather than deciding that work *will* or *should* be advanced in these areas. This was the compromise reached to keep the reference to equity in the decision.



Item 16b. Matters related to the work programme of IPBES

BACKGROUND & COP16 DISCUSSIONS

- In its recommendation SBSTTA/25/3, the SBSTTA invited Parties, other Governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions, the other Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral agreements, and intergovernmental organizations to submit views related to the work programme of the IPBES and the potential contribution of the Platform in addressing the scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Framework and the global review of collective progress.
- COP16 discussed potential topics that IPBES could be taking up as part of their next assessments.



Photo from IENB/IISD - Mike Muzurakis

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

- GYBN advocated for:
 - Keeping human rights-based approaches as a potential theme for the next IPBES assessments considerations:
- The original suggested topic 3e was:

Fast-track assessment of rights-based approaches, including those related to gender, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.



Photo from IENB/IISD - Mike Muzurakis

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/12](#)

- COP invited the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to consider the following potential additional assessments:
 - (a) An assessment of pollution and biodiversity;
 - (b) An assessment of cities and biodiversity;
 - (c) An assessment of biodiversity and poverty;
 - (d) An assessment of biodiversity and climate change;
- COP also invited the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to explore ways to raise awareness of and include matters related to the human rights-based approach, as relevant, in the work of the Platform.





Item 17. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within & across sectors

BACKGROUND

- To achieve the GBF goals and targets, biodiversity must be integrated into decision-making within and across all sectors, including business and finance.
- The draft Long-Term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming Biodiversity (LTAM) and the Action Plan for Mainstreaming Biodiversity were developed alongside the GBF.
- In COP decision [15/17](#), the COP requested a review on the LTAM and associated action plan, to identify ways forward to support the implementation of the GBF.
- In SBI recommendation [4/10](#), the SBI considered that the LTAM overlaps significantly with the GBF's 2030 targets, raising questions about its added value.
- Civil society organizations have criticized the LTAM for its lack of rightsholders meaningful involvement, insufficient attention to power imbalances and reliance on voluntary guidelines rather than regulation.
- COP16 was invited to adopt a decision concerning actions on mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society to support the implementation of the GBF.



WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

Discussions focused on:

- The recognition that the GBF targets already cover biodiversity mainstreaming, but that more guidance and guidelines on tools and good practices are needed.
- Development of guidance for a timetable for how the CBD Executive Secretariat should organize itself in view of the activities to be carried out until COP17.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

GYBN urged for the CBD and all Parties to set up a new process for the biodiversity mainstreaming agenda. The current mainstreaming agenda fails to address the relationships and power imbalances between the territories, businesses, finance and governments, to include evidence and scientific-based discussions, and to emphasize the urgent need for coordinated regulation of businesses damaging biodiversity and human rights.

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/13](#)

- Recognition that the GBF already captures biodiversity mainstreaming and provides a wide range of options for mainstreaming biodiversity; Which indicates to the end of the LTAM and its Action Plan.
- The CBD Executive Secretariat (ES) should start considering the inclusion of biodiversity mainstreaming in upcoming regional and sub-regional meetings, and start providing capacity building related to biodiversity mainstreaming, including to Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth;
- Also, until COP17, CBD ES should provide a structured overview of available good practices, tools, mechanisms, guidance and relevant solutions, as well as, foster sector-specific communities of practice for the exchange of lessons learned to support biodiversity mainstreaming.
- Urges Parties and all actors to undertake biodiversity mainstreaming with a view to fostering the full and effective contributions of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth.



ITEM 18. Diverse values of biodiversity

BACKGROUND

- In its decision 15/19, the COP request the Executive Secretariat to prepare a review of the findings of the *Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)* and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention and the Framework.
- At SBSTTA25, the body analyzed the review and adopted its recommendation 25/5, sending it to COP16.

WHAT ARE DIVERSE VALUES OF NATURE?

- Over time, around the world, people and social groups have developed many ways of understanding and connecting with nature, leading to a diversity of values of nature.
- Diversity of values of nature can be described by three broad values categories that represent different worldviews, knowledge systems and values.

Instrumental values refer to the value of nature identified to the extent that it provides utility, satisfies preferences and supports the economic well-being and livelihoods of people and groups.

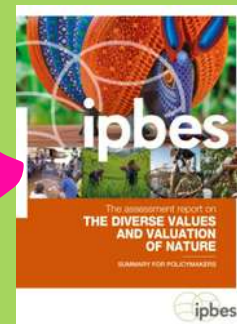
Intrinsic values are those inherent in nature regardless of the judgments of people and collectives for a good quality of life, having no relation to possible benefits for human beings or their quality of life.

Relational values do not emanate directly from nature, but are derived from our relationships with it and our responsibilities towards it.

- IPBES Values Assessment highlight that recognizing and integrating the diverse values of nature into decision-making results in more sustainable, equitable and fairer processes.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Check out the [IPBES Values Assessment](#):



KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

GYBN advocated for:

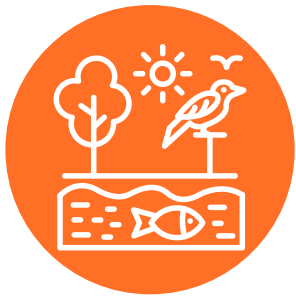
- Endorsing the key and background messages of the IPBES Values Assessment as fundamental to the implementation of the GBF, especially Session C;
- Requesting the CBD Executive Secretariat and relevant organizations to provide capacity building for Parties, other countries, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, and other stakeholders, considering the lack of information and knowledge on how to use different valuation methodologies.

No intervention was delivered; as no space was provided for intervention.

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/14](#)

- COP welcomed the IPBES Values Assessment, including its summary and its key messages, and notes its relevance to the work under the CBD and to the implementation of the GBF;
- Also consider the recognition of integrating diverse knowledge and value systems, valuation methods and worldviews of nature in policymaking and decision-making;
- Encourages Parties to built and develop capacities, as well as, urges developed countries and relevant organizations to provide support to developing countries, including through capacity-building, financing and technology transfer;
 - Encourages Parties and invites other Governments, to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth in incorporating diverse values of nature in decision-making.





Item 19. Sustainable wildlife management

BACKGROUND

- The agenda was previously discussed at SBSTTA25.
 - SBSSTA developed a brief overview of the situation, trends and possible future scenarios for sustainable wildlife management, along with a review of the findings of the Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and its implications for the work carried out under the Convention.
- In addition, in preparation for COP16, the CBD Secretariat has prepared an analysis of existing guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management.



WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

- One of the main factors in the loss of biodiversity is the over-exploitation of resources and nature. But at the same time, people all over the world depend on nature for their livelihoods.
- The agenda debate focused on incorporating monitoring frameworks and indicators on this topic, as well as promoting incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife, including innovative financial solutions. In addition to addressing gaps and debating inclusive guidelines linked to land rights, customary rights and equitable distribution in the use and management of natural resources.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

GYBN advocated for:

- Make young people fully recognized in this topic; both for whose sustainable management of wildlife is fundamental, but also as active users.
- Avoid reinforcing the role of biodiversity credit as part of the financial incentives that could be used to provide support to the different rights holders and stakeholders.

