

## Proteus Partners update: CBD COP 16

The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16) took place from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia. One of its key aims was to advance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The Cali session was suspended due to a lack of quorum, leaving key decisions unresolved. A resumed session took place in Rome, Italy from 25 - 27 February 2025 focussed on all pending decisions. As a whole, COP 16 delivered [36 decisions](#) and this update highlights some key decisions with relevance to business:

- [Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review](#): COP 16 agreed on the procedures for the carrying out the global review of collective progress in implementation of the KMGBF to be made available to COP 17 in 2026 and COP 19 in 2030, including a global report to identify challenges in implementation. This decision includes an Annex relating to voluntary communication of commitments from actors other than national and subnational governments. It encourages communications that focus on national targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and use of established and available metrics, including from the monitoring framework for the KMGBF as part of standardised guidelines and templates. National focal points will have the opportunity to view the commitments submitted by actors other than national governments before publication, on a non-objection basis.
- [Monitoring framework for the KMGBF](#): COP 16 agreed on technical updates to indicators in the monitoring framework adopted at COP 15, and on guidance for their use. The COP highlighted the technical and financial constraints faced by Parties in the monitoring framework implementation and invited private philanthropic and other relevant organisations to share data on biodiversity-related finance. The needs to strengthen national monitoring systems and encourage the involvement of IPLCs in monitoring were highlighted. COP 16 called for the provision of financial resources and capacity-building to support the implementation. The private sector should take the opportunity to showcase contributions to the KMGBF by aligning, where possible and feasible, their own indicators with that of the monitoring framework.
- [Institutional arrangements for participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities \(IPLCs\) & Programme of Work on Article 8\(j\)](#): A new, permanent subsidiary body was established to enable the full and effective participation of IPLCs in the work under the Convention. A new Programme of Work on Article 8(j) was adopted to promote the implementation of the Convention in relation to IPLCs and their essential role in conserving biodiversity, using it sustainably, and sharing its benefits fairly. The Programme of Work contains a range of principles and elements addressed to different actors, and which are also relevant to business. Considerations relating to IPLCs were prominent at COP 16, with calls for businesses to strengthen approaches to IPLCs and to better recognise the contributions by IPLCs and enable their full and effective participation in decision-making.
- [Resource mobilisation](#): COP 16 adopted a revised resource mobilisation strategy for the period 2025-2030. This focuses on strategy to mobilise resources, running until 2030, through identifying new and additional resources, addressing harmful financial flows, and improving resource provision and utilisation. Businesses are encouraged to contribute resources to close the biodiversity finance gap and avoid financial flows that harm biodiversity.
- [Financial mechanism](#): This sets a path for establishing a permanent financial mechanism by 2028, with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) continuing as an interim solution. COP 16 provided guidance to the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) and [Global Biodiversity Framework Fund \(GBFF\)](#) to enhance their effectiveness. Parties acknowledged the operational status and initial contributions of approximately USD 382 million to the GBFF. However, there is a need for increased resource mobilisation and lack of

contributions from the private and financial sectors, particularly for the GBFF, was noted. The COP also adopted the four-year framework to also inform priorities for the GEF funding until 2030.

- [Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors](#): The integration of biodiversity considerations within and across sectors is an essential part of CBD's implementation. COP 16 recognised that mainstreaming is a key cross-cutting dimension covered across the KMGBF. It called on governments and sectors to integrate biodiversity considerations into policies, economic planning and business practices. COP 16 highlighted the importance of sharing best practices and fostering sector-specific communities of practice to engage businesses and financial institutions in KMGBF implementation.
- [Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas \(EBSAs\)](#): After years of negotiation, the COP adopted the process to modify existing or describe new areas that fall under the criteria of EBSAs within and beyond national jurisdiction. Mapped and updated EBSAs may have implications for businesses operating in marine environments, potentially leading to new conservation measures and restrictions.
- [Digital sequence information on genetic resources](#) (DSI): COP 16 adopted the modalities for the operationalisation of the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of DSI established at COP 15. Companies from sectors that benefit from the use of DSI for commercial activities will be incentivised to pay into the Cali fund through national legislation, policies or other administrative measures. These contributions will be proportional to their revenue or profit, and funding will be re-invested into activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in developing countries. At least half of the fund's contributions will be channelled to support the needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The Cali fund was launched on the margins of COP 16 and is open for contributions.

Discussions at COP 16 also addressed [biodiversity and climate change linkages](#), [biodiversity and health linkages](#) and [marine/island biodiversity](#) with key decisions adopted around them.

[50 revised and/or updated NBSAPs](#) have been submitted so far, with 127 Parties having submitted their national targets in alignment with the KMGBF. NBSAPs are the primary implementation mechanism for the CBD and the KMGBF at the national level, setting the direction for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources. They outline national priorities, actions and commitments to address biodiversity loss, aligning with the KMGBF agenda. Effective implementation of NBSAPs requires "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approaches. Businesses are encouraged to support development and implementation of NBSAPs, such as through Business for Nature's work or via national/regional business associations since all four goals and 23 targets of the KMGBF are all relevant for the business sector. The global coverage of protected and conserved areas has now reached 17.6% of terrestrial and inland waters and 8.4% of marine and coastal areas. This progress is closely tied to the updated NBSAPs, as these plans are the main instruments for implementing the CBD at the national level and achieving targets like those outlined in the [Protected Planet Report 2024](#).

The significant private sector attendance and interest at COP 16 in Cali underscored the growing recognition of the important role of business in supporting the implementation of the KMGBF at all levels. Numerous discussions in the margins of the negotiations explored how businesses can contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The Business and Biodiversity Forum provided an opportunity to take stock of progress and explore how businesses could engage with the global biodiversity agenda. Key themes that emerged included: the role of business in supporting development and delivery of NBSAPs with some key examples from countries on how they have engaged in a multi-stakeholder process; the importance of nature-related disclosures, (linked to Target 15), to drive transparency, accountability and action by business and finance and unlocking mechanisms to finance biodiversity linked to Targets 18 and 19.

Numerous side events also highlighted the need for businesses to extend their efforts beyond their operations and into their value chains and sea/landscape-level actions. Engagement and collaboration with stakeholders were seen as crucial for achieving meaningful progress. Additionally, the concept of nexus approaches, which integrate biodiversity considerations with climate and health, was prominent.

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

- Attending UNFCCC COP 30 from 10 – 21 November 2025 in Belém, Brazil
- Reading the [Technical Brief](#) on Business and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Watching the [Proteus Horizon Scan webinar](#) on outcomes of CBD CO P16 and implications for business