



COP-16 of Convention of Biological Diversity

For Prelims: [Convention of Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#), [National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan \(NBSAP\)](#), [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(KMGBF\)](#), [Digital Sequence Information \(DSI\)](#), [Genomic Sequence](#), [Kunming Biodiversity Fund \(KBF\)](#), [Synthetic Biology](#), [DNA Sequencing](#), [Genome Editing](#), [Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas \(EBSAs\)](#), [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#), [One Health](#), [Living Modified Organisms \(LMOs\)](#), [National Biodiversity Authority \(NBA\)](#), [Biodiversity Management Committees](#).

For Mains: Significance of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, India's biodiversity targets.

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the 16th edition of the **Conference of Parties (COP 16)** to the [Convention of Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) concluded in **Cali, Colombia**.

- India launched the **updated [National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan \(NBSAP\)](#)** at COP 16 to the CBD aligning with the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(KMGBF\)](#).

What are the Key Highlights of the COP-16 to the CBD?

- Operationalization of the Cali Fund:** Cali Fund was established to ensure [fair and equitable sharing of benefits](#) from the use of [digital sequence information \(DSI\)](#) on genetic resources.
 - At least **50%** of the Cali Fund will focus on the self-identified needs of **Indigenous Peoples and local communities**, particularly women and youth.
 - DSI refers to [genomic sequence data](#) that plays a fundamental role in **environmental and biological research**.
- Permanent Subsidiary Body:** Parties agreed to establish a new **permanent subsidiary body on article 8j** that deals with **preservation and maintenance** of the **knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples**.
 - They also adopted a **new Programme of Work** on indigenous peoples and local communities.
 - It outlines specific tasks to ensure that indigenous peoples and local communities meaningfully contribute to the conservation, sustainable use, and fair sharing of biological diversity.
- Resource Mobilisation:** Parties agreed to develop a new **“Strategy for Resource Mobilization”** to help secure **USD 200 billion** annually by **2030** to support biodiversity initiatives worldwide.
 - [Kunming Biodiversity Fund \(KBF\)](#) was launched at **COP 16** with a **USD 200 million** contribution from **China**.

- Another goal is to **redirect USD 500 billion per year** in subsidies that harm biodiversity by 2030.
- **National Biodiversity Targets: 119 countries out of CBD's 196 Parties**, submitted **national biodiversity targets** to help reach the **23 KMGBF targets**.
 - To date **44 countries** have submitted **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans** to support the implementation of national targets.
- **Synthetic Biology:** COP-16 introduced a new **thematic action plan** to help address the inequities through **capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing** among developing countries.
 - **Synthetic biology** uses engineering principles to create **new organisms or modify existing ones** through **DNA sequencing** and **genome editing**.
- **Invasive Alien Species:** It proposes guidelines for managing **invasive alien species** through new databases, **improved cross-border trade regulations**, and enhanced coordination with **e-commerce** platforms.
- **Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs):** COP 16 agreed on a new and evolved process to identify **EBSAs**.
 - Established in 2010, EBSAs identify the **most critical and vulnerable areas of the ocean** and have since become a focal point in ocean conservation efforts.
- **Sustainable Wildlife Management and Plant Conservation:** A decision on **sustainable wildlife management** emphasised the need for monitoring, capacity-building, and inclusive participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, and women.
 - Progress in plant protection should be **measurable and consistent** with global biodiversity targets.
- **Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health:** At COP 16, CBD Parties approved a **Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health** designed to help curb the emergence of **zoonotic diseases**, prevent non-communicable diseases, and promote sustainable ecosystems.
 - The strategy embraces a holistic **"One Health"** approach that recognizes the health of ecosystems, animals, and humans as interconnected.
- **Risk Assessment:** In Cali, Parties to the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** welcomed new, **voluntary guidance** on assessing the risks posed by **living modified organisms (LMOs)** containing engineered genes.
- **Recognition of People of African Descent:** A further decision was taken to recognize the role of people of **African descent** in implementing the Convention.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

- **About:** It is a **multilateral treaty** aimed at **halting and reversing biodiversity loss** globally by **2030**.
 - Adopted in **December 2022** during the **15th Conference of the Parties (CoP)**, it supports the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and builds on achievements and lessons from the **2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity**.
- **Purpose and Goals:** It aims to ensure that by **2030, at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, marine, and coastal ecosystems** are effectively restored.
 - It includes **23 action-oriented global targets** for urgent action by 2030.
 - This target refers to **collective global efforts, not a mandate for each country** to allocate 30% of its land and water areas.
- **Long-Term Vision:** The framework envisions a collective commitment to living in **harmony with nature by 2050**, providing a foundational guide for current actions and policies related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Note:

- **Historical Context:** India's first **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** was created in **1999**, with updates in **2008** and **2014** to align with the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets**.
- **Need of NBSAP:** India is a **megadiverse country**, home to **over 55,000 plant taxa and 100,000 animal species** conservation of which is vital for both livelihoods and ecological health.