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/15](#)

- The COP16 decision encourages Parties, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth to consider seven suggested policy actions and recognises the need to scale up funding for the monitoring of wild species.
 - Use IPBES Sustainable Use of Wild Species finds in their decision-making;
 - Incorporate inclusive and participatory mechanisms for the development of policy instruments and tools, monitoring frameworks and indicators;
 - Support policies that consider poverty, inequality and food insecurity and that address challenges related to land tenure, resource use rights and the unequal distribution of costs and benefits among groups in vulnerable situations that depend on the sustainable use of wild species.
 - Strengthen customary institutions and rules and promote the participation of holders of traditional and indigenous knowledge.





Item 20A. Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)

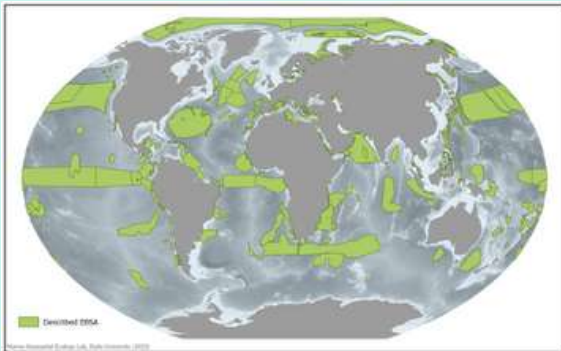
Item 20. Marine & Coastal Biodiversity; Island Biodiversity

BACKGROUND & COP16 DISCUSSIONS



EBSAs - ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

- EBSAs are important areas of the ocean identified through expert workshops.
- COP16 aimed to finally agree on and adopt the Annex on modalities for the modification of descriptions of EBSAs and the description of new areas, which has been in negotiations for 8 years.



More about EBSAs

- The EBSA approach is a purely scientific-technical exercise, and are not equivalent in meaning to marine protected areas (MPAs).
- **EBSA criteria:**
 1. Uniqueness or rarity
 2. Special importance for life history of species
 3. Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats
 4. Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, slow recovery
 5. Biological productivity
 6. Biological diversity
 7. Naturalness

- There are currently 238 EBSAs that cover approximately 20.3% of global ocean
- The EBSA workshop process has covered 75.7% of the world's ocean.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

- Ensure that indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth can participate in the EBSA workshops (*retain reference in para 5*)
- Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples and local communities must always be referred to when referencing the use of traditional knowledge (*add FPIC to para 5*)

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/6](#)

- At COP16, the Annex on modalities was finally adopted after 8 years of negotiations — a big achievement for the COP.
- The decision includes a request to the Executive Secretary to facilitate the participation in the EBSA workshops of experts from indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth organizations.
- The modalities that those submitting EBSA descriptions should consider collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations at an early stage.
- FPIC is included as a safeguard in all relevant paragraphs referring to traditional knowledge in the Annex; however, it is left out in paragraph 5 of the COP decision.





Item 20B. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity

Item 20. Marine & Coastal Biodiversity; Island Biodiversity

BACKGROUND & COP16 DISCUSSIONS

- Pursuant to a request by the COP in decision 15/24, the Secretariat prepared a document containing:
 - (a) a strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and the programme of work on island biodiversity, and draft updates to both programmes; and
 - (b) potential options for modalities for collaboration and cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations in the context of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).
- These documents were considered at SBSTTA-26 with remaining unresolved issues, which were negotiated and resolved at COP16. GYBN contributed our views to the discussions.

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

- There must be inclusive engagement of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth in the work on marine and coastal biodiversity, including in CBD submission processes, workshops, and in the capacity-building initiatives by the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.
- Recognize the gaps in the CBD's work regarding to:
 - implement the precautionary approach on geoengineering activities
 - integrate multiple values of biodiversity into planning and decision-making
 - improve engagement of a broader range of rightsholders and stakeholders
 - integrate gender-responsive policies
 - follow a human rights-based approach and ensure participation, access to justice and information, and protection of environmental defenders



OUTCOMES [Decision 16/17](#)

- Participation of youth is considered in capacity-building and partnership activities conducted by the Secretariat, including the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (*Para 12a*). However, the participation of rightsholder groups is not mentioned explicitly, and therefore not guaranteed, in the workshop to inform the BBNJ Agreement.
- The Annex on gaps and areas in need of additional focus under the CBD with regards to marine & coastal and island biodiversity states that further efforts are needed to:
 - understand the impacts of geoengineering activities
 - improve the integration of multiple values of biodiversity into planning and decision-making
 - improve engagement of a broader range of stakeholders
 - access to justice and information, and protection of environmental defenders
- However, references to gender-responsive policies and a human rights-based approach are no longer reflected in the annex, following negotiations.



Item 22. Biodiversity & Health

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSIONS AT COP16

- In its decision 15/29, the COP requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau and in collaboration with WHO and the Quadripartite cooperation on One Health, to produce an updated version of the draft **global action plan on biodiversity and health**. The prepared document as well as a draft decision was considered at SBSTTA-26.
- The COP16 negotiations continued to discuss the global action plan on biodiversity and health and resolve remaining brackets and points of divergence.



KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

- **Considerations on children, youth, and intergenerational equity** are of paramount importance in matters on biodiversity and health, and must be reflected sufficiently and appropriately in the global action plan and COP decision.
- The plan and decision must ensure the **full and effective participation of children and youth** in decision-making and implementation on biodiversity and health, and reflect the broad and diverse ways to enable this.
- References to rightsholder and stakeholder contributions to implementation of the global plan, children and youth, intergenerational equity, education, culture, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and human rights including the right to clean healthy and sustainable environment should be kept in the decision and its annexes.



PAST GYBN WORK RELEVANT TO THIS ITEM

GYBN held a youth consultation on biodiversity and health on February 3, 2024. A submission to the CBD on the updated draft global action plan was developed based on inputs from this consultation.

CONCERNS

- During negotiations, Russia weakened the text regarding children's participation in the documents, despite this aspect already being agreed on in KMGBF Target 22 and enshrined in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
 - Relevant reading: [General comment No. 26](#) (2023) of the UNCRC on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change
- Language was also weakened regarding the implementation by Parties of the plan, placing emphasis on its voluntary nature.



