Civil society perspectives on UN COPs

# Is Agroecology in COP's agenda?

Webinar, 20th March 2025

## Agroecology in Biodiversity COP

(Context of last CP (when/where)
Expected Achievement
Results or absence of results…)

Convention on Biological Diversity

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# About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entered into force in December 1993.

The CBD is an international treaty for:

- the conservation of biodiversity,
- the sustainable use of biodiversity components and
- the fair sharing of benefits obtained from the use of genetic resources.

Signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Convention on Biological Diversity is dedicated to promoting sustainable development.
Conceived as a practical tool for translating the principles of Agenda 21 into reality, the Convention recognizes that biological diversity is about more than plants, animals and micro organisms and their ecosystems – it is about people and our need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live.

# About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

With 196 parties (member states), the CBD has almost universal participation among countries.

The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including:

- threats from climate change, through scientific assessments;
- development of tools, incentives and processes;
- transfer of technologies and good practices;
- full and active involvement of relevant actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, women, non-governmental organizations, sub-national actors and the business community.

Kunming - Montreal

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines global guidelines for the protection of nature, the sustainable use of its components and the fair distribution of benefits.

At the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15), chaired by China and held in Canada, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) was adopted with the aim of halting the loss of biological diversity by 2030 and achieving harmony with nature by 2050.

7 - 19 December 2022

**2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

COP 15 - CP/MOP10 - NP/MOP4

Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth

KUNMING – MONTREAL

# KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR BIODIVERSITY

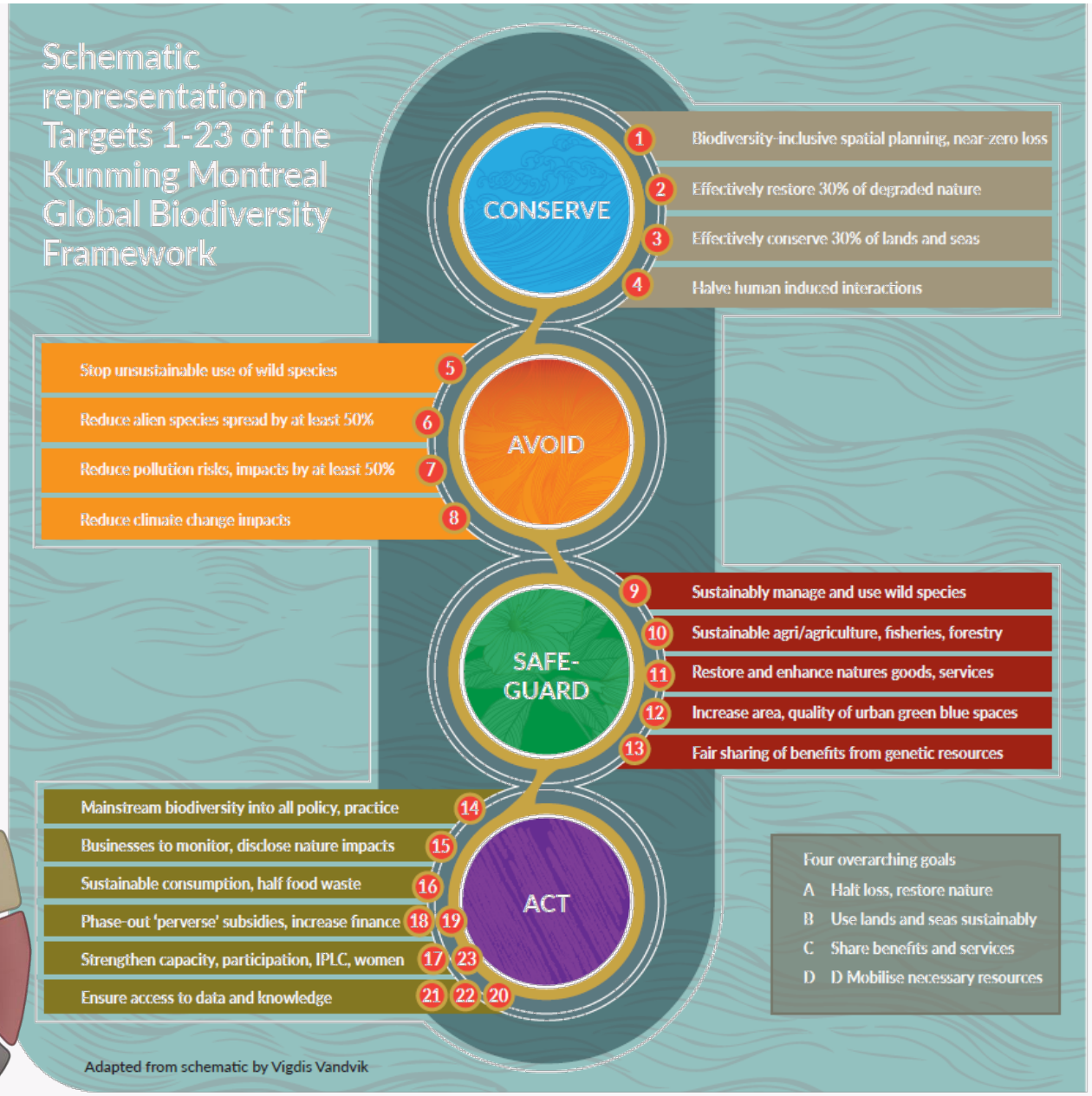
The Kunming-Montreal Global Framework for Biodiversity includes:

- 4 long-term goals until 2050 and
- 23 global goals for the period until 2030

The official text of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: decision 15/4.

https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf

1
Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss
2
Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems
3
Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas
4
Halt Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflict
5
Ensure Sustainable Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species
6
Reduce the Introduction and Impact of Invasive Alien Species
7
Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity
8
Minimize Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience
9
Manage Wild Species Sustainably
10
Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
11
Restore and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People
12
Plan Urban Areas for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity
13
Share Benefits from Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge
14
Integrate Biodiversity in all Decision-Making
15
Reduce Businesses' Negative Impacts on Biodiversity
16
Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices
17
Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology
18
Reduce Harmful Incentives and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity
19
Increase all Financial Resources for Biodiversity
20
Strengthen Capacity-Building and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity
21
Ensure That Data and Knowledge are Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action
22
Ensure Inclusive Participation in Biodiversity Decisions, Respecting Rights, Cultures, and Justice
23
Ensure Gender Equality with Equal Rights, Participation, and Leadership for Women and Girls




**GOAL A**
**Protect and Restore**

*Reducing threats to biodiversity (Targets 1-8)*

**GOAL B**
**Prosper with Nature (T9-12)**

**GOAL C**
**Share Benefits Fairly (T13)**

*Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing (Targets 9-13)*

**GOAL D**
**Invest and Collaborate**

*Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming (Targets 14-23)*

# Whole-of-Government approach to CBD

The approach refers to the **coordinated action** of all levels of government - **national**, **regional** and **local** - in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies related to biodiversity.

This approach requires cross-departmental cooperation between different ministries and agencies to ensure that biodiversity is integrated into sectoral policies and strategies, including areas such as **agriculture**, **forestry**, **fisheries**, **energy** and **infrastructure**.

According to the CBD, this approach includes aligning NBSAPs with the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, ensuring cross-sectoral coordination and effective implementation of commitments at all levels of governance.

# Whole-of-Society approach to CBD

The approach involves the involvement of all relevant actors in decision-making and the implementation of policies related to biological diversity, including governments, the private sector, **civil society**, the academic community, indigenous peoples and **local communities**, **women**, **youth** and **all other stakeholders**.

This approach emphasizes **the need for transformative changes** that require **collective responsibility** and **coordinated action** of all actors in society.

The goal is to **ensure broad support** and integrate biodiversity into various policies and development strategies in order to achieve global nature conservation goals.

CBD KM-GBF calls on countries to apply a whole-of-society approach in updating and implementing their NBSAPs, emphasizing that the success of this framework depends on the **political will and cooperation of all actors in society**.

**National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** are the main instruments of implementation at the national level.

**National goals must be aligned with new global goals** to enable effective implementation of safeguards and reporting.

**Despite all the best efforts,** the action of the global community to preserve biological diversity **is still insufficient**!

**None of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been fully met,** partly because:

- Less than ¼ of the national targets in the NBSAPs were aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Limited coordination among stakeholders and fragmented efforts
- Lack of funds for implementation

"Parties to revise and update their NBSAPs in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, following the guidelines set out in Annex I of this decision, aligned with the KM-GBF-of and its objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, and to submit them through the information exchange mechanism to COP 16."

**Decision 15/5 : Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**
https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf

**Decision 15/6 : Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review**
https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf

**Decision 15/7 : Resource Mobilization**
https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-07-en.pdf

**Decision 15/8 : Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation**
https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-08-en.pdf

**Decision 15/9 : Digital Sequence Information**
https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-09-en.pdf

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

# Who are the key actors?

**Government and institutions**: ministries, agencies, institutes

**Local communities**: traditional users of resources

**Private sector**: influential economic subjects in agriculture, forestry, tourism

**Civil society and academic institutions**: non-governmental organizations, research institutes

**International partners**: UNDP, UNEP, WB, embassies, etc.

## Where is agroecology in GBF

**GOAL 7**

**Reduce the risks of pollution and the negative impact of pollution** from all sources, by 2030, **to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services**, taking into account cumulative effects, including: reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including more efficient cycling and use of nutrients; **reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half**, including **science-based integrated pest management**, taking into account food and livelihood security; as well as preventing, reducing and working to eliminate plastic pollution.

