

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD**) is the UN framework convention for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity including equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources. The CBD Secretariat prepares and services the Conference of the Parties (COP) for the convention, and we are currently on the 16th COP hosted by the CBD (**COP16**). The UN biodiversity COP is sometimes referred to as the CBD COP. The 1992 Rio Conventions include three conventions, including the CBD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- The Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (**KM-GBF**) is the global biodiversity framework that establishes international targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and ensure its sustainable use in an equitable way into 2030. It also has four long-term goals into 2050. It was agreed upon at the UN biodiversity COP15 in 2022, in a COP that was originally scheduled for 2020 and delayed due to COVID.
- **Global review** refers to the agreed upon process of Parties reviewing their collective progress on the implementation of the KM-GBF.
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (**NBSAPs**) are the national-level plans from governments (“Parties” to the convention) that outline their biodiversity protection targets and strategies that they at COP15 in 2022 agreed to establish to implement national-level actions in accordance with the global biodiversity framework’s global targets. Read more about how to analyze governments’ NBSAPs [here](#).
- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (**IPBES**) is an intergovernmental organization established to improve the interface between science and policy on issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services. It serves as a technical body whose work supports the UN CBD, even as the IPBES is not itself a UN body.
- **\$20 billion USD by 2025 (\$20Bx2025)** is one of the most important finance targets in the current global biodiversity framework, as it presents a short term resource mobilization strategy to kickstart the implementation of the

global biodiversity framework. But, governments are behind on fulfilling this target, and rich governments in particular have not provided funding, which puts the implementation of the global biodiversity framework at risk, particularly because some of the countries with the richest biodiversity needing protection measures set up as soon as possible are in the Global South. Read more about this critical finance target [here](#).

- **Direct access** to finance for Indigenous Peoples and local communities will be a key topic at COP16. Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who are often the most effective biodiversity protectors in the world (see below), but frequently they are denied the rightful and necessary funding that will enable them to protect their territories. [Less than 2%](#) of global climate finance reaches small farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities in developing countries. Read more about this critical finance target [here](#).
- The **biodiversity finance gap** refers to a gap in funding between what is currently available for financing global biodiversity protections and what would be necessary to actually deliver and implement protections, estimated to be around USD \$700 billion. The figure does not relate only to public funding contributions, but includes finance from a number of sources.
 - The current draft of the post-2020 GBF suggests that reducing financial incentives including **subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity** by at least US\$500 billion will be critical to closing this gap.
 - Many finance demands that have been proposed to close the biodiversity finance gap include specific calculations for sources of funding from carbon offsets, biodiversity offsets but also innovative solutions such as the DSI mechanism.
 - Several donor countries who have announced biodiversity funding commitments refer to a portion of funds that have already been allocated to fight climate change hence this is a gray zone that carries a high risk on **double-counting** their contributions.
- **Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs)** is the technical term used in the CBD and GBF to refer to both Indigenous Peoples and local communities as they relate to biodiversity.
 - While this term is used in the convention itself and hence in common usage within the CBD process, Indigenous Peoples hold unique rights to their lands and territories under international mechanisms like the

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as under national law in some cases.

- Indigenous Peoples manage about [40%](#) of all terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact ecosystems worldwide, and are legally recognised as owning at least 12% of the world's forest area.
- **Rights-based conservation solutions** aim to secure customary tenure, strengthen the self-governance of communities, and deliver direct finance to Indigenous and traditional custodians as a way to protect nature via the communities that already protect biodiversity in their local context in many cases for countless generations.
- Human Rights-based approaches (**HRBA**) is defined by the IPBES as: “A conceptual framework for the process of human development that is normatively based on international human rights standards and operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights.”
- Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (**EBSAs**) is a term that refers to marine areas that have high conservation value. With governments having committed to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 under the KM-GBF, the process to identify high conservation value areas is a fundamental step to the successful implementation of both this target as well as the Global Ocean Treaty. For this reason, EBSAs will be a critical point of negotiation at the upcoming COP16. Read more about ocean conservation topics at COP16 [here](#).
- The **Global Oceans Treaty** is a UN treaty adopted in June 2023 to protect global oceans, but it will only enter into force when at least 60 governments have ratified it. Track progress on Global Oceans treaty ratification [here](#). The progress on EBSAs at COP16 will be consequential to the Global Oceans Treaty, as will the final text from COP16 and whether it includes a positive reference to the Global Oceans Treaty. Read more about ocean conservation topics at COP16 [here](#).
- **Ecosystem integrity** is defined by the Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as: “The ability of an ecosystem to support and maintain ecological processes and a diverse community of organisms. It is measured as the degree to which a diverse community of native organisms is maintained, and is used as a proxy for ecological resilience, intended as the capacity of an ecosystem to adapt in the face of stressors, while maintaining the functions of interest.” Read more

about ecosystem integrity and its centrality to both climate and biodiversity action [here](#).