Item 22. Biodiversity & Health



OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH [COP Decision 16/19](#)

COP Decision

- Encourages Parties to ensure the **full and effective participation of youth** in decision-making and action on biodiversity and health (*Para 3c*);
- Invites indigenous peoples and local communities, women, **children and youth** to **contribute to the implementation of the Global Action Plan**; (*Para 5*)
- Requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate **capacity-building to support** Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, **children, youth**, the elderly and persons with disabilities, in the **uptake and implementation** of the Global Action Plan, including by convening regional workshops and facilitating dialogues; (*Para 9b*)
- Requests the Executive Secretary to enhance and strengthen cooperation with international organizations and the secretariats of other multilateral environmental, health and **human rights agreements** with regard to biodiversity and health interlinkages, consistent with international obligations; (*Para 9d*)
- Recognizes the **important role of education** and awareness-raising for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages and a whole-of-government and **whole-of-society approach**; (*Preamble*)



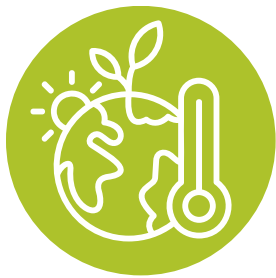
Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health

The plan recognizes that:

- The protection of the environment contribute to and promote human well-being and the full enjoyment of all human rights, including the **right to health** and **the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment**, for **present and future generations**; (*Annex I para 7e*)
- Within the context of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, **children, youth**, the elderly and those living with pre-existing medical conditions are more physically, mentally and emotionally **vulnerable to environmental degradation and environmental change**; (*Annex I para 7g*)
- **Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss contribute to health inequities**, especially for people in vulnerable situations, including women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities, and have severe adverse impacts, especially on the health of indigenous peoples and local communities and their unique interdependent relationship with local ecosystems, including their physical and mental health, livelihoods, foodways and traditional medicine systems; (*Annex I para 7i*)

The plan outlines the following among the list of actions:

- Developing and strengthening **national coordination mechanisms** on biodiversity and health interlinkages that are interdisciplinary and interministerial, ensuring the **participation of all actors**, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth and the elderly, and designating a national focal point for biodiversity and health to facilitate the process;
- Taking steps to ensure the **full and effective participation of youth** in decision-making and action on biodiversity and health
- Ensuring that **biodiversity loss and degradation are considered in assessments**, as well as national monitoring, reporting and review frameworks, in the context of **intergenerational equity** and gender equality and the health of future generations, specifically the ability of children to be born, grow and develop physically and mentally;
- Take steps to address the adverse impacts of biodiversity loss on health, including mental health, for example, by: **Fostering positive narratives on the environment for the future, especially among children and youth**;
- Improve access to and accessibility of biodiversity-rich **green and blue spaces** for all, especially for those more vulnerable to the negative impacts from social or environmental determinants, such as **children, youth**, the elderly, people with disabilities, migrants, racial minorities and low-income populations.
- Promote and disseminate **awareness-raising materials, advocacy tools, best practice and policies** that maximize biodiversity and health co-benefits and highlight the relevant contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth and the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Promote and support the **meaningful and active participation of all actors** of civil society, including traditional knowledge holders, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities, also recognizing their unique contributions to and active roles in the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages.



Item 25. Biodiversity & Climate Change

BACKGROUND

- Biodiversity and climate change are interlinked, with opportunities for both synergies or trade-offs between them.
- The agenda was previously discussed at SBSTTA25, which presented:
 - a summary of the views and information on biodiversity and climate change presented by Parties and international organizations;
 - an overview of the links between biodiversity and climate change;
 - a brief analysis of previous climate change guidelines developed under the Convention.

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

Discussions focused on:

- How to enhance coordination between CBD and UNFCCC, and other multilateral environmental agreements;
- References to global stocktake and loss and damage under the UNFCCC;
- Recognition of capacity gaps and how to address capacity building and development needs to implement the GBF, with particular emphasis on meeting the requirements of developing countries, including funding.
- Negotiations between relevant concepts such as “ecological integrity”, “carbon-rich ecosystems”, “carbon-dense ecosystems of high integrity”, “nature positive”, “Mother Earth-centered actions”, “geoengineering”, “human rights-based approaches”, “environmental defenders”, “nature-based solutions”.
- The implications and scope of social and environmental safeguards and free, prior, informed consent (FPIC).

KEY POINTS FROM GYBN POSITION

We openly and directly pushed to:

- New paragraph considering free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) when implementing climate actions;
- Maintain the paragraph that requested for a compilation of information regarding the impacts of carbon and biodiversity credits on biodiversity
- Maintain the concepts of “human rights-based approaches” and “social and environmental safeguards”;
- Exclusion of umbrella concepts like “nature positive” and avoid false solutions like “biodiversity credits”;

OUTCOMES [Decision 16/22](#)

- Consider full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth while noting the present and future impacts of climate change and climate-related policies on biodiversity;
- Social and environmental safeguards are recommended to be implemented when taking climate action;
 - It need to be in line with section C and Target 22 of the Framework;
 - It include Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and intergenerational equity;
- International cooperation and synergies between Parties, international organizations, among others, through capacity building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms were mentioned.
- It requested the Secretariat to develop guidelines and tools to carry out conservation and restoration in a changing climate, considering that possible adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity that may arise from economic and sectoral transitions should be assessed, managed and avoided or minimized.
- It requested the CBD Secretariat to invite Parties, observers and other stakeholders to submit, by May 2025, their views for increasing policy coherence and a possible joint work program of the Rio conventions.





GYBN Policy Team 2024

The GYBN Policy Team was tasked to lead and support the network's preparations and participation in the COP16 negotiations. Members were selected from an open call to the entire GYBN community, from which youth experts were selected on different items on the COP16 agenda, taking into consideration regional and gender balance and representation from marginalized groups.

GYBN Policy Coordinators



Josefa Tauli
(Philippines) - PMRR+



Heitor Dellasta
(Brazil) - Finance+



Sanda Rakotomalala
(Madagascar) - Monitoring



Roberto Muheto
(Burundi) - Health



Thembelihle Mbokazi
(South Africa) - Communication

Africa

Asia-Pacific



Ariful Islam
(Bangladesh) - Wildlife



Feby Nur Evtasari
(Indonesia) - Gender



Shaw La Mun
Indigenous Peoples



Camari Divuniwaqa
(Fiji) - NBSAPs



Daniela Arredondo
(Mexico) - Climate change



Estevan Marin
(Colombia) - COP16 Support



Joel Andres Rojas Gonzalez
(Dominican Republic) - DSI, Syn Bio

Latin America and the Caribbean

Europe



Ronja Fischer
(Germany) - Coordination Support



Axel Eriksson
(Sweden) - Cooperation



Marie-Morgane Rouyer
(France) - Marine & Coastal Biodiversity



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2

Youth Summit, Side Events, Parallel Events, Press Conferences & Actions

A YOUTH SUMMIT

Before COP16 started, the **International Youth and Children Summit of Biodiversity: Harvesting Life and Peace**

with Nature from Land to Sea happened during October 19th and 20th in Cali's Cultural Center in Cali, Colombia. The event led by the Colombian chapter created and space for international and local children and youth to meet and share their **experiences and vision to live in peace with nature**. More than **600 participants** from more than **40 countries** participating in **24 hours** of activities to prepare young people for the COP16 negotiations and discussions.



