

# The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

*(Also called: The Global Biodiversity Framework, or the GBF, or KM-GBF)*

- ***What is the GBF?***
- ***Considerations for implementation***
- ***The Goals***
- ***The Targets***
- ***What happens if States don't fulfil their commitments?***

This document was prepared in June 2024 to support preparations for the CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia.

It is intended to be used as an introductory report, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, and is written from a human rights perspective.

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## What is the GBF?

***The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is implemented through internationally agreed plans with targets and milestones: The GBF.***

In 2022, 196 countries agreed to the GBF as the new official CBD plan to guide global efforts to stop and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030 with a long-term vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050. The GBF took four years of negotiating under the CBD process, including through the pandemic, and contains a higher level of recognition for the rights and the contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities than any previous CBD plan.

The GBF contains four Goals and 23 Targets. It also has 'considerations for implementation' which are the conditions governments should put into place for the whole of Framework to be implemented effectively. In each of these sections there is important language specific to the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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## Considerations for the implementation of the GBF

***These considerations include some very important new language:***

- Recognising the rights and contributions and roles of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities
- Using a 'whole of society' approach (everyone needs to be involved)
- Using a 'human rights-based approach' in all of the actions taken by governments or by anyone else (meaning rights need to be respected, and understood, and promoted)
- Recognising the need for intergenerational equity
- Seeking gender justice

And others...



## Towards COP16

This means that the plans, policies and processes for the development, implementation and monitoring of the GBF should be “anchored in a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international law.” This includes the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

These conditions for implementation are very important in understanding HOW the framework should be implemented. The Goals and Targets are crucial for understanding what actions will be taken.

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## The Goals

*To bring the Framework into national and local policy and action, four overarching goals and 23 targets were defined. These will also be used to help monitor progress once indicators for success have been agreed. The goals are as follows:*

**A**

**Address threats to biodiversity**

**B**

**Sustainable use of biodiversity and valuing its contributions to people**

**C**

**Sharing of benefits from the use of genetic components of biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge**

**D**

**Resources needed to implement the framework**



Only Goal C references Indigenous Peoples and local communities directly, in the context of accessing genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and equitably sharing benefits. However, all Goals concern actions that depend on and affect human rights.

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## The Targets

***The targets are where human rights, and more specifically the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, get more mention.***

The frequent mention of rights throughout the targets recognises the interdependence between biodiversity and human rights, seeing promoting human rights as a tool for environmental action. The hard work of many Indigenous Peoples and community leaders over the years of negotiation can be seen in the focus and attention paid in the final text to these rights.

### Targets that explicitly mention human rights

**Target 1** on spatial planning and effective management while “respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities”

**Target 3** on conservation while “recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories” and ensuring that all systems of protected and conserved areas are “equitably governed”

**Target 5** on use, harvesting and trade of wild species and preventing overexploitation while “respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and local communities”



## Towards COP16

**Target 9** on sustainable use and management of wild species while “protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and local communities”

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**Target 21** on the use of the best available knowledge, recognising that “traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of Indigenous Peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent”

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**Target 22** on ensuring representation and participation in decision-making; access to justice and information; respecting rights over culture and over lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples and local communities; respecting the same rights of women and girls, children, youth and people with disabilities, and ensuring the full protection of environmental human rights defenders

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**Target 23** on ensuring gender equality, and gender responsive implementation of the whole Framework.

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The Framework needs to be brought into national government policies and actions and will need to be implemented by others as well. National government plans for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity are called ‘National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans - NBSAPs) and these need to be updated now with the commitments in the GBF.

It is expected that most governments will present at COP16 their new NBSAPs and will talk about the work they have done at a national level to prepare to implement the GBF. The government of Colombia is expected to do the same.



## Towards COP16

In addition to this, it will need to be monitored and reported on, by governments and by others. These are the steps we are all involved in discussing now, with governments and other actors.

In the CBD COP 16 there will be more discussion about:

- The full GBF monitoring framework and all its indicators (only some are already agreed)
- Resource mobilisation (how to find the money to implement the framework properly)
- National Reporting (what the format will be, where data and information can come from)
- Any other challenges related to implementation

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## What happens if States don't fulfil their commitments?

***There is no direct CBD enforcement mechanism. No court nor police authority can force a government to do what they have said that they will do under the CBD.***

But national State governments need to report to the COPs what they have done to implement CBD standards, work programmes, plans and decisions. It is possible for Indigenous Peoples to point out when governments have not done what they should have done under the Convention.

Because the GBF is an intergovernmental agreement, it should influence the decisions of non-State actors as well - like conservation organisations. We can use the commitments of the GBF to push conservation actors to adopt policies, apply methods and take measures to fully respect Indigenous Peoples' rights, to fund differently and to support Indigenous Peoples directly.

The commitments can also be invoked and used in other legal processes, at the national level and sometimes also at the international level in other treaty bodies.