- Digital Sequence Information (**DSI**) refers to the digitally-stored data about genetic sequences of organisms found in biodiversity, which presents genetic resources that are used in science, biotechnology, agriculture, and medicine, among many other fields. This will be a key topic of discussion at COP16, as governments from the Global South push for proper remuneration for the use of these digital data by commercial entities.
- Common but differentiated responsibilities (**CBDR**) is a principle of international environmental law that states that all countries are responsible for addressing global environmental problems, but not equally.
- **Offsets** are not a direct topic of negotiation in Cali, since neither the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or the KM-GBF have an established negotiating track to discuss an equivalent to carbon market mechanisms (as the UNFCCC provides under the Paris Agreement).
 - There is no definition or clear methodology for **biodiversity offsets**.
 - Many governments as well as conservation groups do include carbon offsets and even biodiversity offsets (which as of yet do not exist) in their calculations.
 - It will be a topic of conversation in several side events
- “**Nature-based solutions**” (**NBS**) is a technical term used in UNFCCC and CBD negotiated outcomes. The [UNEA definition](#) of NBS is considered progress but is not legally binding, and carries ambiguities that present serious risk of loose interpretation.
 - As of early December, the draft KM-GBF text currently includes references to NBS. NBS schemes often do not include robust protections for **collective tenure** and **customary rights**, which puts these schemes at risk of enabling one of the largest land grabs in human history.
- “**Nature positive**” is not an accepted technical term and it has no clear definition or measurement criteria. Suggested indicators point to a biodiversity equivalent of net zero including offsets loopholes, which presents serious [risk](#).
- “**Ecosystem-based approaches**” is the technical concept, also sometimes referred to as **ecosystems approaches**, that refers to a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes

conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. .

- Ecosystem-based approaches can feature in the UNFCCC negotiations as ecosystem-based adaptation, which is increasingly important to adapt to the impacts of climate change the world is already facing today.
- **“Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use” (AFOLU)** is the technical term with existing accounting and reporting methodologies that the UNFCCC uses to refer to a category of activities relevant to land use.
 - AFOLU targets and actions continue to be addressed in **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** and, as of the beginning of COP15, have separate accounting from fossil fuel emissions reductions accounting.
- **Protected areas** and **other area-based conservation measures (OECMs)** are the two existing categories for area-based conservation in the CBD, while a **separate category** is included in Target 3 to refer to traditional or customary lands in an effort to avoid problems that stem from forcing Indigenous Peoples and local communities’ territories to be one or the other of two prior categories, which has a proven track record of leading to **“fortress conservation”** practices, which include driving Indigenous Peoples and local communities off their lands.
 - Conservation science currently still forces Indigenous land management, knowledge, culture and practices into a limited number of ill-suited definitions.
- **30x30** (“thirty-by-thirty”) refers to a global conservation target, agreed upon in the KM-GBF in 2022, to protect at least 30% of the world’s land and 30% of seas by 2030. This is a global target, and the text would need to specify what types of protected areas count towards this target. Crucially, if the draft text does not explicitly include respect for the rights of IPs and LCs and recognition for IPs and LCs’ critical role in the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, including their **right to prior and informed consent**, it can enable dispossession of IP and LC lands. Read more here: [Beyond 30x30 policy briefing](#).
 - In some regions, like the Amazon biome or the Indonesian province of West-Papua in Indonesia, there is even a need to go well beyond 30x30 – see, **80x25 in the Amazon**, meaning the Amazon Rainforest needs to be at least 80% protected by 2025. 30x30 is a global minimum target,

with some areas needing a much higher level of protection much earlier.

- **Marine protected areas (MPAs)** refer to marine conservation areas.
 - "30×30: A Blueprint For Ocean Protection" represents a new approach to designing and creating a network of ocean sanctuaries (or 'fully protected marine protected areas'). It is the result of a year-long collaboration between leading academics at the University of York, University of Oxford and Greenpeace. ([Mapping tool](#), [executive summary](#), [full report](#))
 - The researchers broke down the oceans that are classed as 'international waters' – which cover almost half the planet – into 25,000 squares of 100km x 100km, and then mapped the distribution of 458 different conservation features, including wildlife, habitats and key oceanographic features, generating hundreds of scenarios for what a coherent global network of interconnected ocean sanctuaries, free from harmful human activity, could look like.

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