DAY 1 - SATURDAY 19TH



The day started with a land welcoming and a opening session with key leaders like the Minister and COP16 President Susana Muhamad and the CBD Executive Secretariat Astrid Schomaker. The day featured the current context of **biodiversity and planetary crisis**, a roundtable of **indigenous, afro-descendant and rural farmer communities** and concluded with a panel on **Ancestrality and Territory** where youth leaders and community representatives discussed the intersection of culture, territory, and biodiversity. All the events were followed and illustrated and included a session on **Artivism and Graffiti**. The day ended with a music, dance, and storytelling session, allowing youth to share their personal stories and artistic expressions.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

The second day kicked off with a session on **Youth Priorities for the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** and included a World Cafe session where youth engaged in **discussion on biodiversity** issues. Participants also drafted a **Manifesto Declaration** to express their **collective commitment to biodiversity**. The day ended with an Art and Graffiti Showcase and the Closing Ceremony, featuring **cultural performances** from youth groups in Valle del Cauca, including Frailejon music, **symbolizing youth solidarity** in advocating for the preservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage.



YOUTH SUMMIT AGENDA

B SIDE EVENTS

OFFICIAL SIDE EVENTS

Breaking Ground on Youth Indicators for Biodiversity

Date: 23 October 2024

Organizers: GYBN, UNESCO

GYBN presented the outcomes of our youth-led work since 2022 on youth-related indicators and monitoring for biodiversity. Explored ways for diverse stakeholders to support the advancement of ground-breaking work to make the invisible visible. GYBN Paraguay and Madagascar, presented their work on integrating youth into the NBSAP revision process. GYBN Southeast Asia spoke about their experience in documenting youth efforts aligned with the KMGBF.

Read the report of the outcomes from the side event here:

[*Report: Breaking Ground on Youth Indicators for Biodiversity*](#)



Nurturing Intergenerational Collaboration with Youth for National Biodiversity Governance & Action

Date: 31 October 2024

Partners: Governments of Bolivia, Barbados, Indonesia, Zimbabwe

This event was a space for reflective and open dialogue among GYBN youth participants (from Asia, Africa, LAC and Pacific) and Governments (from Bolivia, Barbados, Indonesia, Zimbabwe) to share experiences and best practices on intergenerational collaboration for biodiversity. Discussions also revolved around solutions and next steps for meaningful youth engagement for the implementation of the KMGBF.



B SIDE EVENTS

OFFICIAL PARTNER SIDE EVENTS

Youth Leadership and Agroecology Catalyzing Biodiversity Conservation in Agri-food Systems

Date: 23 October 2024

Partners: World Food Forum, Office of Youth and Women of FAO, GYBN



This event brought together diverse voices to share experiences, best practices, and youth-driven solutions that can make agrifood systems work for biodiversity and people. Results of a survey and Thematic Assemblies lead by the Youth Policy Board, in collaboration with GYBN related to biodiversity conservation and restoration in agrifood system was also presented. The session examined the interconnectedness between agrifood systems, importance of integrating youth and focusing on rights based approaches for the effective implementation of the KMGBF.

Partnership for Accelerating Meaningful Youth Participation for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Date: 30 October 2024

Organizers: United Nations University-Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), AEON Environmental Foundation, GYBN

The event brought together youth, national governments and private sectors, this event will explore ways to accelerate meaningful youth participation in international decision-making processes through the partnerships with different sectors. Session shared best practices, addressed barriers, discussed strategies, and necessary capacity-building to accelerate meaningful youth participation.



Photo: Mei Maruyama | UNU-IAS

B SIDE EVENTS

OFFICIAL PARTNER SIDE EVENTS

Biodiversity Offsets and Credits: examining risks and challenge

Date: 22 October 2024; CBD Oficial Side Event

Partners: Third World Network (TWN), Friends of The Earth International (FOEi), Global Forest Colation (GFC), Indigenous Environmental Network.



The event presented a call to action, developed by civil society and business organizations, which proposes a set of specific and immediate actions to mobilize and transform the main sectors in favor of biodiversity. The event is based on the recognition that meeting the GBF's objectives and targets requires a transformative change in our economic models, policies and decision-making processes, and is a fundamental opportunity to mobilize and enable key sectors to assume their share of responsibility and take bold, transformative action.

Time to mobilize and transform key sectors for biodiversity: A call to action

Date: 23 October 2024; Nature Positive Pavillion

Partners: TNC, WWF, Business for Nature, Capital Coalitions

The event presented a call to action, developed by civil society and business organizations, which proposes a set of specific and immediate actions to mobilize and transform the main sectors in favor of biodiversity. The event is based on the recognition that meeting the GBF's objectives and targets requires a transformative change in our economic models, policies and decision-making processes, and is a fundamental opportunity to mobilize and enable key sectors to assume their share of responsibility and take bold, transformative action.



B SIDE EVENTS

OFFICIAL PARTNER SIDE EVENTS

Rewarding Nature: towards a roadmap to finance the biodiversity plan

Date: 26 October 2024; GEF Pavillion

Partners: Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)



This side-event revealed a dynamic roadmap to finance the Global Biodiversity Framework, crafted through expert insights and diverse voices. A lively panel of policymakers, investors, innovators, and community leaders tackled challenges, innovative solutions, and real-world successes in mobilizing biodiversity finance. The discussion bridged bold financial strategies with practical on-the-ground actions, shaping the future of biodiversity financing.

Decolonise Biodiversity Finance: discussion from a human rights lens

Date: 31 October 2024; GEF Pavillion

Partners: International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and Women's Caucus.

This event, organized by the CBD Caucuses navigated into the complexities of resource mobilization, addressing key human rights issues. In the context of COP16 and the agenda on resource mobilization and financial mechanisms, it is crucial to root any related decision on human rights principles by ensuring adequate and direct access to financial resources for local biodiversity actions and ensuring full and effective participation in the decision-making process.



B SIDE EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS



Vital Role of Youth in Environmental and Peacebuilding Efforts

Date: 22 October 2024

Organizers: GYBN, PeaceNexus (PN)

The event as part of the Youth Day saw GYBN share outcomes of its youth-led work with PeaceNexus (since 2022) at the intersection of peace, nature, and conflict and launched toolkits developed to support youth in these endeavors. It was followed by panel discussion to highlight the importance of mainstreaming conflict-sensitive approaches in the implementation of the KMGBF.

Download the resources by clicking on them:

[*Conflict Sensitive Conservation \(CSC\) Guidebook*](#)
[*Case Studies Document*](#)

Crafting a Better Future: Ocean's Day Closing Session

Date: 27 October 2024

Organizers: GYBN, CBD Secretariat

A participatory theater format using actions and words to express the change in state of our ocean that was once teeming with life, now facing severe challenges and threats. Sending the message on the need to live in harmony with our blue planet. The youth priorities on ocean was shared with the Costa Rica Minister, Arnoldo André Tinoco, ahead of the UNOC 2025 next year in Nice, France.

