

# UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY COP 16 AND ITS INNOVATION EXPO IS BEING ORGANIZED IN COLOMBIA

From October 21 to November 1, 2024, [Colombia will become the epicenter of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity \(COP16\).](#)

COP 16 will be the first Biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at COP 15 in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada.



At COP 16, governments will be tasked with reviewing the state of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Parties to the Convention are expected to show the alignment of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the Framework. COP 16 will further develop the monitoring framework and advance resource mobilization for the Global Biodiversity Framework.

[The Kunming Montreal Framework, adopted during COP15 in Canada,](#) is a key milestone in the protection of global biodiversity. Its main objective is to protect 30% of the planet, including terrestrial, marine and freshwater areas, by converting them into protected areas by the end of this decade. In addition, the Framework places strong emphasis on the restoration and protection of critical ecosystems, such as rainforests and wetlands, which are essential for biodiversity and climate balance. The agreement also includes commitments on the sustainable use of natural resources and ensuring that the benefits derived from genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably, in particular to the communities that are the custodians of those resources.

In particular, the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are divided into three sections. The first eight are aimed at reducing threats to biodiversity. These include ensuring that by 2030, at least 30% of the world's land and inland water areas and at least 30% of the world's ocean areas are protected and managed effectively and equitably, with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and that at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystem areas are undergoing effective restoration. It is also intended to urgently adopt management measures for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular endangered species; to ensure that the use, collection and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal; to eliminate and minimize invasive alien species, as well as to minimize the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on biological diversity.



Targets 9 to 13 aim to meet people's needs through the sustainable use of biodiversity. They highlight issues such as sustainable management of wild species for the benefit of people; enhancing biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry; and increasing green spaces and urban planning. Targets 14 to 23 are to provide tools and solutions for implementing the Global Framework. These include, for example, integrating biodiversity into decision-making at all levels; ensuring that companies assess, disclose and reduce negative risks and impacts on biodiversity; ensuring the participation of all sectors of society in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity; and mobilizing US\$200 billion annually for biodiversity, including US\$30 billion in international financing.

In 1992, during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, three key agreements were established to coordinate international efforts to address global environmental problems:

- *The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:* This is the most well-known summit on environmental issues, bringing together 196 countries and the European Union. It establishes a global framework to address climate change, with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting global warming. The Paris Agreement, reached at COP21 in 2015, represents a global commitment to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, with efforts to keep it below 1.5 degrees.
- *The Convention on Biological Diversity:* It is the most important event in the world to conserve biodiversity. It is held every two years and unites 196 countries.
- *The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:* This convention addresses the prevention of desertification and land degradation, with the aim of promoting the sustainable management of land resources and improving the resilience of areas affected by drought. Adopted in 1994, this summit is the only legally binding international agreement that links the environment and sustainable development with the management and restoration of drylands, which represent one third of the planet's land surface.

All three agreements are mutually dependent and aim at the same global objective, the protection of the environment to address the triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. 2024 marks a historic milestone for the United Nations conventions, as for the first time, all three will be held within days of each other:

- *COP16 on biodiversity*, organized by Colombia, will be held in Cali from October 21 to November 1.
- *COP29 on climate change* will be held in Baku (Azerbaijan), from November 11 to 22.
- *COP16 on desertification* will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 2 to 13.

In July 2024 the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Colombia and partners, announced that it is organizing the Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo 2024, to be held in the margins of the UN Biodiversity Conference from 21 October to 1 November 2024.

The Secretariat invites all interested Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, and private sector organizations, wishing to participate in the Expo as exhibitors, to



complete and submit the expression of interest form available at the official website. The Secretariat will evaluate the expressions of interest received against the criteria and circulate the list of selected exhibitors by 19 August 2024.

[The call for the Expo underlines that](#) the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (also known as the Biodiversity Plan) sets out an ambitious pathway to a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Target 20 of the Framework recognizes that capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation are crucial for enhancing the abilities, resilience and effectiveness of individuals, institutions and systems at various levels for improved biodiversity-related decision-making, action and outcomes. Cutting-edge technologies and innovations hold unprecedented promise of expanding the boundaries of what is possible to achieve in terms of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and sustainable development. If harnessed in an appropriate and sustainable manner, technologies and innovations that could be instrumental in supporting transformational change on the ground. Drawing on the experiences and lessons learned from other innovation-focused initiatives within the UN system, and building on the pilot Innovation and Solutions Fair 2018 held at COP 14 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, the Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo will showcase technologies and innovations that could be leveraged to address key biodiversity challenges and support the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan.

The main objectives of the Biodiversity Technology and Innovation Expo will be to:

- Showcase state-of-the-art technologies and innovative solutions relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including indigenous and traditional technologies, and gender-inclusive innovations.
- Promote technology and innovation opportunities that could support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and the Biodiversity Plan; and
- Facilitate networking among participants and foster strategic partnerships for the development and/or deployment of new technologies and tools.

[The Note presents the criteria and the terms and conditions of the exhibition](#) that will be a great interesting aspect of the COP16 event.

The official website of the COP 16 presents the agenda of the event and will inform all interested participants about the organizational aspects in view of the development of this important event and to promote their active participation.

### **To know more and participate**

[Official webpage COP16](#)

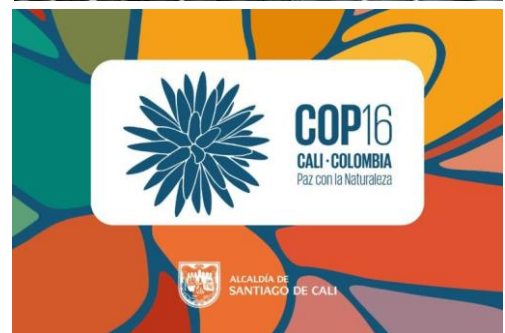
[About the Cop 16](#)

[CBD information note on participation in COP16](#)

[Framework of the event](#)

[Article in UNDP website](#)

[Article in Mongabay.com](#)



[Article in wwf.org](#)

[Article in Nature.org](#)

