

## Proteus Partners update: CBD SBSTTA-26 and SBI-4

In May, a UNEP-WCMC delegation attended the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-26) and the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-4) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nairobi, Kenya.

SBSTTA provides scientific and technical assessments on the status of biodiversity, advice, and guidance to the CBD COP on matters related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. SBI's functions and core work areas consist of: review of progress in implementation of the CBD; strategic actions to enhance implementation of the CBD; strengthening means of implementation of the CBD; and reviewing the effectiveness of existing processes under the CBD and its Protocols.

These two recent meetings of the CBD's subsidiary bodies reviewed steps needed to fully operationalise the mechanisms established in the package of decisions associated with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), therefore setting the stage for CBD COP-16 to be held in Cali, Colombia from 21 October to 1 November 2024.

SBSTTA-26 closed on 18 May with recommendations to advance the operationalisation of the monitoring framework for the KM-GBF, among other issues, that will support decision making at the coming COP-16.

Key points from [SBSTTA-26 to COP-16](#) included:

- **Monitoring framework for the KM-GBF:** Parties considered the recommendations put forward by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators. Further discussion on headline and binary indicators will occur during COP-16. There is also some further consideration on how countries are measuring implementation of Target 18 (on incentives and subsidies) which still needs agreement at COP-16.
- SBSTTA-26 identified some additional work that is required prior to COP-16, including possible approaches for monitoring the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources<sup>1</sup> (DSI). In detail, SBSTTA invited:
  - the Co-Chairs of the Committee of the Whole of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of DSI to facilitate a discussion on possible approaches for monitoring the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information through the multilateral mechanism and in the context of Goal C and Target 13 of the Framework and to report on the results of the discussion to the Working Group at its meeting in August 2024; and
  - the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of DSI to develop options for the indicators on the sharing of benefits from the use of DSI for possible inclusion in the monitoring framework for the KM-GBF.
- Parties and observers are invited to provide views on some of the information documents provided by the AHTEG on [using the indicators of the monitoring framework](#)<sup>2</sup>, [private funding](#)<sup>3</sup> and [a gap analysis and capacity needs assessment](#)<sup>4</sup> provided by UNEP-WCMC – see CBD notification [2024-051](#).
- **Marine and coastal biodiversity:** Issues relating to marine and coastal biodiversity were also discussed. Parties continued their work relating to the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and the description of new areas meeting the EBSA criteria.

---

<sup>1</sup> It is important to note that CBD COP-15 in December 2022 decided to establish, as part of the KM-GBF, a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund. It also decided to establish a process to further develop and operationalise the mechanism, which the work being carried out by the Working Group. ([CBD COP decision 15/9](#) Digital sequence information on genetic resources.)

<sup>2</sup> [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14](#) (Guidance on using the indicators of the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework).

<sup>3</sup> [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/20](#) (Headline indicator D.3 on private funding: a background note).

<sup>4</sup> [CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19](#) (Guidance on needs related to implementing the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework).

- **Biodiversity and health:** Parties advanced work on the draft Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health.
- **Scientific and technical needs for implementation:** Overall, SBSTTA concluded that the existing guidance and tools are largely applicable to supporting KM-GBF implementation.

SBI-4 discussed a range of issues relating to reviewing the implementation of the CBD in advance of COP-16. SBI-4 closed on 29 May with recommendations on the enhanced multidimensional approach on planning, monitoring, reporting and review, resource mobilisation and the financial mechanism of the CBD, and on mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, among others.

Key points from [SBI-4 to COP-16](#) included:

- **Planning, monitoring, reporting and review:** Deliberations covered two main areas: governance for the undertaking of the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KM-GBF and how contributions from non-state actors in support for the implementation of the CBD can be considered. While there has been an initial exchange of views, significant amount of work remains to be done at COP-16.
- **Revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs):** SBI urged Parties to continue to submit their revised or updated NBSAPs. Parties will therefore continue their work on this at the domestic level, with a view to submitting them by COP-16. Parties are encouraged to engage non-state actors, including businesses, in this process.
- **Long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity:** Following deliberations on this matter at COP-15, divergent views remain regarding the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across relevant sectors. While there is shared understanding on the fundamental role of mainstreaming in implementing the KM-GBF, the main differences relate to the ways in which the work on mainstreaming should continue under the CBD. Several Parties indicated that the KM-GBF and some of its targets sufficiently cover mainstreaming and therefore no separate workstream should be pursued at this stage, while others consider the need for a mainstreaming agenda for the period 2025-2030. Deliberations will continue at COP-16.
- **Resource mobilisation:** Parties initiated consideration of the revised strategy for resource mobilisation - Phase II (2025–2030). A significant amount of work remains for COP-16. Topics under consideration are relevant to Proteus Partners, including proposed actions to increase financial flows and financial resources, at international and domestic levels, from all sources (including private finance) and actions to eliminate or reduce negative financial flows. The work by the Advisory Committee was informed by an [“Exploration of the biodiversity finance landscape”](#), which was presented at SBI-4 and might represent an useful resource to Proteus Partners.
- **Financial mechanism:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has operationalised the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), created in response to decisions at COP-15 to support the implementation of the KM-GBF. The GBFF has, so far, reached USD 225 million in pledges by six countries. The GBFF was established to receive funds from all sources, including the private sector, but has not yet received contributions from private sources. Parties initiated considerations at SBI-4 about the priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030). Discussions also covered considerations on a possible dedicated global instrument for biodiversity finance, a topic of reduced consensus and relevant polarisation. Though not part of the discussions at SBI-4, China announced a new fund, the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, in partnership with UNEP.

The final recommendations adopted at SBSTTA-26 and SBI-4 will be made available in [CBD website](#), where the draft versions can already be found.

**Partners looking to engage further can consider:**

- Watching a recent webinar by Business for Nature from 11 June 2024 on “[Road to Biodiversity COP-16: Why and how business should contribute](#)”.
- Attending the [Nature Action Dialogues](#) in Cambridge (UK) from 1 to 2 July 2024.
- Endorsing Business for Nature’s [Business Statement ‘Renewed policy ambition on nature’](#) by 26 June 2024 to demonstrate business support for strengthened policy ambition ahead of COP-16.
- Regularly visiting the [Business for Nature COP-16 webpage](#) to stay informed about COP-16 updates, which will feature the latest information and announcements.
- Attending [CBD COP-16](#) from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia. You can express your interest in participating through Business for Nature by filling [this form](#).
- Checking out the [Proteus Technical Brief on Business and the KM-GBF](#) which explores the key areas where business contributions can enhance implementation of the KM-GBF.