Read the youth priorities here:

[*Ocean Youth Priorities: From CBD COP16 to UNOC25*](#)



C PARALLEL EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS



Weaving a New Story with Mother Earth (IYCB Event)

Date: 22 October 2024

Organizers: GYBN, Ministry of Environment Japan, City of Yokohama, Japan Biodiversity Gund and CBD Secretariat

This event focused on the outcomes and learning from the Youth Conference on Biodiversity (IYCB) organized by GYBN along with the Ministry of Environment Japan, City of Yokohama and the CBD Secretariat in August 2024 in Yokohama, Japan. It was an intergenerational dialogue that discussed challenges, solutions and future steps for improved youth engagement. Members also discussed and reflected on key messages for inclusive and meaningful integration of youth and capacity building activities.

Deep Dive into Future Financing: Unleashing Youth Power for Climate and Biodiversity Action

Date: 23 October 2024

Organizers: Nordic Council (NC) GYBN, Nordic Youth Biodiversity Network (NYBN), Nordic Council of Ministers

Organized as two roundtable open discussions, the event showcased some good examples of youth finance mechanisms, discussed barriers for youth to access finances/funding, and on how to scale up finance for youth from other sources including through synergies between biodiversity and climate finance.

The discussions brought together diverse voices from governments, youth, GEF, RAMSAR, conservation NGOs and philanthropies.



C PARALLEL EVENTS

YOUTH DAY

Peace with Nature Youth Day

Date: 22 October 2024

Organizers: GYBN



As the global community convenes for COP16, youth stands at the forefront of efforts to advance peace, biodiversity conservation, and environmental sustainability. With the theme of Peace with Nature, COP 16 Youth Day offered a platform for young leaders, Indigenous communities, and key stakeholders to reflect on their connection to the planet through reciprocity and relationships with the land. It fostered meaningful dialogue on how these relationships guide efforts to restore balance, emphasizing the importance of respecting ecosystems, addressing overexploitation, and safeguarding human rights as essential components of peaceful coexistence with nature.

This day elevated youth-driven narratives, actions, and solutions, demonstrating the vital role of young people in shaping a sustainable future. By linking peace with nature to meaningful stakeholder and rights-holder engagement, COP 16 Youth Day will strengthen efforts toward inclusive biodiversity conservation. It fosters collaboration across communities, institutions, and governments, empowering participants to develop solutions that honor ecological and social justice. Through these shared commitments, the event will build momentum toward achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) targets and inspire transformative change within local, national, and global biodiversity efforts.



D PRESS CONFERENCES

YOUTH DEMANDS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE COP16 NEGOTIATIONS

[Check the press release here!](#)

21 OF OCTOBER

The press conference highlighted the active participation of the world's youth at COP16. GYBN affirmed its advocacy for the implementation of transformative and inclusive changes based on the commitments made within the framework of the GBF, including the urgent need to reform international financial structures to guarantee direct funding for local biodiversity actions. In addition, GYBN launched a call to action to all Parties and the Colombian Presidency to reinforce their commitment to "Peace with Nature" through a political declaration at COP16.



A YOUTH STOCKTAKE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COP16 NEGOTIATIONS

30 OF OCTOBER

[Check the press release here!](#)

The press conference focused on the demands of the world's youth to ensure the inclusion of marginalized voices in the implementation of the GBF. GYBN called for clear guidance on the development of indicators that address the gaps in the socio-ecological aspects of the Framework and emphasized the need for a multilateral mechanism for digital sequence information that guarantees direct access to communities. They also expressed concern about the lack of political will to create new mechanisms or reform existing ones in order to provide direct, flexible and predictable funding for local biodiversity projects. It also stressed the urgency of prioritizing equity and human rights in the negotiations.



BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS AND CREDITS: A FALSE FINANCE SOLUTION

23 AND 28 OF OCTOBER

This press conference explored how biodiversity credits and offsets will not only fail to close the biodiversity funding gap, but will also encourage the growth of biodiversity-destroying forces. At the same time, it stressed that the amount of investment needed to make biodiversity markets work is very high - money that should be used to directly support the rights holders who protect biodiversity.



Organized with:

Third World Network (TWN);
Friends of the Earth International (FOEi);
Global Forest Coalition (GFC);
Indigenous Environmental Network.

E ACTIONS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

During the COP16 days, a diverse range of activities unfolded alongside the official negotiations, creating dynamic spaces for engagement and collaboration. GYBN took the lead in organizing some, co-organizing others, and supporting various other initiatives from other groups and constituencies. These efforts aimed to amplify youth voices, foster creative expression, and facilitate meaningful dialogues, showcasing the collective commitment to driving impactful actions.



POP-UP COP16 gatherings provided a vibrant, inclusive space beyond the formal program, fostering meaningful connections through conversations, art, music, and dance. This initiative encouraged participants to rethink traditional approaches to conservation, creating an open environment for necessary and challenging discussions. By offering a platform for diverse voices and creative expressions, the pop-ups successfully nurtured a sense of community and inspired collective action toward a flourishing future.

D ACTIONS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



During COP16, GYBN Brazil and Engajamundo coordinated a powerful action in the Blue Zone. The action featured bold banners, creative installations, and interactive elements designed to engage attendees and spark dialogue about the urgent need for effective conservation efforts. By combining compelling visuals with a clear call to action, the initiative created a dynamic space for reflection and collaboration, leaving a lasting impression on participants and highlighting the importance of addressing the biodiversity crisis.

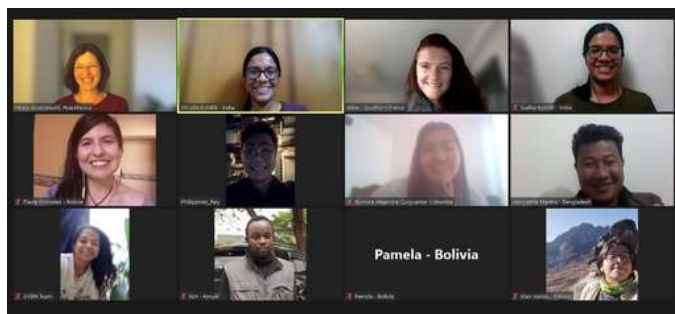
In addition, youth delegates joined the Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) in a silent and peaceful protest held at the Blue Zone. This action aimed to advocate for adopting the Permanent Subsidiary Body on Article 8j, emphasizing the importance of Indigenous peoples' knowledge and rights in biodiversity negotiations. Standing in solidarity with IIFB, the youth delegates supported this critical discussion moment, demonstrating a unified commitment to justice and inclusion in global conservation efforts.



E PEACE, CONFLICT & BIODIVERSITY BACKGROUND



GYBN, after consulting with the youth community, realized there was a significant gap in holistically building young people's capacity. The gap lay in the need to equip youth with skills to navigate and address peace and conflict issues in the context of environment and biodiversity conservation. GYBN then partnered with Peace Nexus (PN) in 2021 to find ways to effectively provide and build capacities among the youth around it. The first step was to understand the realities of diverse young people working in the environmental and/or social fields. For this a survey was released in 2022 to gather inputs from youth all over the world. Through the consultation, GYBN gathered youth perspectives, further understand the contexts in which youth, who engage in social/environmental fields, live in and work, learn how conflicts impact young people, and get a clearer picture of how they wish to be supported on this. These findings were discussed at COP15 (see next page) which then led to the need to create a Working Group around Peace and Conflict within GYBN.