What are the Key Points of India's Updated NBSAP?

- **Updated NBSAP:** The updated NBSAP outlines **23 National Biodiversity Targets** aligned with the KMGBF's global objectives.
 - Targets focus on reducing **biodiversity threats**, promoting sustainable use, ecosystem resilience, **species recovery**, and sustainable management.
- **Comprehensive Structure:** The updated NBSAP includes **seven chapters** addressing contextual analysis, capacity-building, financing mechanisms, and biodiversity monitoring frameworks.
- **Implementation:** The **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** oversees biodiversity conservation, supported by a multi-tier governance structure.
 - Key entities include the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**, **State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)**, Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs), and **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)**.
- **Targets:**
 - **Conservation Areas:** Aiming for **30% of areas to be effectively conserved** to enhance biodiversity.
 - **Invasive Species Management:** Targeting a **50% reduction** in the introduction and establishment of **invasive alien species**.
 - **Sustainable Consumption:** Enabling sustainable consumption choices and **reducing food waste by half**.
 - **Pollution Reduction:** Committing to reduce pollution, **halving nutrient loss and pesticide risk**.
 - **Benefit Sharing:** Promoting **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** from genetic resources, digital sequence information, and associated traditional knowledge.
- **Financing:** India expects to spend around **Rs 81,664 crore from 2025-30 (FY)** on biodiversity and conservation.
 - Indian officials at the conference said **international finance** would be necessary to meet these goals.
- **Community Engagement:** Local communities, particularly in forest-dependent areas, will be actively involved in conservation efforts.

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CBD COP15

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1993 - a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity

CBD Conference of Parties is the Governing body of the Convention



MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

COP 1 (1994)

- ▶ Nassau, Bahamas
- ▶ Proposed 29 December as International Day for Biological Diversity

EXCOP 1

- ▶ 1st extraordinary meeting of UN CBD COP
- ▶ At Cartagena, Colombia (Feb 1999) & Montreal, Canada (Jan 2000)
- ▶ Adoption of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

COP 6 (2002)

- ▶ The Hague, Netherlands
- ▶ Global Taxonomy Initiative, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation adopted

COP 5 (2000)

- ▶ Nairobi, Kenya
- ▶ UNGA adopted 22 May as International Day for Biological Diversity

COP 10 (2010)

- ▶ Nagoya, Japan
- ▶ Nagoya Protocol (Access to Genetic Resources and Fair & Equitable Sharing of Benefits) adopted
- ▶ Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- ▶ GBO 3

COP 8 (2006)

- ▶ Curitiba, Brazil
- ▶ Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) Report 2 (GBO 1 in 2001)

COP 11 (2012)

- ▶ Hyderabad, India

COP 14

- ▶ Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

PHASE-I

- ▶ Theme - Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
- ▶ Held in Kunming, China (October 2021)
- ▶ Kunming Biodiversity Fund

COP 15

PHASE-II

- ▶ Held in Montreal, Canada
- ▶ Adopted Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - 4 goals & 23 targets to be achieved by 2030.
- ▶ 30 by 30 Target - restore 30% degraded ecosystems and protect at least 30% of the world's lands, oceans and coastal areas by 2030
- ▶ No single country met all 20 Aichi targets (expired in 2020) within its own borders



Drishti IAS

Conclusion

The 16th Conference of Parties (COP 16) to the **Convention on Biological Diversity** marked **significant advancements** in global biodiversity efforts, notably through the establishment of the **Cali Fund**, **updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans**, and a commitment to the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, emphasising equitable resource sharing and sustainable practices.

Drishti Mains Question:

Evaluate the key features of India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and its alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements : (2023)

1. In India, the Biodiversity Management Committees are key to the realisation of the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.
2. The Biodiversity Management Committees have important functions in determining access benefit sharing, including the power to levy collection fees on the access of biological resources within its jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Q. With reference to 'Global Environment Facility', which of the following statements is/are correct? (2014)

- (a) It serves as financial mechanism for 'Convention on Biological Diversity' and 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'
- (b) It undertakes scientific research on environmental issues at global level
- (c) It is an agency under OECD to facilitate the transfer of technology and funds to underdeveloped countries with specific aim to protect their environment
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans: (a)

Q. "Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now" is an initiative launched by (2018)

(a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(b) The UNEP Secretariat

(c) The UNFCCC Secretariat

(d) The World Meteorological Organisation

Ans: (c)

Mains

Q. How is the Government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies? **(2019)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/cop-16-of-convention-of-biological-diversity>