**GOAL 13**

Undertake effective legal, political, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as necessary, **to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources** and **information on the digital array of genetic resources**, as well as **traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources**, and **enabling appropriate access to genetic resources**, and by 2030 enabling a significant increase in shared benefits, in accordance with applicable international instruments of access and benefit sharing.

## GOAL 10 Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, **including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security**, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services .

https://www.cbd.int/gbf/files/km%20gbf%20targets%201%20to%2023-%20consolidate%20guidance%20notes.pdf

*Headline indicators:*

- **10.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture**
- 10.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management

*Component indicators:*

- Area of forest under sustainable management: total forest management certification by Forest Stewardship Council and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
- **Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status**

*Complementary indicators:*

- Agrobiodiversity Index
- Changes in soil organic carbon stocks
- Red List Index (wild relatives of domesticated animals)
- Red List Index (pollinating species)
- Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction
- Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area

**Biodiversity-friendly practices** are those that help to increase the positive effects and reduce the negative effects of production practices on biodiversity.

They largely overlap with practices that make enhanced use of biodiversity on farm to support the productivity and resilience of agriculture.

They can take different forms depending on the production systems being considered.

For example, **sustainable agricultural production** may include:

- increases in productivity based on the sustainable management of ecosystem services and functions,
- diversification of agriculture,
- agroecological approaches and organic farming,
- the enhanced use of a diverse range of well-adapted crops and livestock, and their varieties and breeds, and of associated biodiversity in agricultural systems, including pollinators, pest-control organisms and soil organisms that promote nutrient cycling, thereby reducing the need for or replacing chemical inputs.

Biodiversity-friendly practices are an important aspect of maintaining the resilience, or the ability of productive systems to recover from stress or disturbance. They can also help to address the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

## Process

Agroecology has increasingly been integrated into the conversation about biodiversity as it aligns with the idea of sustainable land management that maintains ecological balance, supports food security, and promotes agricultural practices that are environmentally friendly and resilient.

In COP 15, agroecology was discussed within the broader framework of sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and the need for nature-based solutions.

## Key expectations included

**Recognition of Agroecology as a Key Strategy for Biodiversity:** The expectation was for agroecology to be officially recognized as an approach to achieving biodiversity goals, including the preservation of ecosystems, enhancing soil health, promoting agro-biodiversity, and reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture.

**Inclusion of Agroecology in the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF):** The aim was for the global community to adopt agroecological principles into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly in the context of agricultural lands and food systems, to ensure the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**Increased Funding for Agroecology-based Initiatives:** There was an expectation to increase financial support for agroecology-based initiatives that promote biodiversity-friendly practices, with an emphasis on supporting smallholder farmers, indigenous practices, and community-led conservation efforts.

**Commitment to Reducing Harmful Agricultural Practices:** Governments were expected to commit to reducing practices that harm biodiversity, such as excessive pesticide and fertilizer use, deforestation linked to agricultural expansion, and monoculture farming systems.

## Results:

**Adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF):** COP 15 resulted in the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework, which includes goals and targets addressing sustainable agriculture and the role of agroecology. This includes Target 10 that aims to reduce the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity by 2030 and support sustainable agricultural practices, such as agroecological and other innovative approaches.

**Recognition of Nature-based Solutions:** There was a growing recognition that agroecology is a form of nature-based solution that can play a key role in addressing biodiversity loss and climate change simultaneously. This recognition creates a platform for promoting agroecology in global policy.

**Support for Indigenous Knowledge and Local Practices:** The importance of indigenous knowledge and traditional agroecological practices was highlighted during the COP, resulting in greater support for local farming communities and agroecology as a means to safeguard biodiversity.

## Absence of Results:

**Insufficient Funding:** While there was a general acknowledgment of the need for greater financial support for agroecology and sustainable practices, there was no clear financial commitment or robust funding mechanism that specifically targets agroecology initiatives. The gap between what is needed and what was agreed upon remains a challenge.

**Lack of Clear Agroecology Targets:** While agroecology was discussed, it was not explicitly included in the final text of the GBF with clear and specific targets, making it difficult for agroecology to be directly monitored or prioritized at the global level.

**Limited Action on Agricultural Transformation:** Despite the framework's adoption, structural reforms to move global agriculture toward more agroecology-based approaches were not strongly articulated. More immediate action on transforming global agricultural systems was seen as insufficient.

# Conclusion

COP 15 made significant strides in recognizing the potential of agroecology for biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture.

However, challenges remain, particularly in terms of financial support, clear target setting, and comprehensive policy integration.

Agroecology has a pivotal role to play, but much work is needed to translate discussions into concrete actions that support both biodiversity and food security globally.

**Thank you for your attention!**