Recognizing the pressing need for training and capacity building due to the widespread nature of conflict and peace issues within the youth community, PN offered the Swiss Online Course on Conflict Sensitivity. The online course was taken up by 24 members of GYBN after a selection process. This was followed by nine region-specific online capacity-building sessions, led by a conflict sensitivity expert consultant, covering Asia, Africa, and LAC. The sessions focused on hands-on activities, using GYBN chapter's on-ground work as case studies. These ranged from mangrove restoration in Cameroon and Madagascar to land use in La Paz, Bolivia. Through these case studies, participants learned to apply a conflict-sensitive lens to conservation projects and became familiar with tools like actor mapping, gaining crucial skills to address this complex issue.

The participants of both the online course and webinars now form the **Peace & Conflict Working Group of GYBN, supporting GYBN chapters**. The two documents launched at COP16 were key outcomes of this Working Group.

E PEACE, CONFLICT & BIODIVERSITY @ CBD COP

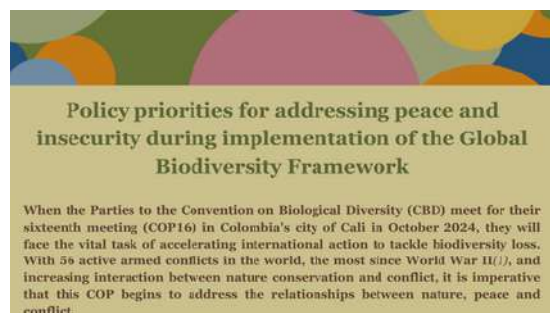
COP15 IN MONTRÉAL, CANADA

CBD COP15 was the first time GYBN along with PeaceNexus worked together to bring the conversations around biodiversity, environment, peace and conflict to the international negotiating spaces like COP. It was important and critical to start the conversations after recognizing the needs of the young people from within the community. The activities were structured over 3 key events - (a) Youth Summit was a platform to reach over 100 youth and create awareness and introduce this important topic, (b) the outcomes from the survey launched in 2021-22 were presented at the Youth Pavilion, and (c) internal workshop for Youth Coordinators from several GYBN National Chapters to identify challenges, solutions and gaps.



COP16 IN CALI, COLOMBIA

CBD COP16, themed “Peace with Nature,” called for reflection on our relationship with nature and addressing ecological issues. Compared to COP15, COP16 saw increased participation on this theme. GYBN continued its efforts along with Peace Nexus organizing a panel discussion to highlight the role youth in environmental peace building efforts. Two key documents: (a) conflict sensitive conservation toolkit and (b) case studies, was launched to guide youth in their actions. GYBN, co-authored a [priorities paper](#) with Peace@CBD, emphasizing conflict-sensitive approaches in KMGBF implementation and conservation projects. Additionally, GYBN participated in Green Zone discussions and the ministerial dialogue on Peace and Biodiversity.





3

Capacity Building & Communications

A COP16 Youth Capacity Building

BRIEF BACKGROUND

The world's 1.8 billion youth represent a significant force for shaping a sustainable future, yet they often face barriers in influencing environmental policy and decision-making. This exclusion hinders their ability to contribute meaningfully to global discussions on biodiversity and climate change—issues they will inherit. At COP16 in Cali, Colombia, youth participation was crucial, prompting the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) to organize a training initiative to help young people better understand biodiversity policy at the global level.

The training aimed to present and provide a space for learning about biodiversity policies, negotiations, and advocacy strategies while promoting GYBN's core values of inclusivity, rights-based approaches, and transformative change. Designed for COP16 delegates and young advocates, it empowered participants to engage meaningfully in global biodiversity negotiations. This initiative strengthened youth capacity to navigate international policy, ensuring they could play a vital role in biodiversity conservation and implementing the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF).

The training program followed a structured approach conducted online, beginning with an overview of global biodiversity and socioecological crises, followed by sessions on international biodiversity governance, the KM GBF, and youth engagement at COP16. It included thematic areas such as climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity finance, Indigenous rights, and monitoring frameworks. By the end of the training, participants were prepared to engage actively in COP16 negotiations, advocate for youth priorities, assist in CO 16 side events, and support biodiversity goals through in-person and online participation.



LINK TO RECORDINGS

<https://bit.ly/COP16TrainingSessions>

A Capacity Building

ONLINE SESSIONS

Below are the summaries of the online sessions conducted:

1 Introduction to Global Biodiversity and the Socio-ecological Crisis September 21

Led by Melina Sakiyama, Bibiana Carolina Salgado, and Mirna Fernandez, the training began by addressing the global biodiversity and socioecological crises, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity and exploring its direct and indirect drivers. It also highlighted the critical roles of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Afro-descendants, women, and youth in conservation efforts. Participants engaged in discussions and activities that underscored the urgency of biodiversity conservation, framing these issues as deeply interconnected with broader social, economic, and ecological challenges. This session deepened participants' understanding of the complexity and scale of the biodiversity crisis and the pressing need for collective global action.

2 International and National Biodiversity Governance September 22

Participants were introduced to international biodiversity governance mechanisms in this session by the GYBN Policy Coordinator Heitor Dellasta. His presentation covered various international platforms, conventions, and frameworks governing global biodiversity efforts. The session focused on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Conference of Parties (COP) meetings. The session also highlighted the role of youth in updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) through a panel discussion featuring youth representatives from Africa (Abdul Hamid), Asia (Maria Abbasi), Latin America and the Caribbean (Estevan Marin), and the Pacific (Lisa Bun).

3 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework September 28

The training further zoomed in on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework led by Ronja Fischer. Her presentation set the post-2020 global biodiversity targets and explored the structure of the framework, its key targets, and its implications for biodiversity policy and action at local, national, and global levels. The session also emphasized youth mapping efforts, presented by Gretel Seet of GYBN Southeast Asia, showcasing how young people could align their advocacy and actions with the framework's targets to actively contribute to the global movement for biodiversity conservation.



A Capacity Building

ONLINE SESSIONS

4 Understanding COP 16

September 29

Building on a solid foundation in the global framework, Josefa Tauli's presentation shifted its focus to understanding COP16. Participants learned how to actively engage in the COP16 process, gaining insights into the specific agenda items to be discussed. Panel sessions were also conducted, featuring perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) that addressed important questions and topics related to youth engagement at COP16. The panelists from LAC were Erisson Marques, Xiomara Acevedo, Bibiana Salgado and Cristina de la Hoz Marquez.

5 Youth Action at COP16

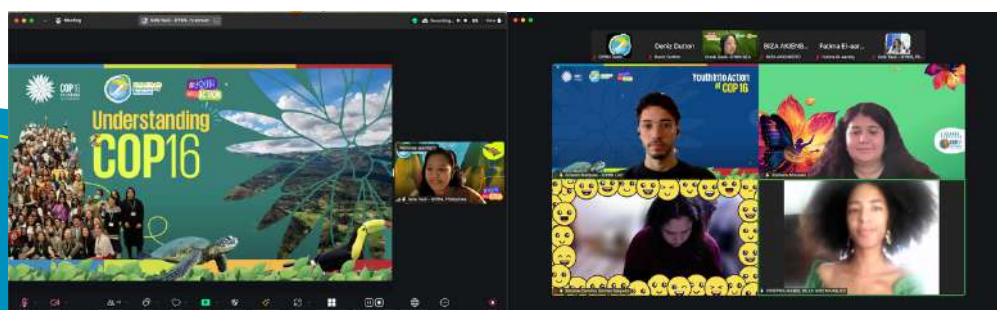
October 5

A session led by Josefa Tauli provided an in-depth exploration of critical topics, including Youth and the CBD, which focused on the history and importance of youth involvement in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). She also delved into How COP16 Will Work: Schedule & Spaces, offering participants a clear understanding of the event's structure, key sessions, negotiation spaces, and opportunities for youth engagement. Alan Valdes expanded on this by providing an overview of GYBN activities, while Mark Raquino presented the Youth Summit, highlighting its objectives, and how it serves as a platform for youth voices. Sudha Kottillil and Shruti Kottillil shared insights into side events, explaining their role in fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders. Heitor Dellasta rounded out the session with a detailed presentation on GYBN's policy agenda, outlining specific goals and strategies for influencing biodiversity negotiations and ensuring youth participants were well-equipped to advocate effectively at COP16.

6 COP 16 Thematic Presentations and Brainstorming

October 6

The final component of the training focused on recorded presentations addressing specific agenda items to be discussed at COP16. These included key topics such as indicators (Sanda Rakotomalala), climate change (Daniela Munguia), finance (Heitor Dellasta), synthetic biology and digital sequence information (DSI) (Joel Andres Gonzales), marine and coastal policy (Marie-Morgane Rouyer), cooperation (Axel Eriksson), Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) planning, monitoring, reporting, and review (Josefa Tauli), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) (Camari Divuniwaqa), Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (Shaw La Mun), communication, education, and public awareness (Thembelihle Mbokazi), peace and environment (Sudha Kottillil, Shruthi Kottillil), and the intersection of health and biodiversity (Roberto Muheto). Following these sessions, participants engaged in discussions to develop a short action plan, exploring the roles of youth delegates and participants in advancing the youth agenda at COP16.



A Capacity Building

LEARNING AND FEEDBACK

Session	No. of Participants	Summary of Key Learning	Summary of Recommendations
1	141	<p>Participants gained insights on biodiversity's importance, the drivers of its loss (e.g., deforestation, urbanization), and its socio-ecological impacts. They explored ecological, intergenerational, and climate debt, emphasizing the need for transformative action. Key topics included the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF), Indigenous rights, gender equity, and youth-led solutions. Discussions highlighted biodiversity's role in ecosystems, cultural practices, and community involvement. Participants learned about stakeholder responsibilities, monitoring government actions, and interdisciplinary approaches to conservation.</p>	<p>Participants found the sessions informative, highlighting the deeper connections between social justice and biodiversity conservation. Many recommended maintaining interactive activities like Menti to foster engagement and comparing global insights with local contexts. Gratitude was expressed for the speakers' efforts and their commitment to youth empowerment.</p>
2	93	<p>Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its objectives, and its role in addressing global biodiversity loss. They explored the importance of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in translating global goals into national actions and learned about their implementation across different countries. The session highlighted the role of youth and Indigenous Peoples in shaping biodiversity policies, fostering collaboration, and driving transformative change. Participants also learned the links between biodiversity and climate change, governance structures, and the challenges faced in meeting CBD targets and the importance of stakeholder engagement and inclusive strategies was emphasized.</p>	<p>Participants recommended improving accessibility to session materials by providing slide presentations and ensuring recorded videos are available for review. They highlighted the need for better engagement and communication, particularly in assisting individuals interested in joining country chapters, such as GYBN. Overall, participants appreciated the sessions' quality and suggested refining technical and engagement aspects to enhance future experiences.</p>

A Capacity Building

LEARNING AND FEEDBACK

Session	No. of Participants	Summary of Key Learning	Summary of Recommendations
3	62	<p>Participants learned about the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), focusing on its 23 targets, youth priorities, and the framework's role in transformative education and implementation strategies. Key discussions highlighted the importance of youth engagement in policy interventions, negotiations, and the documentation of youth-led projects. The session emphasized human and nature rights, mapping strategies for youth contributions, and the need to include Indigenous Peoples in environmental decision-making.</p>	<p>Participants expressed gratitude for the sessions and recommended ensuring the availability of session recordings in Spanish to improve accessibility. Overall, participants appreciated the learning opportunities and emphasized the importance of continuing these impactful and well-organized sessions.</p>
4	63	<p>Participants gained a deeper understanding of COP16's structure, agenda, and significance, particularly its location in Colombia and the role of youth in biodiversity negotiations. They learned about the importance of integrating youth priorities into NBSAPs, addressing inclusivity and financing gaps, and ensuring strong social and environmental safeguards. Discussions highlighted Latin American youth experiences, GYBN Colombia's mobilization efforts, and the importance of international cooperation.</p> <p>Participants appreciated the context provided by past COPs and recognized COP16 as a critical platform for advancing biodiversity solutions globally.</p>	<p>Participants expressed gratitude for the sessions and recommended ensuring access to session presentations for further reference. They appreciated the high level of organization and vision in addressing pressing biodiversity issues and suggested maintaining this approach for impactful interventions at COP16.</p> <p>The sessions were praised for equipping participants with valuable knowledge and skills in biodiversity advocacy, particularly in navigating challenges and implementing conservation actions and policy. Continued efforts to empower youth through such impactful webinars were highly encouraged.</p>

A Capacity Building

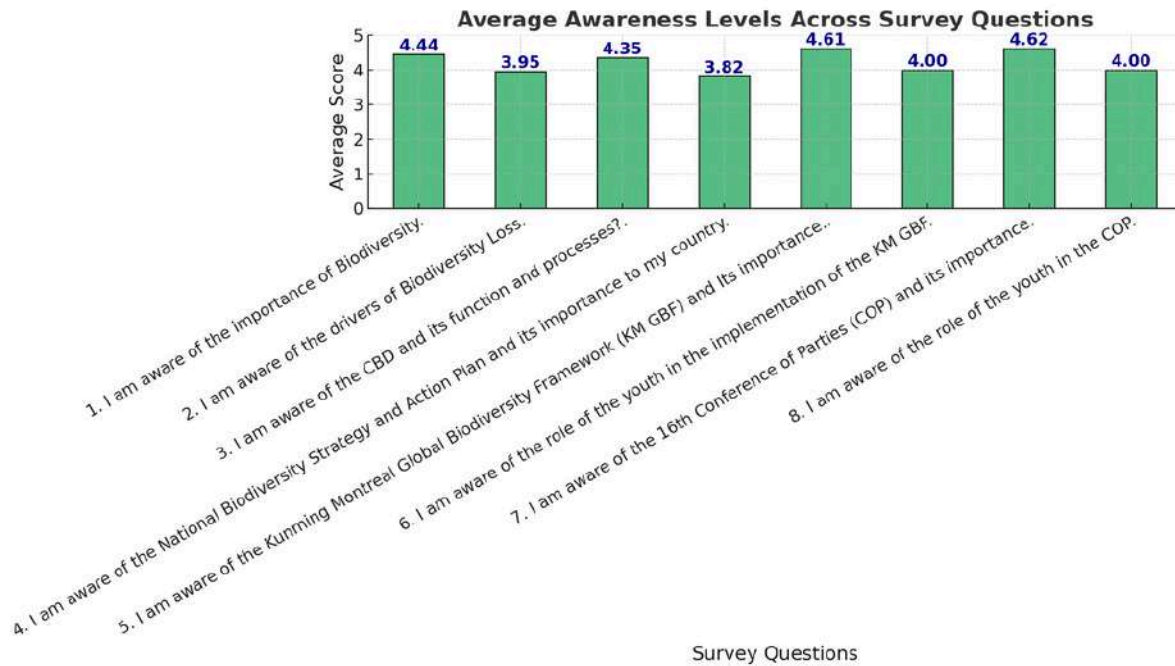
LEARNING AND FEEDBACK

Session	No. of Participants	Summary of Key Learning	Summary of Recommendations
5	62	<p>Participants gained insights into COP16, focusing on the organization of the event, the role of youth, and the significance of blue and green zones for negotiations, sessions, and networking. Key takeaways included the importance of youth visibility, and GYBN's role in mobilization, alliance building, and leading youth-led actions.</p> <p>Discussions also highlighted youth and children as vital contributors to biodiversity initiatives, emphasizing their vulnerability to environmental challenges. Participants learned about key agenda, advocacy opportunities, and actionable strategies to participate in COP16, both in person and online.</p>	<p>Participants expressed gratitude for the session and shared their appreciation for its quality and content. They recommended maintaining the engaging and informative format to continue fostering a positive learning experience. No additional suggestions for improvement were provided.</p>
6	40	<p>Participants valued the opportunity to exchange ideas with other delegates, develop collaborative plans, and better understand youth priorities for COP16. Participants appreciated insights into thematic areas, designated zones, and daily activities at COP16, as well as logistical preparation for effective participation.</p> <p>Participants highlighted plans to apply learnings post-COP16 by informing governments, adapting projects, and advising decision-makers, showcasing the essential role of youth in biodiversity discussions and actions.</p>	<p>Participants expressed gratitude for the informative and well-organized webinars. A recommendation was made to group participants with similar interests to facilitate more focused discussions and collaborative planning for COP16 engagement. Appreciation was extended to the Spanish interpreter and session coordinators for their excellent contributions. Overall, participants found the sessions valuable and impactful, with no additional improvements suggested.</p>



A Capacity Building

AWARENESS LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS AFTER THE TRAINING



The average scores, based on a scale where "Strongly Agree" = 5, "Agree" = 4, "Neutral" = 3, "Disagree" = 2, and "Strongly Disagree" = 1, reflect respondents' awareness levels. Higher scores indicate greater awareness or stronger agreement, while lower scores suggest less familiarity. Global frameworks like the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework scored highest (4.61), showcasing strong outreach, while awareness of national strategies like the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan scored lower (3.82), highlighting a need for targeted campaigns. These insights can help in tailoring capacity-building programs to reinforce areas of strength, such as global frameworks, and address areas needing improvement, like national strategies, through focused workshops and communication efforts.



B Communications

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Strengthen GYBN's leadership **as a global reference for youth mobilization and participation in biodiversity**, by showcasing youth as active citizens, fostering an inclusive and informed global community, and integrating COP16 narratives into GYBN's communication strategy to amplify its long-term impact.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE
1



Integrate the narratives generated at COP16 into GYBN's General Communication Strategy

OBJECTIVE
2



Foster a strong, inclusive, and informed global youth community

OBJECTIVE
3



Position youth as active citizens and GYBN as the leading reference for youth engagement in biodiversity to external audiences

PRINCIPAL COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

1

Event coverage: photos, social media, story posting in Youth Pavillon, Youth Room, side events.

2

Press accompaniment: press conference and follow-up with journalists

3

Cultural experiences and BTL-type activities for positioning



B Communications

4

Designing and creating communication materials to promote GYBN activities and support its statements

KEY COMMS OUTCOMES FROM COP16



**50 events
digital covered**



**3 press
conferences**



**creation of a common
channel for knowledge
management**



**19 days of digital
covered**

Daily estimated
engagement = **295
interactions.**



**Interviews in the
field by European,
Latin American, and
American media, as
well as international
organizations during
and post-COP**



**1700 positioning
materials: business
cards, pins,
banners,
brochures, etc.**



**Altar of the
dead at youth
pavillon**



**Audiovisual
material to support
strategic needs and
actions.**



**2 regional dialogues with
international NGOs to
promote the vision of
young people at the Latin
American level.**



Photo by IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis



4

Next Steps & Resources

> Next Steps

OTHER CBD MEETINGS IN 2025

Following the resumed COP16 sessions will be an intersessional period until the next COP17, which will be held in Armenia in 2026. During this period, meetings of the CBD’s Subsidiary Bodies—the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), and the newly established Subsidiary Body on Article 8j and other Provisions—are expected to take place. Expert group meetings and other dialogues are also expected.

The period will also be used to follow up on the revision and updating of the NBSAPs and ensure progress in the implementation of the GBF.

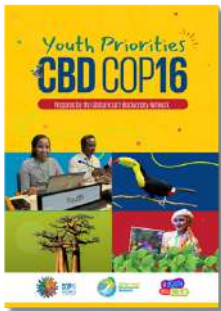


GYBN will continue to monitor and advocate for youth priorities in the CBD, as well as planning new consultations and capacity-building processes for the community.

> Resources

USEFUL LINKS

- **COP16 Decisions and other documents:**
 - <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2024/cop-16/documents>
- **COP16 Coverage & Summaries:**
 - **IISD/ENB:** <https://enb.iisd.org/un-biodiversity-conference-cbd-cop16>
 - **CBD:** <https://www.cbd.int/article/agreement-reached-cop-16>
 - **Carbon Brief:** <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop16-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-biodiversity-conference-in-cali-colombia/>
- **Plenary, working group, and press conference recordings:**
 - <https://webtv.un.org/en/search/categories/meetings-events/conferences/un-biodiversity-conference/16th>



GYBN COP16 PRIORITIES

www.gybn.org/cop16policy



COP 16 Capacity Building Recorded Sessions

<https://bit.ly/COP16TrainingSessions>



Youth Photos from COP16

<https://bit.ly/COP16GYBNPictures>



Policy outcomes by Josefa Tauli, Heitor Dellasta and the GYBN Policy Team 2024
Events and actions by Sudha Kottillil and Shruthi Kottillil
Capacity building by Mark Raquino
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